West Desert Water War
by Al Herring, Utah Chapter Chair

Millard and Juab County residents and people from other areas will be running from Baker, Nevada to Salt Lake City to hand deliver letters protesting plans by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to sacrifice Nevada-Utah groundwater on the altar of Las Vegas growth. Much of the Water Express Run will follow the Pony Express Trail.

The run will start in Baker on August 8 and arrive at the Wallace Bennett Federal Building in Salt Lake City at 125 South State Street on the morning of August 10. Representatives of Senators Bob Bennett and Orrin Hatch, and Lieutenant Governor Gary Herbert should be on hand to take delivery of our letters at 10:00 am on the plaza in front of the federal building. A potluck picnic will be held at This Is the Place State Park (across from Hogle Zoo) at noon on the 10th to celebrate completion of the run.

As many Sierra Club members know, the SNWA has applied for more than a hundred new well locations in order to pump large amounts of groundwater from eastern Nevada to the Las Vegas area. To move the water, they will need approval from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the right to build hundreds of miles of pipelines and power lines on public lands and from the state engineers of Nevada and Utah to approve the groundwater pumping.

Western Utah and eastern Nevada need to keep their groundwater in the ground. This groundwater is critical for supporting the ecological health of the region, and it is critical to the many farmers and ranchers in the area who depend on well water.

The BLM is accepting EIS scoping comments on the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine County Groundwater Development Project until August 1. This reckless proposal is being actively opposed by the Toiyabe (Nevada and Eastern California) and Utah Chapters of the Sierra Club.

Utah Chapter members are encouraged to get involved in the August 8-10 event. The organizers need runners, support vehicles and drivers, people to prepare and deliver meals, clean up crews, photographers, people to help sell T-shirts and make posters, and cash donations. Please hop on Trax or drive down to the federal building to rally with our friends from the West Desert and the picnic following on Aug. 10 at noon.

The Utah Chapter needs to make its voice heard on this key water issue and help its rural friends. Please get involved in the Water Express Run. For further information, contact Ed Alder at (435) 693-3124 or ed.alder@tintic.k12.ut.us.

Want your letter of concern hand delivered to members of the Utah congressional delegation? Write it out and send it with $5.00 for “postage” to Ed Alder; 430 Pony Express Road; Trout Creek, Utah 84083.
Some Thoughts on Water and Wilderness
by Al Herring, Chapter Chair

WATER
Lake Powell has been much in the news these days. After five-plus years of drought, many users are heartbroken by the rising level, and I understand the fishing has been excellent.

However, the dark side persists. The Las Vegas Times published an article on June 19 which carried the headline, “The Jewel of the Colorado Is Gone for Good.” It pointed out that average demand now exceeds the average flow of the Colorado River, meaning that Lake Powell will never refill. The author notes, “If Upper Basin demand continues to increase, it [Lake Powell] will be less than one-quarter full more than half the time. If the climate also warms, it will be empty for practical purposes almost all the time.”

St. George has also been in the news. A Salt Lake Tribune article dated June 29 dis
closed that, “No city in the Intermountain West consumes more water, per capita, per day, than St. George.” This is the same St. George that is politicking for a pipeline to bring water from Lake Powell, they can continue their unbridled growth and wasteful water use. As I remember, the pipeline cost was estimated at about $400 million, which means it will actually cost about a billion dollars.

An expected outcome of the flawed land use planning process recently done for Washington County is that Sen. Bennett will soon introduce a bill which would carve up public lands in the area and also authorize the Lake Powell pipeline. Guess who will be asked to pay for this project. The users and developers who will benefit from it? Oh, they might have to make a token contribution, but the main funding will be expected to come from you and me, dear taxpayer.

Flagstaff also needs water. According to the Arizona Republic (June 28), one of the most ambitious plans under consideration in the state is “to bring water from the Colorado River at Lake Powell up to Flagstaff and surrounding communities. Such a pipeline would cost billions of dollars, and local leaders concede they can’t do it without federal aid.”

Two straws dipping into the puddle at the bottom of Lake Powell to pull even more water from an already over-subscribed Colorado River? Yup. That’s the dream of some city fathers and developers (who are often the same people).

Do we really want to risk billions of tax-payer dollars on pipelines to pump water from a reservoir expected to be “empty for practical purposes almost all the time” in coming years? Is it likely that elected officials will permit this? The Sierra Club will watch.

Then there’s the Las Vegas area. As many of you know, the Southern Nevada Water Authority wants to build a pipeline to bring water down from springs in White Pine and Lincoln Counties. Lots of water. Enough water to support an additional 800,000 people. Enough water to poten-
tially dry up every spring and farmer’s well between Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge in Utah to Death Valley National Park in California. The Sierra Club, I’m proud to say, is vigorously opposing this ill-conceived proposal.

All of these towns (and many others) need to focus on water conservation as a first priority. They also literally need to “draw a line in the sand” regarding growth. There is a practical limit to how much water we can use; let’s plan and manage this precious resource so that supplies are sustainable, and so that wildlife and qual-
ity-of-life needs are also met.

WILDERNESS
In my last column, I stated, “We are now governed by conservatives who do not believe in conservation.” Of course, I was wrong. My error was in saying that we are governed by conservatives.

Wilderness protection, it turns out, is a conservative value. And since none of our congressional delegates or those in the executive branch seem to give a hoot about protecting Utah wilderness (indeed, some are actively working to exploit it), I can only conclude that they are not true politi-
cal conservatives.

Surprised to learn that conservatives want to protect wilderness? I was. (I suspect many Republicans will be, too.) My source for making such a bold state-
ment is Peter Huber, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank, who authored a book titled Hard Green: Saving the Environment from the Environmentalists: A Conservative Manifesto (Basic Books, 2000).

Huber takes the traditional conservative approach of promoting small government, saying that we should let businesses solve our pollution and energy problems, and that liberals and environmentalists are mis-
guided at best. He holds Al Gore in special contempt, calling him a “fuis pot curator, technocratizer, Kenneth School wonk.”

But then Huber goes on to win my conser-
vationist heart. He claims there is plenty of food and energy to go around (just unleash our markets), but notes, “The one real and growing scarcity is scarcity of wild-
erness and the wildlife that dwells there, scarcity of forest, lake, and river, scarcity of marsh and shore, scarcity of places unde-
veloped by markets and untouched by the hand of man.”
What in the heck were over fifty people doing lined up in the hot sun in front of In The Mood Hair Design on the corner of 9th and 9th in Salt Lake City back in June? To get a hair clipping, sort of. Actually, they were all participating in a mercury-testing event sponsored by the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Great Salt Lakekeeper and the Utah Progressive Network. The event was part of a larger nationwide campaign launched by the Sierra Club and Greenpeace to have 10,000 people across the country tested for mercury in their bodies.

Mercury has been in the news a lot lately, for good reason. It is literally one of the most concentrated and toxic heavy metals on the planet. While mercury exists naturally in our environment, it remains largely inert until it is released through some type of industrial process. In the U.S., more than 40 percent of the toxic mercury in our environment comes from coal-fired power plants, (the source for 94% of Utah’s electricity) where it is released into the air and then ends up in our surface waters. Metallic mercury is converted into methylmercury by microorganisms, and it is in this form that it is taken up into the food chain, bio-accumulated in fish with predatory fish such as tuna having some of the highest levels.

As we eat this fish, the mercury begins to accumulate in our bodies. The most vulnerable population is fetuses and young children who acquire the mercury from their mothers. Mercury poisoning has been linked to neurological disorders, learning disabilities, and even autism in young children. The EPA estimates that one in six women of childbearing age in the U.S. have mercury levels high enough to put their babies at risk. Forty-five states, not including Utah, now issue some type of fish consumption guidelines for mercury contamination.

Because it was recently announced that Utahns might be at risk due to extraordinarily high mercury levels in the Great Salt Lake and several Nevada gold mines that emit large amounts of mercury, many people want to know what the level of mercury is in their own bodies. The problem may be exacerbated by the fact that we have five major coal-fired power plants in the state with plans to build four more.

The mercury testing, which requires a small sampling of hair that is then sent off for analysis to a laboratory in South Carolina, was provided free of charge to the first fifty people. Test results are sent back to the participants in approximately three weeks. For those who showed up but were unable to get a test performed, we apologize. We were overwhelmed by the response from the public to this event. You can still secure a test kit by going online to: http://www.sierrachub.org/mercury/. There is a $25 fee for the kit. While you’re there, find out more about the mercury issue and what you can do protect our environment and yourself from mercury poisoning.

For those who showed up and did get tested, thank you for participating. And a big THANK YOU goes out to Tammy Salt, owner of In The Mood Hair Design, and her staff who graciously spent two hours of their own time clipping hair (free of charge!) all for a good cause.

DOCENTS NEEDED AT FARMINGTON BAY

by Debbie Goodman

Could you donate a few hours each month to help children and wildlife in a beautiful outdoor setting on the shores of the Great Salt Lake? If so, the Farmington Bay Naturalist Program needs your help. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided on site prior to the forthcoming 2005-2006 school year.

The Great Salt Lake Learning Center at Farmington Bay offers hands-on wetlands education field trips to school groups of all ages, and currently serves about 3,000 children annually.
THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTORS
by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter Co-ordinator

Special thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to our chapter’s 2005 annual fundraising drive. Thanks also to our members who contributed anonymously. These contributions make possible our conservation programs to protect clean air and water in Utah, our crusade to protect Utah wild lands and our abilities to reach out to you and other Utahns. There’s still time for you to give.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS
Liz Abel
David Charles Baker
Michael & Jean Binyon
Mark & Janet Bloch
John H Bogart
R Dennis Brown
Mr & Mrs William S Brown
Dee Burton
Sarah S Chadwick
Frank R Chase
Mark Clemens
Sean Damitz
Marilyn Dinger
Naomi Franklin
Laura L Gaynard
Jock Gildden
Peggy Grover
Peter Grundfossen
Sherrill & Chris Hall
Mike Halliday
Brad & Leisa Hansen
David & Jennifer Heldenbrand
Al & Mary Herriott
Christopher P Hill
Curt Johnson
Vinson Johnson
Randal B Klein
Martin Kogut
Greg Libecci
Robert Lindley
Hans Lundgren
Jeffrey Marcoux
Karen Marshall
Scott D McCoy & Mark E Barr
Martin McGregor
Nancy & George Melling
Sharon Meyer
Randy E Newman
Petrie Nielsen
Richard O’Brien
Katie Pappas
Lloyd D Paulsen
Judy Peckmann
David Polster
Eric Rickart
Mark & Janet Riding
Allen Rydman
Allyson Scarborough
Karen F Shepherd
Mike Slabaugh
Laura Smith
Milo P Smith
Robert & Page Speiser
Allen Stockbridge
Alan Stockland
Dana Strachan
Jim Strove & Jeff Bell
Peter & Ruth Taillac
Dorothy M Uherka

TERI UNDERWOOD
Christopher Viavant & Emily Box
David Waid & Elizabeth Young
Rita S Wechter
Henry O Whiteside
Frances Wilcox
Karan A Williams
Tolford R Young
Ron Younger

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS
The Charitable Foundation for its continuing generous support of the Chapter’s programs.

Utah Chapter Funding

Start a Community Shares/Utah Campaign at Your Workplace
by Mark Clemens

In addition to the Utah Chapter of Sierra Club, Community Shares includes agencies working to improve social services, animal welfare, the arts and human rights. Check out the full roster of agencies at www.communitysharesutah.org.

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

An Appreciation of Bill Viavant: 1922-2003
by Mark Clemens

Making friends and sampling the beer along the way, William Joseph Viavant traveled to many countries. “Bill loved the out of doors and really enjoyed life,” said former Chapter Chair Nina Dougherty. His enthusiasm also embraced the Sierra Club. He served as chair of the Utah Chapter in 1965 and 1966. His wife June served in the same position from 1969 to 1970 and later served on the national Sierra Club’s Board of Directors.

“He loved to party in wild places, and he helped introduce many people to Utah’s extraordinary wild lands,” said Jim Catlin, a current member of Sierra Club’s Board of Directors. “He loved to party in wild places, and he helped introduce many people to Utah’s extraordinary wild lands,” said Jim Catlin, a current member of Sierra Club’s Board of Directors.

He retired to Castle Valley, a landscape he loved so well that in his obituary he requested donations in lieu of flowers to go to the land conservancy Utah Open Lands to protect Castle Rock. Bill also remembered the Utah Chapter in his will, and we acknowledge his generosity with gratitude.
Congratulations, Ann
by Al Herring

Ann Wechsler of the Utah Chapter has been selected to serve on the Sierra Club’s Clean Water Campaign Committee. Congratulations to Ann on this prestigious appointment!

Ann’s background makes her a natural for this committee, which was formed “to educate and enlist the public in protecting and restoring the quality of our nation’s waters and wetlands.” Besides her many leadership positions in the chapter, she served three terms on the Utah Water Quality Board; she is currently active on the Utah Waters Coalition; she published “The Politics of Instream Flow” in The Waters of Zion (1995); and she has represented the Utah Chapter on numerous local water use and sewage treatment issues.

We know that her involvement on the Clean Water Campaign Committee will be good for the club, and hope she will also bring information home that will help deal with our many water issues.

Utah Chapter Seeks Candidates for Executive Committee

The nominating committee is currently seeking candidates to run in the forthcoming Fall Utah Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) election. ExCom members serve a critical role in providing leadership for the chapter. Candidates should be able to serve for a two-year term beginning in January, 2006, and all ExCom members are expected to be actively involved. This means attending bi-monthly meetings (normally on Saturday), conducting chapter business by telephone or e-mail, accepting committee appointments, and serving as ExCom officers.

If you would like to be considered for candidacy, please submit a personal photo and ballot statement of no more than 150 words that outlines your experience, qualifications, and what you wish to accomplish by serving on the ExCom. Include a phone number and/or e-mail address where you can be reached.

Send your name and ballot statement to: Nominating Committee; Utah Chapter, Sierra Club; 2120 South 1300 East, Ste. 204, Salt Lake City, UT 84106. You can also e-mail the information to Al Herring, Chapter Chair, at al.mary.herring@worldnet.att.net. Nominations for this year’s election must be received by Sept. 1, 2005.

The four groups within the chapter are likewise governed by ExComs of elected volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for a group ExCom position, contact the appropriate group chairperson listed below:

- Glen Canyon Group: Mike Binyon, mike@binyon.us
- Ogden Group: Dan Schroeder, dschroeder@weber.edu
- Salt Lake Group: Ken Evans, kcestardust@qwest.net
- Southwest Utah Group: Jim Case, jincase@netutah.com

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The Glen Canyon Group has a Nuclear Waste Committee that has been active and effective for several years under the leadership of Ken Sleight and Sarah Fields. However, Utah (and especially the Salt Lake area) has many other nuclear issues requiring our attention. Examples include spent nuclear fuel storage on the Goshute Reservation, transportation of radioactive wastes through Utah, resumption of uranium ore mining and processing, and the possibility of developing bunker buster nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Range.

Functions of the Nuclear Issues Committee will include:

- Clearinghouse for information and club policies.
- Represent chapter at Radiation Control Board and legislative committee meetings.
- Advise the chapter lobbyist and Utah Chapter Political Committee on nuclear issues.

Your Help Needed to Form a Chapter Nuclear Issues Committee

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair

The Executive Committee (ExCom) has approved formation of a chapter-level Nuclear Issues Committee. Now we need activists to staff it. The Glen Canyon Group has a Nuclear Waste Committee that has been active and effective for several years under the leadership of Ken Sleight and Sarah Fields. However, Utah (and especially the Salt Lake area) has many other nuclear issues requiring our attention. Examples include spent nuclear fuel storage on the Goshute Reservation, transportation of radioactive wastes through Utah, resumption of uranium ore mining and processing, and the possibility of developing bunker buster nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Range.

Functions of the Nuclear Issues Committee will include:

- Analyze and make recommendations on nuclear issues requiring ExCom action.
- Communicate with members through the Utah Sierran and our website.
- Coordination of Sierra Club activities with other anti-nuclear groups in the state.

This committee will report to the chapter ExCom. The chapter chair will select a Nuclear Issues Chair with the advice and consent of the full ExCom. At this point we need members and a chairperson. If you would like to participate on this important committee, please contact Al Herring at almary.herring@worldnet.att.net or (801) 444-5574.

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Now Available

Salt Lake City

Buyer stickers are now available for purchase at the City & County Building, 401 S. State, Room 305 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Mail order rate is $1.50 each. Mail orders over 100 will save on postage.

Now Available

Salt Lake City
SmartEnergy Update

Two Steps Forward for Renewables
by Tim Wagner

Great news rained down on the Utah Chapter and other clean energy advocates as we recently received word of two major renewable energy projects slated for Utah.

In May, the Murray City Council voted unanimously to enter into a ten-year purchase agreement to buy power produced from a brand new biomass plant at the Salt Lake County landfill. Scheduled to be up and going by December of this year, the plant will generate three megawatts of electricity, enough to meet the equivalent power needs of over 2,000 homes or nearly double what is needed to power all of Murray’s city government buildings and street lighting.

The new biomass facility is being developed by Salt Lake Energy Systems, LLC in conjunction with DTE Biomass Energy from Ann Arbor, Michigan, a company that has been developing biomass plants around the country.

Landfills and other stored sources of organic material, such as crop and livestock waste, produce methane gas while decomposing. Normally, this methane is vented directly into the atmosphere where it is twenty times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas because of its heat-trapping capability. But technology now allows us to capture that gas and burn it to generate electricity. In doing so, we prevent the contribution to global warming gases while utilizing a free energy source.

It is important to distinguish that biomass produced power can function fully as base-load power, meaning it is available at least 90 percent of the time or more, greater even than traditional coal-fired power plants.

It should be mentioned that this will bring Murray City’s renewable portion of its energy portfolio up to eight percent of its total energy consumption, one of the highest in Utah. Way to go Murray City!

H ave Canyon Winds, Will Power

Anyone who has traveled through Spanish Fork Canyon enroute to southern Utah will know how the wind can howl out of the canyon. Fortunately, some entrepreneurial individuals saw that wind, not as a hindrance, but as opportunity.

In early June, the Spanish Fork Planning Commission gave formal approval to Wasatch Wind, LLC of Heber City for the siting of up to nine wind turbines near the canyon mouth. When the project is completed, it is expected to produce up to 17.5 megawatts of power, or enough to provide the equivalent power needs of 8,000 to 9,000 homes.

SmartEnergy Update

Utah Geothermal Power Generation Workshop
AUGUST 17, 2005 AT THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 1594 WEST NORTH TEMPLE ROOM 1060, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

This meeting is designed for utility resource personnel and focuses on the key benefits and risks of including geothermal power in a utility’s resource portfolio. It is hosted by GeoPowering the West (GPW) and sponsored by the following organizations: AMP Resources, American Public Power Association, Black Mountain Technology, Geothermal Resources Council, Geothermal Energy Association, Geothermal Education Office, Utah Geothermal Working Group, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Sandia National Laboratory, and Western Area Power Administration. The speakers bring a mix of professional experience in all aspects of geothermal energy.

There is no registration fee for the meeting. HOWEVER, you must register to attend. Space may be limited. For logistical purposes, please register by July 29, 2005.

ATTENDEES WILL:
• Learn about geothermal power, including innovations in generation technologies
• Hear utilities describe power purchase agreement terms and conditions, reliability, scheduling, transmission, cost, and other issues
• Understand the steps necessary to get a geothermal project developed and on line, including exploration, valuation, permitting, and financing
• Know the difference between the cost and value of having geothermal in a utility resource portfolio, including comparison with other resource options, price stability, risk mitigation, distribution benefits, portfolio diversity, green tags, tradable offsets, fuel price projections, and customer and public acceptance
• Hear about the major parts of a model power purchase power agreement including terms, scheduling, dispatching, price, performance, penalties, incentives, and transmission

AGENDA
8:30am Welcome and Introductions Sandy Glatt, US DOE; Bob Blackett, Utah Geological Survey and Utah Geothermal Working Group Coordinator; Pat Laney, Idaho National Laboratory
9:00 Panel I: Geothermal Energy Portfolio from a Utility Perspective Guy Nelson, UEF (chair); Garth Larsen, PacificCorp; Bob Putnam, CH2M-Hill
10:30 Break
11:00 Getting a Geothermal Power Project Developed and Online Dan Shochet, ORMAT
Noon Luncheon Speaker: The Role of Geothermal in a Diverse Utility Portfolio, Roger Hill, Sandia Labs Hosted by Amp Resources and Black Mountain Technology
1:00pm Panel II: Power Purchase Agreements Nykole Littleboy, Utah DNR (chair); Doug Hunter, UAMPS; Jon Wellighhoff; Beckley Singleton
2:00 Panel III: Project Development and Management Expertise Guy Nelson, UEF (chair); Susan Petty, Black Mountain Technology; Eric Magleby, Amp Resources
3:00 Break
3:15 Panel IV: Permitting, Regulatory, and Environmental Issues Jon Wellighhoff (chair); Marge Tempest, Utah Division of Water Rights; Tim Wagner, Sierra Club; Sarah Wright, Utah Clean Energy; Bob Hendricks, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office
4:30 Wrap up and Adjourn
In early June, the Spanish Fork Planning Commission gave formal approval to Wasatch Wind, LLC of Heber City for the siting of up to nine wind turbines near the canyon mouth. When the project is completed, it is expected to produce up to 17.5 megawatts of power, or enough to provide the equivalent power needs of 8,000 to 9,000 homes.

Each turbine will stand 213 feet tall with each turbine blade extending over 125 feet in length and will produce up to two MW of power, some of the largest in the industry. The estimated cost of the project is approximately $13 million.

Wasatch Wind is currently negotiating a 20-year purchase contract with PacifiCorp, who owns Utah Power Co, and who will then sell and distribute the power to its customer base. If all of the financial and permitting details are worked out, the project is expected to be constructed and producing power sometime in 2006.

Not only will the Spanish Fork Canyon wind farm prevent the emissions of thousands of tons of CO\textsubscript{2}, SO\textsubscript{2}, NO\textsubscript{x}, and mercury, it will also save an estimated 40 million gallons of water per year that would normally be wasted in a coal-fired power plant. In addition, this is a major economic plus as it keeps all of the dollars in the state, instead of shipping it out to other wind farm locations or to purchase out-of-state coal.

**UTAH POWER’S COOL KEEPER BENEFITS THE UTAH CHAPTER AND CONSERVES ENERGY**

by Sherri Clark, Utah Power Consultant

Utah Power has come up with an easy way for Utah Sierrans and other consumers to help make our environment cleaner and safer—and raise funds doing it. Cool Keeper is an energy management program that helps ease the demand for electricity during the hot summer months, when air conditioner use often strains power resources. The more people participate, the more effective the program becomes. And Utah Power will make a $20 donation to the Utah Sierra Club for every person or business we sign up.

**HOW DOES COOL KEEPER WORK?**

When you sign up for Cool Keeper, Utah Power will come to your home and install a small radio device near your outdoor central air conditioning unit. On selected weekday summer afternoons, Utah Power sends a signal to this device to reduce compressor activity in the A/C unit. This eases the electricity demand at the most crucial times, keeping the power on for everyone by affording the local power grid some much-needed relief. You will also stay comfortable since the typical change in temperature is only about 1 to 3°F.

**WHY COOL KEEPER?**

Cool Keeper can be a big part of efficient energy use in our community. And when 1,000 Cool Keeper units are activated for an hour, they can prevent around 1,500 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO\textsubscript{2}) from being emitted into the atmosphere. Since Utah’s population is increasing at a fast clip and residential electricity use is high and rising, Cool Keeper is a great way to help the environment. More than 40,000 local residences and businesses participate, and each person who enrolls makes a difference.

**A GREEN PROGRAM THAT GIVES BACK**

Not only will Utah Power make donations to the Utah Chapter Sierra Club, but for every year they participate, residents and small business owners receive a credit on their own fall Utah Power bill. (The residential credit is $20 per A/C unit; the business credit $40 per A/C unit). And taking part in the Cool Keeper program is free of charge to all participants.

**SIGN UP TODAY AND TELL A FRIEND TOMORROW**

To sign up, fill out the form below and mail it in. Or log on to the Utah Chapter web site at utah.sierraclub.org/cool_keeper.asp, and scroll to the bottom of the page. For every new participant we sign up through the Web site or the form below, Utah Power’s Cool Keeper program will donate $20 to the Utah Chapter.

To learn more about Cool Keeper, visit utahpower.net/coolkeeper, or call 1-800-357-9214. Additional sign-up cards and brochures are available by request.

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**Cool Keeper enrollment form**

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<tr>
<th>Note: Room A/C units are not eligible for this program.</th>
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<td><strong>Are you currently enrolled in a utility company’s energy management program?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>If an A/C unit is not easily accessible OR if you prefer a scheduled appointment, please include additional contact information below.</strong></td>
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**Do you own or rent the property at this address?**

- [ ] Own
- [ ] Rent

(Provide your landlord’s contact info below)

- Landlord’s name
- Landlord’s phone

**Customer signature**

Date

When 1,000 Cool Keeper units are activated for an hour, they can prevent around 1,500 pounds of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere.
Deserts and Mirages

by Jim Wechsler, Utah Chapter Water Representative

Las Vegas, as the Southern Nevada Water Authority, is looking for water everywhere. There are proposed water pipelines to Tikaboo Valley and Three Lakes Valley (both northeast of Las Vegas), proposed pipelines to tap the Virgin and Muddy Rivers, and the rural groundwater pumping project that includes Snake Valley as one of its options. This last project is a generalized search for water supplies in rural eastern Nevada, as shown by its title, Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project. All of these projects have significant problems—administrative, environmental, and social—and are notably speculative. It is easy to condemn Las Vegas for insensitivity, rapaciousness, and wastefulness, but to do so may be missing the real signal of this scramble for water.

When we think of Las Vegas, we think of the Strip—massive and not-so-massive hotel casinos with fountains sending precious water upward, traffic, elevated walkways, entertainment extravaganzas, and masses of people anxious to be separated from their money—a concrete oasis in the desert. A concrete oasis that is the center of a population explosion with more than one and a half million residents and a large tourist population. A place where the hotels post signs telling visitors to conserve water and offer them lodging with bathtub scales after Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Yet, this picture is not quite what it seems. The water for the fountains is generally graywater and, in some cases, is imported; the oasis is fake. In the past few years, the Southern Nevada Water Authority has aggressively targeted lawns, paying homeowners $1 per square foot to rip them out. Fifty-eight million dollars have been spent so far.

That Las Vegas is truly in the desert is not exactly news. Although the recent drought may have focused attention on the water supply, in southern Nevada it suggested a barrier to future growth. Again in fairness, responsible, authoritative individuals have pointed out that the lack of water was a barrier to continued growth. The predictable reaction was to shoot the messenger. The simplistic logic that equates population growth with economic growth remains the driving force in the arid Southwest, as it does elsewhere.

Who is getting the message, while Las Vegas is scrambling for water that may not be there? Governor Napolitano of Arizona seems to be and has initiated a statewide study. Parts of New Mexico are, but possibly only because Santa Fe has been under duress. Utah has a legislative task force, which is a start. As noted above, Utah is a bit luckier than many of its neighbors. Our water is mostly where the population is. Colorado’s population along the Front Range has to pump much of its water from other basins. Nevada has very little water to pump. Arizona uses its instate waters from the Gila and Salt Rivers to exhaustion and is the junior user of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin.

Unfortunately, Utah is not grasping the main lesson being sent by Las Vegas. We are still going after supplies first and conservation later. Conservation is more ballyhooed than realized, and all the while, the ecosystem services that the natural watercourses provide are not charged on the debit side of the ledger. Recent calculations suggest that these services have values in the billions. We ignore them at our peril.

Equally important is the fact that more water is not an invitation to unbridled growth; it means only that the limits are a little farther away.

A few simple principles could go a long way toward rational, economic growth and comfortable living in concert with, rather than in battle against, the natural world. These are: realizing that streams, floodplains, and riparian habitats have a real value to people (We can even put an approximate price on them, and that price is very high); that people should live where the water is, rather than build an infrastructure to carry water to where someone decides the people are going to live; that if the water supply is not sustainable for a project, the project must go somewhere else. As environmentalists, we should be concerned with these principles; otherwise we will always be putting out satellite fires while the world burns.

Spring Flooding and a River Impaired

by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter Co-ordinator

This winter’s higher-than-average snowpack in northern Utah posed a challenge for planners, emergency service providers and flood control personnel. It was a challenge the City of Garland did not succeed in meeting. The city’s water treatment plant was overwhelmed by the meltwater, and for several days between the last week of April and May 11th the city pumped untreated sewage directly into the Malad River.

On Friday, April 29th Utah Division of Water Quality Director Wade Baker declared the Malad River “impaired,” meaning it is unsafe for humans to touch or be in. One of our members who prefers to remain anonymous recorded the unfolding contamination in the river and surrounding lands that we present in this gallery. Although the snowpack and the potential for flooding was known, Garland City was unprepared. Their failure to deal with the run-off demands answers about planning and infrastructure.
Western Water: Let’s Leave a Trickle for Birds Without Borders

By James Wechsler and Osvel Hinjosa Huerta

Hydrology 101 is what the Toiyabe Chapter, our neighbor to the west, likes to call it, but it’s actually a workshop on groundwater and specifically groundwater in the Carbonate Aquifer: where it is, how it moves and what’s likely to happen to it if Las Vegas (through the Southern Nevada Water Authority or SNWA) begins pumping it out. Tom Meyers, a PhD in hydrology/hydrogeology and expert consultant in water issues, has presented this workshop in Reno, Las Vegas and Ely to help the Toiyabe Chapter and its partners in the Nevada Water Network educate the public about the dangers of large-scale groundwater pumping. “...when Las Vegas starts pumping nearly as much water as nature puts in the ground, the springs will slowly dry and the people and environment of rural Nevada will suffer,” said Myers.

These workshops are only a part of the campaign the Toiyabe Chapter has mounted to protect springs and groundwater in rural Nevada. The chapter, comprising not only Nevada but also much of the California desert east of the Sierra Nevada range, mounted a tour in 2004 called No Pumps—No Pipelines that united chapter members, ranchers and agency resource personnel to discuss the likely impact of SNWA’s proposal on wildlife, springs, ranching and farming.

“The water campaign has been a fabulous way to bridge differences between rural and urban folks, between environmentalists and ranchers, noted Rose Strickland, one of the Toiyabe Chapter’s water activists, “...when water is under attack, it really clarifies what’s important in your life. It’s been an object lesson in how to work together to defend resources that we love and depend on.”

In addition to public education, the chapter has filed protests on water rights applications and significant scoping comments on SNWA’s current proposal. The Toiyabe Chapter chair testified before congress on the original bad Lincoln County Bill (http://www.nvenergy.com/conservation/pipelines/PL%20108-424/PL108-424.html) that set the whole process in motion, and the opposition of ranchers, Utah legislators and the Nevada Water Network, including the club, helped to amend or omit some of its worst aspects.

It’s been clear since the Lincoln County Bill was introduced that Utah was threatened as seriously as rural Nevada (see the area spanning parts of California, Nevada and Utah on the map at the right). But with the recent announcement in the June 15 Millard County Chronicle Progress that SNWA is considering taking as much as 100 MW of the output of the proposed third generating unit at the Intermountain Power Project near Delta, the stakes have been raised, and the links between the Utah and Toiyabe Chapter’s campaigns have become more closely intertwined.

“SNWA is a canny operator so trying to win a little goodwill in Millard County and the Utah establishment generally was probably as important to them as getting access to electricity to fire their pumps and pipelines,” said Tim Wagner, Utah Smart Energy Campaign Co-ordinator.

Although the Toiyabe Chapter will continue to take the lead in this fight, the Utah Chapter will back them up and cooperate whenever possible.

...when Las Vegas starts pumping nearly as much water as nature puts in the ground, the springs will slowly dry and the people and environment of rural Nevada will suffer.”

— Tom Meyers

THE TRAIL THE TOIYABE CHAPTER BLAZED

by Mark Clemens

If you want to know what’s wrong with the Colorado River, visit Cucapá el Mayor in Mexico, 40 miles below the border.

A century ago, the Cucapá Indians could get in their boats to fish and travel to a vast and bountiful estuary where the Colorado River, visit Cucapá el Mayor in Mexico, 40 miles below the border.

Unfortunately, those wet years were more like a stock market boom than the natural order of things.

A deal that seemed reasonable at the time, and had even budgeted water for Mexico, has since gone sour without enough water to go around. The Everglades of the Southwest mostly disappeared.

But nature can be surprisingly resilient. Eons of mineral deposits make for extraordinarily rich soil throughout the delta, and even a little water brings the land to life. Over the last few decades, runoff from nearby farms inadvertently re-created Mexico’s Ciénega de Santa Clara wetland. Though tiny compared with the vast green lagoons that Leo Pold witnessed, the Ciénega is a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds as they travel from Mexico and points south to their summer grounds from California to Alaska. The Pacific Flyway bottleneck in the desert. Without the Ciénega, we could be in for a truly silent spring.

Mexico has protected a significant part of the delta by classifying it as a United Nations Biosphere Reserve, but that doesn’t guarantee that wetlands get the one thing they need most: water. The best available science suggests that a mere 1% of the Colorado’s flow would ensure that these lagoons are there for the birds that rely on them.

Conservation groups on both sides of the border are already working together to restore the river, but we need Washington to coax more water conservation from the people of the American Southwest. And we need Mexico City to assure that the water it gains flows into the wetlands.

The river, the delta and the wildlife know nothing of borders. Americans and Mexicans can’t afford to let the Colorado River become an afterthought just because it has crossed an imaginary line.

James Wechsler is chairman of the Sierra Club’s Southwest Waters Committee and lives in Salt Lake City. Osvel Hinjosa Huerta is director of conservation for Pronatura Noroeste in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora Mexico.
August

SLC Tue, 8/2 TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE: Crested Butte. Join us for a moderately paced hike to one of the most popular hiking spots in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Enjoy a moderate pace, good company, and breath taking alpine lake scenery on a trail just over 2 miles round trip. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 6:30 pm. Call Ken (484-3112) for more information about the hike.

GCG Sat, 8/6 Hike South Mountain Peak, La Sals, Pole Canyon Trail to the ridge below South Mountain with a possible ascent to South Mountain. A pleasant, cool hike starting at 8500’, climbing to 10,700’. This is a moderate to strenuous hike. About 6 miles RT with an additional 1.5 miles RT to summit at 11,800’. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet 8AM at the Branding Iron for further info. call Mike Binyon, 43S-259-1633.

SLC Sun, 8/7 Day Hike in the Uintas. This hike will follow the Skyline trail in the heart of the Uintas. Enjoy a picturesque hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hik- ers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain peaks, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain peaks, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe inspiring beauty of the Uintas. Expect a rigorous hike mainly due to the 12 mile round trip distance. Hikers will be rewarded with a series of clear high mountain lakes, meadows, and the awe.
plentiful in this southern Utah gem. Participants should be prepared for day hikes of 12 miles round trip distance in varied terrain. Volleyball & other activities are planned for the outing. A group campsite with a covered area for tents has been reserved for the weekend. The outing is limited to 20 participants, so interested parties should RSVP ASAP—Margarit, 801-292-7602. Co-listed with the Wasatch Mountain Club.

October

GGG Sat, 10/1 Hike in proposed Hunter Canyon Wilderness. A 7 mile loop hike beginning at Cable Arch and visiting Halls Bridge and Pritchett Arch up close with beautiful views of the La Sals and beyond the Rocks with return via Hunter Canyon Rim. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Meet 9AM at Star Hall. For details contact Dave Stofla, 435-259-1721.

OG Sat, 10/1 Ogden Valley Overlook. A 5 to 6 mile round trip hike with a 600’ gain starting at Snowbasin. Well maintained trail with great views of Snowbasin area and Ogden Canyon. Call John Bedeck for meeting time and place. 985-6854.

SLC 10/2-10/8 Russian Olive Tree Removal Service Project. This is the second of two service trips involving the removal of Russian Olives from river beads near Escalante in Southern Utah. A great chance to work with fellow members of the club in an effort to restore public lands to their natural state. Please refer to the write-up on page 12 for all the details on how you can become a participant in this worthwhile project.

OG Sun, 10/16 Malans Basin via Waterfall Canyon. Some scrambling and bushwhacking involved to visit where the proposed tram may go from Ogden city. Moderate and thrilling height exposure. Fall colors hopefully. Meet OHS, 0900 but check with leader: Jock Glidden. 394-0457.

SLC 10/26-10/30 Grand Staircase National Monument Escalante Backpack Adventure. Take advantage of a superb opportunity to participate in a great backpacking adventure in the Grand Staircase National Monument near Escalante in Southern Utah. Mild fall weather, extraordinary desert scenery, and hiking free of pesky insects mark this as a prime time of the year to explore this unique desert area. Refer to the Escalante Backpack write-up on page 12 for details on signing up for this grand excursion.

OG Sat, 10/22 Antelope Island Frary Peak. Approx 7 miles round trip. 4 hours. A moderate-strenuous hike to the highest point on the island. Great views of the lake and a chance to see some island wildlife. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place. 731-3701.

GGG Fri-Sun, 10/28-10/30 Car Camp in San Rafael Swell. We will hike to dinosaur tracks and rock art sites. This trip is equidistant from Salt Lake City and the Moab area. For further information call the leader, Leland Jonas, 435-636-6261 or Mike Binyon at 435-259-1633.

November

OG Sat, 11/12 Indian Trail. 4.5 miles with approx. 1500’ gain. 5 hours. Very popular local hike with terrific views of Ogden Canyon. On a clear day you can see Nevada. Call Larry Woolsey for meeting time and place. 731-3701.
The Escalante River ecosystem is spread over both the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. It is one of the real jewels of wild America. From the town of Escalante to Lake Powell is seventy miles—a great labyrinth of canyons, alcoves, waterfalls, and arches which almost stagger the imagination. The shapes and colors make it a paradise for photographers or people who just like to gawk.

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT
About ten years ago, some people in Glen Canyon NRA decided that at least one of the canyons, Coyote Gulch, should be cleared of non-native plants. Several years of work by several groups has succeeded in returning Coyote Gulch to its native state, one of the very few such canyons in the entire southwest. As the project was nearing completion, one of the Glen Canyon rangers decided to clear the lower part of the Escalante River of Russian Olive, an obnoxious invader. As he worked upstream, he realized the magnitude of the problem: Russian Olive was growing rapidly and killing off the native vegetation. He has enlisted a couple of groups to work on the project. At the end of 2004, one half of the Escalante River in Glen Canyon had been cleared of Russian Olive. While there has been some regrowth, it is manageable. Meanwhile, the administrators of the Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), have realized they need to join the effort. So now both agencies are sponsoring volunteer projects to fight the invasive, non-native trees.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE TRIP
The first day we will backpack to a base camp. Since at least two other groups will be working on this project in 2005 prior to us, the exaction location will depend on where they leave off. We will work for four days and have one day off. The work consists of locating a Russian Olive, which will range in size from just a twig to a 20-inch diameter tree. Depending on the size, you will then use either a saw or loppers to cut it down. Immediately a herbicide must be applied. Participants will carry and apply the herbicide, which is garlon 4. (If you want any information about garlon, I will be glad to supply it.)

Finally, the tree will be thrown in the Escalante River where it will await a flood to carry it to its final resting place at the bottom of Lake Powell. The work is done individually, or if you prefer, in pairs, so you will be free to work at your own pace. Russian Olive usually grows close to or on the river bank, so participants may find themselves standing in the river while sawing. Normally, the river will be no more than knee deep.

REQUIREMENTS
1. Safety
2. Get the work done. There is no quota of how much we will be expected to accomplish.
3. Have a good time

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:
1. Arriving at the trailhead
2. Bringing camping equipment
3. Providing own food and cooking equipment

TO GO ON THIS TRIP, SEND THE LEADER:
1. A letter stating your recent backpacking experience.
2. A check for $50 made out the Sierra Club, Columbia Group. This will be refunded if you have to drop out, the deposit will be refunded if a) the trip fills up, and b) someone takes your place.

Space is limited to 12 people, including the leader.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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harryl2@juno.com