High Court Rebukes Bush EPA’s Climate Neglect

"Today’s ruling is a watershed moment in the fight against global warming," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director. "The ruling is a total rejection of the Bush administration’s refusal to use its existing authority to meet the challenge posed by global warming. It also sends a clear signal to the markets that the future lies not in the dirty, outdated technologies of yesterday, but in the clean energy solutions that will fuel the economy of tomorrow."

In the majority opinion, the court ruled that carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants meet the definition of "air pollutant[s]" under the plain language of the CAA. This ruling, in and of itself, does not compel EPA to issue regulations limiting the emissions of global warming pollutants. However, the CAA states that EPA “shall regulate” any air pollutant “reasonably anticipated to endanger public health or welfare,” which includes effects upon “climate or weather.” Since EPA incorrectly argued that carbon dioxide was not an air pollutant under the CAA, it refused to even issue an endangerment determination. Today’s ruling compels EPA to issue such a determination.

“Today’s ruling is a watershed moment in the fight against global warming.”

Carl Pope

“It’s unfortunate—but not surprising—that it took a Supreme Court case to clarify the meaning of words such as ‘pollutant,’ ‘endanger,’ ‘weather,’ and ‘climate’ for the Bush administration,” commented David Bookbinder, Sierra Club’s Director of Climate Litigation. “The only way EPA can continue to refuse to do its job and not regulate global warming pollutants is by claiming that the effects of global warming pose no danger to the public. Bush’s EPA may try do so, but I suspect they’d be laughed out of court.”

The court’s secondary ruling compels EPA to follow the CAA provision that states that EPA “shall regulate” any air pollutant that it determines is reasonably anticipated to pose a danger to public health or welfare. EPA had made a wide variety of specious arguments claiming why, even if they had the authority to regulate global warming pollutants, it could simply choose not to do so. Today’s ruling compels EPA to adhere to the unambiguous language found in the CAA. The CAA already affords the agency wide latitude in its rule-

continued on page 2
Climate Change Coming to White House?

by Al Herring, Chair, Editor

"Perhaps folks have not taken notice of the fact that this is an administration that’s been keenly committed both to environmentalism and conservation from the start."

S
ay what? I was stunned when I first read the above statement made by Tony Snow, White House spokesman. It seemed so outrageous that I even wondered if it was valid. However, a little internet research confirmed that Snow made it on February 1.

A week later White House officials announced, "Beginning in June 2001, President Bush has increasingly acknowledged that climate change is occurring and humans are contributing to the problem." They also claimed, "Climate change has been a top priority since the president's first year in office." Say what?

Well, denial of climate change has certainly been a top priority for the administration. These are, after all, the same White House people who hired Phillip A. Cooney, an oil industry lobbyist, who "edited government climate reports to play up uncertainty of a human role in global warming or play down evidence of such a role" in hundreds of instances according to recently released congressional documents. (See Thomas Friedman's column of March 29, 2007, "Of all the lobbyists, Bush chose this guy!")

And these are the same White House people who tried to sell off large chunks of our public lands, have opposed any significant increase in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standard, and have taken a stave-the-beast approach when funding the Department of Interior and Environmental Protection Agency. (See the winter 2006 Utah Sierran for "A Timeline of the Bush Administration’s Environmental Record").

So, what are we to make of these recent startling statements from Snow and other officials? One possibility is simply that White House opinion manipulators have been turned loose to rewrite the abysmal environmental record of the current administration. In other words, it may be nothing more than spin-city. Snow-job time. You know, confabulate public opinion through disingenuous statements. This administration is, after all, pretty good at it...

...perhaps the White House is signaling that they are undergoing a climate change

However, another possibility occurs to me. After losing control of both houses of Congress in the last election and seeing an ever-growing concern among U.S. voters about global warming, perhaps the White House is signaling that they are undergoing a climate change. In other words—as much as they hate Al Gore and the message of An Inconvenient Truth—perhaps they see the necessity of getting on the environmental bandwagon.

Is it possible that Karl Rove and the other Republican brains have decided they need to court some green voters? Even Richard Nixon, who personally didn’t give a damn about the environment, had the good sense to court voters who did. As a result, Nixon’s legacy includes some of the most important environmental actions taken by the Feds during my lifetime. These include Clean Air Act Amendments, Water Pollution Control Act Amendments, an extension of the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, a dramatic extension of the National Park System, and establishment of the EPA.

Perhaps Republican leaders are finally hearing people such as Russell Train, lifelong Republican and head of the EPA under Nixon, who said, “I think this [Bush] administration is not a conservative administration. It represents a radical roll-back of environmental policy going back to a period many, many years ago. It’s backward.” Perhaps they envy the success being enjoyed by Arnold Schwarzenegger and California. Perhaps they see the need to court some green voters, will the current administration finally do some good for the environment, or at least stop doing harm? I hope this is what their statements are signaling.

“Perhaps folks have not taken notice of the fact that this is an administration that’s been keenly committed both to environmentalism and conservation from the start.” Well, that’s right, Tony. This “folk” has not taken notice of this “fact” because it hasn’t happened. However, I look forward to seeing it start.

As one internet commenter said about these recent White House statements, “Hilarious—but good news in its own way.” Let’s hope.

Continued from page 1

making process—specifically stating that any potential regulations must meet tests for economic and technological feasibility.

“EPA pursued a kitchen sink strategy by throwing a variety of arguments at the court about why it could simply choose to ignore the law and come up with its own political criteria for deciding what is a pollutant and whether or not to regulate it,” said Bookbinder. “This ruling simply sets the motion to establish the kind of regulations for global warming pollutants that have successfully regulated other pollutants for decades without the kind of dire economic effects predicted by industry.”

While it’s too early to determine how this ruling will affect individual states and their efforts to control or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, most agree that it will undoubtedly have an important ripple effect on the electrical generating and utility sectors and their intent to construct as many as 150 additional coal power plants across the country, including four here in Utah. These four new plants would add an estimated 14 million tons of CO2 to Utah’s 70 million tons of annual greenhouse gas emissions (2005 data).

“Clearly this court decision sends a strong signal to the industry, the regulators, and the public that business as usual does not make it in the future,” said Tim Wagner, Director the Utah Chapter’s Smart Energy Campaign. “Our fossil-based energy habits are going to cost much more in the future, and the best way to fend against that volatility is to diversify with more efficient uses and alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass.”

The ruling will also affect challenges brought by the auto industry against the Clean Car Laws enacted by California and thirteen other states. California and the other states derive their authority to enact stricter standards from the same passage of the Clean Air Act at issue in Mass. v. EPA, so the high court’s ruling should strengthen the states’ hand in cases pending in California and Vermont.

Today’s ruling does not affect the ability of Congress to address global warming through new legislation. Congress remains free to amend the Clean Air Act or pursue alternative legislation to limit global warming emissions.

“Considering the often glacial pace of rulemaking at EPA and the Bush administration’s long-proffessed opposition to mandatory carbon limits, any new regulation coming out of EPA is likely to be years in the making…” said Bookbinder. “The next administration will probably be largely responsible for implementing the court’s decision.”

This article was compiled from a Sierra Club press release and local sources.


The Sierra Club along with other organizations filed a lawsuit to overturn the Bush NFMA planning regulations. We made claims under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Some particular issues that concerned the club include eliminating the requirement to retain viable populations of all species on the National Forests, loss of public participation in the planning process, and a failure to look at the environmental consequences of the new planning regulations.

In 2005 the Forest Service gutted the existing National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations. The Bush administration planning regulations propose that forest plans will include no standards, and thus no site-specific commitments—and thus no significant environmental impacts. As a result of this supposed lack of significant environmental impacts, the three Forests proposed to prepare its plan revisions as a so-called categorical exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. In the past, categorical exclusions were used to diminish paper work for small federal actions that clearly did not have significant environmental impacts like minor changes to a campground or a small borrow pit for road surface materials. Some of the implications of the proposed Bush regulations are:

- No Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared
- Alternatives to what the Forest proposes do not need to be considered (although the Forests are supposedly allowed to consider “options” if they want to)
- Environmental impacts do not need to be considered (because the Forests contend there will be none)
- Conclusions do not need to be documented
- Public comment does not need to be specifically responded to

Among others we followed two specific projects on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. One project was a new off-road vehicle management plan. This plan implemented one very important new rule. With the exception of only a few hundred acres, the entire forest would be closed to cross country travel. While this is an exceptionally good change in the management of motorized recreation (that the forest undertook even before it was required to by a new Forest Service rule) it came at the expense of adding many miles of motorized routes to the current travel map. Some of these routes are within Invented roadsless Areas (IRAs). We appealed the decision to the Regional Forester. He sided with us on the issue of routes within the IRAs. There will have to be a modification of the final decision that will change the designation of routes in the IRAs. We will be working with the US Forest Service to get the best resolution we can. The record of this work can be found on the TFC web site, www.threeforests.org.

We appealed a decision to renew the permits on ten grazing allotments in the Tushar Mountains, near Beaver. Mary O’Brien from the Grand Canyon Trust leads this effort. The Sierra Club wrote portions of comments developed by the TFC at each step. In the end we had a strong case to appeal the decision to the Forest Supervisor. We have yet to hear about a final decision (although it could be out by the time this is published).
Momentum Builds For An Energy Revolution

by Tim Wagner, Director, Utah Smart Energy Campaign

I t seems that everyone is talking about energy these days. A summary of the changing energy picture in the US, it would have been a stretch to fill a page.

My, how things have changed in those two years.

Now, if Mark allowed me the literary license (and I had the time!), I could fill this entire newsletter that you hold in your hand with energy stories. But out of respect for the other authors and critical issues that you, our members, are interested in, I will honor the brevity code.

I can sum it up simply. Coal is out; efficiencies and renewables are in. But to avoid replicating the approaches of a certain White House occupant, it’s not quite so black and white.

First, some background. The US derives about 50 percent of its electricity from coal combustion. In Utah, it’s nearly 95 percent. There are approximately 1,100 coal-fired power plants in the US, most of them east of the Mississippi River. Large population concentrations, large power demand.

Depending on whom you talk to, estimates for the amount of coal under the soil here in the US are around 200 to 250 years’ worth, with approximately half of that coming from Wyoming’s Powder River Basin. Utah has an estimated 15 to 20 years of coal remaining, but that too seems to be subject to varying opinions. What is important to note is that these figures are based on or near today’s combustion rates. In other words, if all the new plants that are being planned actually get built, along with speculative proposals for coal-to-liquids fuel to power our transportation fleet, that U.S. supply could shrink to about ten to twenty years.

Getting back to the subject at hand, many would say the tipping point was when the wind blew. As in Hurricane Katrina. Regardless of its causation, that one 2005 storm put the issue of global warming on the front page. Overnight, it went from an abstract theory to a reality for many Americans. With it came the awareness that a force from an abstract theory to a reality that it’s reason to be concerned about.

While many prominent individuals deserve credit for changing the debate on energy and global warming, it’s reasonably safe to say that no one has had a more profound effect on the issues than four specific notables. Al Gore and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for what they have done, and George W. Bush and Dick Cheney for what they haven’t done.

In June of 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger issued a resolution calling on his state to set specific greenhouse gas reduction targets. He directed state agencies to stipulate that all future power contracts — whether with suppliers in California or outside — be from sources as clean as natural gas-fired generation, which has a fraction of the CO₂ emissions of coal. These initiatives were ratified last year by the California Energy and California Public Utility commissions, followed by the California State Assembly and Senate.

This one action has sent a tidal wave throughout the energy markets in the West, particularly for numerous coal power plants that were proposed to capitalize on the growing California energy demand. Since then we’ve seen several proposed coal-fired plants in Idaho and Nevada bite the dust. That, and on

Then there’s the backlash effect, triggered by our president and vice-president with such jewels as Cheney’s 2002 remark, “Conservation is a virtue but not sound policy.” Yea, right, Dick.

Nationally, the demand for more renewable energy has exploded. Twenty-two states have now passed some form of Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), a requirement that utilities obtain a percent of their energy from renewable sources. Despite the fact that Texas has one of the nation’s lowest RPS, a paltry two percent, (but that’s 2% more than Utah!) that red state just last year surpassed California as the nation’s largest producer of wind power. Meanwhile, the world’s largest wind turbine manufacturers are reporting two year backlogs in production due to the growing demand.

Speaking of Texas, no deal in the energy business has made headlines like the recent TXU buyout. One of the nation’s largest energy producers, TXU was proposing to build eleven new pulverized coal-fired power plants in Lone Star country. In spite of protests from ranchers, enviros, and even the mayors of cities such as Dallas, Texas Governor Rick Perry fast tracked the permitting process in hopes of getting these carbon emitters up and going before Congress had time to impose caps and taxes.

But in the nation’s largest-ever corporate buyout, TXU accepted a $45 billion offer from two private equity firms, a deal brokered by the heads of Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense. As part of the deal, eight of the eleven proposed coal plants went south, and the new owners agreed to reduce the company’s NOₓ and SOₓ emissions by 20 percent and CO₂ emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 while investing up to $800 million in efficiency measures and also developing a whole lot more wind power. Similar deals have been brokered in Florida and Illinois.

Lacking national leadership, since 2005 435 mayors across the country, including Salt Lake City’s Mayor Rocky Anderson, have joined up with Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels to adopt the goals of the Kyoto Protocol through the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Anderson continues to travel around the world speaking out on the urgency of the issue and pleading with other leaders to do their part.

And on April 16th, millions of Americans participated in thousands of Step It Up events in nearly every US city, demanding that Congress and the Bush Administration get serious about addressing global warming. Let’s hope they heard us.
MORE CITIES OPT OUT OF DIRTY COAL CONTRACTS – LET’S THANK THEM
by Tim Wagner

In another sign of the times, the City of Logan, Utah, recently rejected a proposal to enter into a long-term contract for coal-based electricity. Located in beautiful Cache Valley and home to approximately 50,000 residents and Utah State University, Logan has been experiencing tremendous growing pains in the last decade. So it makes sense that city leaders would try to exercise sound judgment to keep their customers supplied with reliable and economic electricity in the future. Some felt that a proposed thirty-year contract for 20 megawatts of power from the proposed Unit #3 at the Intermountain Power Authority’s generating station near Delta, Utah, would fit that bill. But fortunately, three of the five city council members exhibited true vision and concern for future generations by rejecting the proposal.

Why? Like many energy experts, the council recognized coal is not the cheap, reliable source of energy it once was. Perhaps it was best said by Councilmember Laraine Swenson in a recent Logan Herald Journal editorial. “All around, putting our eggs in the coal basket is a poor choice environmentally and a risky choice financially.” The city is instead pursuing a new clean, renewable geothermal project. Please consider sending a letter to the heraldjournal@hjnews.com publicly thanking the council for making the right choice. Letters can be sent via email to letters@hjnews.com.

It should also be noted that the Murray and Heber City recently rejected a similar contract, following the lead of several California cities, including L.A. Pasadena, Riverside and Truckee. But two major Utah cities are also considering such a contract and are slated to vote very soon. Please consider contacting the leaders of Bountiful and Springville if you have not already. Urge them to diversity their energy portfolio with more renewables such as wind, solar, geothermal and landfill biomass instead of more coal. As always, be respectful.

Bountiful City Council Members and the Mayor can be reached at http://www.bountifulutah.gov/MayorCouncil/MayorCouncil.html. They can all be reached by one email address: ecalls@bountifulutah.gov.

Springville City Council Members and the Mayor can receive phone messages at (801) 491-7801. Or you can email each individual by going to http://www.springville.org/mayorcouncil/ and clicking on the name of each council member or the mayor.

Changes at Dugway
by Cindy King

The Dugway Proving Ground, a US Army facility about sixty miles southwest of Salt Lake City, is in the process of developing an environmental assessment (EA) for the Baker Laboratory renovation, a part of the Life Science Complex. Dugway has been a testing site for a number of weapons and most recently has been used to test biological agents. The proposal is to remove all plumbing, electrical, and heating and air conditioning systems in order to meet current safety standards. The renovation of the Baker Laboratory is intended to allow so-called full system testing. Full system means to quality assure and quality control equipment to assist in protection against biological and chemical contamination. Under the army’s proposal, Baker Laboratory would be Bio-Safety-Level (BSL) 2 and 3. BSL 2 means that there are antigens for the pathogens, such as strep, for example, that could be administered very easily; i.e., the antigens are easily accessible. BSL 3 means more complex antigens are needed for the pathogens, such as so-called milled anthrax, and the access to antigens is limited. The environmental assessment will be released as early as April 2007. You should be able to download the environmental assessment by going to www.Dugway.mil or request a copy by calling the public affairs officer at (435) 831-2116.

Report from Utah Valley
by Bepe Kafka

A few first meetings the Utah Valley Sierra Forum is gathering momentum. Our e-mail list has grown from 24 in November to over 80. Our meetings are open to the public, and at every one we see new faces. All growth is bumpy, but we are definitely finding our unique way.

We take seriously our mandate to enjoy the planet. Some members have met for spontaneous outings in Diamond Fork Canyon. Earl Owen recently led a three-day hike along the Boulder Mail Trail from Boulder to Escalante.

Our biggest issue continues to be the protection of the valuable Cien J wetlands north of Utah Lake, which are threatened by UDOT’s proposed six-lane highway, the Mountain View Corridor. We decided to research the matter by seeing the area for ourselves. About 40 people, Sierra activists and allies from areas nearby that would be affected by the freeway, turned out in frigid January weather for a field trip led by Ryan Barker, a biologist employed by the nearby Spring Creek development. It was one of those record-breaking string of heavily polluted inversion days, perhaps an omen, as Ryan pointed out owls and hawks, and tracks of an incredible variety of wildlife. He pointed out how the water flows through the area, and explained the effect that the weight of a twenty foot high wall of concrete would have on the underground water system. Well, that’s not hard to picture, but standing in the gorgeous marshland and imagining such a thing was pretty heartbreaking.

We left determined to protect that very special bit of real estate, and we have until October 31 to raise public awareness. Many of us have written letters to UDOT as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers, who will be involved in approving the project. We plan another field trip to the area on March 31, and hope to be able to photograph the bald eagles that are stopping over on their migrations.

Now we really are starting to feel that we are in the twenty-first century, because we have entered the blogosphere. Jordan and Ashley Haug started us out, setting up our blog on a free Google blog site. All members are invited to post their thoughts, ideas, suggestions, accounts of their excursions, etc., as well as to comment on other postings. Check us out at http://uvsf.blogspot.com.

And, last but not least, our meetings are improving, with the wonderful innovation of a kitchen timer, so that no one will be too long winded. Sound like fun? And want to do some good? You are welcome at the Utah Valley Sierra Forum! Check our blog site (above) for meeting details.
Good news from the legislature comes in two forms: good bills passed and bad bills defeated. We had enough of each to be grateful during the 2007 General Session. In the former category, Sen Howard Stephenson’s (R-Draper) carried a bill to restore the tax credits for residential and commercial installation of renewable energy systems including wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric and biomass. The tax credit available to businesses will be calculated based on output rather than capacity, but otherwise most of the provisions of the credits that expired as of 31 December 2006, have been retained. Ultimately, Stephenson’s bill was rolled into the omnibus tax reform bill, Second Substitute Senate Bill 223, that passed easily.

Further incremental steps in improving energy efficiency were made with Rep Fred Hunkamer’s (R-Logan) HB 110 that directs all state agencies to submit vehicle efficiency plans and provide written justification for vehicles that are larger than standards. Rep Roger Barrus (R-Centerville) HB 425 would have opened all highways in Utah to ATVs. Although municipalities would be able to limit—not prohibit—ATV use on some roads, this legislation would have applied to all other highways in Utah except in Salt Lake County. Noel and certain Kane County commissioners have declared war on the Department of Interior’s authority to control vehicle access within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Their suit to vindicate their presumed authority over federal land is expensive so they were banking on this legislation forcing the State of Utah to take over the costs. If ATVs were legal under the terms of HB425S1 on all the fictitious trails and washed Kane County claims within the monument, then the Utah attorney general would be required to defend their claims. Fortunately this bill was defeated, but another Noel-sponsored bill, HB 97 passed. HB 97 mandates another voluntary check-off on motor vehicle registration forms that will channel donations into smoothing federal land managers with lawsuits promoting ATV access and for off-highway vehicle education programs. The bill provides no oversight whatsoever that both ends must be served.

Further incremental steps in improving energy efficiency were made with Rep Fred Hunkamer’s (R-Logan) HB 110 that directs all state agencies to submit vehicle efficiency plans and provide written justification for vehicles that are larger than standards. Rep Roger Barrus (R-Centerville) HB 425 would have opened all highways in Utah to ATVs. Although municipalities would be able to limit—not prohibit—ATV use on some roads, this legislation would have applied to all other highways in Utah except in Salt Lake County. Noel and certain Kane County commissioners have declared war on the Department of Interior’s authority to control vehicle access within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Their suit to vindicate their presumed authority over federal land is expensive so they were banking on this legislation forcing the State of Utah to take over the costs. If ATVs were legal under the terms of HB425S1 on all the fictitious trails and washed Kane County claims within the monument, then the Utah attorney general would be required to defend their claims. Fortunately this bill was defeated, but another Noel-sponsored bill, HB 97 passed. HB 97 mandates another voluntary check-off on motor vehicle registration forms that will channel donations into smoothing federal land managers with lawsuits promoting ATV access and for off-highway vehicle education programs. The bill provides no oversight whatsoever that both ends must be served.

Our most painful loss this session was Rep Roz McGee’s (D-Salt Lake City) Fourth Substitute HB 122, Clean Air and Efficient Vehicle Tax Incentives. The bill would have provided a $1,000 tax credit to businesses or individuals purchasing low-emissions, high efficiency vehicles such as hybrids and alternates-fuel vehicles. Although the bill passed the house on a 68-0-7 vote, it never made it out of the Senate Rules Committee.

Bills allowing non-profits agencies to own water rights to guarantee some minimum amount of flow in rivers and streams have been introduced in at least three different sessions. This session the bill, SB 29, was sponsored by Sen Pete Knudson (R-Brighton City). In order to allay outlandish fears that some environmental non-profit might buy up water rights in order deliberately to put farmers out of business, this bill was very narrowly written. Only non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting fishing would be able to hold these new rights, and they would last for only ten years. The bill failed on a 36-32-7 vote in the house. Kudos to McGee and Knudson for sponsoring them; we hope to see these bills again next session.

The complete scorecards for the 2007 General Session, including the house scorecard which takes up too much space to fit in a newsletter, and several past sessions are all available on the chapter website, http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp.
# Utah Senate Scorecard

2007 General Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENATOR</th>
<th>HJR15</th>
<th>HB 97</th>
<th>HB 192</th>
<th>SB13S3</th>
<th>SB 29</th>
<th>SB 155</th>
<th>SB 183</th>
<th>CORRECT VOTE</th>
<th>ABSENCE</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>AVERAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BELL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRISTENSEN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAMBLE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUTTARS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVIS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAYTON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMITRICH</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EASTMAN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOODFELLOW</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREINER</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HICKMAN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HILLYARD</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JENKINS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JONES</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KILLPACK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNUDSON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MADSEN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYNE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCCOY</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIEDERHAUSER</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETERSON</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROMERO</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEPHENSON</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOWELL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VALENTINE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HJR 1 S**

Joint Resolution on Groundwater in Snake Valley urges the governor to include a citizen from Snake Valley in the negotiations over groundwater division & to wait for scientific studies to be completed.

**HB 97**

Motor Vehicle Registration Checkoff mandates the use of state facilities for diverting registration form contributions to groups advocating & prosecuting litigation to force the opening of public land to ATVs.

**HB 192**

Revoking Authority to Use State Lands repeals decades-old laws authorizing the Fish & Wildlife Service to manage state-owned land inside the Bear River Wildlife Refuge. A badly-conceived bargaining ploy.

**SB 13S3**

Tax Incentives for Alternate Power Generation provides income tax credits for both business & individual installations of wind, solar, geothermal or biomass electricity generating facilities.

**SB 29**

Instream Flow to Protect Trout Habitat Act would have created a new category of temporary water right that could be held for up to 10 years by non-profits to benefit 3 species of trout.

**SB 155**

Waste Amendments exempts the current Energy Solutions radioactive waste disposal site in Tooele County from certain approval and siting requirements.

**SB 183**

Restrictions on Designation of Wetlands prevents municipalities from designating or protecting through zoning any wetlands not recognized as such by the US Army Corps of Engineers.
House Bill 102 is an interesting case study in messy compromises. It originated from a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and Utah Sportmen for Fish and Wildlife. An early version of the bill would have provided continuing funding of $5,000,000 per year for each of three different programs, one of which was the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund. The LeRay McAllister Fund has been an important, albeit under-funded, source of matching funds for protecting open space.

The bill, as passed, provides a one-time appropriation of $2,000,000 for the LeRay McAllister Fund, but $2,000,000 in continuing funding for both the Rangeland Improvement Fund and the Department of Natural Resources’ watershed rehabilitation programs. It’s hard to avoid the impression that a bait and switch occurred.

The common thread in many projects is reducing the acreage of pinyon and juniper. A strong case can be made that pinyon and juniper have invaded other habitat types, sagebrush steppe for example, and reduced overall species diversity. Perhaps sage grouse and other sagebrush-steppe-dependent species numbers will rebound handomely with expanded and rehabilitated habitat. But the gods sometimes confound us by granting our wishes. Pinyon-juniper woodland is an important habitat type for migrant songbirds, and the war on it might turn out to be too effective.

Because The Nature Conservancy endorsed this legislation without extensive consultation in the conservation community, it’s incumbent on them to use their influence and resources to steer the substantial stream of new funds provided by this bill into helpful rather than destructive projects.

Section 4-20-3 of the Utah Code lists projects that may be funded through the Rangeland Improvement Fund. Funds may be spent on the following:

a) range improvement and maintenance;

b) the control of predatory and depre- dating animals;

c) the control, management, or exter- mination of invading species, range damaging organisms, and poisonous or noxious weeds;

d) the purchase or lease of lands for the benefit of a grazing district;

e) watershed protection, development, distribution, and improvement; and

f) the general welfare of livestock graz- ing within a grazing district.”

One can cherish hopes of better things from the additional $2,000,000 in annual funding for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) watershed rehabilita- tion program. DNR’s website has a page listing many projects proposed for funding under this program, http://wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds/proposed.php. There are more than sixty projects pro- posed for DNR’s Southern Region alone.

These proposals range from projects about which the Utah Chapter would be enthusiastic, such as a proposal to decommission and restore an informal dirt road that’s hemorrhaging sediment into Purple Lake on the flank of Boulder Mountain, to projects about which we are likely to be dubious, such as a plan to use a me- chanical jiggermation called a bullbog to obliterate 300 acres of pinyon and juniper on Atchee Ridge in the Book Cliffs in east central Utah. It goes without saying that we oppose any projects that disturb roadless lands or disbar them from being considered as wilderness.

The Nature Conservancy’s watershed rehabilitation program. DNR’s website has a page about which the Utah Chapter would be

House Bill 102 is an interesting case study in messy compromises.
Sierra Student Coalition

BE A FORCE FOR CHANGE!
Student Environmental Leadership Training Programs

Week-long training sessions in organizing skills led by the nation's top student organizers. Learn to develop effective groups that can tackle serious environmental issues, and network with other activists to build your region's student environmental movement. Then take what you've learned and put it into action at your high school, on your campus and in your community.

ENERGY AND GLOBAL WARMING FOCUS
Global warming presents an enormous threat to the health and the sustainability of our planet. The good news is youth everywhere are rising to the climate challenge and the SSC can give you the skills you need to succeed. It's time for our schools and communities to take the lead for clean energy and challenge our political leaders to follow. Energy's not your thing? Don't worry—the skills you'll learn at the summer program will be applicable to whatever issues excite you the most.

COST
The subsidized cost of the program is set up on a sliding scale, from $150-200 (please pay what you can afford). This covers tuition, room and board, local transportation to and from the site, and all the benefits of membership in the Sierra Club. Don't let money concerns keep you from applying and attending. We are dedicated to helping you request funds from your school or local Sierra Club chapter, and you can also apply for a need-based fee waiver from the SSC. Travel scholarships are also available.

**Special Group Rate: $480 for 4 people/$400 for 3 people**

APPLY NOW online at www.ssc.org/sprog

Questions? Call 1(888) JOIN-SSC

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

"I never learned more in my life...it was an intense week of connections and learning about ourselves and our complex world."
–Hannah Wade, SSC Leader, Columbia University

"...it bridges the gap between wanting to make a difference, and actually being able to make one."
–David Bronstein, SSC Leader, St. John's College

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club extends a special thanks to the

GEORGE B. AND OMA E. WILCOX
and GIBBS M. AND CATHERINE W. SMITH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
for its continuing generous support of the Chapter's programs.

The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2007.

In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in our own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Mail your contribution to
Utah Chapter Sierra Club
2159 South 700 East, Suite 210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

DON'T FORGET!

Mail your contribution to
Utah Chapter Sierra Club
2159 South 700 East, Suite 210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

www.utahbackcountry.org
Glen Canyon Group (GCG) Participants are called to request leaders in advance for outing details & to give the leader an idea of group size.

Ogden Group (OG) P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402 utah.sierraclub.org/ogden

The public is welcome on all outings. Participants are requested to call the leaders in advance for outing details. For information related to outings in general, contact John Besbesko, 801-985-6854.

Salt Lake Group (SLG) Call the trip leaders for meeting times, places, & other details regarding the outings.

Outing News

IT’S BACK! THE RETURN OF THE TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Volunteer outings leaders have put together an excellent roster of outings for the next nine to ten weeks. With more daylight in the evenings, the Salt Lake Group brings back the evergreen favorite— the Tuesday Night Hike. Check out the schedule; we have 11 to choose from in this issue. The group designation is SLG, the abbreviation in capital letters signifies the group planning the outing. All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the U.S. Forest Service to be shared by all participants. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website utah.sierraclub.org and look at the outings under the Salt Lake, Ogden and Glen Canyon Groups.

May
SLG, Tues, 5/1, Leaders Choice Hike in the Salt Lake foothills. A primer to the official Tuesday Night Hike Season. Enjoy an easy hike in the foothills near Salt Lake City, most likely in the area near Red Butte Canyon and gardens. Call Dee (718-1970) for more info about the hike. OG, Fri/Sat, Moderate Day Hike on Indian Trail. Hike the Indian Trail, one of the most beautiful trails in Weber County. We will start (late afternoon) in Ogden Canyon and hike to the Rainbow Gardens Trailhead. We will have a rest stop at the Nevada Point Shelter to see the valley and lake before us. Expect approx 2.5 hours and 4 miles. For meeting place and time call Larry Woolsey, 731-3701.

GCG, Sat, 5/5, Mary Jane Canyon. Hike up Mary Jane Canyon as it narrows, frequently hopping across the ankle deep stream, for ~4 miles to a pour-off and return. Last hundred feet to the base of the pour-off will likely require wading. Little elevation change. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Contact Tom Messenger, 259-1756 or Mike Binyon, 259-1633.

OG, Sun, 5/6, Service project: Dyre’s Wood Eradication. Come take out your aggression on northern Utah’s most visi- ble noxious weed! We’re making great progress on the area we informally adopted two years ago; this follow-up visit will be the next step toward eradicating dyer’s wood from this area. Dyer’s wood is not native to North America and has created havoc among native plant communities in Utah not adapted to it. We’ll start at 9 am and finish by noon. Call Mike Binyon (621-0196) for meeting place and additional information. (If spring arrives late, we may need to postpone for a week or two.) [S]

SLG, Tues, 5/8, Tuesday Night Hike to Parley’s Canyon. An easy hike on the old (historical) railroad grade in upper Parley’s Canyon. We’ll be seeking wildflowers in the high season. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot (east side) at 6:30 PM. Or meet at 6:45 PM at exit 137 on east lane at I-80. (Lamb’s Canyon Exit) Call Ron 801-292-4040. [E]

GCG, Fri-Sun, 5/11 to 5/13, Lewis Lodge camp and day hikes. Meet Gene Fouchee at 4 PM at the Blanding airport (south of town, mile north of junction US-191 and US-91) to convoy to cook and camp above the head of Arch Canyon. High clearance vehi- cles needed to reach the campsite, 25 miles (16 km) of dirt) from the road junction. Gene has room for three in his Suburban and cars may be left at the airport. Moab participants coordinate carpools with Tom Messenger, 259-1756. Hike to Lewis Lodge down a short side canyon to Arch Canyon first thing Sat- urday. Lewis Lodge is a remarkable spot of Anasazi ruins strung out along a broad shelf in a sheer cliff. Same camp Saturday night. Possible day hike and return Sunday. Bring your own food and cooking equipment. Contact Gene Fouchee, genemary@frontier.com, cell 520-705-6004 before 5/1, 435-672-2283 afterwards.

SLG, Tues, 5/15, Tuesday Night Hike on the Jordan Parkway Trail. Enjoy an easy hike on a section of the Jordan River Park- way trail in Salt Lake City. The trail is paved, flat, hiking boots are not required. The trail serves as a pleasant riparian sanctuary in the middle of the urban environs of the Salt Lake Valley. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Jordan Parkway pavilion, 1100 West & Fremont Avenue, Salt Lake City. Ann Wechsler will lead this hike. [C]

OG, Sat, 5/19, Moderate Day Hike on the BRT. Join us in hiking the length of the Ogden portion of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. We will begin at the 46th Street trailhead, and cover 6 miles and 1400 feet of elevation gain/loss to the trailhead at 12th Street (car shuttle required). The hike will pass through some city-owned park lands the mayor has proposed for sale and develop- ment. (The city-owned segment is just north of Strong’s Canyon.) Contact John Besbesko, 985-6854.

SLG, Sun, 5/20, Yellow Fork Trek. Weather conditions permitting. This hike is in the foothills south of Herriman, Utah, and But- terfield Canyon. Meeting time is 10 am at Rose Canyons/Yellow Fork parking lot. Or call (621-0196) to carpool from Salt Lake City.

SLG, Tues, 5/22, Tuesday Night Hike to Twin Peaks. Twin Peak is a moderate hike in the foothills above the Avenues in Salt Lake City. A fabulous hike close to downtown. Bring water, snacks and appropriate hiking footwear. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Poppperton Park across the street from the Brigham Hospital on Virginia Street and 11th Avenue. Call Jan (712-8956) for info about the hike.

OG, Sat, 5/26, Box Elder Creek Hike. This may be your last chance to hike this lovely valley, south of Mantua, before the Forest Service opens the area to ATVs. Expect sunny slopes, shady forests, flowers start- ing to open, and a good chance of seeing wildlife. The hike is a 4.5-mile loop with a steep climb at the beginning, but easy after that. Families are welcome! Call leader Dan Schroeder (801/393-4603) for meeting time and place.

SLG, Tues, 5/29, Tuesday Night Hike on the Mt Olympus Trail. The group will hike the first few miles of the Mt Olympus Trail. Expect mostly moderate but some steep sections along the trail. Bring plenty of wa- ter and adequate hiking footwear for typical single track trail in the Wasatch. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School parking lot. Call Dee (718-1970) for more information about the hike.

June
OG, Sat, 6/2, Mantua Loop Mountain Bike. Spring mountain biking doesn’t get any bet- her than this. Starting in Mantua, we’ll take an all-day, 25-mile tour through forests and flower-speckled meadows on both public and private land. This route is at the heart of a controversy in which federal, state, and local governments are attempting to force private landowners to open their lands to off-road vehicle use. The affected landowners have generously given us permission for this tour, and most of the Forest Service areas should still be closed to motorized use for the wet season. The route is on roads and double-track trails, but parts of it are steep and rough. We’ll take our time, but good endurance is a must. Contact leader Dan Schroeder (801/393-4603) for details. It’s too muddy on the 2nd, we’ll postpone or cancel then.

SLG, Sun, 6/3, City Creek Bike Ride. A great venue for a leisurely mid-spring ride in one of Utah’s most scenic canyons, a recre- ational paradise empty of motorized traffic.
SLG, Tues, 6/5, Tuesday Night Hike in Heavens Canyon. The Heavens Canyon Trailhead is only a few minutes from the freeway and in close proximity to hillside housing. Buttress rocks and households quickly fade as the trail winds through a narrow oaks-wooded canyon where jagged multi-colored peaks and a quiet stream slowly blend the beauty of the forest beside the beauty of urban clutter. This has become one of the most popular hikes of the summer season. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 pm. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for info about the hike.

GGG, Fri-Sat, 6/1 to 6/9, Dark Canyon Friday car camp near the Horse Pasture trailhead, about 2½ hours from Moab via UT-211 and Cottonwood Canyon. Wet weather will cause cancellation of the trip due to slippery, goopy dirt roads. Carpool from town. Saturday hike down steep Horse Pasture trail (1500’ descent) a couple of hours (3 miles or so) to Scupper Cabin and springs. Explore short distance up or down Dark Canyon if desired. Return to rim. Return to town or camp another night and return next day. For more details and to arrange carpools, call Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 6/9, Skyline Trail Day Hike. Hike 9 miles one way from North Ogden Pass to Pineview Dam. This outing requires a car shuttle. Hike through conifer, grassy ridges, scrub oaks with views of Ogden Valley and Pineview Dam. May see late season snowfields and the best view of Mt Ogden. For meeting time and place contact Larry Woolsey, 801/731-3701.

SLG, Tues, 6/12, Tuesday Night Hike to Davis County Outpost. A fantastic hike even considering the proximity to downtown Salt Lake City. A prime opportunity to enjoy panoramic views of Davis and Salt Lake valleys. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Pepperton Park across the street from Shier- ners Hospital on 11th Avenue and Virginia Street. Call Ken (484-3112) for more info.

OG, Thurs to Sun, 6/14-17, Climb Mt. Ibapah in the Dragon Creek Mountains. Strenuous backpacking in a beautiful, remote wilderness study area in far western Utah. June 14: Car pool to 6,000 ft. backpack up Granite Creek Canyon to saddle at 10,000 ft. June 16: Climb Mt. Ibapah, elev. 12,087 ft. (This is a non-technical ascent; in fact, there is a trail to the top.) Enjoy 12,000 ft. above the 2nd Hamengog, the trail to Lone Peak from the Utah County side. Expect steep terrain and working with hard tools during the weekend outing. Forest Service personnel will supervise the trail improvement on Saturday and Sunday. Back packing experience is required for this outing. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time, place, and other info.

SLG, Tues, 6/6, Monday Evening Birding Trip. A great opportunity to participate in a bird improvement and enjoy a back porch experience in one of the most majestic areas along the Wasatch front. The trail building will be above the 2nd Hamengog, the trail to Lone Peak from the Utah County side. Expect steep terrain and working with hard tools during the weekend outing. Forest Service personnel will supervise the trail improvement on Saturday and Sunday. Back packing experience is required for this outing. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time, place, and other info.

SLG, Tues, 6/6, 6/12, 6/19, Tuesday Night Hike on the Salt Lake Overlook. Come and find out why this is one of the most popular hikes in the Wasatch. Lush vegetation, wildflowers, and great views are highlights of the trail. This trail begins in Millcreek Canyon and winds to a valley overlook. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High parking lot. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more info.

OG, Weds, 7/4, Mollen’s Hollow Overlook Hike. This spectacular hike in the Monte Cristo Range has become a 4th of July tradition. About 6 miles round trip, not too strenuous (great for families), through meadows and forests atop a rolling plateau. Unfortunately, the US Forest Service recently decided to open the first half of the trail to ATV’s—but perhaps when they see hikers they’ll go another way. Call leader Dan Schroeder (801/283-4603) for details.

SLG, Tues, 7/10, Tuesday Night Hike in Mineral Fork. The Mineral Fork trail is just above the 5-Curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The hike will follow old mining road & offers great views of the surrounding peaks. Bring flashlights for after dusk. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Ken (484-3112) for more info.

GGG, Sat, 7/14, Day Hike in Miners Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sal. Explore ruined dwellings at old mining claims at the head of a high wooded valley. The road to the La Sal Loops road is steep and rough enough to require four-wheel drive. Another possibility would be to climb over the ridge from Warner Lake, a much more strenuous hike. Or perhaps change destination to Gold Knob. Further details posted later on the Glen Canyon Group outings page: http://utahsierraclub.org/glencanyon/out- ings.htm. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 6/23, Gold Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sals. About five miles with moderate elevation gain. Explore a wooded valley with a running stream. Ruined dwellings at old mining claims. Above two little ponds in the woods is a tarn amid rock glaciers at the head of the basin with views of Mt Tukuh- nikivatz and the ridge between Mellenthir and Tukuhnikivatz. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sun, 6/23, Day Hike to Jardine Juniper. The juniper in question is a gnarled, tenacious, three thousand year old tree. The trail climbs to it through forests with nice views of the Bear River Range. The trailhead is at the turn-off to Wood Camp. Length: 8.8 mile roundtrip. Elevation: 800 ft. Time to Allow: 4 hours. Call Joanie @ 801/399-0034 for more info.

SLG, Tues, 6/26, 6/26, Tuesday Night Hike in Neffs Canyon. A great hike in the Millcreek Canyon area. Expect a moderate pace and some steep sections, but forest ambiance and fabulous views make it well worth the effort. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High Parking Lot. Call Dee (718-1970) for more info.

July

SLG, Tues, 7/3, Tuesday Night Hike to the Salt Lake Overlook. Come and find out why this is one of the most popular hikes in the Wasatch. Lush vegetation, wildflowers, and great views are highlights of the trail. This trail begins in Millcreek Canyon and winds to a valley overlook. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the Skyline High parking lot. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more info.

OG, Weds, 7/4, Mollen’s Hollow Overlook Hike. This spectacular hike in the Monte Cristo Range has become a 4th of July tradition. About 6 miles round trip, not too strenuous (great for families), through meadows and forests atop a rolling plateau. Unfortunately, the US Forest Service recently decided to open the first half of the trail to ATVs—but perhaps when they see hikers they’ll go another way. Call leader Dan Schroeder (801/283-4603) for details.

SLG, Tues, 7/10, Tuesday Night Hike in Mineral Fork. The Mineral Fork trail is just above the 5-Curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The hike will follow old mining road & offers great views of the surrounding peaks. Bring flashlights for after dusk. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Ken (484-3112) for more info.

GGG, Sat, 7/14, Day Hike in Miners Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sal. Explore ruined dwellings at old mining claims at the head of a high wooded valley. The road to the La Sal Loops road is steep and rough enough to require four-wheel drive. Another possibility would be to climb over the ridge from Warner Lake, a much more strenuous hike. Or perhaps change destination to Gold Knob. Further details posted later on the Glen Canyon Group outings page: http://utahsierraclub.org/glencanyon/out- ings.htm. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 6/23, Gold Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sals. About five miles with moderate elevation gain. Explore a wooded valley with a running stream. Ruined dwellings at old mining claims. Above two little ponds in the woods is a tarn amid rock glaciers at the head of the basin with views of Mt Tukuh- nikivatz and the ridge between Mellenthir and Tukuhnikivatz. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.
ACTIVIST OUTINGS HIGHLIGHT ADVENTURE AND ADVOCACY
by Vicky Hoover

The Sierra Club organizes outings at the group, chapter and national level. The national outings are published in Sierra Magazine and at the website, http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/.

One of the less well-known national outings categories is the Activist Outing. These outings feature several special trips each year that inform participants about the issues surrounding their particular trip and train them on how to advocate effectively for the relevant campaign. Wilderness and other preservation campaigns are the chief focus for 2007’s seven activist trips, headed for West Virginia, Alaska, California, Utah, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada.

Wild and Wonderful West Virginia, May 18-25. Learn about the push to establish new wilderness in the scenic Monongahela National Forest as you tour this lovely area, in the height of spring with leader Joan Saxe and local activists Mary Wimmer and Beth Little. Day hikes accent this van touring trip. (Trip #07190A, $625)

Brooks Range on a Budget. Eric Rorer’s June 10-23 backpacking trip in Western Alaska’s contested National Petroleum Reserve is filled, with a waiting list. (Trip 07014A $1,375)

Walk Among Giants in California’s Sequoia National Monument, June 17-23. Study management problems in this new Monument proclaimed by President Clinton. Learn the ongoing threats to these unique big trees and their ecosystem, on day hikes with veteran leaders Cal and Letty French and former Sierra Club president Joe Fontaine. (Trip 07191A $395)

Rafting and activism, in Dinosaur National Monument, July 9-9. A family activist adventure from that brings kids too into figuring out why we care so much about saving Wild Utah’s dazzling landscapes. Join leader Pat Fritz on the Historic Green River. (Trip 07261A $855/775 child)

Wild in the Wide Open Wild Sky, backpacking in Washington State, August 15-21. Study the recently well-publicized Wild Sky Wilderness campaign. Participants will enjoy trails and views in designated wilderness and candidate areas in the heart of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. (Trip 07175A, $495)

Valle Vidal Service and Advocacy, July 22-29. This trip focuses on New Mexico issues of public land protection. Join leader Gene Goldberg and local volunteer Norma McCallan in scenic day hiking plus two novel service projects, for trail and river restoration. Northern New Mexico’s Valle Vidal—the Valley of Life—has just gained some protection from proposed oil and gas drilling. (Trip #07315A, $525)

Eastern Nevada’s Wild Heights, September 1-9. White Pine County has just won landmark wilderness designation for many of its beautiful wild mountain ranges, all too little-known, that leader Melinda Goodwater shares with you. Besides a brief visit to Great Basin National Park, this remarkable trip, while mostly scenic day hikes with car camping, features a two-day traverse of the dramatic High Schells on an overnight backpack. Mt Grafton and the Egan Range, and possibly the Highland Range, are other memorable destinations. Learn the ins and outs of Nevada wilderness politics. (Trip #07196A, $495)

To learn about some partial scholarships available for bringing qualified activists to these advocacy trips, contact activist outings chair Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org (415) 977-5527).