A Bit Brighter! The Positive Side of the 2008 General Session

THE CLEAN-AIR ROAD TRIP

by Tim Wagner

Let’s hear it for Steven, our bus driver,” I proclaimed in the PA.

A round of cheers and applause resonated as the driver navigated the large rig through snarls of traffic to find I-80 Westbound. A sense of pride welled inside as I realized that a crazy idea had morphed into reality. A collection of moms, grandparents, students, and activists, just common folks, were giving up 24 hours of their busy lives to travel via what we were calling the NO COAL EXPRESS to Ely, Nevada, to deliver a message to Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and his team of environmental regulators.

The message? “Please be a better neighbor, Governor.”

Sponsored by the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, the NO COAL EXPRESS delivered that message, visually, as a public hearing in January held by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) in Ely, Nevada, over the agency’s plans to issue a permit to Nevada Power for a proposed 2,500 megawatt coal plant located just outside this small eastern Nevada community. This plant, along with two additional coal plant proposals, all hugging the Utah border, threaten to add hundreds of thousands of tons of air pollutants to Utah’s already impaired air quality, and emit over 30 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

I first floated the idea of taking a bus-load of Utahns to the Nevada hearing back in October during a conference call with several colleagues. Apparently, it struck a chord. Within a couple of weeks I started receiving calls from media outlets noting the significance of the story. Eventually a film production company got wind of it and called. Questions coming at me were “What was I going to achieve?” and “How many people were going?” I had to ad lib, “What was I going to achieve?” and “How will this be partly responsible for the cost, after all. But slowly the emails and calls began trickling in.

Utahns’ message to Nevada utilities: don’t pollute our air.

...one does not need to be an energy or air quality expert to make a difference... all you need is the passion to care about an issue and the courage to stand up and voice your concerns.

My apprehension continued as I put out the call in December. “How many people would actually commit to going immediately after the holidays?” I wondered. They would be partly responsible for the cost, after all. But slowly the emails and calls began trickling in.

My enthusiasm soared when I unexpectedly received a call from the owner of Washakie Renewable Energy, a biofuels manufacturer from Plymouth, Utah. As I explained the mission of the NO COAL EXPRESS, he graciously offered a generous cash donation to help defray the costs of the trip and the necessary biodiesel, refined from organic feedstock and waste vegetable oil to power the bus to and from Ely. This was way beyond my dreams. Not only were we working to prevent another CO2 emitting coal plant, we would also be reducing our own carbon footprint while supporting a local business.

Two days before the trip, Travis Harvey, one of the founding members of Utah Moms for Clean Air enlisted the help of her members to make signs. In addition to a huge “NO COAL EXPRESS” banner, colorful signs were drawn that included “Choose Clean Power,” “Let’s Be Good Neighbors,” and “We Want Clean Air.” This was turning into a real grassroots effort.

Still, January’s accumulating record storms and snowfalls were adding to my worry. The day before the trip had me scanning live weather maps. California was sending another large front our way. Committed riders were calling me. “Are we going?” they wanted to know. I called the bus company. “Unless it’s an all-out blizzard, we should be fine,” the owner calmly assured me.

The morning of departure found me scrambling as I printed out information packets for participants, fielding calls from local media outlets and last minute inquiries from those who wanted to know if we were still going. As promised, the Utah Railways bus pulled into our parking lot at 11 a.m. Soon participants began arriving. Jill Arwood from ABC4 News showed up, camera man in tow. FOX13 News also sent a camera. I circled from interviews to riders to the bus driver for final instructions.

continued on page 8
Lame Duck BLM Won’t Be Exonerated for these Plans

by Wayne Hoskisson, Utah Chapter Chair

ix of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Offices are revising their Resource Management Plans (RMPs). There seems to be a push from the Bush Administration to complete these RMPs before they leave office at the end of the year. It is not hard to understand why. The Field Offices under pressure to complete RMPs are the ones with potential for oil and gas leasing and drilling. The RMPs are heavily weighted towards fossil fuels both in resource extraction and recreation. The draft RMPs show almost no restraint in what places will be leased for oil and gas.

They also designate 10,000 or more miles of motorized routes across most of southern and eastern Utah. From looking at the maps it looks like the Field Offices will designate as much as 1,000 miles of motorized routes in places the BLM determined still possess wilderness characteristics. These places are beyond the already designated Wilderness Study Areas.

Ex-Governor Leavitt and Ex-Secretary of the Interior Norton reached an agreement we call the “no more wilderness” memo. At the time Secretary Norton assured us and the rest of the citizens of the United States that the BLM possessed plenty of tools to protect those special places that still remain wild. Our characterization seems particularly prescient now. It seems that somehow the BLM got the message that those nice, wilderness-friendly tools were to remain locked in the tool shed.

The Monticello Field Office wrote one of the most false statements I have ever seen in an environmental impact statement. They wrote: San Juan County has route numbers for each road in their inventory. B roads are identified with three-digits (BXXX), and D routes with four-digits (DXXXX). This system has been carried forward from the county baseline data by the BLM Monticello Field Office in developing their travel plan. Because many of the routes are already marked on the ground by the county, for consistency in developing maps and information for the public, and because BLM Monticello Field Office does not have any BLM-specific roads, the field office has chosen to use the same numbers as the county (emphasis added)

The Utah Chapter responded: The idea that the Monticello FO “does not have any BLM-specific roads” is completely false. In fact all vehicle routes on federal lands within the Monticello FO planning area belong to the United States even proven otherwise. San Juan County and the State of Utah have failed to show that such roads belong to or could be called county roads. San Juan County lost such a case in the courts. The burden of proof remains with San Juan County and it has yet to make any such valid claims. The DRMP fails to recognize this fact. This taints the entire planning process.

The RMPs contain multiple problems that will eventually lead to the courtroom unless the BLM makes major changes in the new RMPs. Unfortunately they are under so much pressure from the current administration that they will fail to meet the legal requirements for writing legitimate plans.

The BLM also completely ignored the problem of climate change. They gave no thought to the dust pollution that is likely to impact snow packs down wind of the field office areas. They ignored the likelihood of continuing drought and the need to adjust management in light of this. They completely ignored that they manage millions of acres and are responsible to manage the land in the face of climate change.

It is not like this is news to them. In August 2007 the United States Government Accountability Office issued a report to Congress titled CLIMATE CHANGE: Agencies Should Develop Guidance for Addressing the Effects on Federal Land and Water Resources.

We hope our comments and the comments of our conservation partners will influence the final decision. Any one want to give me the odds?

National Club Election Coming This Spring

T he annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now under way. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the club’s website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all club levels is a major membership responsibility. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This board sets club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the executive director and staff to operate the club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more, but we’ve got some ideas to help. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the club’s election website: http://www.sierraclub.org/bed/2008election. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail. A growing number of members find the user-friendly internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage.

This article was written by the Sierra Club Inspectors of Election.
OurLands

The Great Salt Lake Gets a Little Help in its Fight for Existence
by Joro Walker

Although the proposed reduction in habitat could threaten many of the 250 species that call the lake home, American white pelicans are particularly at risk.

On behalf of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, Friends of Great Salt Lake, Utah Waterfowl Association, National Audubon Society, Audubon Council of Utah, including the four local societies of Bridgerland Audubon Society, Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, Red Cliffs Audubon Society and Wasatch Audubon Society, League of Women Voters of Salt Lake, League of Women Voters of Utah, Utah Airboat Association and Utah Rivers Council, I filed an appeal with the Utah Supreme Court on February 15, 2008. By this appeal, Sierra Club seeks the opportunity to challenge administratively a management decision by respondent Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (“Division”) allowing industrial development of approximately 33,000 acres of the bed of Great Salt Lake.

The Division approved a proposal by Great Salt Lake Minerals to construct huge evaporation ponds on these sovereign lands for the purposes of extracting mineral salts from the waters of Great Salt Lake. The conservation groups appealed that decision to the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources and the Director of the Division. Sierra Club asserted that the Division’s management actions violated the agency’s public trust and management planning responsibilities. Sierra Club also asked the Division to review existing, but undeveloped Mineral Company leases in Bear River Bay and Clyman Bay to determine if these leases complied with Utah law, including the Public Trust Doctrine.

In January 19, 2008 order, the Division and DNR denied Sierra Club’s appeal, effectively preventing the club from challenging the Division’s approval of the development proposal. Having exhausted the Division’s internal appeal process, the Sierra Club and its co-appellants decided the integrity of the Great Salt Lake was sufficiently important to require the further appeal to the Utah Supreme Court described above.

At low water levels, the total area exploited as evaporation ponds including the proposed expansion could represent as much as 13% of the lake’s surface; at high water, approximately 7%. Although this reduction in habitat could threaten many of the 250 species that call the lake home, American white pelicans are particularly at risk. The birds breed on Gunnison Island, currently remote from industrial development and human intrusion. Because the birds are intolerant of intrusions at their breeding sites, Gunnison Island might be lost as a breeding location if additional dykes and evaporation ponds are built nearby.

Joro Walker is an attorney and director of Western Resource Advocates’ Utah Office.

The Political Committee Wants You!
HELP MAKE 2008 THE YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT
by Scott Daniels, Political Committee Chair

The Utah Chapter’s Political Committee works to identify strong pro-environmental candidates for office and then tries to get them elected. We work on a non-partisan basis in races in which we can make a difference from city council to state legislature and occasionally even with candidates for higher office such as governor or representatives in the US House.

Volunteer support is crucial to make this effort successful. The political committee needs volunteers who can help us with writing and filing compliance reports, organizing and motivating volunteers and writing candidate questionnaires and researching candidate positions.

If you’d like to help the political committee during 2008, please send an e-mail to me at sctdaniels@aol.com or call me at 801-582-8080 or send an e-mail to Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org.
The Sausage Tastes a Little Better This Year

by Mark Clemens

During the 2008 General Session of the Utah Legislature, the rules committees on both the house and senate side seemed to withhold few bills. For the most part, this was a boon to the environment because good bills that might have been delayed, or even aborted, in previous years got to the floor with sufficient time to pass both houses. Whether this change arose as a reaction to the public rebuke in recent years got to the floor with sufficient time to pass both houses.

Ding and wonkness, it’s a puzzlement that the most beneficial provisions of the legislation, even cities...
The *Utah Sierran* needs your help. We’re on the prowl for great shots of Utah wilderness to enhance our stock photo library. Send your high-resolution (300 dpi) photos along with a description of each photo and your name as you would like to be credited, to: peridotdesign@mac.com

Your photos could be published in an upcoming issue of the *Sierran*!
Utahns Rallied for the Real McCoy of Renewable Energy
by Mark Clements

While the Bush Administration continues not only to drag its feet on global climate change, but actually to hinder other countries from taking steps to reduce emissions of climate destabilizing gases, the only progress in the US comes from state and local governments. Sen Scott McCoy sought to bring Utah into that growing group of states with SB 173.

The bill was introduced to the public with all the fanfare we could muster on January 30, 2008, at a press conference under the newly-renovated dome of the Utah Capitol. Roughly a hundred members and friends of the Utah Chapter, HEAL Utah, Utah Moms for Clean Air and Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment turned out to demonstrate their support for strong action in favor of renewable energy. Earlier that day, many of the same volunteers lobbied their senators and representatives in favor of the bill.

It was a snowy day, and we salute everyone who organized and attended the event. Special thanks to Jim Westwater who took the photos accompanying this article.

Sen McCoy’s bill would have established a guaranteed standard of 25% of electricity consumed in Utah by 2025 to come from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal. It would also have established interim standards to boost Utah’s production and consumption of renewable energy in the meantime. It included a cap on cost increases allowed from new renewable energy projects to protect ratepayers. This type of legislation is usually referred to as a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) or a renewable electricity standard (RES).

The bill’s language was based on successful RPSs implemented in other states. Although Rocky Mountain Power’s parent company, Pacificorp, operates profitably in Oregon, another state with a 25% RPS, the company lobbied hard and ultimately successfully against SB 173.

This outcome comes as a disappointment not just to Sierra Club members and clean energy advocates, but also to the population as a whole. When polled, 92% of Utahns responded that the government should provide increased incentives and investment in renewable energy.

In August 2006, Governor Huntsman established a Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change to provide recommendations on how Utah should mitigate the effects of greenhouse gases. The council and its sub-committees met fifty-two times. The Utah Chapter’s Smart Energy Director Tim Wagner participated in plenary meetings of the council as well as serving as co-chair of the Renewable Energy Initiatives Sub-committee.

The council produced its final report on October 3, 2007. It can be found on-line at http://www.deq.utah.gov/BRAC_Climate_final_report.htm. More than two hundred policy options were considered by the council and its subcommittees, but these were whittled down to the most effective options. The report describes these as 44 high-priority recommendations and 13 medium-priority recommendations.

Rocky Mountain Power participated throughout this process, but because they couldn’t dominate it sufficiently to dictate the outcome to their liking, they produced their own plan. That plan became SB 202, sponsored by Sen Curtis Bramble (R-Provo).

The Rocky Mountain Power bill sets out a goal of 20% of Utah’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025, but it then grants a blizzard of loopholes and exceptions that casts serious doubt on whether the goal will be met. It also allows Rocky Mountain Power to reduce the total renewable energy requirement by the amount of its production of other low-carbon sources such as nuclear or coal-fired power using carbon sequestration.

Rocky Mountain Power used specious arguments about potential increases in rates to torpedo SB 173. The irony is that by slowing Utah’s diversification away from coal, SB 202 might in the long run cost Utah’s ratepayers more. Furthermore, this weak standard leaves Utah at a disadvantage in attracting renewable energy-related industries which are already setting up shop in neighboring states that do have renewable portfolio standards.
Our Appreciation

2007 FUNDRAISING DRIVE
Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the chapter’s 2007 fundraising drive. Thanks also to other members who contributed anonymously. These contributions make possible our conservation programs to protect air and water quality in Utah, our crusade to protect Utah wild lands, the Smart Energy Campaign and our ability to reach out to you and other Utahns.

Fred Adler & Anne Collopy
Michael & Jean Binyon
Mark & Janet Bloch
Ken & Karen Buchi & Family
Frank R Chase
Joan Coles
Brandon Derfler
Dorothy & Dwight Finkel
Claire Gardner
Richard Jirik
Ross Loevy
Bill & Perrin Love
Nicola Nelson
Kathy Olsen
Mark & Janet Riding
Catherine W Smith
Valerie A Smith in honor of Bob & Carol Lakin
Marc & Judy Tieger
Diana I Toth
HO Whiteside

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 in the next issue, 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!

START A COMMUNITY SHARES/UTAH CAMPAIGN AT YOUR WORKPLACE
by Mark Clemens

On the front page of each issue of the Utah Sier-
nan, you’ll find the logo of Community Shares/ Utah (CSU), and you might have wondered what it is. CSU is a workplace-giving federation that allows employees to donate any specified amount through payroll deduction to a range of agencies and charities that work to benefit the environment, deliver critical human services, improve the community, protect human rights and promote animal welfare.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club helped to found CSU in 1989. Check out the full roster of agencies at http://www.communitysharesutah.org/ CSU helps raise money for the chapter and the other member agencies in most public-sector and several private sector workplaces too.

Fall is usually the season to harvest pledges for workplace giving, and thank you to all of those who already give. If you don’t have the chance to contribute to Community Shares at work and would like to, call me at (801) 467-9297 or send me an e-mail at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or Lynne Brandley, the executive director of Community Shares at 801-486-9224 or brandley@xmission.com.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Utah Chapter would like to acknowledge contributions to the Smart Energy Campaign from Washakie Renewable Energy of Plymouth, Utah, for a financial gift and an in-kind donation of bio-fuels produced by the company. The NO COAL EXPRESS bus trip ran on this donated fuel. You can learn more about Washakie Renewable Energy at http://www.wrebiofuels.com/about_us.html.

The Smart Energy Campaign also received a financial contribution from the Innovision Property Group of Salt Lake City and their sister company, Green Earth Development. These companies develop high performance, sustainable building projects. More information can be found at http://www.innovision-green.com/.

Our sincere thanks to both companies. For more information about making a tax-exempt contribution to the Smart Energy Campaign, contact utah.chap-
ter@sierraclub.org.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club
extends a very 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 2008.
Report from a Paradox
continued from page 1

As it turned out, Steven would be one of the trip's highlights. A tall, retired Marine, he had a warm smile, he calmly stood outside in an at ease posture while riders placed their bags in the under compartment. I introduced myself. With a firm handshake, he asked what it was specifically in Ely we were attending. I tried to explain in a quick 20-second answer before tending to other pressing matters. Steven smiled in a non-judgmental way and replied "Great!"

The two-hour drive to Wendover provided the perfect opportunity to bring everyone up to speed. The darkened morning skies were breaking with clearing air and a bright midday sun, allowing the vast expanses of Utah's Great Salt Lake and west desert to provide a pleasant backdrop to a dynamic discussion.

For those of us who work in these issues day after day, it's easy to think that everyone else knows the background, the language, and nuances of energy production. But that's something we shouldn't take for granted. The questions came at me fast as I tried to answer to the best of my ability. In the end, I assured the group that one does not need to be an energy or air quality expert to make a difference. Rather, all you need is the passion to care about an issue and the courage to stand up and voice your concerns.

That wasn't the position of NDEP however. One week before the hearing, the agency had issued a public statement saying they would not consider comments that were not related to the technical analysis of the air quality permit. In other words, if you weren't specific to such things as how emissions of NOx and SO2 were modeled or how the BACT analysis was completed, well, don't bother. Yeah, right.

All we knew was that this plant was being authorized to emit hundreds of thousands of pounds of pollution into the prevalent air streams, sending much of it directly into the airshed of over 2 million Utahns. And we're supposed to be air quality scientists in order to have anything to say about it?

The miles of Highway 93 from Wendover to Ely stretch out into a long, gently winding path, providing some of the most scenic, open vistas one will ever witness. The low-hanging late afternoon sun provided the perfect light, allowing everyone an opportunity to slow down their thoughts and reflect. I quickly made my way around the bus and talked to most everyone individually, asking them what they wanted to say before the Nevada regulators. By the time we pulled into Ely, Nevada, everyone had prepared a brief statement and was feeling good about the noise.

It was early evening when we arrived in Wendover for the Nevada State Board of Health meeting. The cheering crowds. Not that I expected anything of the kind. We were greeted with huge spotlights and big red banners as we stepped off the bus, all you need is the passion to care about an issue and the courage to stand up and voice your concerns. The questions came at me fast as I tried to answer to the best of my ability. In the end, I assured the group that one does not need to be an energy or air quality expert to make a difference. Rather, all you need is the passion to care about an issue and the courage to stand up and voice your concerns.

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Utah clean energy activists unfurl the No Coal Express banner in Ely, NV on January 9th.

introduced himself as an employee of White Pine County, told me he appreciated the efforts of us traveling from Utah, but then explained that it was difficult for him to swallow the opposition now coming from Utah after he and other locals had been “working for over 15 years” to bring the coal plant to their community.

“You gotta understand,” he said, “how badly we need these jobs.”

“I completely understand,” I assured him. “I’m very sympathetic to the economic needs of rural areas, considering that I came from rural America myself and have seen firsthand the impacts when local economies run up short. But, and this is a big ‘but’, nobody’s job is worth the health of my child or your child. And that’s who will suffer the most from these kinds of plants.”

I then tried to explain how the county should court renewable energy projects and related industries, things that are not tied to typical boom and bust industries.

In spite of a cold night, Steven had only run the bus sporadically while he stayed on ship. Sensitive, he was, to the need to conserve fuel and protect even local air quality. Yet, as we all trickled out of the Convention Center, he had warmed up the bus for our weary heads. A quick drive back and a short night’s stay in Wendover, and we were back in Salt Lake City less than 24 hours from when we left.

Was the whirlwind worth it? Absolutely. It was a wonderful opportunity to give concerned citizens a voice on a critical issue. The value of that is huge yet impossibly to calculate. Did we make a difference? That’s more difficult to assess. Certainly, Nevada officials now know that Utahns are deeply concerned about three huge coal plants proposed for our airshed are not going to sit idly by and accept Downwinders court renewable energy projects and related industries, things that are not tied to typical boom and bust industries.

Of the 40+ people who spoke, approximately one-third spoke in favor of the project, including one White Pine County official who unleashed a tirade of insults against “those outsiders from Utah who should clean up their own air first before worrying about Nevada.” This was the same individual who, in his convoluted rant, somehow managed to blame all the world’s problems on “environmentalists and illegal aliens.”

As the hearing was winding to a close and I made my way out to the vestibule, a friendly looking man in his 40’s approached and asked if we could talk.

The Utah Energy Center’s Phase I for example will send our way in one year: 4,578 tons of nitrogen oxide, 4,578 tons of sulfur dioxide, 1,526 tons of particulate pollution, 7,630 tons carbon monoxide, 267 tons of volatile organic compounds (ozone), 300 lbs of mercury, 305 tons of sulfuric acid mist, and over 12 million tons of carbon dioxide, all coming out of stack 36 feet in diameter and 727 feet tall.

The White Pine Energy Station has similar emission levels, and the Toquop approximately half of the EEC. Now consider both of these plants will operate a minimum of 50 years, multiply that times the above emission levels and one can see why you should get involved. Please write a letter to Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and send a copy of your letter to Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. Things you can discuss (respectfully):

• That we expect him to be a better neighbor to Utah.

• The Interstate Pollution Spillover Statutes of the Clean Air Act require upwind states to protect air quality of downwind states. Nevada is accountable for any changes to Utah’s air quality from projects that they permit.

• According to the National Park Service, all of these plants pose threats to the air quality and vistas to Great Basin National Park and Zion National Park.

• These three plants will, combined, emit over 30 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, which is about 40% of Utah’s total carbon footprint. The science-based connection between human-caused greenhouse gases and global warming is non-debatable. Therefore, these plants are simply unacceptable.

• Utah already has a serious mercury problem in many of our lakes and streams. These three plants are expected to emit 800 lbs of mercury per year, adding to our problem.

• Nevada has vast geothermal, solar, and wind resources available NOW. The state should put its resources into those cleaner technologies, not century old coal-based technology.

The Honorable Jon Huntsman
Utah State Capitol Complex
PO Box 142220
SLC UT 84114
Phone: 800-705-2464

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
State Capitol
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-684-5670

SEND YOUR OWN NO COAL EXPRESS LETTER OR PHONE CALL

O ne of three coal-fired power plants currently going through the permitting process in Nevada, the Ely Energy Center is being planned in two phases, the first phase of 1,500 megawatts could be built in approximately five years, with a second phase of 1,000 megawatts coming on line later. The project is being proposed by Nevada Power, the state’s largest regulated utility owned by Sierra Pacific Resources, in order to supply Las Vegas’ insatiable appetite for power.

Less than a stone’s throw away also outside of Ely, L.S. Power is proposing to build the 1,600 MW coal-burning White Pine Energy Station. Both of these facilities would be located approximately 175 miles directly upwind from Sal Lake City and the Wasatch Front. To throw salt in our wounds, a third proposed coal plant, the 750-MW Toquop Energy Project, would be built just outside the small town of Mesquite, conflicting its yearly dose of pollutants upon St. George and the residents of Washington County while sending its juice west to Las Vegas, or wherever they can sell it.

The emission levels of these plants, while less than your grandfather’s coal plant, will raise your hackles and burn your lungs. The Ely Energy Center’s Phase I for example will send our way in one year: 4,578 tons of nitrogen oxide, 4,578 tons of sulfur dioxide, 1,526 tons of particulate pollution, 7,630 tons carbon monoxide, 267 tons of volatile organic compounds (ozone), 300 lbs of mercury, 305 tons of sulfuric acid mist, and over 12 million tons of carbon dioxide, all coming out of stack 36 feet in diameter and 727 feet tall.

The White Pine Energy Station has similar emission levels, and the Toquop approximately half of the EEC. Now consider both of these plants will operate a minimum of 50 years, multiply that times the above emission levels and one can see why you should get involved. Please write a letter to Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and send a copy of your letter to Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. Things you can discuss (respectfully):

• That we expect him to be a better neighbor to Utah.

• The Interstate Pollution Spillover Statutes of the Clean Air Act require upwind states to protect air quality of downwind states. Nevada is accountable for any changes to Utah’s air quality from projects that they permit.

• According to the National Park Service, all of these plants pose threats to the air quality and vistas to Great Basin National Park and Zion National Park.

• These three plants will, combined, emit over 30 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, which is about 40% of Utah’s total carbon footprint. The science-based connection between human-caused greenhouse gases and global warming is non-debatable. Therefore, these plants are simply unacceptable.

• Utah already has a serious mercury problem in many of our lakes and streams. These three plants are expected to emit 800 lbs of mercury per year, adding to our problem.

• Nevada has vast geothermal, solar, and wind resources available NOW. The state should put its resources into those cleaner technologies, not century old coal-based technology.

The Honorable Jon Huntsman
Utah State Capitol Complex
PO Box 142220
SLC UT 84114
Phone: 800-705-2464

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
State Capitol
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-684-5670
Leav Moab Friday morning and drive 30-35 miles to planned camping area. Day hikes from camp each day. All hikes will be exploratory into the area north of Devils Garden, Eagle Park, or the canyons on ILM lands. Could involve scrambling, climbing slick rock slopes, and possibly delays in the canyons and between fins. Be prepared for anything. Leader-Geoff Frewethy, 295-0233. Call for meeting time and place.

OG, Sat, 4/26, Day Hike on the Sentinel Trail. Hike one of the newest trails at Antelope Island State Park. It will take 3-4 hrs, is approximately 6 miles round trip, and has a moderate to difficult trail grade leading to high spot on the island's south side. The views of the Wasatch Mountains are beautiful. Call Larry (801) 731-2736 for more information.

SLG, Sun, 4/27, 4-C Snowshoe to Cecret Lake. After the ski season but before the snow melts. Ski or snowshoe to beautiful Cecret Lake in the Alta Ski Area at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Moderate slopes but not far in distance. Leader Ron Youngeter 801/292-4040 or be on foot April 24th for details about the outing. The date may change to a later weekday (May 4th). Outdoor conditions preclude driving into the canyon.

May

OG, Sat, 5/3, Birding, Tour & Social. A joint Salt Lake and Ogden Sierra Club Group outing is planned for at the Great Salt Lake Nature Center at Farmington Bay from 2 to 5 pm. Enjoy a pot luck lunch and hear from Justus-Jennison: Berries amidst the wildflowers and wetlands there. Opportunity to view nesting areas of the migratory birds from an observatory deck and enjoy the wild nature of Utah’s Wetlands. Call 985-1038. 

SLG, Sun, 5/4, Day Hike to Nitch Peak. In the fall an adventurous group attempted Nitch Peak from the north but ran out of time before they could summit. This time the attempt will be to ascend from the more accessible east side, and hikers should make it to the top with time to spare. Trekkers will be rewarded with panoramic views of the vast valley floor and will be witness to the majestic Limestone masterpiece of the West Desert. The trail winds through towering multicolored cliffs and past ancient bristlecone pine trees before approaching the 4,000 vertical foot elevation of the House Range. Be prepared for a full day, leaving from home in the morning and returning late at night. Bring plenty of water for there are no water sources along the trail. Call Ken (801) 1112 for meeting time, place, and other details.

OG, Sun, 5/11, Doing In yer’s Wood. Come take your aggregation on northern Utah’s most visisble/processed weed as we make great progress on the area we informally adopted three years ago. This field trip will use day trip leave from morn and return late at night. Call Leading: Schroeder (393-4603) for more information. [S]

SLG, Tues, 5/13, TUESDAY NIGHT Hike in Parleys Canyon. An easy trek on the old (historical) railroad grade in upper Parleys Canyon. This year of wild flowers make their appearance, and this hike will provide an opportunity to view the many varieties of their spring flowering stage. Meet in east part of park parking lot or on Parleys Way and Foothill Drive at 6:30 pm. Call Ron Younger (292-4040). [E]

SLG, Sat, 5/17, White’s. Some mild rock scrambling over a knob before entering a side canyon to Spring Canyon on an old cattle trail. We’ll follow the side canyon to Spring then descend Spring two miles or two to a dry fall. Climb a couple of hundred feet to start then descend about 800 feet (400 feet on good cattle trail, it won’t take long to get dry fall. About nine miles round trip, a pretty full day. Meet at MRC, Center and Main, at 8 am. Leader-Tom Messinger. Call 801-293-1673. [S]

OG, Sat, 5/17, Auto Tour of the Bear River Refuge. This is an “auto loop” refuge with a set of drive roads, forming a loop about 8 miles long. This outing is open to all. Except for this road, and a very short boardwalk nature trail, the refuge is closed to the public. The Refuge is vast and contains ponds, canals and is one of the most important resting and staging areas for migratory waterfowl in North America. In spring and summer, it is an extremely productive nesting area for birds like Clark’s and western grebes. American avocet, Wilson’s phalarope, black-necked stilt, snowy egret, and white-faced ibis. This hike lies 15 miles west of Brigham City, about an hour north of Salt Lake City on Interstate 15. Bring a camera, and a bird book. Call Joeane 801/399-0057.

SLG, Sun, 5/18, Yellow Fork County Park Trek. This is the canyon of the newly expanded and re-opened city of Ogden, or managed open space. Check it out. Weather conditions permitting, this spring hike—think wildflowers in the front yard south of Herriman. Meet at 10 am at Rose Canyon Yellow Fork parking lot. Or call Ron (292-4040) for directions and carpool parking information.

SLG, Tues, 5/20, TUESDAY NIGHT Hike on the Bonniveille Shoreline Trail. This is a moderately easy hike along a section of the Shoreline Trail near City Creek Canyon. This trail is near the parking lot so there should be plenty of time to hike to an overlook of Salt Lake and Davis Counties. Meet at the gates of City Creek Canyon at 6:30 pm. Call Andy (801) 583-2999 for more information.

SLG, Sat, 5/23, TUESDAY NIGHT Hike to The Living Room. The hike into the living room is a favorite of the hiking leader and former county. It is a short hike but get there, not too steep, and the destination is a good place to relax, indulge in refreshments, and watch the flameing sunset before heading back to the cars. Meet at the parking lot across the street from the east part of the Hogee Zoo parking lot at the next stoplight on Dee Sreet (718-1970) for more info about the hike.

GCG, Thu, 5/29, Day Canyon. An approxi- mate 5 mile hike along the Day Canyon with shuttle and key easy section elevation change ~1800’ Day canyon is on highway 279, Potash highway, 10 miles from the highway 191 junction. The plan is to have

Glen Canyon Group (GCG)

Participants are requested to call leaders in advance for out- 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 out- participants are requested to call leaders in advance for out- details. For information related to outings in general, contact John Besbekos, 801-985-6854.

Salt Lake Group (SLG)

Call the trip leaders for meeting times, places, & other details reg- arding the outings.

April

GCG, Sat, 4/5, Moab Geology Tour. Exposure of all the rocks in the Moab area are a geologist’s heaven. This hike/car tour looks at some of the very obvious geologic faults near town, as well as the strata. There will be some easy hikes to see different features, as well as driving to various sites. Meet at the MIC at 9 a.m. Leader: Bonnie Crysdale (435/259-0246).

SLG, Fri-Sun, 4/18-20, Capitol Reef Westward. A 3-day extended weekend of hiking and recreating in the classic red rock of the land of the Sleeping Rainmaker. Marry will be bringing her house in the beautiful hamlet of Torrey, Utah, as base camp for the weekend, and participants will drive to trailheads for day hikes to explore many of the wonders of this very picturesque part of Utah. Bring enough food and supplies for the weekend as well as standard car camping gear. Please RSVP to 435/425-2240 as soon as possible to ensure reservations because the host may limit the number of participants.

OG, Sat, 4/15, 2nd Annual Ogden River Clean-Up. Celebrate Earth Day by joining in an urban river clean-up from 9 am until noon. In conjunction with other concerned volunteers, we will clean up the Ogden River. Lunch will be provided Plans are ongoing and the extent of the project will be determined by the response of volunteers. Contact members at 801-1538. Meet at Big D Sports Park on the Ogden River Parkway. For more information call厅 Hanes, 801-0518.

GCG, Fri-Sun, 4/25-27, Camp-Day Hikes - Yellow Cat region. Yellow Cat in- cludes the area south of 1-70 from Thompson’s Center to the south, Coalville, and northeast of Arches NP (Kleidike Bluffs and Mollie Hogan’s quad). It has a history of uranium mining and homesteading. This trip must have dry roads. High clearance vehicle necessary & 4WD highly recommended.
take about six hours. We’ll start at the North Ogden Divide trailhead and hike to tremen- dous views of Pineview Mt. Ogden, Ben La- mond, and the Great Salt Lake. Lewis Peak is the highest point between Willard Peak and Mt. Ogden. Call Larry at 801-712-3700.

SLG, Tues, 6/10, TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE to Mt Aire. The Mount Aire Ridge is one of the favorites in Millcreek Canyon. Although the trail ascends through relatively steep terrain, the benefits are well worth the effort. The trail passes through lush vegetation, plenty of shade, and the destination offers great views of surrounding peaks. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 PM. Call Rebecca at 487-4160.

SLG, Tues, 6/17, TUESDAY NIGHT Leader’s Choice Hike in BCC. The destination was not determined at press time, but the trail will one of the many great trails in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Some options include Mill B, Circle All, and Doughnut Falls. Meeting place is at the Big Cottonwood Park. Call Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

OG, Sat, 7/12, Cutler Basin Trail. The Cutler Trail is the steepest of the three routes to Ben Lomond that originate in Ogden Valley—but the shortest, too, the other two are Ben Lomond Trail and North Skyline Trail. After about two miles there is a fork in the trail. Go right, just after which you’ll come to Cutler Spring with a small pond. This area, Cutler Basin, is some of the most spectacular country in the Wasatch. Besides being steep, the trail is rocky, so it’s not good for biking. We may see Moose and lots of them. So, please, be careful and give them a wide berth. Although mountain lions and mountain goats (they’re white, and can stand or sit still so that you might think they’re a rock), plus, deer, raccoons, and lots of different birds. Call Joanie at 801/399-0034 for more info.

OG, Sat, 7/19, Brighton to Sunset Peak via Catherine Pass. This hike is designed to be strenuous, 4.5 hours, and 6.5 miles round-trip. We’ll start at Brighton Ski Resort and go past Mary Martha, and Catherine Lakes working our way to Sunset Peak at 10,648 feet, about a 2,000 foot elevation gain. This is a great Alpine area that includes beautiful views. Perhaps, we’ll see a moose. Call Larry at 801/731-3701 for meeting place and time.

SLG, Sat, 7/19, Outing Leaders Training Workshop. For aspiring and current outing leaders. This will be an all-day workshop covering wilderness first aid, organizing outings, trail etiquette, and other skills essential for leading hikes. More detailed information will be given in the next newsletter, but mark your calendar early to attend this workshop. Call Rebecca at 801/487-4160 or Ken 801/484-3112 for more information about the workshop.

OG, Fri, 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 steep (great for families!), through meadows and forests atop a rolling plateau. Unfortunately, the 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 (339-4603) for details.

CCG, Thur, 7/11, Gold Knob from Miners Basin. Beat the heat in the La Sal Exp. ruined dwellings at old mining claims at the head of a high wooded valley and/climb the ridge to Gold Knob. Gold Knob offers fine views from north through west to south. The road in from the La Sal Loop 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 (still a stiffer climb from Warner Lake than Miners Basin). Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tom Messenger, 259-1756.

CCG, Sat, 7/12, Cutler Basin Trail. The Cutler Trail is the steepest of the three routes to Ben Lomond that originate in Ogden Valley—but the shortest, too, the other two are Ben Lomond Trail and North Skyline Trail. After about two miles there is a fork in the trail. Go right, just after which you’ll come to Cutler Spring with a small pond. This area, Cutler Basin, is some of the most spectacular country in the Wasatch. Besides being steep, the trail is rocky, so it’s not good for biking. We may see Moose and lots of them. So, please, be careful and give them a wide berth. Although mountain lions and mountain goats (they’re white, and can stand or sit still so that you might think they’re a rock), plus, deer, raccoons, and lots of different birds. Call Joanie at 801/399-0034 for more info.

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Lawson LeGate, Wilderness, Public Lands — lawson.legate@sierracub.org, (801) 467-9294

Summer Backcountry Guide

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this activity. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for few s charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierracub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp. CST 2008T76E-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
Out & About

Summer Backpacking Outings

COYOTE GULCH, Fri-Mon, April 18 through 21st. Meet in Spanish Fork at the Chevron Station by I-15 at Exit 228 onto Route 6 at 7 AM on Friday. Some members of the group may choose to carpool. That will put us at the trailhead by noon. We will day hike to some excellent slot canyon without packs and camp at Red Well Trailhead. Day two will be hiking an easy 7 miles following the wash bottom which is dry at first, but soon will have to get feet wet. The canyon deepens as we go and soon will be hiking below high sandstone walls with giant alcoves. We should arrive by mid afternoon at camp near Jacob Hamblin Arch and a spring. Day three will be the hike without packs to the Escalante River (Lake Powell) and back about 12 miles round trip. Several large arches and a natural bridge and Indian writings will be part of our beautiful scenery. Not much for swimming but several waterfalls will be encountered. Day four will be hiking back to the vehicles (by early afternoon) and the drive home. This hike is considered moderate to easy, but being 30 miles will seem hard for beginners. Backcountry regulations designed to protect the land and the experience of others limit our party to just 12 people including the leader. No fires allowed. [E]

HIGH UNTAS, Fri-Sun, August 22 through 24th. Meet by 10 AM at the Highline trailhead above Mirror Lake. Day one will be hiking to Pinto Lake which has a nice camping place. Day two will be hiking without packs to several excellent swimming (but cold) lakes. Day three hike out and home. The hike is not strenuous but is about 10,000 feet elevation. Beautiful high elevation green trees and wildlife. Wilderness regulations designed to protect the land and the experience of others limit our party to just 14 people including the leader. [E]

FENCE CANYON, Fri-Mon, September 12th through 15th. Meet at the trailhead by noon Thursday Day one we will hike down the slickrock to the river and a nice spring (but still need to filter water). The middle days will be hiking without packs. The Golden Throne is a photographers paradise. We will have to wade the Escalante River several times. Day four will be moderately strenuous hiking back up the slickrock but it’s only about 4 miles. Then on into Escalante to the fast food joint! [E]

Bob Owen would like someone(s) to volunteer to handle the local (Utah Valley) organizing of the backpacks, etc., such as finding out who is going. Any volunteers? Please email Bob at beowen@sisna.com if you can lend a hand.

or have a question. Many thanks. Let’s have some fun exploring and enjoying— as well as protecting the planet—right here in gorgeous Utah!

Join Us

SPRING SOCIAL AND WETLANDS TOUR

The Sierra Club’s Salt Lake and Ogden Groups invite you to welcome Spring with a guided outing at the Great Salt Lake Nature Center at Farmington Bay, on May 3rd from 2 to 5 p.m. The Center’s director will help us appreciate the surrounding wetlands, teeming with nesting areas and wildlife for which the bay is famous.

You will have an opportunity to mingle and meet with Group members from Salt Lake and to learn what our northern neighbors are doing for their environment. Bring friends or family and a potluck dish—we will have refreshments and a good time on this early Spring Saturday. Directions below. See you there!

Coming from Ogden or from North of Farmington

Travel south on I-15 to Farmington Exit, number 325-Lagoon/Park Lane. The exit ramp will deliver you to Park Lane. Turn right (west) on Park Lane. Park Lane will bear south, and will run into Clark Lane. Turn right (west) onto Clark Lane and continue to the first 4-Way stop which is 1525 W. Turn Left (south) onto 1525 W and continue for about a mile until the street ends at Glover Lane. Turn Right (west) onto Glover Lane and continue for about 2 blocks until you come to 1700 W. Turn left (south) into the Great Salt Lake Nature Center paved road. Come on down and park in the parking lot.

Coming from Salt Lake or from South of Farmington

Travel north on I-15 to the Centerville Exit, Number 319. The exit ramp will put you on Farith Lane eastbound. Turn left (north) at the first light, which is Marketplace Drive. Marketplace Drive will merge with the frontage road. Continue north on the frontage road. After approximately three miles, you will reach a stop sign at Gloves Lane. Turn left (west) on Gloves Lane, which will cross over I-15. Continue west on Gloves Lane to 1700 W. Turn left (south) into the Great Salt Lake Nature Center paved road. Come on down and park in the parking lot.

Directions from http://greatsaltlakenaturecenter.org

SATURDAY IN THE PARK WITH EVERYBODY

Want to help us get out the word about the Sierra Club’s conservation programs and outings? We’ll be at the Downtown Salt Lake Farmers’ Market four times between June and October, and we need at least two volunteers each Saturday. The market, in Pioneer Park at 300 W 300 S in Salt Lake City, is a fun, busy venue to present our message. The market runs from 8 am to 1 pm. To volunteer, send an e-mail message to Amazing at amyshotts@hotmail.com, or to Mark Clemens a mark.clemens@sierryclub.org.

BACKPACKING LIST

Our goal is to enjoy the beautiful backcountry as we practice “leave no trace camping skills.” We will talk of geology and learn to identify native plants and animals. Please no smoking or pets.

Basic Gear:
- Backpack (weight on HIPS)
- Tent (Wenzel $30 waterproof)
- Sleeping bag keep down DRY (Add 20° to temp rating)
- Pad
- Pillow
- Mess kit
- Canteen (with cloth cover)
- Stove and fuel (magic glow)
- Water filter

Clothing:
- Well broken in hiking boots
- Lace tight going downhill
- Long and short pants
- Long and short sleeve shirt
- Hat
- Socks
- Change of underwear
- Poncho?
- Stocking cap
- Sun hat
- Gloves
- Jacket/Parka Shell
- Fleece jacket if cool

Personal:
- Sun screen & sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- T.P.
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste and floss
- Lip balm
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Mini first aid kit
- Medical needs
- Soap
- Towel/washcloth

Misc:
- Map
- G.P.S./Compass
- Binoculars?
- Pocket knife
- Camera
- Flashlight / Headlamp
- Waterproof Matches
- “Fire starters”
- Personal Locator Beacon
- Whistle (Fox 40 for REI)

Food:
- Breakfast: Whole grain cereal and powdered milk with additives. Also hot drink mix.
- Lunch: Whole grain bread or bagels with spread. An apple a day.
- Dinner: Freeze dried meals.
- Snacks: Trail mix, etc.

TYPES OF TRIPS

1) Loop or one way where packs are carried the whole distance. 2) In and out from the same trail head. Pack in first day. Day hike in between day’s without packs. Hike out last day.

BACKPACKING DESTINATIONS & THEIR SEASONS

Grand Canyon September—October
Escalante Canyons, San Raphael Swell and other sandstone areas
April & September—October

High Unitas
August
Pine Valley Mts. and similar
June—September

For more information about special wilderness backpacks to more distant locations such as the Greater Yellowstone Backcountry, call Bob Owen at 433-527-1099.

ADVERTISE IN THE UTAH SIERRAN AND REACH 5,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN UTAH! CALL (801)467-9297 FOR OUR RATE CARD, OR EMAIL UTAH.CHAPTE@SIERRACLUB.ORG.