More Wilderness in Utah’s Southeast Corner?
by Wayne Hoskisson, Utah Chapter Chair

During April and May, I attended a series of meetings convened by Sen. Bennett concerning possible legislation for the public lands in San Juan County. Brad Shafer from Sen. Bennett’s staff conducted the meetings. We met for the better part of seven days over seven weeks. San Juan County, the governor’s office, and the State Institutional and Trust Lands Administration sent representatives. The Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service all attended. A local ATV club always had a representative attending. Two local citizens spoke, both largely supporting a strong conservation element for the legislation. A local business called Wilderness Quest spoke against any wilderness designation. CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO

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Memorial Mortuaries and Cemeteries
Providing you with eco-friendly Green Burials and handling all your Cremation needs

What is Green Burial?
The earth is more than where we live, it is a heritage for future generations. With a concern towards protecting our environment and leaving nature pristine, we offer Green Burials. Under the auspices of the Green Burial Council (GBC), our Green Burials focus on leaving nature untouched with as little of man’s signature as possible. Green Burials do not use harmful chemicals during the body preparation process. Our green caskets are environmentally-friendly, using only natural materials that will not harm the environment. Finally, our Green Burial resting places are in harmony with the native landscape. You or a loved one will be buried in nature surrounded by sagebrush, wildflowers, and wildlife. Look out upon our Green Burial Reservation. Violet, blue, yellow, silver, green -- the kaleidoscope of colors from Utah wildflowers will capture your attention. Stay long enough, and watch deer and other wildlife. This is pure nature. This is a pure burial.

We handle Cremation like no one else
When it comes to funeral homes that offer cremations, our funeral homes offer a cremation service that goes above and beyond the industry standard. Our organization takes cremation very seriously and has implemented a comprehensive program to ensure the safety of your loved one. At the time of pick-up, we place a non-combustible identification band around the ankle of the body. The band has a unique identification number, which will never be reused. We own and operate our own cremation facility where one of our professionally licensed staff members performs and oversees cremations, which are done individually, from start to finish. We invite all of our families choosing cremation to follow us in a procession to our facility. At Memorial we are in the business of helping people transition and adjust to life after the loss of a loved one. We are ranked among the top 2% of all funeral homes in the nation. We feel that our care does not end once the cremation is completed. Complimentary bereavement support to you, your family and friends is offered. We invite you to take advantage of these helpful resources.

Drive Down Oil Use & Pollution
by Mark Clemens

Utah Governor Gary Herbert, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon and Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker issued a challenge to Utahns generally and Salt Lake County residents in particular to reduce their driving between 1 July and 31 July 2010. The significance of the current program is that it actually attempts to measure results. The program is based on the premise that if every Wasatch Front resident were to leave her/his car parked just one day per week, total emissions would be reduced 6,500 tons.

Participants are eligible for weekly prizes and a grand prize. Sign up now at http://cleartheairchallenge.org/tracker.php. During 2009 challenge participants saved 1,715,344 pounds of air emissions and 1,000,615 miles by eliminating 110,720 trips by car.

10 STEPS TO SAVING OIL (& CLEANING THE AIR)
By Marion Klaus and Mark Clemens

The twin catastrophes in the Gulf of Mexico and Red Butte Creek remind us of the Faustian bargain we make with fossil fuels for convenience, speed, comfort and power. Check out the list below to discover more ways you can reduce the demand for fossil fuels.

1. Walk, ride your bike, carpool or take public transit rather than driving solo.
2. If you have no alternative to driving, plan and combine your trips so you complete all your errands on the shortest possible loop.
3. Don’t idle your car for more than 5 seconds. Turn it off.
4. Consider moving closer to the destination of your longest and most frequent automobile journeys whether that’s school, work or church.
5. Keep your automobile tires inflated to the full pressure recommended by the manufacturer. Along with avoiding the rabbit starts from red lights, this measure is one of the best to maximize gas mileage.
7. If the extra garden work leaves you breathless, consider reducing the area in grass and replacing it with native perennial plants. The change will save water too.
8. If you must use motorized lawn (or snow removal) tools, use them later in the day so your emissions don’t add to the pollution spike in the middle of the day.
9. Fill your gas tank later in the day.
10. Avoid spilling gas and don’t top off the tank. Replace gas tank cap tightly.

For further information call Lynda
801.634.4889
or locate us on the web
www.memorialutah.com
GROUPS TO THE RESCUE!
The Glen Canyon, Ogden and Salt Lake Groups continue to conduct service outings to help protect and enhance the environment. The Glen Canyon Group continues to collect trash from a segment of US Highway 191 south of Moab. Look for our sign next time you pass. The group also held a training session on May 1st to train volunteers for public lands monitoring.

The Ogden Group has been so successful knocking out Dyers’ woad from the patch they adopted several years ago they might be able to move on to another invasive and destructive plant species. Not resting on their laurels or their Russian olives, the group also pitched in on the annual Ogden River clean-up on April 17th. Thanks to Rebecca Wallace, our organizer, and all the other volunteers from the Salt Lake Group who showed up on May 1st to rebuild and improve sections of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST). (See photo.) The BST, planned eventually to run from the Idaho border to Nephi, is one of the nation’s largest collective projects. Next time you hike a section, spare a thought for all those volunteers.

Preservation in Progress by Marion Klaus

To ensure that Utah Chapter members are aware of the many contributions of volunteers and staff working to preserve our invaluable Utah natural resources and habitat, the Conservation Committee will present highlights of key environmental preservation efforts in each future edition of the Utah Sierran.

We will only be presenting a brief description of each activity within this column, and would encourage anyone interested in more detailed information or to volunteer and assist the chapter with a particular effort to refer to the Chapter Directory listing in the Utah Sierran for contact information.

Notes from the Beyond Coal Campaign by Clair Jones

The last few months have been very important in building capacity and support for the Utah Beyond Coal Campaign. We had several very productive tabling events, such as at the Salt Lake City EarthJam Celebration, where we made new contacts with potential volunteers and spread the word about all the terrific things we are doing here in Utah that they can get involved in. We’ll be doing much more of this over the summer, and are planning a volunteer meeting this month to engage these individuals, deduce what their interests are and build camaraderie.

We also had our first site visit and community meeting for the Alton Coal Mine, the first strip mine ever proposed in Utah. Community members gathered on May 25th in Panguitch, Utah, to discuss the legal and community organizing opportunities around the fight against Alton Coal. It was a great introductory meeting for myself and some key volunteers in the area, and is followed by another meeting June 9th in Kanab, Utah, where we will bring in activists from many of the surrounding communities also affected by the haul route, which runs mainly along historic Highway 89.

We are busy preparing for the kickoff of this year’s NoBassCoal Campaign. We will have a booth at the Outdoor Retailer Summer Show at the Salt Palace, and here we will debut our NoBassCoal Industry Sign on Letter, in which industry leaders like Black Diamond ask Dick Bass, owner of Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort to divest from his foolish investment in the Chuitna Coal Project, the largest coal strip mine ever proposed in Alaska.

Clair Jones is the club’s Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer in Salt Lake City.
Preservation in Progress
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

UTAH LAKE'S BRIDGE TO MORE DEVELOPMENT

In response to a toll bridge across Utah Lake proposed to facilitate poorly-planned development to the west, the chapter in partnership with the Utah Waterfowl Association, Utah Valley Earth Forum, Bonneville School of Sailing and Seamanship and FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake filed an alternative proposal that recommended preservation of the lake in its natural state for the enjoyment, beauty, recreation, wildlife habitat, lake-based economy and clean water storage.

Working with the Utah Chapter, Smart Mobility recently completed a formal study of the proposed privately-owned toll bridge and concluded, "The proposed Utah Crossing toll bridge is not a financially viable project, using forecasts with the official MAG model out to the year 2030. The bridge's lack of appeal are due to the fact that it will serve only a very limited area proposed, and there are several free, parallel routes that will provide uncongested and convenient alternatives. Further, the bridge will not result in any benefits to the region's roadway network or operations, as planned improvements will largely address the congestion that currently impacts the Lake area."

The highest and best use of this valuable resource is preservation. Our alternative proposal to preserve Utah Lake in its natural form will be of no cost or risk to the State of Utah. By contrast, leaving the area in its natural state will help protect the lake's contribution to the economy and clean water storage.

Despite the dire predictions of impending climate change and the face of declining supply and over allocation, nuclear power plant developers and the City of Las Vegas are attempting to drain what little reserves remain if any of Utah's fresh water supply. In an attempt to preserve Utah's water for future generations, the Utah Chapter has joined forces with numerous environmental organizations and federal agencies to formally protest the water transfers necessary to operate the proposed Green River nuclear power plant and the pipeline into the Snake and Spring Valley aquifers.

As a result, a group of four conservation organizations including the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, Save Our Canyons, the Wild Utah Project and Western Wildlife Defense Council and the National Parks Conservation Association have challenged the U.S. Forest Service's decision to expand motorized trails in the Ogden Ranger District.

"This new motorized trail plan would eliminate the last remaining opportunities for quiet trail use in major portions of the Ogden District," said Ogden Group volunteer Dan Schroeder, adding that ORV enthusiasts already have access to hundreds of miles of routes in the district and over 12,000 miles of routes throughout Utah's National Forests. Thus far the Forest Service has not shown any interest in discussing a settlement or alternatives. Western Resource Advocates attorneys working with our Chapter are currently finalizing their opening brief, which will be presented Friday, May 28.

WORKING TO PROTECT UTAH'S WATER

Despite the dire predictions of impending climate change and the face of declining supply and over allocation, nuclear power plant developers and the City of Las Vegas are attempting to drain what little reserves remain if any of Utah's fresh water supply. In an attempt to preserve Utah's water for future generations, the Utah Chapter has joined forces with numerous environmental organizations and federal agencies to formally protest the water transfers necessary to operate the proposed Green River nuclear power plant and the pipeline into the Snake and Spring Valley aquifers.

Chapter volunteers have filed protests against both Green River transfers required for the nuclear power plant and on two wells in the Snake and Spring Valley aquifers that would feed the pipeline to Las Vegas. We continue to monitor and stay involved with both of these issues until successfully resolved.

PROPOSED ALTON COAL STRIP MINE

On October 10, 2009, Utah's Division of Oil, Gas and Mining approved Alton Coal Development's permit for its Coal Hollow mine, which would become Utah's first coal strip mine and is located just 10 miles south of Bryce Canyon National Park. The company plans to mine two million tons of coal a year for three years.

In order to be moved to market, the coal must be transported 130 miles to a rail facility near Cedar City requiring 500 truckloads on US Highway 89 and through the town of Panguitch, which relies on tourism for much of its economy.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club in partnership with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Parks Conservation Association have challenged the permit on the grounds that the operation would pollute waterways and significantly raise dust levels in Bryce Canyon National Park, known for its views, clear air and night skies. Bryce Canyon's superintendent has also voiced objections to the proposed mine. (Also see Clair Jones’ Beyond Coal Update on page 3.)
Govert Bassett  
Dave Bernhisel  
Violet Bingham  
Michael & Jean Binyon  
Robert & Kathleen Broadhead  
Dennis V Chamberlain  
David & Inga Chapman  
Frank R Chaze  
William & Melissa Connelly  
Amy & Matt Connery  
Star Coulbrooke  
Hugh & Marcia Culley  
Ralph W Davis  
Kristine Dickens  
Nina Dougherty  
Richard Dougherty  
Dorothy & Dwight Finkel  
Naomi Franklin  
Peter & Heidi Gatch  
Rasane Googin  
Arthur E Griffin  
Emily & Chauncey Hall  
Sherrie G & Christopher L Hall  
Brad N Hansen  
Calvin Hansen  
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Becky Hickox  
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Vern Hopkinson  
Ann Johnson  
Robert & Sharon Kain  
Marion Klaus  
Randy & Bobbi Klein  
Martin Kogot  
Chris & Susan Lockwood  
Suzie & Jampe Martinson  
Craig May  
Nancy & George Melling  
Sharon Meyer  
Abe & Chris Murdock  
Kathy Olsen  
Les & Olga Opatrny  
William T & Gayle W Parry  
Jessie B Paul  
Jim & Judy Peckmann  
Sandra L Peck  
Hadley Rampton  
David Scheer  
Catherine Sharpsteen & Al Stevenson  
Eugene C Sims  
Page Speiser  
Jimmy Strong  
Jim Struve & Jeff Bell  
Bessann & Fred Swanson  
Kirk Thomas  
Jay Thompson  
Tori Underwood  
Tim Wagner  
Ann & Jim Wechsler  
Rita Wechter  
Alan Wheelwright  
Charlie & Marcia Wood  
Becky Yard

Remembering Leo

The chapter gratefully acknowledges a generous gift made in loving memory of Leo Slowikoski by his family.

Leo was an avid marathoner whose inspiration came from Utah’s pristine landscapes. The Sierra Club will work to fulfill Leo’s hope that Utah should remain as beautiful as when he experienced it.

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 2010.

MAILING PARTY THANK-YOU

Thank you to Sandy Bassett, Joey Caputo, Vi Corkle, Leslie Hugo, Marion Klaus, Dan Mayhew, Steve Thiese and Ann Wechsler for making up the mailing party that stuffed, addressed and stamped nearly 500 envelopes for the chapter’s annual fundraising letter, the March Window.

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!
Recent Highlights

Milestones Met by Marion Klaus

Utah now has a Beaver Management Plan that provides management tools to the Forest Service, BLM, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

T he Utah Chapter and our allies met with significant success, accomplishing a number of important environmental protection milestones in 2009. Critical conservation work is happening within our Chapter and the success of our campaigns is made possible by our volunteers, staff, and allies working together to preserve our invaluable natural resources and habitat in Utah. As a member of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, your support and contributions helped make these accomplishments possible.

PASSAGE OF THE OMNIBUS LAND BILL FOR WASHINGTON, COUNTY, UTAH

The Washington County Public Lands Act designated more than 260,000 acres as Wilderness and 166 miles of the Virgin River and its tributaries as National Wild and Scenic Rivers. This legislation created two National Conservation Areas in Washington County, creating protection for the desert tortoise and recreational opportunities on an additional 140,000 acres. A large scale giveaway of federal land to local governments contemplated in an earlier version of the bill was not included in the final version.

RESTORATION OF BEAVER PROMOTED IN UTAH

Utah now has a Beaver Management Plan that provides management tools to the Forest Service, BLM, and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Beaver are a keystone species central to resilient habitats in most of the millions of acres of National Forest and BLM lands in Utah. Today, beavers are found in only one tenth of the streams that should have them. This plan will help identify watersheds needing beavers, permit relocation of beaver to new areas as needed, and regulate trapping in a way that will promote beaver, or close areas to trapping as required for beaver survival.

COAL FIRED POWER PLANT SHOT DOWN

The proposal for a new coal-fired power plant near Richfield was shut down. The Utah Supreme Court ruled that Sevier Power Co. and state officials incorrectly calculated allowable oxides of nitrogen, frequently referred to as NOx, emissions in the permit. The court also ruled that regulators didn’t give enough consideration to requiring Sevier Power Co. to build a cleaner-burning coal gasification plant. The court’s decision was a victory for the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club and two Sevier County retirees, Jim Kennon, recently deceased, and Dick Camiskey, who led the local opposition.

PREVENTED TAR SANDS DEVELOPMENT

We prevented the expansion of permits by an oil field development for a Tar Sands project at Antelope Creek in the Uinta Basin. Currently there are two others we are also trying to curb.

SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED GRAZING IN THE FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

Livestock numbers were reduced 60% in a severely overgrazed allotment of the Fishlake National Forest in a collaborative process that changed the forest standard from 40-60% to 30% for this allotment. This was a major initial step in the reformation of poor livestock grazing management and can be used to leverage changes in other allotments to help stop overgrazing in Utah.

BLOCKED 77 BLM OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT LEASES

We were co-plaintiffs in blocking 77 leases on more than 130,000 acres of BLM lands next to Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and a proposed wilderness area in Utah. It was ruled that the Interior Department under the Bush administration had not done sufficient environmental analysis, particularly regarding the effect of drilling on air quality.

AMERICA’S RED ROCK WILDERNESS BILL GOT ITS FIRST HEARING IN CONGRESS

America’s Red Rock Wilderness bill to designate as wilderness qualifying federal public lands in the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in Utah received its first hearing in Congress.

THE UTAH RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONING TASK FORCE PROMOTES RENEWABLE ENERGY

Thanks to earlier Sierra Club work, the Utah Renewable Energy Zoning Task Force is making progress in a way that respects wild places yet promotes renewable energy. The success is approaching Phase II, which defines focus areas to further promote. With a few issues still left to address, this is a good next step.

RESILIENT HABITAT, ASPEN SURVEYS

The Sierra Club joined other conservation groups to begin citizen surveys to better understand why aspen stands, the charismatic symbol of autumn in the Rocky Mountains, are in decline. Conducted in northern and central Utah, these surveys count how many young aspens are surviving. Volunteers spent a day walking transects (straight lines along a tape) to measure the number and height of aspens in good condition and reference aspen stands in the canyons next to Salt Lake City.

Other sites were in stands with more typical condition. Typically we found aspen less than five feet tall in reference areas without grazing number in the thousands of stems per acre. In forests where livestock grazing occurs, we found no aspens in the 2 to 5 foot height and several hundred stems per acre. More surveys will help us understand the role that climate and human use plays in the future of aspens.

ASPEN SURVEYS

Surveys will help us understand the role that climate and human use plays in the future of aspens.
More Elbow Room for Wilderness in the Central Wasatch
by Mark Clemens

As this issue was going to press, the first hearing for Rep Jim Matheson’s Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act of 2010 (HR 5009) had been held in committee on June 10th. This legislation, in development for more than a year, would substantially increase protection for some of the most beautiful wilderness-quality lands in the central Wasatch. Preserved as wilderness, the canyons would remain forever dedicated to their highest uses, namely, watershed, wildlife habitat and low-density, non-motorized recreation.

Preserved as wilderness, the canyons would remain forever dedicated to their highest uses, namely, watershed, wildlife habitat and low-density, non-motorized recreation.

Matheson and his staff, assisted by the good offices of Ann Ober working for Salt Lake County, sponsored a stakeholder process to sound out the opinions of companies and organizations with an interest in the tri-canyon area. The intention of the process was to develop a wilderness recommendation that reflected a consensus of the attendees. The Sierra Club was represented at most of these meetings that stretched out for several months. Because consensus in the group was ultimately impossible on any wilderness recommendation, Matheson crafted a bill that strikes a balance between increased wilderness protections and existing uses.

HR 5009 would protect roughly 15,540 acres of new wilderness. Some of these acres would be added to existing wildernesses such as the Lone Peak Wilderness, but two entirely distinct wildernesses would be created, including the Wayne Owens Wilderness Area on the rugged peaks and ridges lying between Millcreek and Parley’s Creek.

Some lands qualifying for wilderness will be protected instead as special management areas that will for the most part be managed for protection of wilderness characteristics, but on which helicopter-assisted skiing and snowboarding will continue as long as the current permittee retains its permit. If the current permit were to be surrendered or revoked, the secretary of agriculture is directed to add these lands to wilderness. These special management areas total roughly 10,470 acres.

This bill accomplishes many important conservation goals. The north side of Millcreek Canyon would be protected. White Pine Canyon would be added to the Lone Peak Wilderness and forever protected from ski resort expansion. The new Beartrap Canyon Wilderness would make a canyon interconnect proposal—which all major Utah conservation organizations have fought each time it’s proposed—virtually impossible. No ski resort would be able to expand onto the west side of Silver Fork Creek.

Although the bill was written by Matheson’s office, much of the hard work of defining the boundaries of units was completed by staff and volunteers at Save Our Canyons. These boundaries have been drawn to include a maximum of qualifying lands while excluding mountain bike trails. Most popular trails, including the Pipeline, Little Water, Big Water, Mill D North, Wasatch Crest Trail, and Dog Lake - Desolation Lake Connector trails, have been carefully excluded from the legislation. The acreage of potentially qualifying wilderness lands sacrificed to protect these trails is not insubstantial.

Major compromises have been made to accommodate existing uses. The Sierra Club is not happy with all of these. We consider the codification of a predominant commercial use, helicopter-assisted skiing and snowboarding, across more than 10,000 acres of publicly-owned forest in this legislation to be bad public policy. We would also prefer wilderness bills not to include land exchanges. It’s preferable for land exchanges to undergo a thorough environmental analysis and be submitted to the public with time for reflection to allow meaningful input from all interested parties.

It’s seldom the case we can get everything we want in any legislation; however, this bill should be understood for what it is—one of the biggest advances for forest conservation in Utah in a generation.

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 (at least 300 dpi at 5x7”) photos, along with a description of each photo and your name as you would like to be credited, to: peridotdesign@me.com

Your photos could be published in an upcoming issue of the Sierran!
The destruction of BP’s oil rig has devastated the communities of the Gulf and created an overwhelming ecological disaster. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, who was on the scene in the Gulf, described it in the L.A. Times:

“...an endless explosion of toxic muck, a sickening creep of poisonous sludge that may soon blanket a national park, more than a dozen wildlife refuges and hundreds of miles of coastline...”

Chevron’s Crude Oil Pipeline Number 2 ruptured between Friday night, 11 June 2010, and the next morning and spilled 20 to 30 thousand gallons of oil into Red Butte Creek. As this issue of the Utah Sierran was going to press, the exact time of the oil leak had not been established, and no reason could be given for why monitoring systems associated with the pipeline did not give an alarm.

Salt Lake City has joined the list of communities touched by problems resulting from failure of pipelines transporting oil and gas. And that list is fairly long. Here’s a short excerpt of pipeline accidents in the US over the last 10 years.

- 4 October 2001 a drunken gunman succeeded in blasting a hole in the main Trans-Alaska pipeline operated by a consortium of oil companies. Before the breach could be repaired, 6,144 barrels flowed onto the ground near Livengood, Alaska.
- 2 March 2006 a failure likely due to corrosion caused a BP-owned pipeline in Alaska to spill 6,350 barrels onto the tundra near Prudhoe Bay according to a story in the UK-based Independent newspaper. Some reports suggest that system alarms had been repeatedly overridden by BP managers.
- 7 June 2010 an explosion of a natural gas pipeline near Cleburne, Texas, killed at least one construction worker according to a Reuters story.
- 8 June 2010 an explosion of a natural gas pipeline in Lipscomb County, Texas, killed two construction workers moving clay in a pit near the pipeline according to an AP story.

I cite the above problems with pipelines not to suggest that pipelines pose a higher risk than other forms of transportation. In fact, quite the reverse. I’m picking on pipelines precisely because they have a good safety record in most cases.

It’s for this reason I urged an end to innocence in the headline of this article. The words failsafe technological system should send a shiver down our spines. We must henceforth assume the inevitability of catastrophic failure of every technological system on which we rely, including dams, nuclear power plants and the internet. Decisions we make about adopting and designing systems must be informed by this knowledge in advance.

The observation that no where has it been necessary to clean up a wind spill is a little flippant. But it does highlight the important consideration that technological hazards are seldom factored into the costs borne by consumers.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Already, more than 60,000 Sierra Club supporters have taken action online to demand a moratorium on offshore drilling and to call on the government to use all resources necessary to support Gulf Coast communities and ecosystems. Meanwhile, Sierra Club President Allison Chin was in New Orleans last weekend for the first of dozens of “Clean It Up” solidarity rallies around the country to support Gulf Coast residents and demand accountability from BP.

Finally, we can demand that our leaders deliver a plan to get us off oil by promoting clean-energy solutions. The technology and solutions for a 21st-century transportation system already exist -- we just need the political will to implement them.

VISIT | http://letsmovebeyondoil.org
Get Involved

Volunteer Corner

If you value the Chapter’s work, why not get involved and be a part of the action? Our success would not be possible without a strong core of volunteers who are passionate about our great state and its wild places. There are currently several ways to become more active in the Chapter, including:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

The Utah Chapter is governed by a group of volunteers called the executive committee. This committee consists of eight members elected by the chapter membership and one voting representative appointed by each of the Sierra Club groups in Utah. The terms of elected executive committee (ExCom) members are staggered so that four members’ terms expire each year.

Members of the ExCom are expected to attend approximately five meetings each year held in Salt Lake City and around the state, must be able to handle e-mail correspondence of as many as 5 to 10 messages per week, and usually help either with chapter administrative functions—such as recording secretary or treasurer—or with conservation activities such as organizing, writing and researching to protect public lands or environmental health.

If you should be interested in running for a two-year term on the ExCom from January 2011 through December 2012, please send a 200-word bio or CV and a photo in digital format to the nominating committee at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org. If the committee decides not to nominate you after reviewing these materials, you have the right to run as a petition candidate provided you supply the nominating committee with a petition for your addition to the ballot signed by 15 current Utah Chapter members.

All submissions must be received by the nominating committee before Tuesday, 17 August 2010, at Noon, MST. You will be informed within 48 hours about the status of your submission. The ballots will be distributed in the Fall 2010 issue of the Utah Sierran newsletter during the first week of October 2010. Ballots will be counted in December 2010, and the results published in the Winter 2011 newsletter.

SECRETARY

The secretary performs an indispensable function for the chapter. He or she provides its memory through the minutes of its executive committee. This function helps the chapter in a very active way because only with the record the minutes provide can we track our progress.

Leslie Hugo, pictured above, is our outgoing secretary and served in this position for three years. She set a new standard of timeliness and accuracy and is willing to mentor a new secretary. If you’re interested in volunteering, please feel free to send a question to her at coyotespaw@yahoo.com, or to the Utah Chapter manager at utah.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Leslie took minutes on her laptop and after a few minutes’ extra polishing, often dispatched the draft minutes to executive committee members within an hour of the end of the meeting.

Other functions that a secretary can help fulfill include assisting the chair with questions of parliamentary procedure, referencing chapter by-laws when questions arise, supervising chapter elections, and of course, training his/her replacement.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Volunteers on the chapter’s political committee work to preserve the environment through bipartisan political action, to elect environmentally supportive candidates, and to advance the Sierra Club’s legislative program. Frequently we have a lot of fun along the way.

The chapter’s political committee is responsible for identifying and supporting candidates for public office who best represent the goals of the Sierra Club on environmental issues and legislation. The chair is responsible for ensuring compliance with Sierra Club electoral policy and compliance with state and federal election laws.

The committee assembles information on candidates through review of legislative records, questionnaires, interviews, past Sierra Club contact, assessment of the campaign, and information of members. The committee makes recommendations and may serve as one of the official voting bodies of the chapter required to review and vote on proposed endorsements or other political action short of endorsement.

The chair and committee are responsible for preparing materials on state level endorsements, and presenting them to the chapter executive committee for approval. The chair is responsible for ensuring that group political committee chairs and volunteer members receive information on compliance with election laws.

The committee sets priorities for chapter effort on endorsed campaigns and assists in training volunteers to participate effectively and coordinate with campaigns, and in all aspects of political action such as fund raising, door-to-door, press releases, and so forth. Chapter Manager Mark Clemens (pictured above) is happy to be a mentor and also serves as liaison with the club’s national political committee. Contact him at utah.chapter@sierraclub.org or 801/467-9297.

OUTINGS LEADERS

The Sierra Club was founded with the twin goals of protecting the integrity of the natural world and getting folks into nature to experience its beauty on outings.

All three geographical groups within the Utah Chapter run excellent outings programs. (Outings programmed for the current quarter are found on pages 10 and 11 of this issue.) We encourage members living within the group areas to consider becoming outings leaders.

Excellent training is available through live courses, training manuals and on-line tutorials. We also have a cadre of experienced outings leaders who are happy to serve as mentors to potential new outings leaders.

Tom Messenger is the Outings Chair of the Glen Canyon Group. Members in Carbon, Grand or San Juan Counties interested in becoming an outings leader may contact Tom at messenger67@link.net. Joanie Aponte is the Outings Chair of the Ogden Group. Members in Weber or northern Davis County interested in helping to lead outings may contact her at Aponte_88@hotmail.com. The Salt Lake Group does not have an outings chair currently, but two outings leaders in the group, Ken Evans, kce57@q.com, and Rebecca Wallace at rebeccawallace38@msn.com, would be happy to work as mentors with any new volunteers.

Burn calories, meet new friends and see the canyons.
**Utah Chapter Outings**

**EXPLORE WITH US! JULY – NOVEMBER 2010**

**July**

**SLG, Tues, 7/6, Tuesday Night Hike in Emigration Canyon.** A cool hike after a hot day in the city. The trail begins at the Little Mountain Pass parking area in Emigration Canyon. Expect relatively easy hiking terrain at an easy pace. The Sun & Moon Café or Ruth’s Diner are options to relax after the hike. Meeting place is the Reservoir Park parking lot at the mouth of Emigration, across the street from the Hogel Zoo parking lot, at 6:30 p.m. Then, car pool to the trail. Call Robert 801-949-3597 for info.

**GGG Sat 7/10 Moonlight Meadow, Clark Lake, Boren Mesa hike in the La Sals.** An easy 5½ mile hike all down hill except for a couple of hundred feet climbing to Boren Mesa from Clark Lake. 1700 net descent: a mountain hike almost without mountain climbing. Starting from the Moonlight Meadow trailhead at Geyser Pass, we go down the mountain among the wildflowers with fine views to the west heading to Clark Lake. From there we climb Boren Mesa for more views before descending to the Geyser Pass road where the Trans La Sal Trail crosses. Car shuttle on the Geyser Pass road between start and end. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8 a.m. Leader Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

**OG, Sat, 7/10, Ben Lomond via Cutler Basin. Cutler Basin is some of the most spectacular country in the Wasatch. Besides being steep, the trail is rocky, making it no good for bikes. Both moose and mountain goats are frequently spotted along this trail. Call Joanie 801-399-0034 for info.**

**SLG, Tues, 7/13, Tuesday Night Hike in Mineral Fork.** The Mineral Fork trail is about a mile up from the 5 curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The hike is steep but the scenery and company is worthy of the effort. Hike past some switchbacks, ford a stream, and turn around after playing in a meadow full of wildflowers. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park & Ride at 6:30p.m. Call Ken at 801-484-3112 for more info.

**August**

**SLG, Tues, 8/3, Tuesday Night Hike in Broads Fork.** The Broads Fork trail is abundant with wildflowers, extends a steady climb, and acres of mighty pines encircle the trail to protect hikers from the blistering summer sun. Bring flashlights just in case. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood Park & Ride at 6:30 p.m. Call Ken at 801-484-3112 for more info.

**SLG, Sat, 8/7 Gold Knob from Miners Basin.** Hike in Emigration Canyon. Bear the heat in the La Sal. Explore 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. About 4 miles, 1500’’. Meet at Moab Information Center, Center and Main, at 8 a.m. Leader: Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

**SLG, Tues, 8/10, Tuesday Night Hike to Grandeur Peak.** Grandeur Peak is an outstanding point to marvel in the dizzying dynamics of the valley and awe inspiring expanse of the desert. A grand return for a marginal investment of effort. Bring flashlights in case the hike extends beyond dusk. A special invitation for those with a Forest Service Pass. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Call Robert at 801-949-3597 for info.

**SLG, Tues, 8/8, Tuesday Night Hike to the Living Room.** The most popular hike of the season as well as one of the last. Relax on the rocks after a vigorous accent above the University of Utah. The hike was rained out in the spring so it’ll be high time to try it again. Enjoy the waning days of the summer; make a toast to the magnificent sunset and camaraderie of the group. May be a good idea to pack flashlights. Meeting place is where the entrance to Red Butte Gardens intersects Talby Lane in Research Park at the University of Utah at 6:30 p.m. Call Dee 801-718-1970 for info.

**September**

**OG, Sat, 9/4, Lake Blanche in Big Cottonwood Canyon.** 6 miles round-trip, 2600 feet elevation gain. There are three alpine lakes in the area with Sundial Peak being the most prominent. We will also see evidence of glacier activity that formed Lake Blanche. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for info.
OG, Sat, 9/18, Hidden Valley trail. 4.5 miles round trip from the 22nd street trail head. Plan on a moderately strenuous hike that gains 2100 ft in elevation as it winds up along ridgelines to an overlook above Taylor canyon. Contact Dan at 801-479-1108.

OG, Fri, 9/24, Full Moon Hike on the Skyline Trail east of Pineview Dam. Beautiful views of the dam and surrounding valley. Dress for the weather and bring a light. Call Joanie at 801-399-0034 for meeting time and place.

October


OG, Sat, 10/2, Green Pond trail. Fall colors present. About 7 mile loop on a scenic trail. Call Joanie at 801-399-6034 for info.

OG, Sat, 10/9, The Indian Trail in Ogden Canyon. 4.5 miles, about 3 hours, 1500 feet elevation gain. This is a popular loop hike with great views of the canyon and Ogden. On clear days, Nevada can be seen. Call Larry at 801-731-5701 for info.

OG, Sat, 10/29, Wellsville Mountains, Deep Canyon to Stewart Pass. The Wellsville Mountains rise above the Cache Valley west of Logan. They are said to be the steepest range in the country. Strenuous 4.5 mi. one way with 3,075 ft. elevation gain. Stewart Pass is at 8,120’ The Wellsville Con will be an option upon attaining the ridge. There are lots of Maps and Aspens in this area so falls are a possibility. Migrating raptors are frequently spotted in the vicinity. Call Dan H. for info. 801-479-1108

November

OG Sat, 11/6, Sentsy Trail on Antelope Island. 6.5 miles round trip on a semi-loop trail, moderate, 800 feet of elevation gain. The trail is located near the Garr Ranch. We will hike to the spine of the island where we will view the west shore of the lake. We might see some bison and, perhaps, a few bald eagles. Call Larry at 801-731-3701 for info.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/index.asp. CST 208/766-40.

Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
OurLand

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All of the major conservation organizations with a presence in Utah attended some or all of the meetings. The Grand Canyon Trust proposed enlarging Canyonlands National Park, enlarging Hovenweep National Monument, and protecting large portions of the national forests in San Juan County as wilderness. The Utah Environmental Congress proposed wilderness designation for the large portions of the National Forest. The National Parks Conservation Association also presented a plan to enlarge Canyonlands National Park. The National Trust for Historic Preservation proposed a couple of National Conservation Areas, including a science center for one that would study livestock grazing in arid environments. The Wilderness Society spoke in favor of wilderness designation for some specific places.

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Sierra Club spoke in favor of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. Representing the view of the Utah Wilderness Coalition, the Sierra Club and SUWA provided Senator Bennett with a priority list. Creating the list was a painful process, but we did manage to come up with a list that would include the largest blocks of intact and contiguous wilderness lands in three regions we called the Canyonlands Wilderness, and the Glen Canyon Wilderness, Cedar Mesa wilderness lands in three regions we called the large portions of the National Parks. Theing bill that will remain resident in the face of climate change. We care about the unbelievable number of archaeological sites scattered all over San Juan County.

Sen. Bennett originally planned to schedule a series of field trips in June and July. So far we have heard nothing from his office about these field trips. Following the field trips Sen. Bennett planned to write draft legislation for public review and comment. Following that he hoped to introduce legislation some time this summer. Even though he lost the nomination for his senate seat at the Republican Party Convention, Sen. Bennett has made statements that he plans to follow through on introducing a bill this year, hopefully in time to have it included in a public lands omnibus bill. We fear that he will attempt to do just that without any further discussion with the Sierra Club or any of our friends and fellows. There is great uncertainty about what will happen in the next few months. The situation could change as this newsletter is published.

Sen. Bennett could create a proposal that would move us toward resolving public land use issues in San Juan County or he could create a paltry wilderness proposal, perhaps a miniscule enlargement of Canyonlands NP, and no real agreement about how to manage lands that belong to all Americans. If this process fails, the Sierra Club and our partners will file a lawsuit against the BLM Resource Management Plan for San Juan County; we will continue to litigate RS 2477 claims in San Juan County; and we will continue to advocate for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act.

Over the years we have seen every excuse and complaint from local politicians against conservation through establishing Wilderness and National Parks. We have seen a lot of places protected like Yosemite NP (where we got our start) and Grand Canyon NP (where we lost our tax exempt status). We still know about a lot of places that need and deserve protection and a lot of them are right here in Utah. The Sierra Club has been around for 118 years. In the words of Edward Abbey, we have “outlived the bastards.”