Wilderness Wrecking Stopped Near Arches National Park

See page 3

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THE UTAH SIERRAN • SPRING 2002

Utah Chapter Sierra Club

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Cover Photo: Three-foot wide thumper truck tires leave their mark on living soil crusts. Photo by Kevin Walker

Statement of Purpose

“To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.”
Thumper Truck Assault on Moab Area Halted

The Sierra Club and its allies (SUWA, The Wilderness Society, NRDC, LAW Fund) have won a dramatic victory, halting a Moab-area oil and gas exploration project in its tracks.

Hot on the heels of last Fall's seismic project in the Bull Canyon/Gemini Bridges areas came another attack on Utah wilderness, this time in Dome Plateau, east of Arches National Park. The "Yellow Cat 2-D" project was to cover thirty-six square miles on Dome Plateau, between Arches NP and the Colorado River. The project area is visible from many points in Arches NP. Those who closely follow the Moab Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) treatment of public lands will not be surprised to learn that:

• The four 50,000 pound thumper trucks were allowed to blaze new trails cross-country. The BLM could have required the exploration company to stay on nearby existing roads/trails but decided not to inconvenience the company.
• BLM mysteriously failed to analyze the visual impacts to views from Arches NP (within 6 miles of the project area), preferring instead to concentrate on views from highways that are farther away.
• BLM largely ignored the fact that the project area overlaps de facto wilderness areas currently under consideration by congress. This project could be an initial step in a large oil industry assault on Dome Plateau. Nearly all of Dome Plateau is open to oil and gas leasing (including areas within 1/2 mile of Delicate Arch), and much of it is already leased. The Bush administration has instructed the BLM to promote oil exploration over all other public land values--to them, Dome Plateau's Entrada sandstone domes and pinyon-juniper forests are merely irritating obstacles between industry and hypothetical oil deposits.

The Sierra Club and other environmental groups filed an appeal with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) and asked for an emergency stay of the project. As of mid-February the thumpers were rolling across the landscape, and there was no word yet on the stay request.

On Thursday, February 21, 2002, conservationists monitoring the project observed thumpers creating huge ruts over one foot deep in wet soils. The permit stipulations for the project state clearly and unambiguously that BLM must halt work when this happens. The next morning the damage continued, but BLM staff on site refused to enforce the
permit. When asked to explain why they were ignoring the damage, the only response was "No comment." This was some of the most shameful BLM conduct I've witnessed in the twelve years that I've been involved in public land issues. But the news was much better Friday afternoon. An administrative law judge issued an interim stay halting work on the project.

(The project was a little over half complete by this point, but the second half has the most conflicts with proposed wilderness and other sensitive lands.) A desperate BLM then filed an extraordinary Saturday morning appeal to IBLA Director Robert More. On Saturday afternoon Director More, clearly annoyed at the BLM, turned the interim stay into a full-blown stay and opined that the environmental groups would likely prevail on the merits of the case. More also stated that any financial harm sustained by the oil company pales in comparison to the potential environmental damage. Because of seasonal restrictions related to spotted owls and other raptors, it's extremely unlikely that thumping will resume before September. Quite possibly the project is completely dead. Many people worked hard for this -- thanks to you all.
White Mesa Campaign Picks Up Speed

By Tori Woodard

SIERRA CLUB GRANTED HEARING ON MOLYCORP WASTE

At the end of January 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) granted the Sierra Club’s request for a hearing on International Uranium Corporation’s (IUC’s) proposal to import 17,750 tons of radioactive lead sulfide sludge from Molycorp’s mine at Mountain Pass, California, to the White Mesa uranium mill six miles south of Blanding. Written presentations were due in the hearing April 1. Based on those presentations, the judge will determine whether oral testimony will be allowed.

IUC proposes to store the sludge on a concrete pad, process it for uranium, then put the tailings into ponds. The sludge is both hazardous and radioactive. The ponds are not fenced or covered, which makes them a hazard to waterfowl, deer, and other wild animals. One of the tailings ponds has already leaked.

Sooner or later the sludge will get into the environment and contaminate soil, surface water, and/or groundwater. In addition, toxic emissions from the uranium milling process may be unhealthy for people living in Blanding and the White Mesa Ute community.

All communities along the transportation route (Las Vegas, St. George, Cedar City, Moab, Monticello, and Blanding) are at risk of contamination from a sludge spill, either dripping from trucks or in the event of a truck accident.

SIERRA CLUB SEEKS HEARING ON MAYWOOD, NEW JERSEY WASTE

The Sierra Club is also seeking a hearing regarding IUC’s proposal to import 840,000 tons of radioactive thorium byproduct and contaminated soil from the former Maywood Chemical Works site in Maywood, New Jersey.

In 1986 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-VOCs, metals, pesticides, and other hazardous substances in the Maywood material. Nevertheless, the NRC has issued a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that says hazardous wastes regulated under the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) have not been identified in the material. Furthermore, the NRC plans to allow IUC to import the material to White Mesa before any verification sampling is done to ensure that RCRA hazardous wastes are not present!

IUC WANTS THE ATLAS TAILINGS

IUC is vying for the contract to clean up the Atlas mill tailings pile west of Moab. They propose to slurry the tailings to the White Mesa mill, where approximately 3 million tons could be processed for uranium and the other 10 million tons would be stored for 400,000 years.

The Sierra Club opposes this proposal. The Utah State Division of Radiation Control says the mill’s existing tailings ponds were improperly constructed and will eventually leak. Furthermore, the volume of Atlas tailings far exceeds the capacity of the existing ponds, so new ponds would have to be constructed, impacting Native American graves and artifacts. Finally, dust from the 10 million tons of tailings that would not go into tailings ponds would create a health hazard for residents of the White Mesa Reservation and Blanding.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for volunteers in this campaign include submitting written or oral testimony in NRC hearings, helping to write or distribute literature, writing letters pressing state agencies to determine whether the wastes that IUC wants to import contain hazardous materials, tracking waste-hauling trains and trucks, getting cities, counties and Native American governments to pass resolutions opposing bringing nuclear waste to the White Mesa mill, etc.

To get active in this campaign, contact Tori Woodard at 435/826-4778 or tori-woodard@scinternet.
The Legislature - and the Legacy

By Steve Erickson, Utah Chapter Lobbyist

Environmentalists in general – and the Sierra Club in particular – were the targets of open hostility in the form of ill-advised and unconstitutional bills during the just-concluded 2002 Utah Legislature. Fortunately, the environment itself escaped relatively unscathed, and we even managed to eke out a few important victories to partially offset the losses.

Retaliation against the plaintiffs who successfully enjoined Legacy Highway construction dominated the headlines in the final days of the session, as both the Senate and House passed SB 183 by wide margins despite warnings that the bill is blatantly unconstitutional. Sponsored by Sen. Terry Spencer (R-Davis), with impassioned support from House Majority Leader Rep. Kevin Garn (R-Davis), the bill makes liable for damages any person or entity "that improperly disrupts" a project by suing to enjoin that project if the parties bringing the lawsuit do not "substantially prevail" in the final court decision.

The targets of this punitive legislation, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, Utahns for Better Transportation, and the Sierra Club, characterized the act as "tyrannical," "embarrassing" and a "sad combination of ignorance and intolerance." At the same time, the plaintiffs were not concerned that it would have much impact. "This bill seeks to punish citizens who seek to have their day in court, but it really harms Utah taxpayers," said Lawson LeGate, of the Sierra Club. "It will be struck down in court." As the Utah Sierran went to press—and in part as a result of calls and e-mails from members and volunteers—the governor announced he would veto the bill.

In a related move, Garn decided not to pursue punishing Anderson for opposing Legacy by changing the sales tax distribution law to redirect $4.7 million in revenues slated for Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City and League of Cities and Towns lobbyists also engineered the defeat of a bill that would have prohibited mayors from filing lawsuits without city council approval.

AIR, LAND AND WATER

The controversial and unconstitutional bill that would have prohibited the sale of real property in the state to the federal government (HB 208, Johnson, R-Aurora) was gutted and then transformed into the creation of a "Sagebrush Czar" in the Attorney General's office. This new attorney will have the rather vague job description of defending the state's interests in disputes over public lands and resources with the feds and environmentalists.

Probably the unkindest cut was the slashing of the Utah Quality Growth Commission's LeRay McAllister Open Space Fund. Lawmakers cut the $3 million fund to protect critical lands by $600,000 in the current budget year and $1.9 million in FY 2003.

More positive was the passage of legislation approving an agreement resolving a dispute between the state and the federal government over ownership of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. Under the deal the state will spend $10 million in federal funds on wetlands protection and wildlife habitat, and another $5 million federal dollars on trails and stream restoration.

Conservationists, led by the Utah Rivers Council, hailed passage of SB 92 (Waddoups, R-Salt Lake), which removes from future consideration two proposed dams on the Bear River (Honeyville and Amalga Barrens). Conservationists were relieved that a Water Development and Conservation Task Force promoted by potential developers of Utah Lake shores failed to get funding. Two minor but helpful bills will allow the Drinking Water Board to make grants and loans to plan drinking water projects and enforce orders.
The Agricultural Sustainability Task Force (HB 317, Buttars, R-Cache) was funded and will address maintaining viable agricultural lands and curtailing urban sprawl during the off-season. SB 94 (Blackham, R-Moroni) will prohibit county prosecutors from filing criminal nuisance charges against agricultural operations that emit noxious odors. The bill, passed over the objections of the Iron County Attorney and residents of Iron and Millard Counties, primarily protects the Circle 4 industrial-scale, pig-raising factory and Sanpete County’s turkey operations.

In a quiet year on the air quality front, the Legislature refused to enact a market-based pollution emissions trading and incentive program opposed by conservationists.

NUCLEAR WASTE

Important progress was made this session on critical nuclear waste issues facing Utah, even though the resolution opposing Yucca Mountain as the nation’s high-level spent fuel repository died without a vote of the Senate. SJR 14 (Davis, D-Salt Lake), which would have urged the US Congress to reject the president’s recommendation of the Yucca Mt. site, cleared committee but was blocked by Senate President Al Mansell at the request of the governor. The votes were there for passage of the resolution, but Mansell refused to recognize Sen. Davis’ attempts to bring the issue to a floor debate on the final night. Opponents of the Yucca Mountain Project vowed to take the debate to the public in the months ahead.

The most significant nuclear waste legislation giving the state authority to regulate uranium mill tailings (SB 96, Wright, R-Utah) passed handily in both chambers, despite some nervous moments in the last days. Confusion over the bill’s fiscal note delayed House action for weeks, and it was nearly sidetracked by rumors that Envirocare would attempt to amend the bill to exempt the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies from paying generator site access permit fees. In the end, Envirocare backed off, allowing SB 96 to move forward. If the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approves (which is considered a formality), Utah will take primacy in the oversight of mill tailings, primarily affecting the operation of International Uranium Corp. in Blanding.

A last positive on the nuclear front was the passage of the resolution urging the federal government to move the Atlas mill tailings away from the banks of the Colorado River in Moab (SJR 12).

ENERGY

Progress was also made on the energy front, with passage of HB 7 (G. Snow, R-Roosevelt) Net Metering, a signal victory. The bill requires electric utilities to allow customers to produce electricity for their own use and sell back to the utility any excess electricity produced by their fuel cell, solar, or other renewable energy generating system.

HB 308 (Gowans, D-Tooele) Renewable Energy Amendments, would have required electric utilities to sell to its Utah customers a certain amount of electricity generated by renewable sources. Passage of this bill would have been a major breakthrough for renewables in the state, but it emerged too late in the session to move forward, so it was sent to interim study. However, much progress was made in developing the bill and building support for its future enactment.

Lastly, SB 152 (Blackham) directs the Public Service Commission to approve a tariff to pay for "demand side" electrical energy efficiency and conservation activities and programs and allows a credit against tariff charges for implementing efficiency measures.

Lobbyist Steve Erickson worked on over two dozen bills and several key budgets for the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club during the Legislature. If you want information on issues included or not mentioned in this article, please feel free to contact him at slceric@concentric.net
**Important Note to All Participants:**

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Interested participants should contact the outing leader in advance to inquire about updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the particular outing. Fees charged by the Forest Service are expected to be shared by participant’s carpooling to trailheads in US Forest Service areas. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outing. Dogs are not invited on Sierra Club outings. Call the Sierra Club office at 467-9297 for a recorded message on unlisted, updated, or forthcoming activities.

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**Salt Lake Group Outings**

**APRIL**

**Sunday, April 7th**

**X-COUNTRY DAY HIKE TO MUSKRAT CANYON**

Ron Younger will lead this moderately paced day hike to Muskrat Canyon in the northern Stansbury Mountains. Although most of the hike will follow a maintained trail, expect some off trail travel. Meeting time, place, and other details about the hike are yet to be determined. To car pool from Salt Lake, call Ron Younger at 292-4040.

**Sunday, April 7th**

**WEST DESERT HIKE**

Join Dick for a trek into a little traveled desert area about fifty miles west of Salt Lake City. Although the exact location is yet to be determined, plan on an intermediate level hike to hilltops offering grand views of mountain ranges in Utah and Nevada. Bring plenty of water and lunch along with good hiking shoes. Meeting place is the Division of Wildlife Resources Building at 1594 West North Temple. Call Dick (531-7830) for meeting time and more information about the hike.

**Sunday, April 28th**

**STANSBURY ISLAND WILDFLOWERS HIKE**

A moderate hike on the south side of Stansbury Island. Bring wildflower I.D. books, lunch, plenty of water and spring weather gear. To car pool, meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Utah Natural Resources Building parking area (west side). Leader for this hike is Ron Younger. Meet at the Natural Resources Building at 1594 West North Temple at 10:00 a.m. Call Ron (292-4040) for details about the hike.

**MAY**

**Saturday, May 4th**

**STANSBURY MOUNTAINS NORTH SIDE**

This is an all day moderate level hike.
The hike will begin at the West Canyon Trail (6000') which leads to a spectacular viewpoint (8120') atop Deseret Peak. The spring flowers will be out so bring your wildflower I.D. books along with lunch, water, and spring weather gear. For meeting place, time, carpool information and other details about the outing, call Ron at 292-4040.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Tuesday, May 14th
Lambs Canyon

Ron Younger will lead the first Tuesday Night Hike of the season, an easy hike on the old (historical) railroad grade in Parleys Canyon. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Parleys K-Mart on Foothill Drive (21st South) to carpool or at 7:00 p.m. at Exit 137 (Lambs Canyon) on east bound I-80. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for more details about the hike.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Tuesday, May 21st
Bonneville Shoreline, Red Butte Trail

Hike along the foothills of the Salt Lake valley on the Shoreline Trail near the University of Utah. Bring snacks and water and plan on an easy paced hike. Meet at the east part of the Hogel Zoo parking lot at 6:30 p.m. The trail begins across the street from the Zoo. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more details about the hike.

Sunday, May 26th
CYCLING TOUR THROUGH SANPETE COUNTY

Weather permitting, this outing will be a moderately paced bike tour through rural country roads that parallel Highway 89 in San Pete County. Destinations may include historic Spring City just south of Mt. Pleasant and also Milburn, just north of Fairview. Riding distance will be between 35 and 50 miles, depending on the inclination of participants. Round trip driving time will be approximately 3 hours. Although this ride is better suited for road bikes, mountain bikes are welcome. Bring lunch and water and expect a pleasant ride on roads passing through quiet rural.

farmlands. Helmets are required. Meeting time is 8:00 a.m. at the south part of the Home Depot parking lot on 21st South and 3rd West. Call Ken (484-3112) for more details about the ride.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Tuesday, May 28th
Avenues Twin Peaks Hike

The Avenue's Twin Peaks gives a great view of the city and passes by the location of the Olympic rings on the west side. Although the hike will be moderate in pace, expect some steep climbs along the way. Parking is limited so plan on carpooling to the trailhead. Meeting place is the City Park at 11th Avenue and Terrace Hills Drive at 6:30 p.m. Call Bill (582-9223) for more information about the hike.

JUNE

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Tuesday, June 4th
Millcreek Canyon Hike

This outing will be a leaders choice hike to a destination in Millcreek Canyon. Expect an intermediate pace and possible steep elevation gains during the hike. Be prepared for Forest Service fees when exiting the canyon after the hike. Meeting place is the Skyline High School Parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Hikers will then carpool to the trailhead. Call Ken (484-3112) for information about the hike.

Saturday, June 8th
STANSBURY MOUNTAINS
NORTH SIDE

This hike will be an all day intermediate trek from Bear Creek Fork (East Hickman Canyon) to Hickman Ridge (on trail) and beyond to Deseret Peak depending on conditions. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for meeting time, place, and car pool information.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Tuesday, June 11th
The Mormon Pioneer Trail

This easy to moderate trail follows the Mormon Pioneer Trail toward East Canyon near the Little Dell Reservoir. Parking may be a problem for this hike and hikers may start at the other end and reverse the hike or if that is not possible, we may do another hike nearby. Meeting place is the K-Mart parking lot at the intersection of Parley's Way and Foothill Blvd. Near the mouth of Parley's Canyon. Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. Call Bill (582-9223) for information about the hike.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Tuesday, June 18th
Great Western Trail Hike

This trek will cover part of the Great Western Trail beginning at the gravel parking lot near the Big Mountain Summit. Participants should expect an intermediate level hike over rolling terrain on a path that passes through aspen, oak and pine stands as well as through meadows filled with wildflowers. Meeting place will be the east section of the Hogle Zoo parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Call Ken (484-3112) for more information about the hike.

Sunday, June 23rd
BROADS FORK TRAIL

A moderately paced intermediate level hike to Broads Fork Meadow on a shaded trail. The meadow is framed by Twin Sunrise and Dromedery peaks. The distance is about 4.5 miles round trip so bring water, lunch, and all the essentials for a day hike. To car pool meet at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride lot at 10:00 a.m. Call hike leader Margaret (292-7602) for more information about the hike.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE
Tuesday, June 25th
Holbrook Canyon Trail to Nursery Loop

Take a cool hike into the foothills east of Bountiful. Bring a jacket and flashlight in case we come down after sunset. Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. at the K-Mart parking lot (Exit 318) to car pool to the trail head. Call hiking leader Ron (292-4040) for details regarding the hike.

Sunday, June 30th
Ferguson Canyon Hike

Join Larry for a hike into Ferguson Canyon on a trail near the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Refreshments may be served at the Schoeff residence after...
the hike. Meeting place is the parking lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call Larry (944-0945) for meeting time and other details about the hike.

**JULY**

**TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE**  
**Tuesday, July 2nd**  
**Little Mountain Summit**

The hike to the Little Mountain Summit is moderate to difficult involving a steep climb on a rocky path. The summit provides a panoramic view of Little Dell Reservoir to the east and Emigration Canyon to the west. Meeting place is the east part of the parking lot at Hogle Zoo at 6:30 p.m. Call Bill (582-9233) for more information about the hike.

**Sunday, July 7th**  
**SMITH CREEK LAKES**  
**THURSTON PEAK**

Hike north on the Great Western Trail from Francis Peak (9547) past Smith Creek Lakes to Thurston Peak (9707). To car pool to Francis Peak, meet at 9:30 a.m. at the north east parking area at Davis County Court House on State Highway 106 in Farmington City. Co-listed with the Ogden Group. Call leaders Ron Younger at 292-4040 or Mike Morrison at 475-4845 for more details about the hike.

**TUESDAY NIGHT HIKE**  
**Tuesday, July 9th**  
**Lake Solitude Hike**

This hike will offer a cool reprieve from the summer heat on a trail that loops around Lake Solitude near the Nordic Center. Bring flashlight in case the hike extends after dusk. Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. at the Big Cottonwood parking lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call Dick (531-7830) for details about the hike.

**Sunday, July 14th**  
**MINERAL FORK**  
**BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON**

Join Margaret on a day hike to the Wasatch Mine and perhaps beyond to the upper cirque. The old mining road starts out a little steep and then follows the stream up to the mine where the switch-backs begin. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen, and all the essentials for a day hike. To car pool meet at the

**Big Cotton Wood Park and Ride**

at 10:00 a.m. Call Leader Margeret (292-2602) for more information regarding the hike.

**Ogden Group Outings**

The public is welcome on all outings. Participants are advised to call the leaders in advance for outing details. For information related to outings in general, contact Mike Morrison, 475-4845, <ex46driver@networld.com>. For the most recently updated outings schedule, visit our web site at http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/.

Please note that all participants, or their legal guardian, must sign a waiver in order to participate in each outing. Also, it must be noted that, although carpooling reduces air pollution and fossil fuel consumption, the Sierra Club cannot recommend car pooling as a safe means of transportation.

Ratings: 1-easy; 2-moderate, 3-good fitness required; 4- demanding

**APRIL**

**Sunday, 7th**  
**Bike the Golden Spike RR Tracks, 2**

There are still railroad features from the 1800's to be seen en route: bridges, trestles, cuts, culverts, etc. Meet, 8AM. Leader, Al Stockland, 479-9597. Please call for details & confirmation.

**Saturday, 13th**  
**Antelope Island, 2-3**

A very pretty hike through a valley and up onto a rocky area, with lots of wildflowers, hopefully. Plan on 3-4 hours. Bring lunch. Meet 9AM. Leader, Gary Dohrer, 745-0308. Please call for details.

**Saturday, 20th**  
**Antelope Island Service Project with the Herrings, 2**

Al and Mary will lead their annual Antelope Island service project, then a hike. Bring gloves, lunch. Meet 10AM at the Syracuse parking lot at the mainland end of the causeway. 444-9574.

**Sunday, 21st**  
**Stansbury Mountains wildflower hike, 2-3**

Joint outing with the SLC group. Call Mike Morrison, 475-4845, or Ron Younger, 292-4040, for details.

**Saturday, 27th**  
**White Rock Bay on Antelope Island, 3**

We'll hike a 9 mile loop. Bring lunch, water. Meet 10AM at Syracuse parking lot at the mainland end of the causeway. Leader John Besbekos (985-6854).

**MAY**

**Sunday, 5th**  
**Ski Monte Cristo, 2-3**

Conditions permitting, let's go rub elbows with the snowmobilers. Leader, Mike Morrison, 475-4845. Meet 9:30AM. Please call for details.

**Saturday, 11th**  
**Wheatgrass Canyon at Causey Reservoir, 2-3**

We'll hike about 3 miles up Wheatgrass Canyon to look at the old car and beaver ponds. Leader, Larry Woolsey. Meet 7:30 at Rainbow Gardens near 12th St. in Ogden.

**JUNE**

**Sunday, 2nd**  
**Northern Wellsvilles 3-4**

We'll hike up to where the Hawkwatch folks snare hawks. (Sorry, they won't be there.) Plan on leaving the trailhead about 10:30. Call for car pooling details and such. Melina Alexander, 621-3959.

**Saturday, 15th**  
**Lewis Peak, 3**

We'll hike from the North Ogden Divide, south to the highest point between Mt Ogden & Ben Lomond. Leader, Larry Woolsey, 731-3701. Meet at 7AM at the North Ogden Smiths on Washington Boulevard. Bring lunch.

**Sunday, 30th**  
**Baer Canyon, 3**

Come explore this lovely canyon above Fruit Heights in Davis County. Meet, 10AM at the trailhead. Leader, Mike Morrison, 475-4845. Call for details.
JULY

Sunday 7, Francis and Thurston Peaks, 3
Another joint outing with the SLC group. Last year there was still snow up there. Call Mike Morrison, 475-4845, or Ron Younger, 292-4040, for details.

Sunday, 7
Mt Bountiful mountain bike ride, 4
Al's working up to a national bike race. Come keep him company. Leader, Al Stockland, 479-9597, 7:30 AM. Call for details if you dare. (Not Al's words!)

Saturday, 20
White Pine Lake, 2-3

Great Salt Lake Issues Forum
Friends of Great Salt Lake will host the Fourth Great Salt Lake Issues Forum, Friday and Saturday April 19th and 20th, 2002, at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City. The focus of the forum will be Great Salt Lake through Space and Time.

Speakers will discuss Great Salt Lake in geologic and historic time and will look ahead to the lake's future. A poster session summarizing research and conservation issues related to the lake will run throughout the forum. On Saturday, April 20th, a variety of field trips around Great Salt Lake will be offered.

Pre-registration is $50; $65 day of forum (cost includes Friday keynote lunch, snacks, and conference materials). An additional $10 is charged for the field trip.

For more information, call 583-5593 ext. 1, or visit the Friends of Great Salt Lake website at www.fogsl.org.

Adopt a Roadless Area Near Ogden
by Dan Schroeder, Ogden Group Chair
The Ogden Sierra Club is looking for a dozen individuals or small groups to "adopt" the National Forest roadless areas in its territory--roughly from Farmington to Brigham City.

Our Adopt-a-Roadless-Area program is inspired by the Utah Chapter's very successful Adopt-a-Wilderness program for Utah's BLM lands. That program has shown time and again how much difference even one individual can make in identifying problems and speaking out to eliminate them.

To adopt an area, all you need to do is visit and explore it a few times per year, then use your expertise to keep local club leaders and public officials informed about any environmental problems.

The issues that affect an area can include off-road vehicle use, proposed wilderness boundaries, trail maintenance, public access, commercial developments, endangered plants and animals, and grazing.

For more information, please visit our web site at http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/adopt/, or contact Jock Glidden (801-394-0457, jglidden@burgoyne.com) or Dan Schroeder (801-393-4603, dschroeder@weber.edu.)

Grab Your Spot in Our Volunteer Database!
By Kevin Walker
Volunteers are the Sierra Club's greatest strength, and we can always use more. Whether you can spare 15 minutes a year or 5 hours a week, fighting to save the planet does good and also feels good.

The Utah Chapter is committed to making it easy for people to turn their concerns about the environment into concrete, effective actions. If you haven't already done so, please fill out our online volunteer questionnaire at http://utah.sierraclub.org/. Click on the "Become a Volunteer" link at left to bring up the questionnaire.

If you don't have web access, call (801) 467-9297 to add your name to our list. The questionnaire lets you tell us what issues and actions you might be interested in. Once you're in our database, we can contact you when you're needed most.
On January 16, 2002, the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) dug a hole 50 feet wide and 40 feet deep on the south bank of the Virgin River near Hurricane, Utah. The excavation broke into a hot mineral water aquifer, dewatering the natural artesian hot springs at the grotto soaking pools of Pah Tempe Hot Spring. The resort has been closed ever since, with no apparent concern by the WCWCD to acknowledge the damage they caused or to schedule a permanent repair.

Pah Tempe’s owner, Ken Anderson – who has been a Sierra Club member for forty years – called us for help. We learned that WCWCD has done this before, putting Pah Tempe out of business for four years from 1992-96! Both times, the district caused the problem while working on a pipeline that carries Virgin River water to two hydroelectric plants and an off-stream reservoir.

WCWCD deviated from the 1983 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ approved 404 permit plans for this pipeline and is ignoring a November 15, 2001, court order to use caissons (water-tight structures in which construction work can be carried on under water) as part of a new pipeline construction project.

In the past WCWCD tried to condemn Pah Tempe Hot Spring as a source of pollution in the river. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service now has determined that the mineral salts in the hot water are essential for the survival of three endangered fish species that live only in the Virgin River and its tributaries.

WCWCD also proposes to pipe water from Lake Powell to St. George in order to develop a metropolitan sprawl of over 500,000 people! The Utah Chapter will work together with Ken to save Pah Tempe Hot Spring, stop the proposed pipeline, and rein in sprawl around St. George.

Ken said, "The Conservancy District wants to squash Pah Tempe because we are the only people who won’t knuckle under to their little fiefdom of ‘good old boys’. No one oversees how they spend taxpayers’ money. The cities and towns that use their water have no representation on their board. They don’t bother to get permits from local, state or federal authorities, file EIR or EIS studies, or hold public hearings on their railroaded projects."

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

To find out how to help Pah Tempe, contact Ken Anderson at (435) 635-2879 or pahtempe@infowest.com. To join the Utah Chapter’s campaign to stop the proposed pipeline from Lake Powell to St. George, contact Owen Lammers at (435) 259-1063 or owen@livingrivers.net.
Sierra Club Appeals Griffin Spring Timber Sale on Aquarius Plateau

By Patrick Diehl

From Idaho to New Mexico, the environmental movement has stood up and said, "No!" to the Griffin Springs Timber Sale--Dixie National Forest's installment-plan version of the infamous "Aquarius Ecosystem Restoration Project" [AERP].

The following groups have all appealed the Griffin Springs Resource Management Plan, the first "decision block" of the AERP: Aquarius Escalante Foundation; Boulder Regional Group (Boulder, UT); Center for Biological Diversity (Tucson, AZ); Ecology Center (Missoula, MT); Escalante Wilderness Project (Escalante, UT); Forest Guardians (Albuquerque, NM); Redrock Forests (Moab, UT); Sierra Club Glen Canyon Group (Moab, UT); Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (Salt Lake City, UT); Utah Environmental Congress (Salt Lake City, UT); Western Watersheds Project (Hailey, ID). At least two of the appeals were over seventy-five pages long—something for US Forest Service Region 4 to chew on!

The project is a typical case of a greenwashed timber sale (over 10 million board feet). The Dixie's own documents describe livestock grazing, logging, and fire suppression as principal causes of the degraded condition of the high, dry Aquarius Plateau forests. As cure, the Dixie proposes more of the same. They also admit they cannot really stop spruce bark beetle epidemics, but they want to try, at taxpayer expense. They claim to want to save the aspen stands on top of the plateau, which livestock grazing and fire suppression have imperiled. Yet aspen needs openings in the spruce/fir forest in order to regenerate—openings which the beetles have created for thousands upon thousands of years by killing mature spruce.

In order to perform their ill-advised, expensive, unnecessary interventions, the Dixie proposes to reconstruct over thirty miles of roads, nearly half of which are well grown over, often impassable old logging roads that can scarcely be seen on the ground. This road network will drive wildlife species that are sensitive to human intrusions out of the area and will foster off-road vehicle penetration and damage within it.

The list of reasons to oppose this disguised timber sale is long. Litigation is likely if our appeals are denied and the Dixie persists. The 45-day period for the Forest Service to reply expires in mid-April. Then we shall see.

Volunteers interested in learning how to write timber sale appeals can contact Patrick Diehl at (435) 826-4778 or toripat@scinternet.net.
How One Volunteer Sharpened Our Image: Thanks Monique!

By Mark Clemens

If you were impressed by the layout and graphics at the Utah Chapter’s Adopt-a-Wilderness Website, www.wildutah.org, or the keepsake postcard with a picture of pelicans on the front that was included in the Utah Chapter’s 2002 fundraising letter, or the Legacy Highway “We Don’t Have to Take This Road” busboard campaign, you’ve been admiring the work of Monique Heileson. Monique designed these jobs among many others for the Utah Chapter.

Monique, one of Utah’s most talented graphic artists, has been helping the Utah Chapter with her design and graphics expertise for several years. Monique had been a member and gone on several outings but wanted to give something back to the environment. The chapter has many printing jobs and projects that need graphic design work, and Monique pitched in, "Now I can actually do something more tangible and real."

Monique is a graduate of Utah State University. When she isn’t working or hiking the back country, Monique can be seen running behind a very large and very energetic yellow Labrador named Andy. Monique also paid tribute to another of the chapter’s volunteers. When she designed the Adopt-a-Wilderness site, she included photographs Gordon Swenson allowed the chapter to use, "The thing that stood out most was being able to work with Gordon’s photography. One of his photos of the San Rafael Reef is one of the best photos I’ve ever seen."

Due to time or space constraints, we were unable to include the following contributors to our 2001 fundraising campaign in the Summer 2001 Utah Sierran. We thank these contributors and all our other contributors who prefer to remain anonymous. Please watch for the list of contributors to our 2002 fundraising campaign in the Summer 2002 Utah Sierran. To protect our members privacy, if no publishing preference is specified, we do not publish contributors names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friends ($1-19)</th>
<th>Nancy P. Hersey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warriors ($20-49)</td>
<td>Theodore W. &amp; Alice M. Krein</td>
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<td>Karen Nelson</td>
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<td>Defenders ($50-99)</td>
<td>Ted &amp; Tucker Gurney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Don Sanderson</td>
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If you don’t see your name listed and would like for it to be published, please call Mark at (801) 467-9297. Please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

A Meeting and Social for You!

New members, non-members, volunteers and veteran members are all invited to our Member Meeting and Social. Dan Schroeder, physicist and Weber State University professor, will discuss Home Energy Efficiency: How To Save Money And The Environment. Then we’ll break up for socializing and discussions. We’ll also have goodies and finger foods for you.

WHEN: Monday, 20 May, 2002 at 7:00 pm

WHERE: First Unitarian Church, 569 So. 1300 Ea. in Salt Lake City

WHO: Everybody!
Colorado Outdoor Leader Workshop

If you’re a Sierra Club outing leader or you want to become a Sierra Club outing leader, join us for the Colorado 2002 Outdoor Leader Workshop. Leader training is a never-ending process, so whether you’re an old hand or have never led before, this workshop is for you. It’s part of the Outdoor Activities Training Program (OATP) - a Club-wide training initiative - being offered in the Rocky Mountains. Join us for a weekend of interactive learning, networking with leaders from all outing programs, and of course, lots of fun.

GOALS AND PURPOSE

1. The goals of the workshop are to learn and enhance leadership skills, bring people and programs together to share and exchange ideas, to welcome new outdoor leaders, to learn what it takes to lead for other outings programs of the Sierra Club, and, once again, to have a lot of fun.

2. The purpose of this workshop is to bring together new and seasoned leaders from ICO (Inner City Outings), GCO (Group & Chapter Outings), and NO (National Outings). The agenda for the workshop will encompass an extensive array of leadership topics presented in both group and breakout formats.

“Trying to learn to be a leader by using your intellectual skills only - by sticking to hard-edged, quantifiable stuff - is like owning a TV that tunes to only one channel: there’s no way you can get the full range of information and insights you need. Making the head/heart connection not only provides information and insights that will make your trips safer and more likely to reach their goals, it also provides richer, fuller, and more personal experiences for everybody involved.” — John Graham, author of Outdoor Leadership

DETAILS - Workshop #02992A

Where ➔ Rocky Mountain Village of the Easter Seals, in Empire, CO. 40 miles west of Denver.

When ➔ Friday, May 17. Opening program at 8 p.m. sharp. Check-in & dinner from 6 p.m. Sunday, May 19. Workshop ends with lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Cost ➔ $45. Includes meals (Fri. dinner to Sun. lunch) & bunk-style lodging Fri. & Sat. nights.

REGISTRATION INFO


2. 3 other ways to register (include name(s), address, telephone #, email, membership #, and workshop # - 02992A)

MAIL
check or money order for $45
Sierra Club Outings
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

CALL - credit card only:
415-977-5588
Monday–Friday, 8:30–5, PST

FAX - credit card only:
415-977-5795
Include Card Number, Expiration Date and Signature

Limited to 50 people - first come, first served. Questions? Contact Steven Shewach, Sierra Club Outdoor Activities Training Manager at steven.shewach@sierraclub.org or at (415) 977-5711
We Want You!

By Claire Gardner

The Sierra Club Political Committee is very involved in the local, state, and federal election process. This committee needs your seasonal assistance - especially in April and May and then later after Labor Day until the November elections.

The Sierra Club focuses on conservation and environmental priorities and principles. The political committee works toward developing momentum and opportunities to achieve these goals and priorities within the political system.

Volunteer tasks and assignments require as much time as you have to give. Here is a list of volunteer possibilities: meet with candidates and participate in the endorsement process; volunteer several hours assisting an endorsed candidate by calling constituents, preparing mailings, answering phones, making yard signs, walking neighborhoods with the candidate or delivering brochures; obtain donations for fundraising; eat pizza, make signs, and laugh; organize a part of the October fundraising auction by gathering donated items, food, beverages, setup, and cleanup; register voters at booths, by walking targeted neighborhoods, or simply register people to vote at your work or school or residence; Get Out The Vote (GOTV) -- call to remind people to vote, provide transportation to the polls; poll watch; become a delegate to the political party conventions; assist with the environmental caucus at political party conventions; write letters for voter education; speak up to others about good environmental candidates. Make a difference. Vote in all elections!

Interested? Please call or email Claire Gardner at (801) 583-1650 or ClaireGar@msn.com, or Brad Yates at (801) 521-4185 or bnyslc@earthlink.net.