Diverse SLC Communities Speak Out Against Proposed Solar Tax

by Mark Clemens

Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with former President of the Utah Coalition of La Raza Archie Archuleta and Rep Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Representative Angela Romero spoke out on July 8th against Rocky Mountain Power’s stubborn determination to raise rates on solar homeowners while ignoring the health, economic development and other benefits of renewable power. “Today, the commission in charge of regulating Rocky Mountain Power is holding their final meeting meant to analyze the value of distributed solar. We’re here to tell them that solar energy should be incentivized, not penalized. More solar power means less coal burned, which in turn means that the communities that disproportionately bear the brunt of our fossil-fuel-centric economy, are healthier.”

Utah Chapter volunteers and staff and Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer Lindsay Beebe helped organize the event together with conservation partners HEALUtah and Utah Clean Energy at Wasatch Commons Co-housing in Salt Lake City’s diverse Glendale neighborhood.

Wasatch Commons resident Kathy Albury said, “Every day, I plug my Nissan Leaf into this solar array you see here,
**UtahSierran Fall 2015 Vol. 48 No. 4**

**EDITOR** Mark Clemens  
**DESIGN** Davina Pallone

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**Our Mission**

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is a grassroots volunteer organization dedicated to:  
- Protect and promote Utah’s outdoors and natural landscapes;  
- Educate and advocate for the responsible preservation of clean air, water and habitats; and  
- Support the development of sustainable renewable energy; and  
- For the benefit of present and future generations.

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**Utah Chapter Directory**

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Wayne Hoskinson................................Grazing, National Utah Wilderness, Wild Lands and Wilderness,  
- Out Wild America local delivery teams  
Marion Klaus........................................Our Wild America leadership team  
Lawson LeGate..................................Leadership & Capacity Building team member  
Dan Mayhew........................................National Utah Wilderness team  
- & Wild Lands and Wilderness I&M sub team

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**OnEnergy**

**PROPOSED SOLAR TAX, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

and charge the car’s battery. Then, energy from sun, and not from fossil fuels, powers my car when I drive through Salt Lake City. The electric vehicle reduces emissions in Salt Lake Valley, just as the solar panels reduce the need to burn coal at one of Utah’s several coal-fired power plants.”

Jean Hill, government relations director for the Utah Catholic Diocese, made remarks to conclude the event, “As our own air quality attests, there is a strong, clear connection between energy production, environmental protection and public health. While Rocky Mountain Power discounts these indirect benefits, its focus solely on the benefits to its own bottom line will continue to harm the health of all Utahns.”

Catholic commitment to climate justice was deepened and more fully explained with the recent publication of the papal encyclical Praise Be

Hill continued, “Though Rocky Mountain Power asserts that PSC cannot consider any other factors than its economic desires, PSC has a far broader role to fill. As a public service agency, PSC does not exist just to prevent bad practice or promote business interests, but also to promote best practices to protect our common home.”

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**Benefits of Solar Program Go Beyond Environmental**

**INVEST NOW, SAVE FOR YOUR FUTURE**

Solar panels harvest clean, abundant energy, reduce carbon emissions and promote cleaner air. But did you know that installing solar provides incredible financial savings? An average system pays for itself in roughly 8 years, provides a hedge against rising electricity rates and can save tens of thousands of dollars in energy bills.

Have you considered going solar? Utah is among the top six states for solar energy production with a thriving solar market. However, with over 50 solar contractors in Utah, choosing an experienced, trustworthy installer can be daunting.

The Utah Chapter Sierra Club has teamed up with Creative Energies to bring members the best pricing in rooftop solar. Installing renewable energy systems since 2000, Creative Energies provides expert design, installation and the best equipment and warranty available. As an added benefit, every solar installation results in a donation to the local Sierra Club Chapter!

Going solar makes great financial sense, is great for the environment and now, through the Utah Solar Homes Program, is nearly effortless. Learn more and get a free solar site assessment of your home at www.sierraclubsolarsolar.org.

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**EXPIRING FEDERAL INCENTIVES**

Several incentives apply for all members and supporters living in Utah. A 30% federal tax credit and $2,000 state tax credit make solar surprisingly affordable. Take advantage of these tax incentives before they expire at the end of 2016. Please contact Creative Energies to see if your utility offers additional rebates or incentives for going solar at sierraclubsolarsolar.org.
**Promises Broken**

**by Bill Love**

The Environmental Analysis for the sixteen new Fidelity well pads will make many promises or statements that relate to well safety, well location, flaring of gas, fracking of wells, and the air quality of the surrounding area. The problem with many of these types of promises or statements is that the Moab BLM and the oil companies have a long history of making changes as the project progresses. Many of these changes significantly affect the public’s health and welfare.

The Moab BLM told the public several years ago that the pipeline for transporting gas from the Big Flats area would meet the highest standards of a government transmission line and not the much lower standard of an oil field gathering line. This promise was broken. The BLM approved a request from the pipeline owner to remove the majority of the safety requirements from the pipeline. The BLM no longer requires continuous surveillance of the pipeline, there is no required damage prevention program, no required emergency plan, and no required investigation of pipeline failures. The pipeline changes allowed the pipeline to be built with old or obsolete material that is below federal transmission line requirements. The safety and health of the almost million people that visit the area each year was not considered when the promise for a high quality pipeline was broken.

The Moab BLM promised that all flaring of natural gas would be eliminated near Canyonlands National Park. The flaring from the wells in the Big Flats area is visible at night in Arches National Park, pollutes the air in Canyonlands National Park, and is a waste of a valuable natural resource. This promise to stop all flaring was broken in 2014 when the BLM and the oil industry agreed to stop flaring on those wells producing more than 1800 MCFs of gas. Flaring will continue for many of the wells in the Big Flats area for many years.

The oil and gas industry promised high paying jobs for many Moab residents. Instead of providing high paying jobs for local people, the industry brought in their own crews from outside the area to build the pipeline and to drill wells. The few jobs provided to Moab firms generally pay a much lower wage.

Fracking of wells was not even mentioned to the public by the BLM or the oil industry. Fracking was considered to be impossible due to salt formations in the area. At least two wells have been fracked in the Big Flats area with no oversight from the BLM on one well fracked on federal property. Fracking is expected to continue as older wells decline.

The BLM promised all spills in the Big Flats area would be cleaned up immediately and completely. However, the first clean up of a production water spill on Highway 513 last year was only half completed. The BLM after receiving public pressure and pictures of contaminated soils in the spill area finally required the cleanup crews to finish the job.

Promises were made that oil production was going to provide Grand County with several million dollars from Mineral Leases each year for development. However, Mineral Lease Money is expected to decrease over 60% in 2015 and is far below several million dollars. Several Special Service Districts in Grand County were foolish enough to use Mineral Lease Money for long term projects and may have to cut services to the public.

The public has lost all trust in the promises and statements of the BLM and the oil industry. Promises made today are all too often broken tomorrow. The EA for the Fidelity West fertilizer 16 Pad Oil and Gas Project needs to be reviewed by both Fidelity and the BLM for all items that are subject to change by the BLM as the project progresses. The BLM needs to separate promises and statements in the EA that are enforceable by Federal Law from those items subject to future change at the discretion of the Local BLM management.

Clyde’s love of and interest in butterflies and chasers and studying butterflies and mountainous forests for 88 years. Clyde’s love of and interest in butterflies began at a young age, and he was asked to co-author an article on painted lady butterfly migrations with Dr. Angus Woodruff of the University of Utah at age 9. He co-founded the Utah chapter of the Sierra Club’s Co-Founder in all 29 counties of Utah and has climbed the highest mountain in all the 11 western states. He loved taking his wife and four daughters on all the adventures he could find. Many times accompanied by his daughters, he climbed, among many others, the Great White Throne in Zion National Park in 1959, the Tetons and Wind River Mountains, Mexico’s Orotua, Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl in 1961; Mt. St. Helens in 1982 before it blew its top; and at age 80, he climbed 18,000’ on Vajirnarah in the Andes of Peru with his daughter Janee.

He was inspired by the explorers of Major Westley Powell and early Utah pioneer Will Flanagan. He first traversed the Narrows in 1947 and facilitated his wife-to-be Jane Walker’s being the first documented woman to traverse the Narrows in 1948. He instigated the Sierra Club’s establishment of a monument and plaque in 1972 memorializing Major Powell’s exploration of Parunuweap Canyon in Zion National Park. He hiked across the Grand Canyon with his four daughters in 1960. In 1963 he joined a Utah group to raft down the Rio Urique in Mexico’s Barranca del Cobre, but they mostly ended up carrying their rafts because of low water and huge boulders — he was emaciated when they climbed out of the deep gorge to rural civilization.
CHAPTER CANDIDATES

Turner Bitton

Turner C. Bitton is a lifelong resident of Ogden and was endorsed by the chapter in his 2013 race for Ogden City Council. He uses a data-centered approach to fund development, and has lectured, spoken, and presented on the intersections between political engagement, donor cultivation, and digital organizing. Turner is a member of the Utah Society of Fundraisers, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Utah Nonprofits Association, and Grant Professionals Association.

Driven by the intersection between data and organizational development, Turner C. Bitton utilizes his experience in political campaign management, community organizing, and public policy advocacy to improve the financial success of the organizations he interacts with. Drawing on experiences from diverse backgrounds has given Turner a keen understanding of interpreting data and using technology to improve organizational capacity.

Turner has also served on the Board of Directors of several organizations and serves in many volunteer leadership capacities.

Jim Catlin

Served on the Chapter ExCom earlier helping with wilderness in Utah’s National Forests. Served in a number of positions including two terms on the Sierra Club’s national Board of Directors. Jim is also the father of the Sierra Club’s national Board positions including two terms on the Club’s National CEO Committee.

John Slack has been a member of the Ogden area Sierra Club for 15 years after moving from Sacramento, California and membership in the Sierra Club there. An avid hiker, runner and bicyclist for many years, he has worked on local trails with Weber Pathways as well as on Antelope Island with the Trail Patrol. Currently, he volunteers with Utah Water Watch doing monthly monitoring of two Weber County rivers. Enduring interests are habitat preservation, non-motorized trail development and preservation, suburban bikeways, human influences on climate change, and a safe and contemplative trail system in Northern Utah.

Kim Crumbo

Kim is currently on the Utah Chapter ExCom. He served as a Sierra Club’s Volunteer Co-leader for the Greater Grand Canyon – Colorado Plateau Resilient Habitats campaign, and has served on the ExCom, and has served on the Grand Canyon (Grand Canyon Chapter) ExCom, and held a staff position as the Club’s Utah Wilderness Coordinator (1976-77). Kim is the Director of Conservation for the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, a non-profit, Flagstaff-based wildlife conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring native wildlife. He is an official stakeholder on USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Revision process. Kim has strived to develop and maintain professional relationships with other conservation groups, legislators and their staff, and agency personal as well as general public outreach. He served 20 years with the National Park Service in Grand Canyon as the river ranger and later as Wilderness Coordinator. Kim

worked as professional river guide for 10 years.

Before his experience on rivers and in wilderness activism, he spent four years with the Navy’s SEAL Team One completing two combat deployments to Vietnam. As a result of his military service, Kim earned several combat decorations, including a Bronze Star.

He received a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Utah State University, with postgraduate work in outdoor recreation. His publications include A River Runners Guide to the History of Grand Canyon.

Wayne Y. Hoskisson

For many years I have been committed to volunteering with the Sierra Club. I have served as the Chair of the Utah Chapter Executive Committee. As a Chapter volunteer I work on issues related to wilderness, public lands management, the BLM, National Park management, and creating new National Monuments. I wrote Sierra Club comments on Wild and Scenic River designation on National Forests in Utah, BLM Resource Management Plans for several field offices and regularly work with other organizations on projects concerning management of public lands and national forests. For many years I have been involved in RS 2477 right of way issues including keeping the Utah Chapter a key partner in the campaign against county and state claims for so-called highways that would destroy our wild places.

Jeff Kramer

A s a Sierra Club member since 1976, the conservation of unique natural environments has long been one of my primary interests. Since 2008, as a member of the Knapsack Subcommittee, I have been leading National Outings backpacking trips in California’s Sierra Nevada. In 2011, after moving to Utah, I joined the Southwest Subcommitte of the National Outings Committee and, as an assistant leader, led a backpacking trip in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. I would like to become more involved in the ongoing efforts of the Sierra Club and other groups to preserve and protect many of Utah’s extraordinary landscapes, which are under constant threat by local political and commercial interests.

I have been a practicing lawyer since 1976, specializing in litigation. I am licensed to practice law in California and, since 2011, also in Utah. My legal experience in general, and my litigation expertise in particular, provide me with skill sets that should be particularly useful in the battles to protect Utah’s natural environment. Service on the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club’s Utah Chapter should provide me with many opportunities to contribute in a meaningful way to the ongoing work of the Sierra Club in Utah.

Thanks for your vote!

Rane Johnson

I am running for a position on the Ogden Group’s executive committee again. I have served as a member for over 10 years: have been group chair, representative to the chapter’s executive committee and as the chapter’s representative to the club’s advisory committee. I am currently serving as treasurer and would be happy to continue working on behalf of the Ogden Group.

Dan Schroeder

The Ogden Group plays a critical role in our rapidly growing community, as an advocate for natural places, quiet recreation, and sustainable living. I have been honored to serve as a volunteer in the Ogden Group, promoting these all important values, for the last 20 years. I currently serve as the group’s conservation chair and webmaster. Among our current projects are limiting the growth of off-road vehicle use in our National Forests and pushing for more pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods within Ogden City.

John Slack

John Slack has been a member of the Ogden area Sierra Club for 15 years after moving from Sacramento, California and membership in the Sierra Club there. An avid hiker, runner and bicyclist for many years, he has worked on local trails with Weber Pathways as well as on Antelope Island with the Trail Patrol. Currently, he volunteers with Utah Water Watch doing monthly monitoring of two Weber County rivers. Enduring interests are habitat preservation, non-motorized trail development and preservation, suburban bikeways, human influences on climate change, and a safe and contemplative trail system in Northern Utah.

Dan Spark

I would like to be considered for a board member spot. As a member and event leader I have come to appreciate the work the organization does for the local community. I am an active outdoorsman who moved to Ogden to take advantage of the trails and organizations like the Sierra Club.

Larry Woolsey

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 20 years and an outings guide for 15. I have also served in various leadership positions in the Ogden Group’s executive committee. Also, I have served on the Utah Chapter Executive Committee as the Ogden Group delegate. I believe in the goals of the Sierra Club for the protection of our environment and preservation of wilderness areas.
Protecting our environmental legacy

In 2016, the chapter will continue its effective advocacy on behalf of clean air. We continue to fight to put the brake on coal and other dirty fossil fuel development while promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. We’ll pursue our work to protect Utah’s public lands and wilderness. But if you value our work, we’ll need your help. Please contribute as generously as you can.

Thank you to the members listed below for their contributions during the final months of the Utah Chapter’s 2014 fundraising drive or the 2015 fundraising drive. Thanks also to the many members who contributed anonymously. Contributors who respond during the rest of 2015 will be acknowledged in the Winter 2016 newsletter. 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) 467-9294 x102. We try hard to spell people’s names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

Fred Adler
Kathryn Camisa Ball & H McDaniel Ball
Stephen Bannister
Patty Beene
Donald Benson
Judy Bertch in memory of Larry Mehaff
Linda Bettiger
Sue Bhanos
Michael & Jean Binyon
Jane Bowman
Ed Brandstetter
Robin Campbell
Claudio & Sissel Castelli
Nabarun Chakrabarty
Sean & Bonnie Chase
Don Clark
Jeff Clay
Scott Clemens
William Connelly
Gayla Covington
Cris G Cowley
Dick Cumiskey
Angelika Davis
Dale Davis
Mike Davies
Bryan Dixon
Ed Dobson
Sam Dunham
Barbara Farnsworth
Naomi C Franklin
Craig R Gasser
Nathan Gilbert
Dan Gillenwater
Jock Gliddon
Roxane Googin
Art Griffin
Norm Guice
Theodore Gurney
Art Haines
Chauncey & Emily Hall
Christopher & Sherrie Hall
Dennis Hansen
Steve Haslam
Donna Hawkhurst
Christopher & Sherrie Hall
Dennis Hansen
Steve Haslam
David Heldenbrand
Al & Mary Harring
Becky Hickox
Sandra & Lewis Hinchen
Deborah Hollenback
Renee Holleran
Vern Hopkinson
Polly Hough
Susan Huffmayer
Frank Irish
Dale Johnson
Gene Jones
Don Kauchak
Robert Keiter
David Keller
Marion Klaus
Randall & Bobbi Klein
Mary P Kogut
Sherry Kramer
Elise Lazor
Magali Lequinet
Jim Lethenstrom
Mimi Levitt
Kenneth Martz
Bea Mayes
Dan Mayhew
Kay McLean
Nancy & George Melling
Leomora Midgley
Karen Miller
Elizabeth Milligram
Amy Mills
Nicola Nielson
Deneen Nunn
Ann O’Connell
Warren Ohlrich
Kathleen Olsen
Ralph Packard
Jessie Paul
Judith Pechmann
Carolyn A Pedone
& John W Rose
Gabrielle Pezely
Insa Riepen
Robert Robbins
Rob Rodman
Judy Rogers
Ted Rokich
Gretchen Rowe
Angela Rowland
Sarah Salberg
J Bruce Savage
Thomas Sawyer
Ann Schlupp
Dan Schroeder
Catherine Sharpsteen
Joanne Shaw
Dr Florence Shepard
Geoffrey D Silcox
Gerald Sintz
John Slack
Scott Slomiak
George B & Oma E Wilcox and
Gibbs M & Catherine W Smith
Charitable Foundation
Mary Swanson
Irene Swanson
Jean Tabin
Barbara Tanner
Marc Thomas
Lillian Tom-Orme
John Trout
Sandra Ulik
Dr Renee Van Buren
Ian Wade
Tim Wagner
Ivan Weber
Ann Wechsler
Elian Weiss
Jim Westwater &
Utah Valley Earth Forum
Henry Whiteside
Charles Wood
Annette York
Ron Younger
Treasure Mountain Inn

Election Ballot

Your ballot must be received by November 20, 2015. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope or to the address below. The second set of boxes below (J) are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates. You may vote both for Utah Chapter and Ogden Group candidates: 84015, 84037, 84040, 84041, 84050, 84056, 84067, 84075, 84089, 84302, 84307, 84309, 84310, 84312, 84315, 84317, 84324, 84334, 84337, 84340, all 844__. All other members should vote just for Utah Chapter candidates. Vote for no more than 4 in each category, including write-ins.

Your ZIP Code: ___________________________

Detach and mail to:
Utah Chapter, Sierra Club
423 West 800 South, Suite A103
Salt Lake City UT 84101
Our Land

Proposed Indian Creek Trail Would Bulldoze Wilderness Quality Lands

by Wayne Hoskisson

For years the Monticello Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Office has been considering a new ATV trail deep in the heart of the Canyonslands Basin. The trail would cross sandy hills and desert pavement near Indian Creek and eliminate wilderness prospects for about 6,000 acres recognized by the BLM as land with wilderness character. The BLM considered giving San Juan County a right of way (ROW) for the ATV trail just outside of the Needles District of Canyonslands National Park.

Indian Creek is a sinuous green thread of life in an arid landscape. Its waters and associated vegetation have attracted wildlife and hunters for thousands of years. Vastos of Native Americans are found plentifully in the surrounding area, and Indian Creek is still a vital wildlife corridor.

The National Park Service identified the problems with the proposed ATV trail: “In our December 2011 and October 2012 comments, we expressed concern that issuance of the right of way and establishment of the connector route certainly would result in greater ATV use in areas directly adjacent to Canyonslands National Park that previously have seen little use. This could lead to incursions of ATVs into the park itself where they are prohibited, with associated damage to natural and cultural resource values and conflicts with non-motorized users.”

The BLM thinks they have resolved that problem. The new Environmental Assessment (EA) states on page 2, “San Juan County’s need for the ROW is to provide ATV users with a trail riding experience in the Indian Creek area, by separating ATV use from larger vehicle use.” The ROW under consideration is only a few miles so it cannot really be relieve a need for “a trail riding experience.” It is really a shortcut and redundant route designed to access motorized routes south of Highway 211, the area that the NPS is concerned about.

We really need a new National Monument to preserve the beauty and quiet of this spectacular place. The proposed trail is inside both the Greater Canyonslands and Bears Ears National Monument proposals.

The BLM continues to propose a new ATV trail deep in the heart of the Canyonslands Basin. The trail would cross sandy hills and desert pavement near Indian Creek. In all alternatives the proposed ROW would result in construction of new motorized impacts through an area with few or no impacts.

In nine pages of comments submitted to the BLM, we noted the lack of concern for decreased soil stability, increased wind erosion, and increased dust production. Between increased motorized trails and continued commercial livestock grazing, soil stability is impaired. Our comments included images and photographs showing the current problem and the likelihood of increasing cumulative impacts on soil stability. Dust from the southwest continues to be deposited on the snow pack in the Southern Rockies Mountains resulting in reduced water storage and early spring run-off.

On Dec. 8 members of the Glen Canyon Group visited the site of the proposed ATV trail. To the east and south the red Wingate cliffs of Harris Point and Hutch Point rise abruptly from the basin floor. The straw-colored remnants of summer plants stuck out of the gentle sandy hills. We found pottery shards near where the proposed ATV trail crosses a road into a quiet campground. But the extensive and intensive impacts of motorized recreation and dispersed camping along the Lockhart Basin road created a sense of dread if a new trail is constructed and the same kinds of impacts extend even further.

The BLM issued a decision to grant a right of way. On May 30, 2015, the Sierra Club, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and the Great Old Broads for Wilderness filed a notice of intent to appeal and asked for a stay on the BLM’s decision. The Grand Canyon Trust filed also filed a notice. On April 30th, Neal Clark from SUWA filed a Statement of Reasons supporting the request for a stay. The stay was granted on May 4th. On August 5th, BLM withdrew the decision stating the “BLM has decided to conduct further analysis of the visual impacts of the proposed ATV trail and other project details.” This could be a victory, but more likely the BLM will come back with yet another version of the ATV trail.
Over 25 years ago, I made the decision to move an embryonic Black Diamond from the Pacific Ocean of California to the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. The reason was simple — I wanted to locate to reside on the asset side of the balance sheet and to be accessible to our vision of being one with the sports we serve which are the active outdoor mountain sports. We wanted location to help forge who we would become.

No other state in America has a vibrant capital city juxtaposed against beautiful, federally protected alpine wilderness mountains nor the access to such a breadth and depth of beautiful, varied, sublime mountain, canyon, crag, and desert public land environments as here in Salt Lake City and Utah.

Regardless of that conclusion, it took guts to pack up a young 48-person manufacturing company to a state that had no other outdoor or ski equipment companies. Upon arriving, our company’s growth took off, and with pride I worked tirelessly to lead the relocation of the Outdoor Retailer tradeshows — the largest — as well as a host of other outdoor/ski related businesses.

All of this was done with very little government awareness, assistance or involvement, and that was well aligned with my philosophical political beliefs — of keeping government relatively out of business. However in 2003, when then-Governor Leavitt settled in a backroom deal with then-Secretary of Interior Norton — the RS 2477 and Wilderness Inventory Areas litigation — I cried foul. It is one thing not to have government help you but quite another to have a governor working against one of the fast growing, sustainable economic sectors in the state — active outdoor recreation — today one of the largest. I say “against” because this industry’s growth and for that matter much of Utah’s growth is built upon the vibrancy that our public, American, lands provide us.

Leavitt’s comment when he entered the show was, “Wow... I had no idea that such a show existed... especially one of this size and scope.” One that brings in nearly $50 million to the local economy.

We and the Outdoor Industry Association then worked with three administrations — Leavitt, Walker and Huntsman — to find an acceptable alignment for the public policy agenda.

In the 25 years since arriving, our industry has become one of the most important in the state. It brings jobs and economic vibrancy to Salt Lake City, the Wasatch Front and our rural communities. It is the show and an ecosystem of small & medium size businesses — outfitters, shops, hospitality and much, much more. This is an industry that is sustainable, entrepreneurial and about rugged individual, i.e. small business owners. It is not subject to boom and bust cycles and commodity prices.

This vibrant and critical economic sector is built upon well-preserved, well-stewarded American public lands — lands that are properly regulated and managed. Lands that are zoned — lands of many uses but NOT all uses on all lands. We must thoughtfully manage these lands for their best, highest and long-term use, and often that means leaving them just as they are because recreation, adventure tourism, watershed, bio diversity, and wildlife habitat are their best and highest use. This at times means permanent protections.

This is not only about one industry. It is about a quality of life — the Utah quality of life.

Why do Goldman, Adobe and other creative class and knowledge-based workers move here?

Our public lands where they want to hike, bike, climb and canoeeer. I have met with and exchanged ideas with our legislative leaders, la Ken Ivory who are pushing this land grab. I have explained to them that though the federal government is not an angel it is also not the enemy. And in the 25 years we have been here, our community of active outdoor enthusiasts and our industry have nearly always been allied with the Federal Government in assaults coming from the state who almost always object to protections and zoning, lest alone the concept of America’s public lands.

Most likely, Utah could not afford to manage all of these lands and would be financially compelled to sell off large amounts of acreage to fund the management of those they kept.

Were it not for the federal government there would be no Grand Teton National Park which began life as a monument that the Wyoming congressional delegation spent nearly thirty years trying to undo that. Today we all acknowledge that it’s one of this country’s greatest national parks and one that Wyoming derives immense economic benefit from. Without the federal government we would not have the iconic parks or monuments that Utah now has and that drive the southern Utah economy as we all learned in the shutdown of the government and parks nearly two years ago.

In addition, there remains a lack of honest acknowledgement by those foisting this attempted land heist on all of us that most likely Utah could not afford to manage all of these lands and would be financially compelled to sell off large amounts of acreage to fund the management of those they kept.

Utah’s future does not lie in uranium or coal mining, nor in timber, nor in the recently approved oil and gas. This is a desert state and allowing these exploitive industries with their short term contributions, high costs, rapacious use of water, and the destruction to our landscapes that the rapidly growing active outdoor recreation and the rapidly expanding knowledge-based work/creative class businesses require. To pursue those is like driving a car down a road with your eye fixated on the rear view mirror.

Our bold and vibrant future is to look out the windshield and embrace the future with policies that support that which is happening organically versus keeping the past alive with policies that destroy our vibrant future. Holding on to outdated values and beliefs supporting and funding the legal fees of convicted Commissioner Phil Lyman’s destructive and illegal, ATV posses ride into protected federal lands rich in Native America sites and antiquities is akin to the continued embracing of the Confederate flag by the political leadership in other states. It is an insult to everyone in this industry as well as the employees and management of the Fortune 500 global brands setting up shop in Utah.

Our future vibrancy as a state, both economically and culturally, lies not in the behaviors of the past, but in embracing the values that are driving our state’s desirability forward today as a destination for global visitors and a desired home for today’s knowledge worker and the creative class. Those values are based on embracing and celebrating the cornucopia of benefit derived from our public lands that include human powered recreation, Native American antiquities, wildlife and sportsman activities, biodiversity and true wilderness. Preserved wild landscapes have become the cornerstone of one of our fastest growing sectors of our economy as well as our quality of life that is the underlying superstructure to the steady growth of other economic sectors such as high-tech and investment banking.

A ll members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to 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 given outing. Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. ({]} = educational content, ([} = conservation focus, (} = service activities.

October

SLG Fri 10/2: Lake Blanche in the after- noon. Lake Blanche is the first of a trio of beautiful small lakes nestled in a cirque under rugged Sundial Peak. Outcroppings of colorful smooth rock soften the jagged alpine landscape and provide a perfect distrac- tion from the steep hike to the lakes. Recom- mend at least 1L water, ample snacks & footwear for a hike over rocky terrain. RSVP before day of hike to check trail conditions. Meet 1pm at the 6200 S Park and Ride lot, 4640 S Wasatch Blvd 1mi north of mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Leader: Jim Paul, 801-580-9079 or jimpaul@jpsnia.com.

SLG Sun 10/4: Gobblers Knob from Butler Fork. Enjoy spectacular mountain views from the summit of this classic hike up steep but good trails. Bring lunch + snacks, 2L water, hiking shoes or boots, hat & layers of clothing. Meet 10am at the 6200 S Park and Ride lot, 4640 S Wasatch Blvd, 1mi north of the southern Cottonwood Toll plaza. 4mi out & back, 8mi total, 7 hours. Summit elevation 10,246’. Elevation gain from the foot of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Leader: Larry, 801-819-9435 or bhami@pobox.com.

GGG Sat 10/10: Comb Ridge, Butler Wash. Visit sites from the Butler Wash road like Procession Panel, Monarch, Cold Spring, Eagles Nest (view from extended Cold Spring?) perhaps? 5mi, 800’. Meet 8am at parking lot of Red Rock Elementary School. Leader: Jock Hovey, 435-260-0239 or jockhovey@gmail.com.

OG, Sat 10/11: Bonneville Shoreline Trail – New Northern Extension. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail has been working hard to develop this beautiful extension of the Bonneville Trail system through One Horse and Coldwater canyons, linking up with the existing Pioneer Trail. Few have hiked it yet, so let’s see what it’s like. Meet 9am at Ogden High NE corner. Bring water & lunch. Leader: Jock Glidden, 801-394-0457.

OG, Sat 10, 2015: Day Hike to Frary Peak on Antelope Island. Meet 8am at parking lot on Dugout Road near the western end. 4 hours, moderate to strenuous. The peak is the highest point on the island at 5,969. The trail offers spectacular views in all directions. Antelope & Big Horn Sheep are often seen. Dogs are allowed. Leader: Larry, 801-690-4133 or slgantelope@gmail.com.

SLG Sun 10/18: Grandeur Peak from Church Fork. At 8,199, Grandeur Peak is the most accessible and easiest of the major peaks overlooking the Salt Lake Valley. Its summit offers fine views N to Parleys Canyon, SE to Millcreek Canyon and W to SLc. About 4 hours, 5,1mi round trip with 2,000’ elevation gain. Bring lunch + snacks, 2L water, hiking shoes, hat and layers of cloth- ing. Dogs OK, must be leashed and a maximum of 2 per person. Meet 10am at Skyline High School parking lot (NW end), 3251 E Upland Drive (3760 S). Leader: Bruce Hamilton, 801-819-9435 or bhami@pobox.com.

GGG Sat 10/24: Dry Wash Trail to Rocky Rapids. From Canyone, a spectacular constructed stock trail leads down to the Colorado River at Rocky Rapids. 4WD needed for the road that continues in Canyone from the Delicate Arch Overlook parking lot. About 7mi with 1200’ return climb. With the drive to trailhead and hike, a full day. Meet dam at former Red Rock Elementary School parking lot. Leader: Michael Strongman, 435-259-8579 or mikechrist@earthlink.net.

November

GGG Sat 11/7: Pool Arch and Solstice Panel. From Amasa Back parking lot on Kane Creek, take Tombstone trail into Pritchett, up a side canyon to Pool Arch, follow joint to Solstice Panel (high Viper). Return on joint trail connecting Tombstone trail to Kane Creek. ~1000’ elevation gain outbound. Moderate hike requiring some hand holds, scrambling and, if needed, use rope to lower oneself ~5-6’. Meet 9am at former Red Rock Elementary School parking lot. Leader: Michael Strongman, 435-259-8579 or mikechrist@earthlink.net.

SLG Sun 11/8: Leaders Choice Hike in Millcreek Canyon. Join us for a refreshing fall hike in the heart of the San Rafael Swell. Motorized intrusions found by WMC surveys in 2003 and 2013 were reported to the BLM but not acted upon. We will now do what should have been done before day of hike to check trail conditions. Return on joint trail connecting Tombstone trail to Kane Creek. ~1000’ elevation gain outbound. Moderate hike requiring some hand holds, scrambling and, if needed, use rope to lower oneself ~5-6’. Meet 9am at former Red Rock Elementary School parking lot. Leader: Thomas J Messenger, 435-259-1756 or messengert35@gmail.com.

December

GGG Sat 12/5: Hey Joe Canyon, D Julien inscription. Descend into Hey Joe Canyon, pass old mine workings & relics on way to spectacular Cliffspeaker Arch on rim of Laby- rinth Canyon. ~5mi & 850’ between mesa & river – 100’ elevation change compared to Arch. Most driving is on county B roads requiring high clearance, but spur to Hey Joe trail requires 4WD. Meet 9am at former Red Rock Elementary School parking lot. Leader: Jock Hovey, 435-260-0239 or jockhovey@gmail.com.

SLG Sat 12/19: Cottonwood Canyons snowshoe. We’ll head up Big Cottonwood to a suitable snowshoe destination, likely Cottonwood Rocks. Drive to Willow Lake. Pace will be steady but relaxed as we usher in winter among firs and aspens. Meet 10am at 626 On Rood ($$$), but several restau- rants nearby at 626 On Rood ($$$), but several restau- rants nearby. ~100’ elevation change to arch. Most driving is on county B roads requiring high clearance, but spur to Hey Joe trail requires 4WD. Meet 9am at former Red Rock Elementary School parking lot. Leader: Thomas J Messenger, 435-259-1756 or messengert35@gmail.com.

SLG Sat 12/19: Devils Garden Canary Primitive Loop, Arches NP. Get some post-holiday fresh air on this Arches National Park favorite. About 5mi, a few hundred feet elevation. Will do something else if there’s snow & ice. Meet 9am at former Red Rock Elementary School parking lot. Leader: Thomas J Messenger, 435-259-1756 or messengert35@gmail.com.