Early this month, and in spite of an outpouring of opposition to a proposal many decried as scientifically unsupported, if not outright cruel, the Utah Wildlife Board decided to hike the numbers of permits to kill cougars (Maffly 2016). The decision allows the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to increased the number of permits from 495 to 532 for the 2016-17 season and opened a new area for unlimited hunting.

UDWR staff earlier recommended increased the number of cougar killed in units where the agency decided deer, elk or big-horn sheep populations struggle or where livestock depredation by cougars “is a problem.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, wild carnivores caused 0.23% of the total “unintended” annual cattle mortality, with mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx totaling approximately 0.3%. The term “unintended” is useful in the context that most cattle are headed to the slaughterhouse anyway. The total number of cattle deaths unrelated to predation (or processing plants/slaughterhouses) was 4%, with respiratory problems, unknown health issues, and weather among the leading causes of mortality (NASS 2012). Obviously, conscientious animal husbandry practices, not indiscriminate killing of carnivores, offer the best option to prolong live-
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, water and habitats; &
- Support the development of sustainable renewable energy;

For the benefit of present and future generations.

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Terms Expire 12/31/2016

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Lawrence LeGate, Leadership & Capacity Building team member

Dan Mayhew, National Utah Wilderness Team, and Wild Lands and Wilderness BLM Sub-Team

Sarah Fields, Nuclear Committee

Utah Sierran Fall 2016

Our gratitude to those who make our work possible

Thank you to the members listed below for their contributions to the final months of the Utah Chapter’s 2015 fundraising drive or the 2016 fundraising drive. Contributors who respond during the rest of 2016 will be acknowledged in the Winter 2017 newsletter. Thanks to all the members who contributed anonymously.

In 2017, the chapter will continue its effective advocacy for clean water and 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, you’ll need your help. Please contribute as generously as you can.

Abraham Abraham

Mr & Mrs Gregg Alex

Vik Arnold

Robert Avery

Lee Badger

Mark Bailey

H MacDaniel Ball &

Kathryn Camisa-Ball

Judy Bertsch in honor of Marion Klaus

Michael & Jean Binyon

B Blattenberger

Russell T Boggs

Ed Brandstetter

Merle W Carlson

James & Deann Chapman

Don Clark

David & Carol Coulter

Cris C Gowley

Bobbi Cronk

Michael Davies

Angelika Davis

Dale Davis

Mike Daz

Bryan Dixon

Darwin C Eggli

Ty & Ari Erickson

Lewis Fick

Penny Cooper Francisco

Nancy C Franklin

Barbara Fullman

Craig R Gasser

Jock Glidden Fund of the Community

Foundation of Utah

Roberta Glidden Fund

R Googin

Sarah Greaves

Lauri A Kloth in memory of

Nina Dougherty

Jack Greene

Art Griffin & Margo Markowski

Norm Guice

Arthur Haines

Chauncey & Emily Hall

Christopher & Sherrie Hall

Donna Hawxhurst

David Heldenbrand

Todd Henneman

Al & Mary Hering

Becky Hickox

Lewis & Sandra Hinchenman

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Ann Johnson

Dale Johnson

Gene Jones

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Randal Klein

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R Welch

Robert Roemer & Irene Terry

Judy Rogers

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Dr. Kenneth Sassen

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Dr Florence Shepard

Gerald & Sharon Sintz

W.F. Snyder

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Dana Strachan

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John Trout

Cornelia Von Allmen

Ivan Weber & Linda Smith

Ann Wechsler

Jimmy Weinberg

R Welch

Eugene Weymouth

Jock Whitworth

Kirt Willimon

Alan Wilson

Charles & Marcia Wood

Jeanne Young

Backcountry.com

Community Shares/Utah

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

T reasure Mountain Inn/Tha Leonard

Mimi Levitt

Utah Sierran Fall 2016
Our Land

Cougars Hunt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stock lives. Conservation groups have a long history of advocating practical animal care solutions to this issue (Stone et al. 2016).

It’s also worth noting that in 2005, thirteen na-
tionally and internationally recognized mountain lion authorities came together with updated science-
based guidelines that included a chapter devoted to
hunting cougars (Beck et al. 2003). Although written in thoughtful, academic tones, the Guidelines clearly state that “sport hunting to benefit wild (game) pop-
ulations is not supported by the scientific literature.” Subsequent credible science continues to support
that finding.

WHO’S IN CHARGE?

In an interview with the Ogden Standard-Examiner, Lee McFerrin, game mammal coordinator for Utah Division Wildlife Resources (UDWR), provided an interesting response to criticism that her division panders to hunters above other interests (Larsen 2010). “They’re very vocal and very good in coming to meetings and participating in the process. So yes, they do get a voice,” McFurlane said. “They provide a lot of the funding the agency uses. So of course, we have to listen to one of our main constituents.”

The mission of the Utah Division of Wildlife (UDWR) is to “serve the people of Utah as trustee and guardian of the state’s wildlife” and not just promote the so-called sportmen’s agenda. In Utah, the Outdoor Industry Foundation (OIF) found that forty-three percent of the state’s population engage in hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and trail run-
ning. Thirty-two percent enjoy bird and other wild-
life watching. Only ten percent of Utahns hunt. These findings indi-
cate the great interest of Utahns in wildlife-related and non-hunting recreation on western lands, and the importance of developing wild-
life management programs that reflect and respect the diversity of
the state’s wildlife interests.

In any event, a plethora of research shows that hunting older cougars skews the populations towards younger animals who are more likely to get in trouble. The reason is that in un hunted popula-
tions, dominant male cougar kill young males. Young males are less skilful hunters and compensate, like young male humans, by acting more brazen and bold. It is inevitable that the fewer older lions due to trophy hunting, the more young males present in a population, and the more likelihood you will have depredations on livestock or a rare attack on humans. One does not get to be an old male cougar by being an ineffective hunter and oblivious to the hazards of a gun-toting human population. Old, bold cougars are scarce. It follows that cougar hunting is more likely to create social chaos by killing the dominant males that control cougar social structure, permitting young males that control cougar social structure, permitting an ineffective hunter and oblivious to the hazards of
sustaining long-term ecosystem health and resilience. They are sentient, remarkable, and inedible creatures that deserve more than to end up with their head on a wall or serving as a rug. As important, and as ample state and national polling reveal, most Ameri-
cans would agree.

The UDWR and its advisory wildlife board should acknowledge and respect that fact, or get out of the cougar management business.

Kim currently serves at Western Conservation
Director for Wildlands Network and works on the Sierra Club’s Utah Chapter Executive Committee.
He served 20 years with the National Park Service in Grand Canyon as the river ranger. Kim worked as professional river guide for 10 years and two years as the Utah Wilderness Coordinator for the Sierra Club. Before his experience on rivers and in wilder-
ness activism, he spent four years with the Navy’s SEAL Team One completing two combat deploy-
ments to Vietnam.

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_Cougar_demography_and_emigra-
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tion

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stock_and_wolves.pdf

Thank You, Volunteers

Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club volunteers power everything Sierra Club does—that’s especially true in the Utah Chapter. During the Summer of 2016, volunteers staffed our booths at the Salt Lake City Farmers’ Market, Park Silly Market and Harvest Fest. Sherrie Bolton Emily Bryner Jan Ellen Burton Doris Chatterton Yana Galitsyna Nathan Gilbert Lawson LeGate Rob McKinney Marty Mankins Amy Mills Nicola Nelson Marge Cole Rasmussen Dan Syroid


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board-boards-of-utah

manitol.corral.edu/sites/default/Census/CensusData/CensusData-05-22-2011.pdf

stock_and_wolves.pdf

Make/Difference

Have Email—Can Lobby

T he 2017 General Session of the Utah Legislature will run from Monday, January 23, to Thursday, March 9, 2017. Our legislative committee will coordinate our effort to influence legislation with other environmental groups, determine our legis-
latively priorities, and work with other volunteers to call and e-mail their legislators. Readers can find out who their state representa-
tive and senator are by logging on to the legislature’s web site, http://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp. We will also keep a cur-
rent list of high priority bills, the chapter’s position on them and sample e-mail messages to send your legislators on the chapter’s web site throughout the legislative session.

Why does this even matter? A surprisingly wide range of issues in your life is controlled by the state legislature. These include regulation of state lands—and sometimes interference on public lands owned by all Americans—wildlife, water developments, en-
ergy policy, and tax policy and credits. The Sierra Club will once again put its thumb in the dike on some of these issues. however, we have the chance to make real progress on a few fronts. You can help us influence your legislator as part of our citizen-lobbyist team. If you’re interested in working for positive environ-
mental change through the Utah Legislature, call Mark at (801) 467-9294 x102, or reg-
ister your volunteer interests on our web site, http://utah.
sierraclub.org/questionnaire.asp.

UtahSierran Fall 2016

Benny Yih

Becky Yih

Benny Yih

Paul Zuckerman

Volunteers worked for nine months to help organize and implement our 2016 Utah Jamboree:

Joaene Aponte

Colin Bennett

Tammy Berrie

Turner Bitton

Tom Messenger

Par Rasmussen

Volunteers organized and assembled our Bears Ears National Monument postcard party:

Wayne Hiskoskin

Anne McKibben

Jerry Urlacher

...
Our Land

The Sierra Club is excited to continue our Solar Homes Program in Utah! Through this program, we are empowering our members and supporters to be part of Utah’s clean energy future. If you are interested in saving on your energy bills, doing something positive for the climate, and supporting the Utah Sierra Club, request a free estimate today.

Utah Sierra Club members and supporters receive best-in-region pricing and a quality install from our select partner, Creative Energies. It's good for the planet, good for the Sierra Club and great for you. Go solar today!

sierraclubsonar.org

Mountain Accord Maintains Momentum

by Will McCarvill and Amy Mills

Mountain Accord is a regional planning effort established to, “preserve the Central Wasatch and ensure its long-term vitality.” Various levels of local government, business leaders, environmental organizations, and others participated in the three-year development of the Accord, which addresses environmental conservation, transportation, recreation, and economic development planning for an area of Utah which includes the Wasatch Front in Salt Lake City, Park City, Mill Creek, and Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. The Mountain Accord agreement was signed in the summer of 2015. (See www.mountainaccord.com)

Mountain Accord leaders have moved ahead on the following key activities in Phase II:
• Working with the Utah Congressional delegation on a proposal to designate 79,000 acres of current US Forest Service (USFS) lands for greater protection and preservation. The Mountain Accord proposal includes expanding existing wilderness areas and creating a National Conservation and Recreation Area, or similar federal designation.
• Implementing negotiated land transfers to convert certain private land parcels to public USFS ownership. The goal is to enhance watershed protection and backcountry recreation, while transferring USFS parcels at the bases of the four Cottonwood ski areas to private ownership. The land transfers would resolve some long-standing land-holding disputes.
• Organizing work on environmental impact statements (EISs) to fulfill federal NEPA requirements on the above proposed changes to federal lands.
• Conducting further study of transportation options to serve the Wasatch Front and Back, with the goals of improving transit and reducing traffic congestion. Options under consideration include better public transportation, park-and-ride lots, shuttles, and other incentives to reduce single-occupant vehicles.
• Organizing and improving trails, trail access, and road cycling routes.
• Preparing an “environmental dashboard” to provide a baseline of environmental conditions in the central Wasatch and enable documentation of future changes.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club provided comments on the initial Mountain Accord Blueprint, and continues to be involved in supporting legislative development, transportation planning, and trail network improvements.

Will and Amy are the Utah Chapter’s Mountain Accord issue co-Spokespeople.

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

George B. and Oma E. Wilcox and
Gibbs M. & 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 2016.
Protect the Integrity of Recapture Canyon —

ACT BEFORE OCTOBER 24, 2016

by Mark Clemens and Marc Thomas

The natural and archaeological resources of Recapture Canyon need to be protected from ATV damage. Archaeological remains in Recapture Canyon include structures, potsherds and middens among other things. Recapture Canyon has made headlines in Utah and around the country in the past several years because of a conflict over protection of archaeological and natural values and the demands of some all-terrain vehicle (ATV) owners to ride on trails in the canyon. But the canyon itself and its remarkable qualities have gotten lost in the controversy.

Recapture Creek is a tributary of the San Juan River, and it created an oasis near Blanding, Utah, that has been sought out by humans for millennia. Evidence of human occupation is found throughout the canyon and ranges from shards of pots and kitchen middens to the Recapture Great House, a multi-story structure of the Pueblo II Period of the Ancestral Pueblos.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which manages these lands for all Americans seeks additional control over how trails open to ATVs. The BLM has created a website summarizing the options it’s considering, http://on.doi.gov/2d4ZPjk. To protect the extraordinary natural values of the stream and the canyon’s archaeological treasures, ask for all motorized vehicles to be excluded from the canyon bottom. One can submit comments directly through the BLM’s website, http://bit.ly/2d7n0Oq, until Monday, October 24.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

There are many reasons for the BLM to reject a Recapture Canyon ATV trail system: 1. Not Compatible With Existing Land Use Plan. The approved 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP) for this area does not include the proposed new routes in it. The field office’s own Monticello Travel Map, designating roads based on the 2008 RMP does not show any road in Recapture Canyon. In fact, the map states that “all routes not on this map are not designated for motorized travel.” 2. Cultural Resource Impacts. The environmental damage caused by ATVs is well documented, including the impacts of a now-closed 2005 illegal trail in Recapture Canyon. After the illegal trail was constructed, the BLM conducted a cultural resource survey along the unauthorized trail. At least nine archaeological sites were damaged, with damage estimates ranging as high $309,540 and subsequent repairs costing $90,754. 3. Emissions/Air Quality Impacts. ATVs also create high levels of air pollution, including carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and carcinogens such as benzene. They expel 20-30% of their gas and oil unburned into the air and water and produce 4,000 times more carbon monoxide emissions, and 118 times as much smog-producing pollutants as modern automobiles on a per mile basis. Exposure to emissions such as these, along with the dust that ATVs create, can cause breathing difficulties for people with asthma and other lung sensitivities. This air pollution also severely degrades air quality for viewing or photographing the attractions found in special places like Recapture Canyon.

4. Noise Impacts. ATVs often create a two-mile “auditory footprint”. This means that they can be heard up to one mile coming, one mile going, and one mile to the left and right for the entire time the vehicle is running. Stress to humans from involuntary exposure to noise is well-documented and noise also displaces wildlife, resulting in fewer birds and beasts in Recapture Canyon. A prime draw of the canyon right now is how quiet it is despite its proximity to the town of Blanding.

5. Displacement. ATVs displace non-mechanized recreational participants. Hikers, hunters, and horseback riders value solitude, peace and quiet, the ability to observe undisturbed wildlife, and to escape the noisy mechanized intrusions of civilization. The potential for injury resulting from contact with ATV users discourages other types of users and presents liability risks.

6. Group ATV Behavior. Group ATV activity tends to encourage competitive and aggressive driving, especially among younger drivers. Competition leads to such activities as speeding, creating “rooster tails” (spraying mud from rear tires), and attempting daredevile driving feats. These activities cause environmental damage, in addition to accidents, injuries, and deaths.

7. Enforcement. As the Utah BLM has frequently stated in speeches and newspaper articles, there is insufficient funding for federal enforcement of ATV regulations or ordinances. By the time any enforcement agent arrives at the scene of a violation report, the ATV is long gone and the damage is done.

DOES IT SERVE THE PUBLIC GOOD? Illegal ATV activity in Recapture Canyon has already created vehement conflict throughout Grand and San Juan Counties. People who are against expanding ATV use to riparian places with perennial streams have been bullied while demonstrating peacefully and threatened with “wanted dead or alive” posters. Their campsites have been vandalized, and they’ve been told to leave and never come back. Local ATV proponents claim that this type of activity will cease if they are given a legal trail in the bottom of Recapture Canyon. This is on a par with extortion. Should the demands of a special interest group be allowed to override what’s best to protect for future generations the special cultural, ecological, and contemplative nature of Recapture Canyon?

BACKGROUND

When San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman organized a group of protesters on an illegal ATV ride in Recapture Canyon on May 10, 2014, the canyon had already been under assault for more than a decade. In 2005 people still unidentified widened the trail to accommodate ATVs using excavating equipment and built a bridge without authorization from BLM. At least nine archaeological sites were damaged by this illegal work. In 2007 the Recapture Great House was brutally looted for archaeological remains. ATV tracks were visible across the site and pits were dug to recover pottery. In response BLM imposed an emergency closure on vehicle access to the canyon. This incident of looting or pot hunting was far from the first. In your comments, however brief or extensive, please emphasize that noise and air pollution from ATVs is not compatible with the solitude, wildlife, and the beautiful riparian landscape found in the canyon today, nor with quiet contemplation of the man-made remains of ancient civilizations. As in Canyonlands’s nearby Salt Creek, the damage created by ATVs to the perennially-flowing streambed in the canyon bottom will be mitigated over time by keeping them out. It is our belief that the BLM, as a steward of our public lands, can best protect and preserve Recapture Canyon in pristine shape for future generations to enjoy in peace and quiet by not allowing motorized travel.
OurLand
Public Lands Initiative Update
by Wayne Hoskisson

A few almost three and a half years after announcing the Public Lands Initiative (PLI), Rep. Bishop finally released the legis-
lation on July 14, 2016. This was just two days prior to the listening session scheduled by Interior Secretary Jewell concerning the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. The PLI and the Bears Ears NM proposal remain closely linked. Rep. Bishop and Rep.
Chaffetz began the PLI process specifically to undermine the possibility of a new national monument in Utah.

Approximately 1,400 people attended the July 16, 2016, listening session conducted by Sec. Jewell and the Under Secretary of Agriculture. About two thirds of those at-
tending supported the designation of a Bears Ears NM.

On July 27, Sen. Mike Lee held a hearing in Blanding. The senate hearing blended the issues of the Bears Ears NM and the PLI.
The hearing was held at the Blanding, Utah High School. About 1,000 people attended with overwhelming if not nearly unanimous opposition to the Bears Ears NM. The panel of witness included Gov. Herbert and Rep.
Bishop. Gov. Herbert said the current PLI bill was not the final bill. Six minutes later Rep. Bishop the PLI was finished and he did not want to see much change. At the end Sen. Lee asked the audience, "Is what universe is it fair for the government to own so much land?" He asked the wrong question. He should have asked, "Is what universe is it fair for the public to own so much land?" The real answer is any universe worth living in.

Unfortunately the Public Lands Initiative, H.R. 5780, failed in reaching any kind of consensus despite the claims by Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz that they engaged in thou-
sands of meetings in a multi-year collaborative process. Apparently our representatives do not know that a collabor-

ative process ends in widespread agreement across the spectrum of those involved.

On Sept. 14, 2016, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on the PLI. There were six witnesses called, two from the administration, one opponent, and three proponents of the legislation. The companion legislation, H.R. 5781 that would prohibit any new national monu-
ments in the seven counties in the PLI, was not included in the hearing. Democratic Reps. Tsongas, Lowenthal, Poli, and Gré-
jalva performed remarkably undermining the validity of the PLI language. Rep. Tsong-
gas also defended witness Ute Mountain Whitekunk from a mean spirited attack by Rep. Bishop. 

You can view the entire two hour hearing here: https://democrats-naturalresources.
house.gov/hearings/subcom-
mite-hearing-on-hr-5780

On Sept. 22, the House Natural Resources Committee held a markup session for the PLI (H.R. 5780). During the markup session amendments can be proposed to accompany legislation to be voted upon by the house. HNRC Democrats proposed five amendments. All five were voted down by a par-
ty line vote. A single amend-
ment proposed by Rep. Bishop was attached to the PLI bill. The amendment consisted of a few technical changes in word-
ning and correcting typos and grammar. This will be important and in our favor if the PLI legislation ever gets introduced in the senate.

Sen. Lee asked the audience, "Is what universe is it fair for the government to own so much land?" He asked the wrong question. He should have asked, "Is what universe is it fair for the public to own so much land?" The real answer is any universe worth living in.

President Obama promised to let the PLI play out in congress. With the failure of Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz to propose reasonable legislation with broad support the PLI is likely dead this year, and Presi-
dent Obama will be free to make a decision about the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.

The Bears Ears Inter Tribal Coalition performed a remarkable feat following its formation last year. For the first time in U.
S. history Native Americans have pro-
posed a monument to protect a culturally and historically important landscape. Their proposal would assure future access and use for cultural and religious purposes. The Bears Ears National Monument will be an occasion and place for healing.

Utah legislature has threatened to spend up to $14 million of taxpayer money to seize public lands. This, after the study commissioned by the state found that a state take-over of America’s lands would impact the state's budget by well over $100 million annually. The Grand Staircase-Escalante Na-
tional Monument, Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and proposed wilderness – all are part of our national heritage, and the State of Utah wants it.

You can help by contacting your local elected city and county representatives and ask them to oppose Utah’s attempted land grab. We’ve made it pretty painless. Go to this site to make your voice heard: http://
bit.ly/2t6Dseo

You can also help by getting involved in the campaign to Keep Public Land in Public Hands. The campaign’s website can be found at http://keeppubliclands.com.

Readers can also find the campaign Face-
book page at https://www.facebook.com/keeppubliclands.1 To learn how you can be a part of the campaign, call 801/583-1650.

Bumper stickers are available at the Utah Chapter office at 423 W 800 S, Suite A105, in Salt Lake City. Please call 801/467-9294 x102 to make sure someone will be there when you arrive.

1 Sandro, Jan, John Downen, Michael Hagg, Levi Duce. 2014. An Analysis of the Transfer of Federal Lands to the State of Utah, prepared for the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Of-
fice of the Governor, State of Utah.
Our Land

Most people I know have a story about their first time understanding and appreciating the grandeur and beauty of our public lands. For you it might have happened on Angel’s Landing or Y Mountain, in Albion Basin or the San Rafael Swell. Sometimes the story is entirely interior—a flash of transcendence—but sometimes it can be outwardly dramatic. Perhaps you were alone or maybe with a loved one or family and friends. However you first experienced it, we want you to share your public lands love story—we’re calling it the Love the Land, Share your Stories project.

Many families and individuals, hikers and bikers, climbers and campers, veterans and students, bird-watchers and photographers, hunters and anglers—people from all walks of life—have found Utah’s public lands to be a source of awe and wonder, a place of beauty, a soothing tonic for the crazy din of modern life. We want to hear how these lands have affected you. Whether you are a native, a recent transplant, or merely an occasional visitor, if you enjoy the exhilarating freedom and spirit-restoring wildness of our parks and public lands we want to hear your stories.

We’ll be collecting these stories and using them to create a bi-weekly podcast centered on the LovePublicLands.com website—currently being built. But we’d also love to feature your public-lands-inspired art in other formats including anime, photography and video, for example. Our site allows you to upload files in a variety of formats, and upload is the main function already operational on the site.

As you savor memories of the summer holidays, please consider whether you have a story to share, and stay tuned for the first stories at LovePublicLands.com.

Love the Land, Share your Stories

by Jeff Clay

Where have your boots taken you lately?
We love seeing how our members explore, enjoy & protect the planet.
Email photos to mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or post to our Facebook page. Your image may be published in an upcoming issue of the Utah Sierra Club!
ExCom Elections 2016

This year’s ballot includes candidates for the chapter executive committee and the Ogden Group. All members—even those who don’t live in one of these areas with groups—are welcome to vote for candidates for the chapter executive committee—the volunteers who decide Sierra Club policy at the state level. Please read the candidate statements, vote, and return your anonymous ballot in the envelope provided. All ballots must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 25, 2016.

ExCom Candidates

JEFF CLAY

As my current term on the Executive Committee of the Utah Chapter Sierra Club approaches its end, I can reflect on a number of things. First, despite the love of the land that most people express, the challenges and threats to the environment continue. For this reason, the role the Sierra Club plays remains critical. Fortunately the breadth and depth of conservation and political knowledge that the Executive Committee possesses is phenomenal. This expertise has helped my work on the committee, as I bring to the ExCom primarily organizational and marketing skills coupled with a willingness and conviction to get things done in the pursuit of positive change.

The bulk of my time on the ExCom has been in the Communications Chair position. This continues to be a good fit for me. During my tenure we have continued to build upon our communications foundation. Our social media presence has increased on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Our Chapter website continues to grow with frequent updates by both staff and volunteers. Recently we have helped roll out two new websites that address the public lands threats promulgated by our legislators: keeppubliclands.com and lovepubliclands.com.

The challenges continue as does the work. I welcome both and would be happy to remain on the Executive Committee as the Communications Chair.

AMY MILLS

I’m running for re-election to the Utah Chapter’s Executive Committee. I’ve been a member of Sierra Club since 1987, and became involved in the Utah Club about 3 years ago. Currently I serve on Conservation Co-Chair, where I’ve been involved in environmental advocacy around protection of public lands, wildlands, National Monument designation, and impacts of fossil-fuel development. Specifically, I’ve assisted in holding public hearings on topics of local environmental interest in the Park City area, provided comments and positions to decision-makers on the environmental impacts of linking Wasatch ski areas, Mountain Accord, the Uinta Express Pipeline, and extraction of dirty fuels and climate change impacts. I served as a volunteer on Summit County’s Public Lands Initiative (PLI) advisory committee. I participated in the Utah Wilderness Coalition’s lobby in Washington D C for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. I have also provided public outreach with others in the Chapter and partner organizations with the goal of informing members and residents about conservation issues that affect their lives and communities.

As background, I hold an M S in Geology with a research emphasis in geochemistry. I worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency for 28 years, first in remote sensing and environmental impact assessment of coal mining impacts in Appalachia, then in the RCRA hazardous waste regulatory program, then in ground water research planning, and eventually managed the IRIS program which evaluates the toxicity of industrial and household chemicals. Since retiring in 2006, I’ve enjoyed travelling, the great outdoors, scintillate gardening, and doing a variety of volunteer work for non-profits. My volunteering has included the Rachel Carson Council, Summit Land Conservancy, Red Butte Garden, Friends of the Park City Library, Friends of Animals Utah, Paws for Life Utah, and the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The magnificence of Utah’s scenery, wildlife, and outdoor recreation in contrast to imminent and long-term threats from careless development and short-sighted government policies gives me motivation to continue my work on the Executive Committee and to contribute to the broad-spectrum environmental advocacy work of the Sierra Club.

IAN WADE

I’ve served on the ExCom for two years now since retiring from a career in non-profit organizations. My ExCom activities have centered around climate change as well as taking on some of the administrative necessities of the club. I initiated our first Love Utah Give Utah campaign this year raising around $6,000 and just took on the role of treasurer.

Previously I was Executive Director of Outward Bound International. I got to oversee safety and quality of 56 schools in 33 countries and help with business development for a dozen new licensees. Additionally I did fundraising, conference planning, board recruitment, strategic planning, etc. Previously I worked in an educational software start-up and as an aerospace structural engineer.

I’ve had a passion for mountaineering. In earlier years I rock climbed extensively in big wall routes in Yosemite, climbed many alpine routes culminating the Eiger North face, was climbing leader of the Peace Climb Expedition to the top of Mt. Everest from the Tibet side amongst other adventures. I was president of the American Mountain Guides Association for 5 years and have led many climbs and treks in Europe, Bhutan and Kilimanjaro (18 times so far!).

My current interests center around climate change and being part of any significant efforts to leave our planet habitable for my grand-daughter! This is what attracts me to engagement with the Sierra Club.

Another ongoing interest is risk management of outdoor activities. I have consulted with many organizations on good practices, given expert witness testimony and continue to work occasionally in Asia on ropes course design and operations.

Some time ago I worked for the Sierra Club on a couple of feasibility investigations in their mountaineering program.

Long ago I received a graduate Certificate in NonProfit Management from Columbia University, Graduate School of Business and a Civil Engineering degree from Leeds University in England where I grew up. Having roamed many parts of the world there is nowhere I like more than Utah. My wife Ginger and I live in Daybreak, whereas our children, who are more hip, live in Salt Lake City or Park City!

NANCY CLEVELAND

I’ve volunteered for the Utah Chapter for over two years. During that time I’ve written new member welcome postcards, photocopied to build turnout for hearings and socials, and served on the Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands Committee. My environmental passion is for wild lands and wildlife. If elected, I would work to build the chapter’s influence in these areas.

Ogden Candidates

IAN WADE

I am running for a position on the Ogden Group’s executive committee again. I have served as a member for over ten 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.

RANEE JOHNSON

I am a member of the Ogden Group since 1996 and I have been a volunteer in the Ogden Group, promoting 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.

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.
Utah Utility Group Announces New Nuclear Reactor Project in Idaho

by Sarah Fields

The Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS), a group of municipal utilities, has proposed a 12-unit Small Modular Reactor (SMR) project, to be located at the Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho National Lab. The project would use the NuScale reactor design, which must be approved separately by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The design places both the individual reactors and the spent fuel in the same pool of water in a large containment building. If completed according to plan, the new reactor would be rated at 600 megawatts or approximately twenty percent larger than Utah's coal-fired Bonanza Power Plant.

NuScale expects to submit a design certification application to the NRC later this year. UAMPS would submit a separate application for a construction and operation (COL) license, expected in 2018. UAMPS and NuScale are trying to get as much taxpayer funding for this project as possible. DOE is providing millions of dollars to support SMRs, but the total cost of UAMPS project is currently unknown. NuScale has established an advisory board of representatives of industrial, community, and utility companies, including Rocky Mountain Power.

UAMPS, NuScale, and the DOE erroneously claim that these SMRs are carbon free. These promoters of SMRs as clean energy ignore the energy (most often generated by fossil fuels) and fuel required to mine and mill uranium, convert and enrich the uranium, fabricate the nuclear fuel, manufacture and transport the reactor units, SMR construction and operation, transportation and disposal of the irradiated reactor fuel. At several steps in the process, the SMR project will not be carbon free. These smaller SMR reactors are still dangerous and expensive.

PLAINTIFFS DROP GREEN RIVERS REACTOR WATER RIGHTS CHALLENGE

In August Uranium Watch, Living Rivers, and HEAL Utah announced their decision not to appeal the July 21, 2016, Utah Court of Appeals decision upholding the State Engineer decision granting water for the proposed Blue Castle Project (BCP) nuclear reactor. In 2009 the Utah Chapter, the lead plaintiffs, Green River River. The reactor proponent leased 53,600 acre feet (~87 million gallons of water per day) from the Kane County and San Juan County Water Conservancy Districts.

The BCP has attracted very little outside investment and no funding or commitment from any electrical utility. Blue Castle Holdings Inc. (BCH) needs from $50 to $100 million to develop an Early Site Permit application to submit to the NRC. As of 2015, BCH had raised $20 million. BCH has not contacted the NRC since 2011, does not own the property proposed for the reactor, and no longer owns the Willow Creek pipeline company that was a source of funding.

There are many issues regarding the delivery of water for the project, including long-standing drought conditions, need for approval of delivery of water from Flaming Gorge Dam, a US Fish and Wildlife Service recovery program for threatened and endangered fish in the Colorado River Basin, and the lack of seniority of the San Juan County water right.

The Sierra Club, Uranium Watch, Living Rivers, HEAL Utah and others will continue to oppose the Blue Castle Project and keep the public informed.

Anyone interested in the UAMPS SMR proposal, please contact sarah@uraniumwatch.org.

Sarah Fields is a member of the Glen Canyon Group and serves on the Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign Core Team.

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Election Ballot

Your ballot must be received by **Friday, November 25, 2016**. Mail your completed ballot in the enclosed envelope. The second set of boxes below are for the second member of a joint membership only. Blank lines are for write-in candidates.

**ExCom Candidates**

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Vote for no more than 4 including write-ins

**Thanks for your vote!**
Utah Sierra Club Jamboree
AUGUST 19-21, 2016
by Lindsay Beebe

On August 19-21, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club hosted the first ever Utah Sierra Club Jamboree where 60 volunteers learned about important campaign initiatives, celebrated the Chapter’s many achievements, and explored the bounty of Utah’s wilderness. The Jamboree was hosted at YMCA’s Camp Roger in the Soapstone Basin of the Uinta Wilderness. Participants included a mix of volunteers, old and new, from across the state. People came from Ogden to Moab, from Salt Lake County to Summit County and many places in between to learn how they could be better stewards of Utah’s environment. Programming encompassed a wide range of workshops and activities, pictured below. On Friday night, participants were welcomed to Camp Roger with a special musical performance by singer-songwriter Gigi Love, who had just completed a tour of the country’s National Parks in celebration of the NPS Centennial. Other highlights included a thoughtful discussion and training on how to make the Utah Chapter a more diverse and inclusive organization, a theme that was carried throughout the weekend. Don’t be bummed if you missed out this year, help us plan for next year’s Jamboree! Email Lindsay.Beebe@sierraclub.org to learn how you can get involved!

Clockwise from top left:
1) Salt Lake City Group Chair Will McCarville prepares to lead a Wilderness Monitor training and teach Jamboree participants how to be good stewards of public lands. Will spoke about the Sierra Club’s two upcoming service outtings in the San Rafael Swell near Sid’s Mountain.

2) Service Outing Volunteers pause for a photo while working to prepare U.S. Forest Service ponderosa pine habitat for a controlled burn to help combat wildfires in the high Uinta Wilderness. Jamboree Attendees had the option to participate in one of three activities offered on Saturday afternoon; the U.S. Forest Service outing, a birding hike in the Uinta Mountains, or a poster-making art project used for a Beyond Coal Campaign press conference later that week.

3) Service Outing Leader and photographer extraordinare Pat Rasmussen poses for a photo after organizing a successful partnership with the U.S. Forest Service for the 2016 Jamboree Service Outting.

4) Jamboree attendees participate in the Utah Beyond Coal Workshop led by Utah organizer Lindsay Beebe in the Main Lodge at Camp Roger. Other sessions included a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop with special guest trainers Vindita Manglik and Colin Bennett, a “Keep Public Lands in Public Hands” campaign workshop led by chapter volunteer leader Lawson Legate. On Saturday, the Utah Chapter honored two outstanding volunteers, Dan Mayhew and Rebecca Wallace in a special address.

5) Jamboree participants enjoy a sack lunch in the fresh Uinta air, while listening to a talk from Sierra Club National Outings Director Stacy Base. Stacy, a U.S. Army veteran and outdoor enthusiast, talks about the research the Sierra Club is spearheading with U.C. Berkeley on the healing power and mental health benefits of wilderness and awe.

The Utah Chapter gratefully acknowledges the support of Backcountry.com, Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign and the Mike Weinholdz for Governor Campaign in helping our inaugural jamboree’s launch with generous donations.
OUTING OUTLOOKS TOOL!

All the outings, book club meetings and socials for the chapter and all three groups are now found in one place, www.utah.sierraclub.org/outings/asp. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.

UTAH.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CONTENT/CALENDAR

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2016

**E** = educational content, **C** = conservation focus, **S** = service activities.

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing.

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Raffles and door prizes are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. 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, rapid increases in altitude, and bringing enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

**ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!**

All the outings, book club meetings and socials for the chapter and all three groups are now found in one place, www.utah.sierraclub.org/outings/asp. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.

**UTAH.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CONTENT/CALENDAR**

October

**GGC, Sat, 10/8, Natural Bridges Exploration.** Stipa to Kachina with a return by the foot trail over the mesa top. Some exploring around. If you don’t leave from the usual meeting place at 8 AM, meet at 10 AM at the Sipapu parking area. Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 micheir@earthlink.net. Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary Sch.

**SLG, Sun 10/9: Wolverine Cirque High Traverse.** Starting at Silver Lake near Brighton in Big Cottonwood Canyon, we’ll hike up the Twin Lakes trail to the pass. A spectacular, exposed scramble along the ridgeline above Wolverine Cirque takes us over the tops of Mountains Wolverine and Tucusara, then down to Catherine Pass and past Catherine’s Peak. The last stretch to the summit is a scramble to Brighton for a complete loop. It’s an amazing hike with views that will be long remembered, especially with the fall colors on display! This hike takes about five to six hours, involves about 2500 feet elevation gain and is limited to seasoned hikers who are used to high mountain traverses. Be sure to bring 2 to 3 liters of water, lunch and snacks, extra layers and shell, hats/sunglasses, trekking poles and gloves with good soles. Rock climbing and rappelling devices are advised in case we encounter icy spots. If the weather is threatening we will have a lower alternative. We’ll decide on that day. Meet at 9:30 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. West Husband Blvd. in SLC (note that this is 1 mile north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). For more info contact the leader, Jim Paull at 801-580-9079 or jmpaull@siisna.com for details.

**SLG Sat 10/15: Little Mountain Supermoon evening hike.** Expect a special treat this evening including a beautiful hike and a supermoon at the October or Full Hunter’s Moon passes closest to the earth. Meet promptly at 6:00 PM at the parking lot east of Hogle Zoo at Crestview Dr. and Sunnyside Ave. The view is marked by a large eagle statue. Sunset is at 6:46 PM and the moon will rise at 6:53 PM. Bring snacks to share as we witness the beauty of nature. Leader: Aaron Jones (801) 467-3533, ajonesmvp@msn.com

**GGC Sat, 10/22, Cottonwood Canyon Arches Day Hike.** Starting at the culvert, explore upper Cottonwood Canyon branches beyond Jeep Arch and visit several big arches and bridges like Squilpy Bridge and One Block Arch. About 8 miles with at least 1000’ of elevation gain. Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 jockhovey@gmail.com Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School

**December**

**SLG, Sat, 12/3, Green River Overlook, Aztec Butte.** View the Green River Canyon from the rim and then visit the azons on Aztec Butte in Island in the Sky, Canyonlands NP. A couple of hundred feet of elevation gain. Jock Hovey 435-260-0239.

**SLG, Sat, 12/17, Delta Pool and the Crack.** Visit the little mesa between Courthouse Wash and Mill Canyon. See if the crack suggesting the eastern side of the mesa is about to fall into Courthouse Wash has widened. Visit Delta Pool and enjoy walking on the Entrada slickrock with views of Monitor and Merrimac Buttes. Under 4 miles with –500’ of relief. Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengert35@gmail.com, parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School. Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School

**SLG Sun 12/14: Mill D North Fork Snowshoe.** A classic Wasatch winter outing, this trail takes us through a forest of aspens and fir to sunny, snow-covered Dog Lake. Distance to Dog Lake is 2 miles, 1520 feet elevation gain, about 4 hours round-trip. Meet at 10:00 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth). Please call or email organizers if winter conditions are threatening, as this may require us to modify or cancel the trip: Connie (modrowsky@gmail.com, 801-571-0205) or Fred (fbswan32@msn.com, 801-588-0361).

**SLG, Tues 12/13: Avenues Twin Peaks – by Moonlight.** Avenues Twin Peaks (aka Little Twin Peaks) offers great views of the Salt Lake Valley to the south and the City Creek drainage to the north. Our moonlit hike will climb 2 miles and 1,000 feet to the 6,300’ summit. Bring a headlamp or flashlight, but with the full moon rising at about sunset, hopefully we will not need to use them very much. Meet at 6:30 PM at the cul-de-sac at the upper end of Terraces Hills Drive (8900 East), which is accessed from 11th Avenue near the northwest corner of the Salt Lake cemetery. Leader: Bruce A. Harrington, 801-449-7180. Dogs are allowed on leash.

**SLG Weds 12/12: Cottonwood Canyons Winter Solstice snowshoe.** This midweek hike will head up Big Cottonwood Canyon to a suitable snowshoe destination, likely Greens Basin, Days Fork or Willow Lake. Pace the trail mostly level and at a leisure rate in winter among the firs and aspens. Meet at 10:30 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride Lot, 6450 South Wasatch Blvd (1 mi north of the canyon mouth). Bring snowshoes, warm clothes, water, lunch, and appropriate gear. Please call leader if winter conditions are threatening, as this may require us to modify or cancel the trip. Leader: Fred Swanson fbswan32@msn.com, parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride-sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the leader to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/clipart/sigwinwaive.PDF CST 208776-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
COMMUNITY SHARES/UTAH CAMPAIGN
by Mark Clemens

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

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

If you don’t have the chance to contribute to Community Shares at work and would like to, call me at 801-467-9297 or send me an e-mail at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or Lynne Brandley, the executive director of Community Shares at 801-486-9224 or lbrandley@xmission.com.

Sierra Club and Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers assembled at a remote campsite near Pinnacle One on Friday, September 9, 2016. Will McCarvill had a plan. We would spend Saturday, September 10, doing monitoring work in Saddle Horse Canyon and Cane Wash to determine the extent, if any, of off-road vehicle intrusions in the Sdfi’s Mountain Wilderness Study Area. Then on Sunday, we would have a free day to explore the wonders of the San Rafael Swell.

The San Rafael Swell, including spectacular land forms such as Mexican Mountain, the Grand Canyon of the San Rafael River, Little Wild Horse Canyon and Sdfi’s Mountain, lacks protection from mining, logging, ORV abuse and oil & gas exploration. The Bureau of Land Management which manages these public lands inventoried the San Rafael Swell for its wilderness qualities and nominated a portion including Sdfi’s Mountain as wilderness. But the US Congress must designate these lands as wilderness for formal protection to take effect.

Because the 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as, “an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable,” environmentalists have to work with land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to prevent uses that would disqualify lands from being made wilderness by congress.

Over many years of work and with GPS technology continually improving, Will McCarvill developed a protocol for wilderness monitoring that multiplies the impact that a volunteer can have. On Saturday morning we got a quick briefing in how the process works before breaking up into separate monitoring parties. You can see the details for yourself on line, http://utah.sierraclub.org/downloads. The file is titled Will’s Presentation Sierra Club Jamboree.

While we were in the middle of the monitoring work in Saddle Horse Canyon, a full-blown reconstruction project broke out. We found a buck and rail barrier had been swept aside by a flash flood so we muscled it back in place. Check out the video narrated by Rebecca Wallace, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ckPNyJcx2g&feature=youtu.be, with background noise supplied by Nuki the dog.

The next day volunteers fanned out for a day of recreation in swell locations such as Kofford Cabin, the Wedge Overlook and the trail to Virgin Springs Canyon. Big thanks to Will McCarvill who organized the event, BLM Ranger Matt Blocker for guidance, Peter Woodruff for technical expertise, and all the volunteers who showed up.