BlueGreen Alliance Questions Pipeline Safety—
OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT FLOURISHES ON PRISTINE UTAH PUBLIC LANDS

by Dan Mayhew

Drill pads impact public lands across eastern and southern Utah. 75% of the length of this pipeline will be above ground and vulnerable.

Members of the BlueGreen Alliance have recently expressed grave public safety and environmental concerns related to the Big Flats/Paradox Basin natural gas and oil production field just two miles north of Canyonlands National Park and 0.3 miles from Deadhorse Point State Park, currently under construction by Fidelity Exploration and Production Company. Following purchase of existing production wells in 2007, some of which began operation as long ago as the 1960s, Fidelity has been ramping up production with dramatic long-terms plans to create a major oil and gas development field in an area previously designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and Special Recreation Area. Fidelity is currently operating 17 wells with 12 to 14 additional new wells planned in 2014 alone.

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Dedicated to “Good Jobs, Clean Environment, Green Economy,” the Alliance and its member organizations, which includes the Sierra Club, have been working to ensure that construction of the pipeline fully meets code while ensuring public safety. The above ground portion of this pipeline will pass immediately adjacent to the BLM Horsehead Campground, visited by thousands of tourists annually.

Oil and gas exploration on Big Flat and the subsequent BLM approval of a 24 mile, twelve-inch transmission pipeline, 18.6 miles of which will be above ground, has been disputed by those who value preservation of one of America’s most treasured landscapes and who recognize the value of tourism and recreation to the local economy vs. those whose only motivations are profit and royalty payments regardless of the irreplaceable damage to these priceless public lands.

While the Alliance continues to monitor and report what they believe are EA and safety violations related to the Big Flat pipeline, the Sierra Club and our environmental organization partners are working overtime to ensure our voice is heard and that, ultimately, common sense prevails. And, as most readers of this newsletter are aware, what’s happening in Moab is just one small piece of the Utah dirty energy puzzle.

The State of Utah is engaged in its own version of Manifest Destiny: Strip federal government ownership of all lands within the state and proceed with development and extraction of every available molecule of oil and gas. Public lands preservation — least of all wilderness—are not on their agenda.

Dreams of a nuclear power plant on the Green River live on. As do dreams of the first new oil refinery to be built in the US in nearly 40 years, also to be located near Green River. Plans to pave and expand the Book Cliff highway to facilitate delivery of Utina Basin crude continue, as does the expansion of refineries in Salt Lake City and yet another pipeline to help get it there.

The BLM has approved plans for potash development in Labyrinth Canyon on the Green River adjacent to Canyonlands National Park. But perhaps the most damaging of all is Utah’s quest to develop oil shale and tar sands. Estimated at more than 70 billion tons of CO2, oil shale production in the Green River Basin of Utah, Colorado and Wyoming has the potential to release more carbon into the atmosphere than any other fossil fuel extraction site in the United States.

We live in a state that would rather use taxpayer dollars to lobby for the preservation of Sage Grouse listing as an endangered species, than work to protect the species from extinction. That places profit above preservation for future generations.

Make no mistake that Big Gas and Big Oil have every intention of developing Utah public lands to their full advantage, and they have political might and unlimited resources on their side. For our part, we believe that now is the time to preserve public lands for the future, to leave dirty energy in the ground, work to reverse climate change and develop clean, renewable energy, and we will be forever vigilant in this pursuit.

Explore the Sierra Club’s commitment to workers’ rights and the environment at http://www.bluegreenalliance.org/

BlueGreen Alliance Questions Pipeline Safety
In Their Own Voices: GRAND COUNTY RESIDENTS TAKE A STAND FOR PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTION

by Marc Thomas

I

n an impressive show of local support for wilderness and public lands protection this past January, residents of Grand County flooded their county council with heartfelt letters advocating for more protection. The council received hundreds of written comments from county residents at a public meeting taking place in Moab sometime in March (date not known as we went to press). There will be an additional time period after the public meeting for written comments from county residents on the alternatives drafted by the council subcommittee. The final phase will consist of the county council’s review of the public comments and the alternatives suggested by the subcommittee. The county council will then vote during an open, public meeting on a preferred alternative to submit to Representative Bishop for consideration in his proposed legislation. The Representative has set a target date of Fall 2014 to complete the proposal for Congress to review.

Due to space restrictions, only one edited sample of the public comment is provided below. However all the excerpts from letters submitted by local Sierra Club members to the county council are posted on the chapter website, https://utah.sierraclub.org/grand-county-residents-speak-out-wilderness. In their own words, they testify that nothing anywhere else matches the beauty, solitude, wilderness, biological diversity, and accessibility of the public lands that surround Moab. While blessed to call these canyons, mesa tops, and mountains home, they still keep a deep-rooted responsibility to retain these incredible assets for future generations of Americans. Check out all the comments on the website; you’ll be glad you did.

WAYNE HOSKVON

Conservation means protecting our land as it is today. This means not increasing the significant imprint of humans across all portions of this county and the nation. This means managing the lands so that native plants and animals continue into the future in their natural abundance and distribution. In Grand County we are fortunate to live in a place where much of the land retains these kinds of characteristics. We have a responsibility to retain this naturalness for future generations of Americans.

I have hiked in or visited most of the wilderness units proposed by the Sierra Club and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. I would like to see all proposed wilderness in Utah designated as Wilderness. When the BLM completed a re-inventory of proposed wilderness in 1999 they largely agreed with the inventory of conservation groups supporting America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act.

I would like to see Rep. Bishop and Rep. Chaffetz succeed. I would like to see them walk away with a prize no one else has been able to claim. I want them to achieve a comprehensive package of legislation to deal with the largest chunks of wilderness in Utah. Two thirds of all proposed BLM wilderness in Utah lie within the six counties involved in this process.

[However], if this process fails then America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act and the possibility of a new national monument remain. If Rep. Bishop does not pass reasonable legislation then America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act will continue being introduced in Congress. The president may yet designate a monument to overcome an inadequate attempt at protective measures.

In Their Own Voices:

What Makes Sierra Club Unique?

by Marion Klaus

W

hen we think about what makes Sierra Club special, different from the other green groups, most often I hear this, “Sierra Club is the largest and oldest conservation organization”. Indeed this is true.

Sierra Club has 63 Chapters covering every portion of the United States and Puerto Rico, and a sister organization, Sierra Club Canada. This means the potential for our grassroots activism around issues and elections extends to every place in the country. Because Sierra Club is established at both local and national levels, local activism around issues can be coordinated with lobbying efforts in Washington D.C. The council has an impressive history of keeping rivers running wild and free. In 1920, the Sierra Club successfully opposed building a dam in Yellowstone National Park. Between 1953 and 1956 Sierra Club continued this legacy by successfully opposing the dam in Dinosaur National Monument. In 1963, Sierra Club launched the campaign to prevent the Bureau of Reclamation from damming the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park. In 1966, Sierra Club ran full page ads against this dam that caused uproar in Congress, who promptly the Internal Revenue Service to suspend Sierra Club’s 501(c) (3) tax deductibility. They hoped to destroy the Sierra Club by preventing donations from being tax deductible. In anticipation of Congressional backlash to its “Save the Grand Canyon” campaign, the Sierra Club Board had already established the Sierra Club Foundation as a 501(c)(3) organization for receiving tax deductible donations. Today, the Sierra Club is still a 501(c) (4)non-profit organization, which means donations are not tax deductible and the Sierra Club Foundation is the 501(c) (3) organization that accepts tax deductible contributions for Sierra Club work. This also makes Sierra Club unique because as a 501(c)(4) organization, Sierra Club can be and is directly politically active; engaging its membership in active lobbying, elections, ballot issues, political endorsements, and raising money for both state and national PACs. This makes it possible for Sierra Club members to affect serious change. Other green groups cannot engage in these crucial political activities.

Sierra Club also has a formidable in-house legal team that coordinates with us on litigation, administrative appeals and other legal challenges to add teeth to our policy advocacy. We have one of the most effective programs in the country, filing hundreds of actions every year on behalf of communities to protect wild lands and the health of communities that are under siege by the oil, gas, and coal industries as well as climate disruption impacts. And, our media team generates more press than any other environmental organization.

The Sierra Club is also distinguished from other organizations by its democratic leadership. Sierra Club truly is a grassroots organization where members have input to determine policy. The Board of Directors is made up of Sierra Club activist volunteers and is not based on the ability to provide significant financial donations, unlike other green groups. Anyone can become a leader at all levels within Sierra Club, including being elected to the Board of Directors. Sierra Club engages volunteers actively and provides opportunities to move up the leadership ladder with increasing levels of leadership and strategy development.

John Muir founded Sierra Club on May 28, 1892 to protect the area around what is now Yosemite National Park in California. In 1893, the Sierra Club Bulletin, the forerunner for Sierra magazine, was published. In 1901, Sierra Club held its first outings. Sierra Club now runs local, national and international outings as well as outings focused on children’s inner city outings, military veterans and their families, as well as our general membership. Muir thought if people went outside, they would learn to love and appreciate nature and would consequently work to protect it. Between 1895 and 1916, Sierra Club members worked to protect the coastal Redwood trees and establish the National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, Mt. Rainer National Park, Glacier National Park, and Grand Canyon National Park.

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Clean Air: The Long War

by Mark Clemens

Neither house of the state legislature nor the governor can get away any longer with the old platitudes about how things are gradually improving or that we can’t do anything about pollution because we live in a bowl.

You turned out in unprecedented numbers for the Clean Air, No Excuses Rally on January 25th, and it caught the attention of legislators. Thank you.

Neither house of the state legislature nor the governor can get away any longer with the old platitudes about how things are gradually improving or that we can’t do anything about pollution because we live in a bowl.

Oil shale and tar sands schemes bubbled up every few years in the past as the price of oil spiked, but the current boom in interest poses a greater threat because of improved extraction technologies and a sustained high oil price. It’s still the same menace to air quality and climate that it’s always been however. The Sierra Club challenged the framework under which the Bush Administration opened nearly two million acres of public lands for oil shale leasing as one of its last initiatives. Later, the Obama Administration reduced the total acreage made available—at least in part because of litigation by Sierra Club and other plaintiffs.

We’ve also worked to prevent individual dirty fuels projects from going forward. A Sierra Club suit prevented a tar sands project at Antelope Creek. We appealed the initial permit for a tar sands strip mine at PR Springs. And in January 2014 we joined a request for agency action against the oil shale strip mine proposed by Red Leaf Resources on approximately 1,500 acres in Uintah County.

In addition to pollution emitted to air, water and ground at the mine site, most of these proposals would rely on shipping thick, waxy substances like bitumen and kerogen via tanker truck to refineries on Refinery Row on the Salt Lake/Davis County border. Air pollution and climate change are inherent in their production cycle at the mine site, in transport, at the refinery and at their final point of consumption.

UNCONVENTIONAL FOSSIL FUELS

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REFINERY EXPANSION

Both the Tesoro Refinery in Salt Lake City and the Holly Refinery in Woods Cross have ambitious expansion plans. These plans are intended in part to accommodate increased production of unconventional crude sources from the Uinta Basin, Tavaputs Plateau and Book Cliffs such as black and yellow wax crude and bitumen from tar sands. The Utah Chapter submitted substantive and critical comments in 2012 concerning the proposed Tesoro Refinery expansion, but the state’s Division of Air Quality (DAQ) issued a permit notwithstanding. In June 2013 we appealed the DAQ’s permit in court.

The Holly Frontier Corporation has defended its proposed 109% refinery expansion with a numbers blitz that can charitably be described as abusive. Despite planning to increase production from roughly 30,000 barrels a day to 65,000, Holly claims its future emissions will be lower.

But Holly is counting reductions in emissions they were compelled to make to their existing operations as though they somehow would come about as a result of the expansion. Sierra Club submitted comments on this proposed expansion and will follow it carefully in the regulatory process to make sure it complies with the law.

COAL BURNING & REGIONAL HAZE

Even experienced desert rats can be surprised when smog clouds the vistas in places like Boulder, Bluff or Moab, Utah. But the compounds such as sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and fine particulates that compose the smoggy haze can cross state lines and travel long distances from the pollution source. The chapter participated in a consultative process in the 1990s called the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) one of whose goals was to reduce regional haze and restore natural visibility at iconic places like Grand Canyon National Park, Canyonlands National Park and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming were granted flexibility by EPA in implementing regulations to reduce regional haze in part because of the greater need for more extensive or unexpected solutions to protect scenic vistas; instead these states drafted inadequate plans that would have grandfathered sulfur dioxide emissions from eight regional coal-fired power plants more or less in perpetuity. The Sierra Club and other plaintiffs filed suit against EPA in January 2013 for allowing this foot dragging citing not only the failure to reduce regional haze but also the substantial public health problems caused by continuing these emissions.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club extends a very special thanks to the George B and Oma E. Wilcox and Gibbs M. and Catherine W. Smith Charitable Foundation for its continuing generous support of the Chapter’s programs. The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2013.

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Stericycle: Burning Issues
by Cindy King

Stericycle’s North Salt Lake medical incinerator facility has been the subject of two different studies; once in 2003 and the other in 2014. The 2003 study was for dispersion models of dioxins and furans. The methodological assumptions were dismissed because the study used different meteorology and topographical data, different than what surrounds the Foxboro community. The assumption was that dioxins and furans are chlorine compounds; granted this is one of the most common forms, but there are also sulfur, fluorine, and bromine dioxins and furans. All of the various dioxin and furan compounds are toxic in the parts per trillion range. For comparison of concentration, parts per trillion is much less than one grain of sugar dissolved in a gallon of water or a cubic meter of air.

The most recent study also has questionable methodological assumptions; it only looked at cancers. Generally speaking, most cancers are considered to have latency effects. One of the biggest problems is that the community of Foxboro was not considered because it has not been existence for long enough for this to be applicable. Another methodological problem with the study is that it did not look at more direct health effects, such as neurological problems.

Currently, environmental and health studies are the least of Stericycle’s problems; of more immediate concern is compliance with their environmental permits, mostly from the Division of Air Quality. In May 2013 the Division of Air Quality served Stericycle with a Notice of Violation on exceedence of their allowable emissions and possibly falsifying data. The latter charge is now being investigated by the Department of Justice. As of May 2013 Stericycle has had numerous incidents of black smoke coming out of their bypass stack, including a possible fire in their main stack. There have been several citizen demonstrations at their facility. Now Stericycle is looking to move to Tooele County. What does all this have to do with the current environmental permits that are up for renewal?

In 2009, the approved air quality permit for Stericycle was challenged in an administrative appeal to Region 8 EPA. To date there has been no ruling on the appeal.

The appeal questioned why the public was not allowed to review Stericycle’s Startup, Shutdown and Malfunction Plan, as required in an adjudicated decision a month earlier. In August of 2013 Stericycle submitted their air quality renewal request to the Division of Air Quality; that was 180 days prior to the permit expiring. Now that the 180 days is closing in, this does not mean that Stericycle will not be allowed to process. Since Stericycle complied in a timely manner they are allowed to continue to process using their 2009 approved air quality permit for as long as the Division of Air Quality takes to review Stericycle’s renewal. One problem the Division of Air Quality might be having is that the investigation being conducted by the Department of Justice is limiting what the staff can and cannot say to the public, and possibly limiting when the administrative hearing that Stericycle requested, regarding their Notice of Violation in May, will occur. Another possible problem, now that Stericycle is considering moving, might question the permit renewal process. Stericycle would not be able to use their current permit renewal process in any other physical location; ergo a new permit would be required, with different regulatory requirements. Stericycle would also need to submit a post closure plan to Division of Air Quality to close their current facility. Notwithstanding, Stericycle’s permit from the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste is currently up for renewal.

Another issue that might be giving Stericycle heartburn is the reduction of waste sent by the University of Utah Hospital and Clinics that are looking at non-incineration treatment and disposal methods for their waste. One non-incineration technology is currently operating in Blanding, by using a chemical process. What are left are small plastic pieces that are being used in some parts of the country to make public benches. Another process uses ozone and just received national awards. Granted, these are only two non-incineration facilities but there are many more.

Cindy King is an activist and long-time Sierra Club member.

Utah Chapter Launches Wasatch Back Network
by Amy Mills

The Utah Chapter has added to its three local Groups (Glenn Canyon, Ogden and Salt Lake) a new Network for Sierra Club members and supporters in Summit and Wasatch Counties. A Network is similar to a Group, but is less structured and operates on a more casual basis. The Utah Chapter Executive Committee appointed Marion Klaus as the Network leader. Marion comes to the Network with many years of leadership and hands-on experience in the Utah Chapter, as well as on national Sierra Club environmental campaigns.

There are currently 1,145 Sierra Club members and supporters in Summit and Wasatch Counties, locally known as the “Wasatch Back.” With this impressive number, and the environmental issues accompanying population growth in the area, our hopes are high for raising local issue awareness, promoting environmental involvement, and building a Sierra Club presence through the Wasatch Back Network (WBN). The Network will also have representation in the Utah Chapter, and benefit from Chapter support for local issues, campaigns, outings, and social activities.

The WBN held its initial organizational meeting on June 24, 2013. We discussed various local issues, such as the proposed SkiLink gondola between Canyons and Solitude resorts, increased tanker truck traffic on SR-40 and I-80 generated by the increase in oil and gas development in the Uinta Basin, as well as other issues in Utah such as the Greater Canyonlands National Monument proposal. An initial survey of members’ interests in future WBN activity showed strongest interest in air quality, climate change, wilderness, wildlife, and water conservation and quality.

Three WBN-sponsored presentations have followed:

- On November 12, we hosted speaker Mary Closser of the Climate Reality Project who provided an update on climate disruption, and Matt Abbott of Park City Municipal Corp who briefed us on the “Low Carbon Diet” and what we as citizens can do to reduce our carbon footprints. On January 8, 2014, Marion Klaus addressed the Newcomers’ Club of greater Park City with a presentation on Sierra Club activities in Utah and the intermountain west, with an emphasis on the new national Our Wild America campaign. Then, on February 11, 2014, we sponsored a presentation by local nutritionist Teri Underwood, who spoke about the interrelationships among US eating patterns, agriculture, and the environment.

Future presentation topics may include water conservation and impacts of oil development. Check the Utah Chapter web site (Utahsierraclub.org) events listing and local media (Park Record, KPCW.org calendar) for announcements. Our listserv provides email notices of meetings and other local environmental activities to our members. To be added to our listserv, contact marion.klaus@sierraclub.org, or follow the directions below. As the WBN grows and members volunteer, we hope to branch out and provide more opportunities for education, involvement, and hands-on projects.

To add yourself as a new subscriber, send an e-mail with LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB. ORG in the To: field; leave the subject line blank; and put ADD WASATCH-BACK-NETWORK jane.doe@yahoo.com [Jane Doe] in the body. Jane Doe is simply an example; please substitute your e-mail address and name as indicated.
EXPLORE WITH US! MARCH-JULY 2014

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.sierranclub.org/activities.asp. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function. www.utah.sierracub.org/email_list.asp

THEY’RE BACK!
TUESDAY NIGHT HIKES

ON ANTELOPE ISLAND: 6.5 miles round-trip, OG March 29, 2014: SENTRY PEAK TRAIL (435) 830-9021, dddaries4@yahoo.com, Let’s hike up along the Great Salt Lake Brine Hot Springs Trail from the airport along the west rim to SENTRY PEAK. This is a strenuous all-day hike with a couple of surprising sights and beautiful views. Meet at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive (890 W.) and hike to the North parking area to the furthermost end of the trail. The return trip will be about 5.5 miles. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mkschotte@earthlink.net.

SLG Tues 5/6/14 The Living Room. 6:30 PM, Leader: Dee Husbye (801) 718-0900 or deese48@live.com, This hike in the Red Butte foothills is a perennial favorite for great sunset views of the Salt Lake Valley from your own rocky recliner in the Living Room. Meet at 6:30 pm above Research Park on Coloreon Road, midway between Wakaka Way and Tabby Lane.

May 9, 2014: Friday night lights. We’ll hike up Reservoir Canyon and follow the Bonneville Shoreline trail past Strong Waterfall, and Taylor Canyon. We will end the evening trek at the Twenty-first Street trailhead. The night lights are stunning. It will be 2.5 hrs. and 4.5 miles. Call Larry at 801-690-4335.

May 11 Sunday Skull Crack Trail, near Causey Reservoir. Skull Crack Trail on the North shore of Causey reservoir is a beautiful hiking trail with its way from the North parking area to the utmost eastern reaches of the eastern arm of the lake. The trail rises gently to about 700 feet above the lake then returns to lake level. About 5 miles Round trip, Bring water, and a snack. Call joanie 801-399-0034 for details.

SLG Sat 5/17 Rainbow Rim. From a spur to the Dubinky Well road, explore the colorfully banded Entrada ridge for a view of “Redwall Mesa” to the east. Climb some slickrock knobs just north of Tomestone Butte. Remain of mangoise mining. About five miles with a couple of hundred feet of elevation gain. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengerj@citlink.net.

SLG Tues 5/20/14 Mt. Olympus Loop. Time: 6:30 PM, Leader: Rebecca Wallace (801) 557-5261, rebeccawallace83@msn.com, Now that the Desolation Trail is partially completed on Mt. Olympus, we can make this a loop hike! Our goal will be the creek as a turnaround, above a two hour strenuous hike. The wildflowers will be fantastic and the views of the city spectacular. Meet at the Utah High School parking lot, which is east of the school, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.).

SLG Tues 5/27/14 Twin Peaks. Time: 6:30 PM, Leader: Jim Paul (801) 580-9079, jimmpaul@siucsa.com, Little Twin Peaks (aka Avenues Twin Peaks) is a great hike to the city and offers views of the Salt Lake Valley to the south and the City Creek drainage to the north. The trailhead and meeting place is located at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive (890 E). Terrace Hills Drive is accessed at 11th Avenue near the west corner of the SLC cemetery. Drive up to the cul-de-sac at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive.

SLG Sat 5/31/3 Dead Horse Point western trails. One possibility is the western hiking trail from the campground. At the north end is a very entertaining perched-hole point with fine views of Shafer Canyon. Another possibility is following the rim at the East end of Shafer of Shafer Canyon on the Whiptail and Twisted Tree bike paths. In either case about five miles with only a couple of hundred feet of elevation gain. Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengerj@citlink.net.

June

SLG Tues 6/3/14 Terraces/Elbow Fork. Time: 6:30 PM, Leader: Colleen Mahaffey colleen.mahaffey@ymail.com (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153, We’ll leave a car at the Terraces parking area and begin the hike at Elbow Fork. Then hike from Elbow Fork back to the Terraces. So there will be a moderate ascent from Elbow and gradual descent from the ridge and back down to the Terraces. A very cool hike literally and figuratively. A special invitation to those holding passes to US Forest Service recreation areas. Meeting place is the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E.

SLG Sunday 8 June 8 strenuous all-day mountain bike ride out of Mantua. Contact Dan 5801-393-4603 for more information.

SLG Tues 6/10/14 Desolation Trail / Salt Lake Overlook. Time: 6:30 PM, Leader: Aaron Jones 801-467-3532 or ajonesmpsimon.com, The hike begins at the Desolation trailhead in Millcreek Canyon. The trail winds through dense pine and quaking aspen stands and leads to a magnificent view of the Salt Lake Valley.
The slope is moderately steep but expect a relaxed pace to enjoy the ambiance of the forest. Mileage for the hike is about five miles so bring 1-2 to share the user fee with the designated driver. Meet place is the Skyline High School parking lot (north end), 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S).

GGC Sat 6/14 Day Canyon key excavation. From UT-279 hike up Day Canyon (actually lower Bull Canyon) starting but five miles to a stock trail at the head. Take the trail up to the rim. Elevation gain is about 1800’.

SLG Sat 6/14 Lookout Peak: Time: 9:00 A.M., Leader: Fred Swanson (801) 588-0381, fswan32@msn.com, Reaching nearly 9000‘ feet at the head of Emigration Canyon. Lookout Peak offers expansive ridgeway views over filled mountain slopes. Beginning at the Emigration trailhead, we'll hike four miles each way, climbing 3000 feet for our reward. Bring sunscreen, rain gear, lunch and boots and sturdy hiking footwear. Call Fred for 9:00 a.m. meeting place (parking at the trailhead is limited), so we can rendezvous.

SLG Sun 6/15/14 Brighton Lakes. Time: 6:30 PM, Leader: Rebecca Wallace (801) 575-5267, rebeccawallace38@msn.com, The summer would not be complete without a drive up Big Cottonwood Canyon and a hike around the Brighton Lakes near the ski area. The mountain is high but the path is relatively easy, and the views of the surrounding peaks are stunning. Meeting place is the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. in the city. Park near details (overlooking Cottonwood Canyon—Colorado Ecoregion).

SLG Fri 6/20 - Sun 6/22/14 Fremont Indian State Park Car Camp and Summer Solstice Celebration. Leader: Aaron Jones (801) 467-3532 or ajonesmvp@msn.com. The park has a great diversity of easy campsites offering display an abundance of ancient petroglyphs. Especially interesting is the Canyons of Life panel displaying a celestial calendar that marks the solstice with a dagger of light. We will camp at the nearby Castle Rock campground. Early reservations are highly recommended and can be made at www.reserveamerica.com. If you are interested, contact leader.

SLG Tue 6/24/14 Killyons Canyon. Time: 6:30 PM, Leader: Fred Swanson (801) 588-0361, fswan32@msn.com. The trail in upper Emigration Canyon follows a gurgling creek frequented by song birds. Several interesting tree carvings tell of the shepherding days. Meet at the parking lot east of Hogle Zoo at Crestview Dr. and Sunrise Ave. (east side of road) at 6:30 p.m. Please don’t park more than five miles total. Fine views from Boren Mesa. Car shuttle or key exchange. (Those starting from the hairpin will have a 400yd. x 600yd. climb or a 600yd. descent.) Meet at: MIC, Main and Center Sts, Moab, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 johovey@gmail.com

OGJ Saturday June 28th, Butecker Jardin Peak in Saratoga Canyon: “This pleasant hike takes you to one of the most popular landmarks in the I-80 corridor; Logan Canyon and an ancient, still living, juniper tree. The age of the tree is estimated at about 1500 years old, making it the oldest juniper in the Short Creek region. At the ridge you will climb for about a mile to a junction sign with ‘Scenic Route to the right (overlooking Logan Canyon) and ‘Shady Route’ to the left (overlooking Cottonwood Canyon).” Approximately 11 miles round trip, this will be a long day, 9 AM to 5 PM, lunch and a few hours drive home. You will need to purchase a tag (1-2 per person total).

SLG Thurs 7/17/14 Catherine’s Pass from Little Cottonwood Canyon. 6:30 PM, Leader: Jim Paul (801) 580-9079, jim@sierraclub.org. From the high elevation trailhead at Albion Basin, hikers will ascend to Catherine’s Pass. If time allows, we will continue past the mile line to the Stansbury Peak which offers views of the Uinta Mountains to the east as well as alpine lakes below. Bring the usual mountain gear including 2-3 liters water, and a lunch and coffee for those meeting at the 7:00 PM. The summit is 10,186 feet above sea level and offers expansive views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. The top is quite windy so bring a wind shield and rain gear. Meet at the trailhead parking lot near the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd in SLC (the lot above the I-215 freeway exit, not the canyon mouth).

OGJ Saturday July 12 Full moon hike on old snow basin road. From artistic trail head: snowshoe to back and again back at 8:00pm Rainbow Gardens, bring water, call joppie for details. (801) 399-399-805 (over the I-215 freeway exit, not the canyon mouth).

SLG Sun 7/13/14 Big Cottonwood Canyon. Time: 10:00 AM,Leader: Fred Swanson (801) 588-0361, fswan32@msn.com. We will hike up past the host on a trail to the leader's choice in Big Cottonwood Canyon. If weather allows we'll head for a peak, otherwise follow a drainage such as Days Fork. Expect a 6-8 mile round trip with considerable elevation gain. Bring usual mountain gear including 2-3 liters water, sun and rain protection, and sturdy hiking footwear. Meet at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd in SLC (above the I-215 freeway exit, not at the canyon mouth).

SLG Thurs 7/17/14 White Fir Pass. Time: 6:30 PM, Leader: Dan and Colleen Mahaffy collieenmahaffy@frontiernet.net, (801) 544-4100 or (801) 554-7135. Cool meandering streams, tall pine stands, and a well maintained trail make the hike to the summit of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail travels up the Butte Fork drainage, where it is not unusual to meet moose browsing the streamside vegetation. Meeting place is the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd in SLC (the lot above the I-215 freeway exit, not the canyon mouth).

OGJ July 25th 2014: Packard Lake. This hike is located in Millcreek Canyon, a side basin in the High Uintas. The hike is strenuous covering about eight and one-half miles round trip, with an average elevation above 10,000 feet. Flat landers be warned! We will view Maas Peak, the East Peak of the Duchesne, and several high mountain lakes as well as mountain meadows. Call Larry @ 801-490-3335 for time and location.

SLG Thurs 7/19/14 La Sal Canyon/ Elbow Fork Cross-Over. Time: 6:00 PM, Leader: Connie 801-835-6304 or preferably modowsky@gmail.com. This cross-country hike was planned in December of the previous summer. Hikers will visit the next two days. Hikers will group up and park at Millcreek Canyon to the trailhead at Elbow Fork, the other to the trailhead at La Sal via Parley’s. We will meet at the ridgeline. Both sides are exquisitely beautiful mountainous landscapes with abundant wildflowers and deep woods. Car key exchange will be pre-arranged. Meet at 6:00 PM (note earlier time) at the Skyline High School parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S). Bring headlamps.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants are responsible for the consequences of their own actions. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair that monies charged by the U.S. Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Send the out-of-town liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/outing/chapters/forms/sign waiverPDF.

CST 207/766-40. Registration as a user of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
Dear Friend of Utah’s Environment,

Last year, our state government attacked Utah’s environment on an extraordinary scale. In 2014, our legislature and the executive branch are at it again at the expense of Utah’s iconic landscapes, clean water, and air quality! All they want is “drill baby drill.” The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is on the front lines protecting our environment right here in Utah. But to be successful we need your continued financial support. What will 2014 bring? More attacks from well-financed special interests and their friends, more battles with Utah lawmakers—bent on stripping environmental protections and awarding giveaways to dirty energy and corporate polluters—and even more threats to overturn hard-fought victories that have preserved Utah’s pristine forests, deserts, mountains, and wildlife.

Sadly, our enemies are making an impact:

- Clean water, which means life itself in our arid state, is becoming a rare commodity.
- Corporate polluters get away with numerous “accidental discharges”, and there is little incentive for businesses to update their pollution control equipment.
- Tourism and outdoor recreation, which add billions to Utah’s economy, are being sacrificed in favor of Big Oil, Big Coal and Big Development.
- Irresponsible off-road-vehicle usage continues to threaten fragile landscapes, wildlife habitats, and antiquity sites.

With your past support, we’ve acted on a number of important environmental issues. Many of these have carried over to 2014, including:

- Fight to restore air quality and hold major polluters accountable
- Halt the expansion of Salt Lake oil refineries
- Promote development of clean and renewable energy solutions
- Work for sensible transportation alternatives
- Stop the Castle-Green River Nuclear Power Plant boondoggle
- Re-write the Greater Canyons National Monument
- Halt the expansion of the Alton Coal Strip Mine
- Curtail fracking, the toxic scheme used to boost natural gas production

Thanks to your help, our Chapter achieved many significant successes in 2013, and placed us in an excellent position to face the challenges of 2014:

- BLM Utah Director Juan Palma pulled 57 parcels in and around Utah’s scenic San Rafael Swell from an oil and gas lease sale, thanks to the UCSC and a coalition of environmental groups.
- At the urging of UCSC and other environmental and agricultural businesses, a Nevada judge denied Las Vegas’ rights to water under several area valleys, including Utah’s Snake Valley.
- We welcomed over 700 new members to the Utah Chapter last year.
- Some 983 Utahns participated in 128 Chapter-sponsored outings and socials in 2013.
- We’ve better utilized social media to broaden the UCSC messaging reach.
- Check out our new FaceBook page, facebook.com/utahsierran, which already has over 600 ‘likes’.
- The Chapter’s modern, vibrant new website (utah.sierraclub.org) presents a daily snapshot of Chapter news. Visit it often to stay up on UCSC activities and information.

With your support of $50 or more in 2014, we can continue to build on the successes that we’ve achieved over the past year. Let’s be clear: Utah’s pristine landscapes and natural wonders are more in jeopardy now than ever before! The continuing battles to protect Utah’s clean air, public lands, clean water, and a host of other environmental concerns will play out in the courts and in Utah’s political arena. And the Utah Chapter Sierra Club will be there, fiercely defending every facet of Utah’s environment, every step of the way. But we need your continued support to have the resources necessary to maintain this crucial work in 2014. Help the Utah Chapter protect the state’s environment with a gift of $50 or more.

Best regards,

Dan Mayhew, Chair
Utah Chapter Sierra Club

P.S. Every dollar you give stays in Utah and helps preserve Utah’s pristine environment. Please use the convenient response form to send your check or credit card information today.

YES! I want to support the Sierra Club’s local work in Utah!

[ ] $500  [ ] $250  [ ] $100  [ ] $50  [ ] Surprise me! $_______

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Contributions and gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.