Don’t it always seem to go
That you don’t know what
you’ve got ’Til it’s gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot.”
-- Joni Mitchell

Imagine yourself somewhere in the redrock country of southern Utah. Maybe you’re walking in America’s newest national monument. Picture yourself stopping to scoop up a handful of iconic red sand and letting it sift through your fingers. Now say to yourself, “This is mine. I own it.” Because you do. You are a co-owner of our nation’s public lands, a status and a privilege you share with all Americans.

Public land ownership is our birthright. It is inextricably bound up with our heritage as Americans. Many understand and deeply believe that to end such ties to our public lands would be to change the character of our citizenship, and to change it for the worse.

Yet that is exactly what Utah’s legislature says it wants to do. In 2012, the legislature passed H.B. 148, the “Transfer of Public Lands Act.” The aim of the bill’s sponsors is to take the nation’s public lands away from the American people and give them to the State of Utah. (Since the passage of H.B. 148 the legislature has authorized up to $14 million to pursue a lawsuit against the U.S. government in order to take over public lands.) Utah state government has a history of supporting the commercial exploitation of wildlands, guided by the principle that such development is the highest and best use of the land. If the state were to take over our public lands, they would be far more likely to be drilled for oil and mined for coal and other minerals. Bogus right-of-way claims to faint vehicle tracks would be granted to counties hostile to wilderness protection.

Perhaps in an attempt to show some restraint, proponents of the land grab say that Utah would not demand control of the national parks and designated wilderness in Utah. But they very much want to take control of the Grand Staircase-Escalante.
Our Mission
The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is a grassroots volunteer organization dedicated to: Protect and promote Utah’s outdoors and natural landscapes; Educate and advocate for the responsible preservation of clean air, water and habitats; Support the development of sustainable renewable energy; For the benefit of present and future generations.

Utah Chapter Directory

Chapter Co-Chairs
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Jeff Clay, communications chair ..................................... jeffclay@clayhaus.net, (801) 582-3740
Sarah Fields, Nuclear Committee

UtahSierran Spring 2017

Public Lands Continued from Page 1

WHAT YOU CAN DO

In recent months we have witnessed an upsurge in engagement by people concerned about the threats to our public lands. The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club has mounted a campaign to oppose the legislature’s land grab goal. Called Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands, the campaign is reaching out to Sierra Club members, supporters and allies to educate Utahans about the issue and to put pressure on elected officials to oppose the takeover of our public lands.

To learn how you can make a difference, send an email message to Lawon LeGate at lawon.legate@gmail.com. And be sure to visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/keeppubliclands/ and our web page at http://keeppubliclands.com.

Out & About

Sierra Club Add-up Manager Ryan Dunfee, Chapter Chair Marc Thomas and Chapter Treasurer Ian Wade (l to r) at the 2017 January 27 Clean Air Rally.

THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR LOVE UTAH GIVE UTAH 2017

Make a donation of $10 or more to The Sierra Club Foundation to support the work of the Utah Chapter. Prizes ranging from $1,250 to $5,000 will be awarded by the Community Foundation of Utah to the non-profit agencies with the greatest number of unique donors rather than to the agencies raising the most funds. Turnout is the Sierra Club’s forte so make a donation, and get your friends and family to donate too. Almost everyone can afford $10! Your donations will be doubled by our corporate matching gift sponsors, Asurant, USA-Access, CreoTech, and Metcalf and Treasure Mountain Inn.

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DESIGN: Cecily Sakrison, Peridot Design

EDITOR: Mark Clemens
MISSION: To protect and promote Utah’s outdoors and natural landscapes.
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Destructive ATV Trail Proposal Near Canyonlands Resurfaces

by Wayne Haskisson

On Dec. 14, 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) again tried to bring back to life a proposed ATV trail and county right of way near Indian Creek and the entrance to the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. In August of 2015 the BLM responded to an appeal by the Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Great Old Broads for Wilderness by withdrawing the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record (DR). For the moment the ATV trail and right of way were dead. You can read about this victory in the Fall 2015 Utah Sierran. In that article we had the prescience to note, “We really need a new National Monument to preserve the beauty and quiet of this spectacular place. The proposed trail is inside both the Greater Canyonlands and Bears Ears National Monument proposals.”

We also noted the BLM has a tendency to resurrect bad ideas like an ATV trail through natural areas and lands with wilderness character. On December 14, 2016, the BLM resuscitated the Indian Creek ATV trail and granted San Juan County a right of way for the trail with a new FONSI and Decision Record. This was done without any continued public comment or opportunity to review their findings. The Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Great Old Broads for Wilderness and Grand Canyon Trust filed a notice of intent to appeal and a petition to stay the decision with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) on Jan. 13, 2017. The notice of intent and petition for a stay resulted in a 45-day stay halting the decision to grant a right of way and construct the ATV trail. Eventually the IBLA will decide whether or not to grant a hearing for an appeal. The stay will likely remain in place until the IBLA decides on the merits of our appeal. If the IBLA denies the appeal, we will appeal the decision in the U.S. District Court for Utah.

Our petition for a stay on the decision with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) on Jan. 13, 2017. The notice of intent and petition for a stay resulted in a 45-day stay halting the decision to grant a right of way and construct the ATV trail. Eventually the IBLA will decide whether or not to grant a hearing for an appeal. The stay will likely remain in place until the IBLA decides on the merits of our appeal. If the IBLA denies the appeal, we will appeal the decision in the U.S. District Court for Utah.

The Bears Ears Proclamation moves the authority to authorize a transportation system to the Monument. The Bears Ears Proclamation. We argue that the decision could not become final until after a 30 day appeal period which could end before Jan. 14, 2017, seventeen days after the Bears Ears Proclamation. The BLM decision to permit the Indian Creek ATV trail is subject to the Proclamation.

The Bears Ears Proclamation moves the authority to authorize a transportation system to the Monument. The Bears Ears Proclamation states, “For purposes of protecting and restoring the objects identified (in the Proclamation), the Secretaries shall prepare a transportation plan that designates the roads and trails where motorized and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use will be allowed…Any additional roads or trails designated for motorized vehicle use must be for the purposes of public safety or protection of such objects.”

Now all we need to do is make sure the Bears Ears National Monument remains protected.
When President Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument, cheers went up nationwide! One of the many groups tickled Cedar-Mesa-Sandstone-pink by the designation was the Club’s Utah Wilderness Grassroots Network Team, which spreads the word about protecting Utah’s wilderness-quality lands in their home states across the country. In addition to members in the Midwest, both coasts and elsewhere in the Intermountain West, the team has several active and committed members from Utah to ensure that its work stays relevant and connected to what’s going on locally.

During the campaign to designate the Bears Ears National Monument, for example, our team sent mailings to 1,000 Sierra Club members in California, Colorado, Florida, and Pennsylvania, encouraging them to write a postcard to the Council on Environmental Quality supporting a Bears Ears National Monument designation. The postcards were enclosed with our letter and were already addressed and stamped, making it super easy for Club members to weigh in. We also helped the Utah Chapter put together a similar mailing to 600 Utahns.

Our Team also supports America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA), a bill that would protect almost 9 million acres of wilderness-quality lands in Utah. To convince legislators to cosponsor the bill, the team lobbies Congress during the Utah Wilderness Coalition’s annual Wilderness Week in DC, and then the team lobbies them back home in their districts, reminding them that federal lands are the birthright of all Americans. We also organize mailings from constituents, much like we did for the Bears Ears with CEQ. And, we give presentations to chapters and groups in our home states to encourage them to help.

Members of the Utah Wilderness Team love Utah’s wildlands for all the reasons Utahns do, and we are so very thrilled with the Bears Ears designation. We will be working hard to defend it in 2017, and if there is ever anything we can do to help the Utah Chapter or your Group, please reach out. Questions? Contact Anne at anne.d.mckibbin@gmail.com

Grassroots Network Team Takes Support for Bears Ears Nationwide

by Anne McKibbin

It’s tough to determine how much CO2 comes from specific tools. The EPA estimates that of the 120 million devices in use, approximately 40 percent are lawnmowers. About 20 percent are trimmers, while the rest are leaf blowers, chainsaws, and snowblowers, among others. Here’s my annual appeal: You don’t need that mower anyway. Rip out your lawn and put that space to more productive use. During World War II, 40 percent of our produce was grown at home or in “victory gardens.” Post war, the culture changed: The aesthetic of the lawn prevailed, and wagering chemical warfare to annihilate dandelions—instead of eating them—became a lucrative industry.

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE OF SIERRA MAGAZINE

Gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment (GLGE) in the United States emits a total of 20.4 million tons of carbon dioxide per year, and that number is projected to reach almost 23 million tons in a few years, according to the EPA. This sounds like a lot, but it’s only about four-tenths of a percent of the more than 6 billion tons of CO2 we emit every year.

We burn a lot more gasoline going nowhere in cars than chasing lawnmowers or welding those detestable, snarling leaf blowers. But GLGE devices cough out a lot of other pollution, like 5 percent of U.S. nitrous oxide, a powerful global-warming gas.

Hey Mr. Green,

HOW MUCH CARBON DIOXIDE IS EMITTED FROM POWER TOOLS, SUCH AS HEDGE CLIPPERS, LAWNMOWERS, AND CHAINSAWS? CAN YOU GIVE AMOUNTS AS A WHOLE AND BY TOOL?

—Karen in Gainesville, Florida

ASK MR. GREEN:

Water in the West

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March 23-24, 2017

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Kevin Fedarko, author, The Emerald Mile
John Fleck, author, Water is for Fighting Over and Other Myths About Water in the West
Eric Freyfogle, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Stegner Lecture)
Jonathan Overpeck, University of Arizona
Pat Mulroy, UNLV (Keynote)
Brad Udall, Colorado State University

Our Team also supports America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA), a bill that would protect almost 9 million acres of wilderness-quality lands in Utah, by working to get as many Congressional co-sponsors as possible. The commitment that co-sponsors make to ARarra signals their intent to protect Utah’s wildlands, and is very helpful in defending against bad bills in Congress. To convince legislators to cosponsor the bill, the team lobbies Congress during the Utah Wilderness Coalition’s annual Wilderness Week in DC, and then the team lobbies them back home in their districts, reminding them that federal lands are the birthright of all Americans. We also organize mailings from constituents, much like we did for the Bears Ears with CEQ. And, we give presentations to chapters and groups in our home states to encourage them to help.

Members of the Utah Wilderness Team love Utah’s wildlands for all the reasons Utahns do, and we are so very thrilled with the Bears Ears designation. We will be working hard to defend it in 2017, and if there is ever anything we can do to help the Utah Chapter or your Group, please reach out. Questions? Contact Anne at anne.d.mckibbin@gmail.com
The outdoor industry loves Utah; does Utah love the outdoor industry?

Every year, millions of people visit public lands in Utah to climb, hike, ski, hunt and a heck of a lot more. I’ve skied, climbed and fished the wild streams of wild Utah for years. The American people own these lands — and Utah reaps the rewards.

Every year, outdoor recreation in Utah drives $12 million in consumer spending and supports 122,000 jobs across the state. Sure, we use these lands for energy and grazing and other things too. But access to the outdoors is the reason why so many of my friends consider Utah the ultimate place to live.

It’s also why the outdoor industry loves Utah. Every January and August, Patagonia and hundreds of other companies spend gobs of money to show our latest products at the Outdoor Retailer show. The whole thing is a cash cow for Salt Lake City. You’d think politicians in Utah would bend over backwards to make us feel welcome. But instead Gov. Gary Herbert and his buddies have spent years denigrating our public lands, the backbone of our business, and trying to sell them off to the highest bidder.

We love Utah, but Patagonia’s choice to return for future shows will depend on the Governor’s actions. I’m sure other states will lose any of the protections we have. I’m sure our voices are heard so we don’t lose any of our protections. “The thing I love about the Sierra Club, she said, “is that it lets me know when it’s time to stand up for the things we believe in, make our voices heard,” she added. Then she offered a word of warning to others: “We have to make sure, even more now, that we don’t lose any more of our protections” on these and other lands. “People need to speak up and make sure their voices are heard.”

As a Sierra Club volunteer and lifetime member, Leslie has filled many roles. It began in Nebraska, in the 1990s, when she lived there. Then she was transferred to Illinois, her birthplace, and volunteered as the secretary of the Illinois chapter. There she also met her husband, and together they moved to Utah in 2007 where she became secretary of the Utah chapter.

Leslie is also a dedicated Sierra Club volunteer. Of all the places she could volunteer, Leslie explained why she chose the Sierra Club, an organization she has belonged to and supported for more than twenty years. “The thing I love about the Sierra Club,” she said, “is that it does a lot. It’s a great group of really dedicated people who live the Sierra Club motto: Protect, Enjoy, Explore.”

Leslie Hugo

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 2017.

Volunteer Spotlight by Patty Becnel

Leslie Hugo is a volunteer from the top of Utah. Do you know someone who should be profiled in this column? Shoot her a message at jbecnel_patty at msn.com. And if you’d like to get more involved, the first step in volunteering is filling out the on-line volunteer questionnaire.
Moab City Council Votes to Join the Ready for 100% Trend

Moab City Council member Kalen Jones, Moab Mayor Dave Sakrison, Moab City Staffperson, Moab City Councilwoman Rani Derasary and Kim Stevens cut the ribbon at the inauguration of new solar electric panels on Moab City Hall, Wednesday, February 15.

Moab became the twenty-third community in the United States to commit to 100 percent clean, renewable energy on Tuesday. The Moab City Council unanimously approved a resolution establishing a community-wide goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2032. Moab is the third city in Utah to make this commitment following similar pledges from Salt Lake City and Park City, showing that mountain and outdoor sports communities are leading the way to a clean energy future.

“For Moab, one of the world’s great outdoor recreation destinations, the implications of climate change could not be more troubling. Rising temperatures, reduced water availability, economic instability, and other impacts threaten our residents and local economy. It is an imperative that Moab takes steps to protect our community and outdoor sports communities worldwide are recognizing the power of clean energy to solve it and taking the lead in a growing movement.”

“Our mountain and outdoor recreation communities worldwide are recognizing that we are at the forefront of the fight against the climate crisis,” said Kim Stevens, senior field organizer with The Climate Reality Project’s I AM PRO SNOW program. “Today, Moab joins the growing movement of communities with the I AM PRO SNOW 100% Committed campaign, committing to clean electricity and sending a message to the rest of the world that we are in charge of our electricity future.”

Utah is celebrated for its iconic national parks stunning visual scenery, and world-class recreational areas. Arches, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Bryce, and Zion national parks are an economic engine for the state’s economy and local recreation businesses that rely on the protection of these wild places. In 2014, more than 10 million visitors from around the world visited Utah’s national parks and added $730 million dollars to Utah’s economy. The tourism industry supports about 132,000 jobs, or about one out of every ten jobs in the state. Moab, as a gateway community to Canyonlands national park, relies heavily on tourism as part of the local economy. Rocky Mountain Power’s Hunter and Huntington plants are responsible for nearly 40 percent of all nitrogen oxide emissions from Utah’s electric sector, according to EPA emissions data. Monitoring studies have shown visibility at Arches and Canyonlands national parks, just on the outskirts of Moab, is diminished by human-caused haze 83 percent of the time relative to the annual average level of natural haze.

“Our new president may be a denier of the science behind climate change, but we who live in Moab know better. We are grateful that by transitioning to 100% clean and renewable energy, our community is not only protecting the health and well-being of its residents, but also ensuring that a livable environment will be part of its future,” said Marc Thomas, Moab resident and Utah Sierra Club Chair.

Make Solar Energy Work for You

Over the last five years, solar panel costs have declined about 40%, and panel efficiency has increased by about the same 40%. Now is a great time to consider your solar options. Join us at Creative Energies on Tuesday, March 28, from 5:30 to 7 pm to find out about the latest rooftop solar equipment, installation and pricing.

Solar Rooftop Electricity 101 Workshop
3/28/2017
5:30 to 7 pm
455 West 1700 South in Salt Lake City
(Creative Energies Building)

Please RSVP online.
FEBRUARY–JULY 2017

A abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [S] = service activities. All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, fireworks and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Introduce new participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, dates of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur in rapid increments, altitude, and changes in food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

February

OG Sun, 2/26 - X Ski or snowshoe Ice Box via Wheeler Creek. This beautiful scenic trail traverses Wheeler Creek then cuts down into the Ice Box canyon. Round trip is about 5 miles. Bring water and a snack. Meet at 8:30 AM at the east parking lot of the Utah Office of Tourism (i.e. Visitor’s Center), corner of 300 N and State St, Salt Lake City, 5100 S, 5th Avenue, 5150 S, 6250 E, or State Park Pass. Leader: Sally Aerts 360-774-1334 and Sven Solvik 360-390-8486 or vssen@msn.com

OG Sat, 3/11 Gourmet X-ski/Snowshoe. Join Jake Gildeden and company for a fantastic experience of your choice of cross-country skiing or snowshoeing near Ogden. As this is a gourmet outing please bring delectable treats to share. Adult beverages, chocolate, specially cheeses, delicious breads. What ever you like! Contact leader Jake at 801-394-0457 for exact location. Destination determined by weather, snow levels etc.

SLG Sat 3/18, Terraces to Ellbow Fork snowshoe Snowshoe in Millcreek Canyon. This snowshoe tour is another winter classic. We travel up the Bowman Fork drainage, cross over the ridges and through the spurs of Millcreek Canyons to the snowshoe summit and follow the snow-packed Millcreek Road back to our cars. Expect about 4 miles, 800 feet elevation gain and about a 3 hour tour. Bring snowshoes, poles, winter clothing, daypack, water and lunch. Meet at the Skyline High School parking lot (1321 E 3769 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84109) for carpooling at 10:00. Call or email organizer Rebecca Wallace, rebecca-walace38@msn.com or 801 557-5262 for more details or if weather is threatening (in case the trip is cancelled.)

April

OG Sat, 4/14 Sentry Peak Hike Antelope Island. Sentry Peak offers great views of the island and surrounding areas. It’s about 5 miles round trip to the top of the mesa and about 1000’ gain. If we’re lucky we may see baby bison! Bring water and lunch, there are tables at the top for a break. Meet 8:30 AM at the east parking lot of the Utah Office of Tourism (i.e. Visitor’s Center), corner of 300 N and State St, Salt Lake City, 5100 S, 5th Avenue, 5150 S, 6250 E, or State Park Pass. Leader: Sally Aerts 360-774-1334 and Sven Solvik 360-390-8486 or vssen@msn.com

May

OG Sat, 5/6 Anniversary Arch and South-Slump Rock Mesa. At the detached southwest tip of the mesa, work down to the lower right side canyon for about 50’ to connect with the canyon the canyoneers use to approach Entrajo. We’ll eventually get up onto a bench about 100 feet above the canyon which we’ll eventually drop us back into Entrajo just south of the potholes that begin the canyoneering course. Route is a fun bouldering to get to Cleft Arch and we’ll drop into Mill Creek via some old bike route (seems to me I’ve been told that it wasn’t “legal” bike trail... but I don’t know if that’s accurate, or not) past some pictured rock sandstone. There will be 2 creek crossings. Minor scrambling along the Entrajo Canyon canyoneering approach trail. However, this is a new well established trail. We’ll return to the vehicles at the end of the loop. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahmtb@yahoo.com

May Sun, 5/14, San Rafael Swell WSA Boundary Survey. Join the second of two survey trips to the Swell—see April 28-30 details for more info.

May Sat, 5/20-Sun, 5/21 Lavender Canyon Campout. Plenty of runs and arches in Laven- der Canyon! On Saturday May 20, we’ll rendez- vous at 8:00 AM and head down to the Needles! There is a 15 mile drive from 211 to the park boundary, “Road follows” in opposite direction of where deep sand, deep water and quicksand are common. Two major creek crossings; with some falling water. There is no vehicle camping allowed inside the park, so somewhere along the way, we’ll find suitable campsites for the group to set up camp. There should be time to day hike and explore from camp. On Sunday May 21, depending where we camped, we can either hike or drive to locked gate at the park boundary. Along the way, we will visit 6 Granaries Run which is just outside the park boundary. If we have drivers, once we reach the park boundary, we’ll park and start our hike. There are 5 Arches on the west side be- yond the park boundary. We’ll hike up to Cleft Arch near the head of the canyon and to some run ins beyond Cleft Arch. We should aim for an 8 AM start on Sunday so we can do a mod- est hiking in deep sand, maneuvering up and down steep slickrock bcents to get below Cleft Arch, and hand over hand climbing and bouldering to get to Cleft Arch very. Very weather dependent - any threat of even minor rain and we’ll need to postpone. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahmtb@yahoo.com

June

OG Sat, 6/10 Peekaboos Spring Through Hike. Given drive time and hike time, this hike will be a small group event. Hike for a group of 2 to 10. Start from the Visitor Center and head towards the hiking leaving vehicles at our exit point at the Horse Canyon gate near Cove Spring. We’ll start hiking from the Square Flat Loop A Trailhead and head towards Peekaboos Spring. Trail crosses Squaw and Lost Canyons as it con- tinues to Salt Creek Canyon. We’ll eventually travel along high slick rock benches with views of the mesa, work down to steep slopes and cliffs edges, two ladders must be down climbed. We’ll travel past the rock art panel, and down the Salt Creek Horse Canyon confluence to our accessing vehicles. 10.5 - 11 miles. Strenuous, mostly due to length. Some minor scrambling, mostly along established NPS trail. Salt Creek runs year-round, so you may get wet, but it can likely be avoided with some relatively minor effort. Time permitting, at the Salt Canyon Horse Canyon confluence, there is an option to travel up Horse Canyon to Paul Bunyon’s Potty Arch, but that would add 3 miles.

Looking for a fun way to help wild lands?

We have several service outings coming up. Find the one that works for you and join us on the trail. We can’t wait to see you out there!
Dear Friend of Utah’s Environment,

We are in the middle of the fight for our lives. The nation’s leaders, and many Utah politicians see our air, water and public lands as nothing more than profit generators meant to be stripped of value and discarded. The only chance we have of protecting our precious natural resources are people like you, who have so generously supported the efforts of our chapter in the past.

With your help, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club will be able to stay front and center in this on-going battle. We are relying on dedicated members like you to protect our state’s clean air, water, and public lands. Without you and your support, nothing that we do would be possible.

Here’s what we will be working on in 2017:

• Continuing the push to clean up Utah’s air
• Working to block the Public Service Commission and legislature from taxing solar rooftop power.
• Fighting to protect the watershed of the Wasatch, the Book Cliffs from tar sands and oil shale extraction, and the new Bears Ear National Monument.
• Harnessing our volunteer power to build support for cities across the country to be free of dirty renewables by 2020.

However you voted on November 8th, we know you didn’t vote for more asthma attacks because of dirty air or polluted drinking water or impaired public lands, and we’ll do everything in our power to fight for you. Your one-time gift of $100, $50 or $25 will help us gather the resources needed to fight all the attacks the new administration will try to make against the environment and your quality of life.

A monthly gift of $10 or $20 will help us maintain the fight throughout the next four years.

After the election, a wave of members and supporters contacted us to ask how they can volunteer and make an impact on the changed political scene. That outpouring made me tremendously grateful for the dedication of our volunteers. We’ve held training events for communications and fundraising volunteers. Our Political Committee and Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands Campaign have recruited many of these volunteers for their teams. And on April 1st, we’re holding a training event for new wilderness warriors who want to learn the best techniques for protecting potential wilderness areas.

But to empower this influx of volunteers, we need additional help. The Utah Chapter is planning to hire a new organizer to train and support volunteers in 2017, and we’ll need extra resources to sustain this position. Please make your most generous donation this year, and we’ll fight for our children’s future together.

Sincerely,

Marc Thomas, Chair
Utah Chapter, Sierra Club

P.S. Remember that 100% of your gift stays in Utah to support our local, volunteer-powered advocacy. Thank you!

Dear Friend of Utah’s Environment,

We are in the middle of the fight for our lives. The nation’s leaders, and many Utah politicians see our air, water and public lands as nothing more than profit generators meant to be stripped of value and discarded. The only chance we have of protecting our precious natural resources are people like you, who have so generously supported the efforts of our chapter in the past.

With your help, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club will be able to stay front and center in this on-going battle. We are relying on dedicated members like you to protect our state’s clean air, water, and public lands. Without you and your support, nothing that we do would be possible.

Here’s what we will be working on in 2017:

• Continuing the push to clean up Utah’s air
• Working to block the Public Service Commission and legislature from taxing solar rooftop power.
• Fighting to protect the watershed of the Wasatch, the Book Cliffs from tar sands and oil shale extraction, and the new Bears Ear National Monument.
• Harnessing our volunteer power to build support for cities across the country to be free of dirty renewables by 2020.

However you voted on November 8th, we know you didn’t vote for more asthma attacks because of dirty air or polluted drinking water or impaired public lands, and we’ll do everything in our power to fight for you. Your one-time gift of $100, $50 or $25 will help us gather the resources needed to fight all the attacks the new administration will try to make against the environment and your quality of life.

A monthly gift of $10 or $20 will help us maintain the fight throughout the next four years.

After the election, a wave of members and supporters contacted us to ask how they can volunteer and make an impact on the changed political scene. That outpouring made me tremendously grateful for the dedication of our volunteers. We’ve held training events for communications and fundraising volunteers. Our Political Committee and Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands Campaign have recruited many of these volunteers for their teams. And on April 1st, we’re holding a training event for new wilderness warriors who want to learn the best techniques for protecting potential wilderness areas.

But to empower this influx of volunteers, we need additional help. The Utah Chapter is planning to hire a new organizer to train and support volunteers in 2017, and we’ll need extra resources to sustain this position. Please make your most generous donation this year, and we’ll fight for our children’s future together.

Sincerely,

Marc Thomas, Chair
Utah Chapter, Sierra Club

P.S. Remember that 100% of your gift stays in Utah to support our local, volunteer-powered advocacy. Thank you!

A Look Back at 2016 Accomplishments

1) The Utah Chapter championed the proposed Bears Ear National Monument throughout the year. Volunteer leader Wayne Hoskinson continued the chapter’s participation in planning and co-ordination with the Bears Earl Inter-Tribal Council. Sierra Club staff in Washington, DC, lobbied the White House’s Council on Environmental Quality and the US Department of Interior in favor of the new monument. Chapter volunteers and National Utah Wilderness Team Leader Anne McKibbin assembled a postcard mailing in Utah to promote Bears Ear with the Obama Administration. And it worked!

2) Sierra Club support at the local and national levels laid the ground for introduction of the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act, HR 5718, that would limit ski resort expansion, permanently protect critical watershed lands and establish new wilderness lands in the Central Wasatch. Chapter volunteers played a crucial role in building the Mountain Accord through which agreement was reached on HR 5718 and will in future be indispensable in the success of the Central Wasatch Commission implementing the Mountain Accord agreements.

3) The Utah Chapter launched the Keep Public Lands in Public Lands and the Love the Lands Share your Stories campaigns. The two campaigns have convergent objectives: to build and provide channels for expression of the broad and latent support for retaining and protecting the greatest American heritage—its magnificent public lands. Visit KeepPublicLands.com and LovePublicLands.com to see how you can build the campaign’s momentum.

4) The Utah Chapter’s service outing program set new records in 2016. While existing commitments, such as the Ogden Group’s work to clean up the Ogden River and root out alien plant species, continued, new service outings burgeoned. Will McCord leads wilderness monitoring outings in the San Rafael Swell. Jim Catin orchestrates a citizen science campaign to monitor and control grazing impacts on and greater sage-grouse. Dr. Par Rasmussen leads service outings in Utah and around the country building and repairing trails and protecting resources in national parks.

5) At a time when we need to make the transition away from even cleaner fossil fuels such as natural gas, Utah’s political leaders are transfixed with the idea of promoting dirty fossil fuels such as oil shale and tar sands. The Utah Chapter drew a line in that tar sand and commissioned a study to see how evaluating the impacts of oil shale and tar sand development on water consumption and carbon pollution in the Colorado River Basin. The study results will inform our continuing battle against projects such as Enefit’s proposed oil shale mine south of Bonanza, Utah.

6) The Public Lands Initiative (PLI) was trumpeted three years ago as a process by which conflict over public lands in eastern Utah could be resolved through collaboration that would lead to better conservation outcomes as well as streamlined access for resource extraction. Utah Chapter volunteer leaders participated in most of the county meetings that discussed early proposals. But PLI turned out to be a disappointment to most Utahns living along the Wasatch Front so the Utah Chapter collaborated with SUWA to produce a citizens’ hearing on March 2, 2016, giving the rest of Utah population a chance to express their opinions. Community leaders such as former Representative Karen Shepherd and former San Juan County Commissioner Mark Maryboy denounced the process.

7) Sierra Club and its allies won a major victory through the Environmental Protection Agency’s decision on June 1, to require two of Utah’s largest coal-fired power plants to clean up pollution contributing to regional haze. The Hunter and Huntington plants will have to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by 76% in line with pollution controls on many other such plants. And the results? Fewer deaths and asthma attacks as well as increased visibility in our national parks and wildernesses. It was chapter volunteers making phone calls, submitting comments and attending hearings that turned the tide.

8) Sierra Club filed an appeal of the Utah Division of Air Quality’s permit for a new coal-to-liquids plant in Wellington, Utah on July 26th. The plant proposed to handle 750 tons of coal per day was licensed as a minor source of pollution and hence was not subjected to a requirement to use best available control technology. The club contends that by measures such as future carbon dioxide output and malfunctions not subjected to a requirement to use best available control technology. The club contends that by measures such as future carbon dioxide output and malfunctions

9) Our first annual Utah Sierra Club Jamboree unrolled from August 19 through 21 without a hitch. Great volunteers, great presentations, great food and great weather. We were indoors and outdoors at Camp Roger in Soapstone Basin in the Uinta Mountains where we learned about everything from wilderness boundary monitoring to the science of aew and from the club’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion campaign to everything we can do to save our farmlands.

10) Utahns’ thoughts are turning more and more to environmental protection. The Utah Chapter’s membership is up 5% from 2015, after a 4% increase over 2014. With over 4,200 paid-up members and over 26,600 supporters and digital activists, the chapter is increasingly a force to be reckoned with.

[ ] $500  [ ] $250  [ ] $100  [ ] $50  [ ] Surprise us! $ ______

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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.

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