The Sierra Club and our conservation partners, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, Grand Canyon Trust (GCT) and The Wilderness Society (TWS) have worked diligently for wilderness designation in the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) created by Rep. Rob Bishop and the rest of the Utah Congressional delegation. On Feb. 13, 2013, Rep. Bishop wrote in a letter to the Sierra Club, “In order to strike an appropriate balance between conservation and responsible development, and to create greater certainty for the citizens of Utah, I am pleased to announce that I am initiating a process to develop legislation that seeks to address many of the issues that have plagued public land management in eastern Utah.” The Sierra Club took Rep. Bishop seriously. We engaged with his staff, went on field trips with multiple stakeholders in many counties, and participated in county discussions to the extent possible. Some counties did not want or accept our participation and some engaged with the Sierra Club and our conservation partners. We saw the process as a chance to have wilderness designated, settle RS 2477 litigation, settle some oil and gas leasing problems and allow the counties to solve problems or gain benefits from some comprehensive legislation. Our purpose for engaging in the process was to resolve many long standing conflicts over public lands management in eastern Utah.

Utah Chapter a Key Player in Utah Public Lands Initiative
by Wayne Y. Hoshkisson and Amy Mills

T
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Our Mission

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club is a grassroots volunteer organization dedicated to:

- Protect and promote Utah's outdoors and natural landscapes;
- Educate and advocate for the responsible preservation of clean air, water and habitats; &
- Support the development of sustainable renewable energy;

For the benefit of present and future generations.

Utah Chapter Directory

Chapter ExCom (Terms Expire 12/31/2016)

Jeff Clay

Dan Mayhew, chair
dmayhew@comcast.net, (801) 712-5533
Amy Mills
amills3912@yahoo.com, (801) 557-5261
Ian Wade
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Terms Expire 12/31/2015

Dan Mayhew, chair
amills3912@yahoo.com, (801) 557-5261
Amy Mills
amills3912@yahoo.com, (801) 557-5261

National Sierra Club Elections are Underway—VOTING ONLINE!

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s web site. Your participation is critical for a Strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when your participation is high. Therefore your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates? Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club’s election web site for additional information about candidates.

http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election

Then make your choice and cast your vote!

Voting Online is Quick and Easy.

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than election day, April 9, 2015.
Welcome Lindsay Beebe – Utah’s New Coal Fighter

Greetings Sierra Club! My name is Lindsay Beebe, and I am the new Organizing Representative with Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign. It will be my job to initiate and progress the goals of the Beyond Coal Campaign here in Utah. It is with great excitement that I endeavor to transition Utah away from dirty coal power and towards a cleaner renewable energy future. As one of the most heavily coal-dependent states in the nation, Utah offers a unique set of barriers that make transitioning our electrical power infrastructure particularly challenging — from the prevailing political climate to entrenched corporate and special interests. However, in contrast to these factors, Utah also provides a wealth of renewable energy development potential. I am confident that Utah’s pioneering spirit will win out, and propel the state to take advantage of all that innovation and technology tell us are the future of energy policy.

I come to the Sierra Club after having spent two and a half years working on these same issues at HEAL Utah, another scrappy environmental organization some of you may be familiar with. I worked as an Intern and later as the outreach coordinator on many of the same campaigns that I now look to expand upon in my new position at the Sierra Club. I cherished my time at HEAL and value the perspective and experience I gained working for the underdog in the Wild West that is Utah energy development politics. When the opportunity arose, I could not pass up the chance to get another dog in the fight.

The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization working to retire coal-fired power plants in the country, and I am so pleased that the national Beyond Coal Campaign has rightfully recognized Utah as a worthy target for their considerable resources. The Beyond Coal Campaign has already won many victories across the country by shutting down coal-fired power plant units and promoting renewable energy development. Utah is ripe for these changes.

We lag behind all of our Western neighbors when it comes to renewable energy production per capita, ranking 13th out of the thirteen most western states. In addition, Utah leads the pack in percentage of power produced by coal, at roughly 80% — twice the national average. To add insult to injury, Utah’s largest utility, Rocky Mountain Power, has no plans to pursue large scale renewable energy development, according to their own Integrated Resource Plan projections. In fact, the share of energy Utah receives from renewable sources is forecasted to decrease by 2022, according to the same plan. We’ve certainly got our work cut out for us — so let’s get started!

If you would like to help bring about the change you would like to see in the world, please do not hesitate to contact me at lindsay.beebe@sierraclub.org. I look forward to hearing your ideas and working with you to build the movement. It is a great privilege to be able to unite my passions and my job together into one. I am so grateful for the opportunity to play a role. I hope you can join me, as we begin to envision Utah through the lens of this landmark campaign, confident that the Sierra Club and our allies are fighting for the absolute best future for our beautiful state.
Tesoro Oil Company has temporarily suspended plans for the Uinta Express Pipeline, a proposed 135-mile heated pipeline that would transport waxy crude oil from Duchesne, Utah, to an oil refinery in Salt Lake City. Tesoro announced that it is putting plans on hold until April. Because the pipeline would pass through US Forest Service land, the Forest Service had begun an Environmental Impact Statement. The EIS is also on hold until April.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club has been concerned about the potential environmental effects of the proposed pipeline. In addition to the land disturbance caused by installing and maintaining the pipeline, the pipeline would pose a threat to water quality in the event of a leak. The pipeline would cross the Kamas Valley, the Provo and Weber Rivers, the Wasatch, and several communities. Further, the project would bring additional fuel to oil refineries, increasing air pollution in the Salt Lake valley.

Read the blueprint with a discerning eye and then read Save Our Canyons comments as they are the primary environmental organization involved in the process.

Coincidentally, a Tesoro fuel line break in Salt Lake City fouled an area near Rosewood Park with 4200 gallons of diesel fuel on January 30. This event underscores the danger of fuel pipelines, despite regulations and the plans and promises given to the public.
OnEnergy

Why Utah Needs a Renewable Energy Standard
by Ian Wade

2014 was the warmest year since NOAA started keeping records in the late 19th century. Now in 2015 we are six weeks early in the arrival of summer and missing half of our snowpack. So the predictions of those scientists who have been warning of catastrophic change for decades are demonstrably coming true.

Despite strong support from Utahns and record low prices for installed solar and wind power, less than 3% of our power derives from non-polluting, renewable sources. Nowhere close to the aspirational goal of 20% set seven years ago.

A Stanford University survey in January this year found that 83% of Americans, including 61% of Republicans and 86% of independents, say that if nothing is done to reduce emissions, global warming will be a very or somewhat serious problem in the future. Some of our legislators are starting to acknowledge the problem with Senator Hatch going on record in a Senate vote saying humans are contributing to climate change. More recently Congressman Jason Chaffetz switched from climate change denial to saying he is committed to find and support the best solutions.

So what is the biggest source of emissions in Utah that we might try to reduce? Top of the list of polluters, not just in Utah but in the eleven western states, is Rocky Mountain Power. Fifty million tons of carbon pollution comes from our power plants each year, according to the National Resource Defense Council. Only 3% of our power generated in Utah comes from renewable sources, and the rest is from coal and natural gas.

In fairness to Rocky Mountain Power they have sufficient generating capacity for the next decade and no incentive to do anything than supply us with the most economical power, which means not spending money on new capital projects involving renewable energy. Hence Utah will continue to rank last of the eleven western states in solar and wind energy despite it being the most preferred way people would like their power to be generated.

Changing this sad state of affairs will involve creating a mandatory standard for a certain amount of power to be generated from renewable sources. Again Utah is lagging as one of three western states without a mandatory standard.

In 2008, the Utah Legislature established a vision to promote clean energy jobs, improve air quality and protect Utahns from dangerous climate change with a clean energy goal of 20% of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025. Senate Bill 202 passed both houses without a single no vote. However despite strong support from Utahns and record low prices for installed solar and wind power, less than 3% of our power derives from non-polluting, renewable sources. Nowhere close to the aspirational goal of 20% set seven years ago.

Along with other Activists for Clean Energy (ACE) such as HEAL, Utah Clean Energy, Utah Physicians for a Clean Environment, Utah Citizens Advocating for Renewable Energy, Citizens Climate Lobby and others the Sierra Club is gathering petition signatures to have a mandatory standard of 20% by 2025. Please check this out at the link below and get your friends and colleagues to sign it too.

Ian Wade is the clean energy and climate stabilization spokesperson for the Utah Chapter.
March

SLG, Sun 3/12, Guardman Pass
Snowshoe. Join Pete and Rebecca for a snowshoe hike to the ridgeline, where the views of the surrounding mountain peaks and valleys are amazing. This is a winter snow gate on Guardman Road up Big Cottonwood Canyon, and proceed up along the ridgeline. (Our trail starts right next to the road.) Total trip will be 1 to 4 hours, expect about 1500 feet of elevation gain. Meet at 10:00 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 4600 South Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth). Please call or email organizers if winter conditions are challenging, as this may require us to modify or cancel the outing. Leaders: Rebecca Wallace, 801-557-5261, rebeccawallace38@mtn.com or Pete Mimmack, pmimmack@gmail.com.

GGC, Sat 3/28, Herdina Park via Willow Spring Wash. We hike into Herdina Park from Willow Springs Road and near the Arches N.P. western boundary and explore a variety of routes. Approx. 8 miles, 5 hours MODERATE. Some moments of discomfort possible for some people uncomfortable with heights. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Alby M Reiner 245-269-8708.

April

GGC, Sat 4/11, Lone Mesa From Tusher Canyon. From the head of Tusher Canyon, scramble up to the Moab Member (biscuit rocks) bench on Lone Mesa. Continue on the bench to a break in the biscuit rocks and scramble up to the top of Lone Mesa. Sweeping views in all directions. At least high clearance of your vehicle to drive up the trailhead. Steep climbs on talus and through boulders. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

OG, Sat 4/18, Beus Canyon Hike.
Join Dan as he walks up Beus Canyon for a hour, The lower portion of the trail is as easy climbs, towards the fern valley. Call Dan at 720-936-0599 for meeting time and place, be sure to take water.

SLG, Tues 4/21, Mt. Van Cott
Mountains, the road, wild flowers should be out at this time. Meet at Rainbow Gardens at 7:30 or trailhead at 8. Joanie 801-399-0034

SLG, Sun 5/17, Grandeur Peak Cross-Over. Slightly more difficult than a leisurely hike. We park at the Wasatch hike up the trailhead, then drive up Millcreek Canyon to start our hike at the Church Fork trailhead. A 2600 foot ascent and 3000 foot descent down the west side completes this six-mile-long hike, which takes about 5 to 6 hours. Bring lunch plus snacks, at least 2 liters of water, hiking boots, hat, layers of clothing and optional trekking poles. Meet at 10:00 am at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Updgrade (37603). For further information, contact Rebecca Wallace (rebeccawallace38@mtn.com or 801-537-5261) or Bruce Hamilton (801-819-9455 or bhamis@sbox.com) for more information.

SLG, Tues 5/19, The Living Room.
The Living Room is an outcropping of rocks carved partly by nature, mostly by human hands into comfortable living room furniture overlooking the Salt Lake Valley and the Great Salt Lake. From trailhead to destination is about 2 miles of moderately steep hiking but well worth the effort. Meet at 6:30 pm on Colordo Rd. in the University of Utah Research Park, midway between Wakara Way and Tabby Lane. This is south of the entrance to the Red Butte Gardens. Leader: Nancy Ivy 801-478-1283 or nancyivy@hotmail.com.

GGC, Sun 5/23, Dama Point.
Visit an Entrada Slick rock bowl and perhaps explore the upper reaches of Red Canyon. About 20 miles from US-191 on the Blue Hills and Duma Point/Tim Point graded roads. Access from the Duma Point road formerly a spur to a stock tank is now a single track route that will walk. Easy slickrock walking in the bowl. The La Sals, Rainbow Rim and Lost World visible in the distance. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J. Messenger 435-259-1756 messenger35@gmail.com.

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Cottonwood Canyon, the Mill B trail begins 690-4335 for time and location. are seen in Wheeler Canyon as you follow downhill trial passing through maple, to the Wheeler Creek trailhead. This is a We will hike from the Maples trailhead OG, Sat 6/13, Snow Basin area. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 to the start. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red mg.com.

SLG, Thurs 6/11, Big Mountain. Help us inaugurate a series of Thursday afternoon hikes which will leave at 4:30 pm. We will hike from the Maples trailhead OG, 7/22-27, Claire Tappan Lodge – State of California. in the predominately dark red inclusions in the recently excavated dinosaur trackway GCG, Sat 6/27, Delta Pool+

SLG, Thurs 6/25, Red Pine Lake. This favorite Little Cottonwood Canyon hike starts at the trailhead, crosses the stream, and climbs steadily through aspen groves to Lower Red Pine Lake. Enroute there are outstanding canyon views of the Uinta Mountains and the Little Cottonwood Canyon. The six-mile round trip involves 1900 feet of elevation gain. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Little Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride lot, 4323 E Little Cottonwood Canyon Rd. (mouth of the canyon on the north side). We plan to return to the trailhead about 8:00 AM. Leader: Jim Paul, (801-580-9079, jimpaul@isn.com).

GGG, Sat 6/13, Pfeifbald Terraces. Drive up Karen Springs Canyon to the bottom of the grade up to Hunah Pass. Explore the Cutter terraces that climb gently toward the high canyon rim saddle of Hunah Pass. There are strange white inclusions in the predominantly dark red sandstone. Hike on the ascending terraces at various levels, looking down in some places. Many interesting erosional shapes. Return to the start. Meet: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Albey M Reiner 435-260-8708.

SLG, Thurs 7/2, Sunset Peak. From Brighton at the head of Big Cottonwood Canyon we will ascend to Catherine Pass and continue on past tree line to Sunset Peak, which offers fine views of the Uinta Mountains to the east as well as the alpine lakes below. Meet at 4:30 pm at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. (1 mi north of the canyon mouth) at 6:30 pm. Leader: Jim Paul, (801-580-9079, jimpaul@isn.com).

SLG, Sat 7/11, White Fir Pass. The pleasant woodland hike begins at the Terraces picnic ground in Millcreek Canyon and takes us along a shady stream to the pass, where we will be greeted with mountain vistas and giant white fir. The trail offers a cool and refreshing hike through lush undergrowth and tall conifers. Meet at 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmps@msn.com for more information.

SLG, Thurs 7/2, Thaynes Canyon-Desolation Trail Loop. One of Millcreek Canyon’s longer and steeper hikes, this heavily shaded 4-1/2 mile loop is perfect for a hot summer afternoon. We climb more than 2000 feet to the junction with the Desolation Trail, then follow this route, which is bushy in places, down to the Salt Lake Overlook for a rest. Easy downhill switchbacks lead from here to the trailhead. Long pants are recommended. Bring a snack, sweater, raingear, plenty of water and a good headlamp. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Call or email Fred Swanson for details, 801-588-0361 or fbswan32@msn.com.

SLG, Fri 7/3, Back/3-1/2, Out. On Beyond Albion Basin Blue Moon Car Camp. We have two campsites reserved for a perfect weekend in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Friday evening we will walk through splendid fields of wildflowers to view not only a full moon, but a blue moon or the second full moon of a month. Saturday and Sunday we can choose from a wide array of hikes including Cecret Lake, Grizzly Gulch, and the beautiful Mayflower Lakes area. Expect ample time for relaxing and socializing. A deposit of $25.00 is requested by July 1 to defray expenses. Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmps@msn.com for more information.

August
OG, 8/14-16, Great Basin Car Camp – SLG & Ogden Joint Camping Fun. This car camp trip is scheduled on a new moon phase so we can enjoy the star shapes. The area boasts some of the darkest night skies left in the United States. Low humidity and minimal light pollution, combined with low elevation, create a unique window to the universe. If you have star knowledge and a telescope please bring We will also be hiking to an ancient Bristle Cone pine forest, some trees to be dated over 4,846 years. And for the adventuresome folks a hike to Wheeler Peak the second tallest peak in Nevada can be added. During down time we’ll be practicing survival skills, bring what you have, and share your knowledge. The Park does not charge an entrance fee, Lehman Cave tours and camping is charged. If you are planning to join us please RSVP no later than May 1. Reservations can be made for the cave tours, a fee of ten dollars for the Grand Palace Tour will be charged by the Park. Camp site is limited to twenty humans, (no dogs) call early to reserve your spot. Camp ground details will be provided when you reserve your spot. Meet promptly at 6:30 pm at the Skyline High School east parking lot, 3251 E. Upland Drive (3760 S.). Call Aaron Jones at 801-467-3532 or email ajonesmps@msn.com for more information.

Utah Sierra Club does not have insurance for car camp participants and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing 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 US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/ outings/checkout/forms?sgn=meawyer/PDF_CRT 207/16-40. Registration as a user of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
Dear Friend of Utah’s Environment,

The Utah Chapter, Sierra Club is poised in 2015 to take advantage of opportunities to make profound conservation changes that would benefit all Utahns. We need your support to move forward on the following initiatives.

**RED ROCK CONSERVATION THROUGH POLITICAL CHANGE**

The chapter’s Glen Canyon Group found itself at loggerheads with a majority of members of the Grand County Council on issues ranging from new wilderness designation to a massive new oil and gas field on the doorstep of Canyonlands National Park. Sierra Club volunteers led a quiet revolution at the ballot box in November that resulted in the pro-development majority on the council being replaced by decidedly greener members. Glen Canyon Group volunteers will work with the new council to diminish threats to Greater Canyonlands and to create a set of county-wide conservation recommendations that could be implemented by Congress. With your help we’ll keep up this critical conversation and involve a wide spectrum of club members and conservationists.

**INCREASING RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Last Summer Utah Chapter volunteers and staff collaborated with a broad coalition of groups opposed to Rocky Mountain Power’s proposed tax on homeowners with solar electric panels. We brought together faith communities, prominent politicians, economists, community councils and solar businesses to speak with one voice to the Utah Public Service Commission. The Commission voted two to one against the tax. In 2015 we will be upping the ante to challenge Rocky Mountain Power’s long-range plan that has 97% of Utah energy coming from coal and gas. We will be seeking a guaranteed standard of 20% of Utah’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025. Only with your help can we carry this campaign to success with rallies, outreach and lobbying needed to make our case.

**HEARING THE SAGE GROUSE’S CONSERVATION CALL**

Chapter volunteers work on the ground and in the halls of power to protect Utah’s parks and natural lands with the incredible diversity and richness of animals and plants that make their homes there. An example is the Sage Grouse. Once found by the hundreds of thousands across the West this noble bird’s has now dwindled to dangerously low numbers as a result of the unchecked oil and gas boom and the chronic effects of over grazing. Our volunteers will continue to work for more scientific and protective management of our public lands, but your advocacy and support can extend our reach.

**FIGHTING FOR AIR QUALITY**

For years the Sierra Club has made improving air quality a priority by fighting refinery expansions in Salt Lake and Davis County, working to prevent a massive increase in pollution from an expanded Kennecott mine and reducing pollution from sources such as the Stericycle incinerator and the manufacturer US Magnesium. We’ll continue these efforts in 2015 too, but we need your help to support litigation, communication and volunteer activism.

Virtually no other conservation organization has the reach, experience and commitment of the Utah Chapter, Sierra Club, but future success depends on your continuing support. Please consider making a gift in 2015 of $50 or $100.  

Yours truly,

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.

| $500 | $250 | $100 | $50 | Surprise! $________ |

Please make checks out to: Sierra Club Utah Chapter or donate online: www.utah.sierraclub.org

Please select a payment method: [ ] MasterCard [ ] Visa [ ] Discover

Credit Card Number: ____________________________  Expiration (mm/yy): __________

Signature: ____________________________________

Email (help us continue to save paper): ____________________________

[ ] Send me information so I can include Sierra Club in my estate plans.

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

utahsierraclub.org