Highway overpasses for wildlife have lowered vehicle-critter collisions by over 80% in Canada. Find out about our plans to import them to Utah on page 3.

Disneyland in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Why isn’t that a good idea? Turn to page 8.

Utah Chapter Sierra Club
2159 South 700 East, Suite 210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO

Utah Wilderness Activists Besiege Congress

In the 111th Congress, there were 168 House of Representatives and 23 Senate Cosponsors for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). During the last week of February, the Utah Wilderness Coalition, of which the Sierra Club is a founding member, sponsored a lobby week in Washington, DC, to contact members of the 112th Congress to encourage them to renew their co-sponsorship of the bill and to gather new co-sponsors.

Our groups have a range of outings to suit any taste. Everyone’s welcome. Check out the service outings and the Tuesday Night Hikes. More details on page 10.

If you support the chapter’s efforts, please join.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag.

 brackets, gift cards, Sierra Club shopping bags, and other dischargeable. The supplier is the Sierra Club’s preferred vendor for the Weekender Bag.

The Yellowsomte grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America’s natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act in 1973, the grizzly bear has made a strong recovery, but there is still more work to be done. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods without being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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![Image of grizzly bear]

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Bear in mind the consequences.

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Bear in mind the consequences.
Wayne’s World

Mountain Madness
by Ann Wechsler

The very future of this irreplaceable mountain and canyon resource, unique to a county that has just surpassed a million souls, is at stake.

The mountain in question is Mount Superior in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The madness is Snowbird’s proposal for a roller coaster that will snake across the flanks of Superior, requires a bridge to cross Scenic Byway 210, and complete a vertical drop of 383 feet when docking at the Snowbird plaza.

Is there a rationale for Snowbird’s aggressive expansion? If you’re focused on profit, any new mechanical thrill can be used to increase market share, at least for awhile. Snowbird wants a means to increase its summer visitation, and they own the land on which this coaster is proposed. That’s no surprise when they’ve been expanding their acreage relentlessly for three decades, south of the road, over the ridgeline into Utah County canyons (one canyon wasn’t enough!) and now onto the undeveloped iconic Mount Superior. They have also enlisted the help of a member of Utah’s congressional delegation – Rob Bishop – who has introduced HR 765, the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity and Enhancement Act, hence, summer thrills.

For decades, valley residents and public officials alike have extolled the east side canyons for their beauty, their unparalleled opportunities for dispersed recreation (no longer abundantly available on the valley floor), and not least for their pure drinking water for a thirsty, growing population. Even more notable, Salt Lake City and County residents have repeatedly emphasized protection for the canyons, especially for Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, which have experienced staggering increases in usage over the past two decades.

Summer enhancement legislation would promote even greater usage, and would undoubtedly remove some of those pesky hurdles that local governments are accustomed to. But a particularly insidious feature of this proposal is that there are few hurdles in place to sustain those protections that were so ardently encouraged. The Salt Lake County Planning Commission swiftly and unanimously approved the mountain coaster on January 12, with little public knowledge and severely limited input. Could it be that Darlene Baratian, consultant to Snowbird and a member of the County Planning Commission, had a hand in the process? The proper recourse now is for the County Board of Adjustment to reverse that seemingly capricious decision.

The Utah Chapter has worked with The Citizens’ Committee to Save Our Canyons, over many years, to protect the wildness and beauty of the Wasatch Canyons. But for the madness to be curtailed, it will require all valley residents to monitor the actions of elected officials. The very future of this irreplaceable mountain and canyon resource, unique to a county that has just surpassed a million souls, is at stake.

Greater Grand Canyon Colorado Plateau Ecosystem from the Condor’s Perspective

The California condor, North America’s largest land bird with a wing span of nearly 10 feet, once roamed the American Southwest and West Coast. But their numbers dramatically declined in the 20th century due to poaching, lead poisoning, and habitat destruction.

By the early 1980s the condor was on the brink of extinction, with a total population of a mere 22 individuals. To save the bird, the most species-specific conservation project ever undertaken in the United States was set in motion, involving the controversial capture of all remaining wild condors in 1987, and captive breeding at the San Diego Wild Animal Park and the Los Angeles Zoo. Despite the long odds, the captive breeding program succeeded, and four years later condors were reintroduced into the wild.

As of February 2010, there are 348 condors known to be alive, including 187 in the wild. About half of these wild condors live in the coastal mountains of California and northern Baja California. The rest fly free over northern Arizona and southern Utah, including a growing number that have been raised in wild nest caves in or near Grand Canyon National Park.

The Greater Grand Canyon - Colorado Plateau ecosystem includes significant biological diversity due to its range of elevations and microclimates. Most of the area is semi-desert, but with elevations ranging from just over 1,000 feet at the Colorado River to 12,600 feet atop the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, the area supports diverse habitats, from cacti and desert scrub to pithon pine, juniper, and spruce-fir forests.

Climate change has caused this already arid region to become even drier, and even with welcome rains in early 2010, Arizona remains in a condition of “severe drought” that has lasted well over a decade. A 2008 scientific study warned that human-induced climate change could result in a 98-year drought for the American Southwest.

The Sierra Club is working with Grand Canyon National Park to reduce the park’s carbon footprint, helping different agencies in the region coordinate their efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and working hard to protect old-growth forests that offer critical wildlife habitat. The North Kaibab National Forest, part of the Greater Grand Canyon - Colorado Plateau Ecosystem, contains the most extensive old-growth forest in the Southwest, and represents a prime opportunity to restore the ponderosa pine ecosystem and protect old-growth-dependent species like the Kaibab squirrel, found nowhere else on earth.

Among the Sierra Club’s objectives for the Greater Grand Canyon - Colorado Plateau ecosystem:

• Obtain an administrative mining withdrawal for one million acres of public lands near Grand Canyon National Park
• Pass the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act in Congress
• Stop the Warm Fire salvage sale on the North Kaibab National Forest, near Grand Canyon National Park
• Limit off-road vehicle activity on Bureau of Land Management lands on the Arizona Strip, between the Grand Canyon and the Utah border, protecting the monuments’ resources including the California condor and the desert tortoise
• Improve or defeat the San Juan County, Utah, Wilderness Bill
• Improve the Dixie National Forest plans on oil and gas leasing, off-road vehicles, and grazing to promote resilient habitats
• Working with Native American tribes to stop the Arizona 1 uranium mine from moving forward


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Two of my friends were driving home one evening when they hit a beautiful male deer buck. The buck was thrown onto the hood of their car and his antlers went through the windshield, pinning my friend Vicky in her seat. Fortunately she was a slim woman and the antlers penetrated the seat on either side of her. It did take several hours to get her out. She suffered a broken arm, and their car was totaled.

We plan to investigate and gather information on the number of wildlife collisions on US 6.

In some ways my friends were very lucky. Vicky recovered and insurance helped them replace the car. Many people are not so fortunate. Last November, the Logan Herald-Journal reported the Jack H. Berryman Institute found that 30% of deer deaths were from vehicle-wildlife collisions. One of those ways is to establish and protect corridors between core habitat areas so wildlife can move from one place to another as they need to in order to survive. The establishment of corridors includes helping wildlife cross particularly dangerous highways like US 6.

The Sierra Club's Resilient Habitat campaign is working to help wildlife survive climate change in a variety of ways. One of those ways is to establish and protect corridors between core habitat areas so wildlife can move from one place to another as they need to in order to survive. The establishment of corridors includes helping wildlife cross particularly dangerous highways like US 6.

As part of the 2011 Resilient Habitat campaign goals, we plan to investigate and gather information on the number of wildlife collisions on US 6. We want to quantify financial losses to insurance companies from vehicle damage and human medical treatment. Armed with these facts, we hope to develop a partnership between a variety of interested parties both governmental and non-governmental to fund, construct, and scientifically implement a safe wildlife crossing system across US 6.
Utah Wilderness Activists Besiege Congress
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Besides the Utah volunteers, there were many volunteers from across the country who care about wilderness in Utah and joined us for the lobby effort. My partner, Dr. Art Robins, from Massachusetts, loves to hike, camp and explore the red rock country in Utah with his wife.

Art and I met with the delegations from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire. It was a learning experience for me to see just how much nation-wide support exists for ARRWA and Utah wilderness. The senators and representatives from New England were generally enthusiastic in their support for the wild lands of Utah. They supported Secretary Salazar's BLM Wild Lands Policy and the president's authority in the Antiquities Act to name national monuments, both of which are very important to us.

The wilderness activists from Utah were able to meet with Senator Lee, Congressman Matheson and Congressman Chaffetz as well as staff members from Senator Hatch's and Congressman Bishop's offices. The major thing we asked for from our own Utah delegation was a seat at the table from start to finish when decisions regarding wild lands in Utah are made. Thanks to my fellow volunteers who made time to go to Washington.

In 2011, the chapter will continue its effective advocacy on behalf of clean, renewable energy. That also means that we have to put the brake on coal and other fossil fuel development that does not use adequate environmental safeguards. We'll be ramping up our work to protect Utah's public lands and wilderness and in focusing in particular on protecting the resilient habitat needed for biodiversity to survive.

But if you value our work, we'll need your help. Please contribute as generously as you can.

Fred Adler
Mike & Jean Binyon
Warren Brodhead
Dale Davis
James & Susan Ferguson
Jock Gildren
Ted & Tucker Gurney
Bonne Hooer
Richard Jink
Ranee Johnson
Marion Klaus

To protect our members' privacy, no publishing preference is specified, we do not publish contributors' names. If you don't see your name listed and would like for it to be published in the next issue, please call Mark at (801) 467-9297. We try hard to spell people's names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

ThankYou
MARCH 2011 FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to the Utah Chapter's 2010 or 2011 fundraising drive. Additional contributors to the 2011 will be acknowledged in the next issue. Thanks also to the many members who contributed anonymously.

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Volunteer Corner

If you value the Chapter's work, why not get involved and be a part of the action? Our success would not be possible without a strong core of volunteers who are passionate about our great state and its wild places. There are currently several ways to become more active in the Chapter, including:

ATTORNEYS WANTED
There are three different roles a legal chair can fill:

Legal COORDINATION
The most important role is chapter litigation coordinator. The litigation coordinator would learn and understand the "new matter procedures," and be able to steer issues through the process in a timely manner. This person would also keep track of all the different litigation the chapter is involved in, making sure that the individual case liaisons (issues activists responsible for an individual case) report, as needed, to the chapter Executive and to the national litigation coordinator. Finally, this person would use legal contacts to help find pro bono attorneys for club litigation.

Legal ADVICE & JUDGMENT
This role involves helping provide legal experience and advice when the chapter finds itself in delicate or sticky legal situations. For example, the chapter may have a suit that is not going well and wonder if the attorney is not doing the job well. An experienced legal adviser can provide invaluable reassurance to the chapter that the lawyer is doing an excellent job or, occasionally, that the chapter's suspicions may be well-founded. Often, our attorneys may suggest a particular legal course that doesn't sound appropriate to lay people activists. An experienced legal adviser can help evaluate the proposed course.

Legal REPRESENTATION
This role is of lesser importance. The purpose of a legal chair is NOT to be the chief litigator for the chapter, but many active legal chairs do at times represent the Club. The three roles may be filled by one legal chair, or by a legal chair working in conjunction with other legal committee members. Only the second and third roles require experience with environmental law. This position focuses on conservation legal advice, though some chapter legal chairs or legal committees also provide business advice.

For more information, contact utah.chapter@sierraclub.org.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE
Volunteers on the chapter's political committee work to preserve the environment through bipartisan political action, to elect environmentally supportive candidates, and to advance the Sierra Club's legislative program. Frequently we have a lot of fun along the way.

The chapter's political committee is responsible for identifying and supporting candidates for public office who best represent the goals of the Sierra Club on environmental issues and legislation. The chair is responsible for ensuring compliance with Sierra Club electoral policy and compliance with state and federal election laws.

The committee assembles information on candidates through review of legislative records, questionnaires, interviews, past Sierra Club contact, assessment of the campaign, and information of members. The committee makes recommendations and may serve as one of the official voting bodies of the chapter required to review and vote on proposed endorsements or other political action short of endorsement.

The chair and committee are responsible for preparing materials on state level endorsements, and presenting them to the chapter executive committee for approval. The chair is responsible for ensuring that group political committee chairs and volunteer members receive information on compliance with election laws.

The committee sets priorities for chapter effort on endorsed campaigns and assists in training volunteers to participate effectively and coordinate with campaigns, and in all aspects of political action such as fund raising, door-to-door, press releases, and so forth. Political Committee Chair Susan Stewart is happy to be a mentor. Contact her at susan.ryon@icloud.com.
State of the Chapter

Hello! My name is Marion Klaus and I am the new Utah Chapter Chair. Thank you very much for this opportunity to serve the Utah Sierra Club community.

We hope to inspire more people to actively engage with us in order to achieve our conservation goals for Utah.

I have been a Sierra Club member for many years and am an experienced outdoorswoman. I grew up skiing and have enjoyed various forms of this sport throughout my life. In high school, I attended a climbing camp in Estes Park, Colorado, that initiated me to the sport of mountaineering. At the University of Wyoming, I climbed, skied, and backpacked with the Outings Club. I also spent several years kayaking and paddled the Snake River through Hoback Canyon. I have enjoyed sea kayaking in the Kenai Fjords of Alaska and in the Sea of Cortez in Mexico. I have climbed, hiked, or backpacked in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Sawtooth mountains of Idaho, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and Anastasia-Pintler mountains of Montana, and the Uinta mountains, Arches, and Capitol Reef National Parks in Utah.

Internationally, I have climbed, hiked and/or backpacked in the Bugaboos, Banff, and Scapegoat wilderness in British Columbia, Hinchinbrook Island and Kudjap National Parks, Australia, Gunung Leuser National Park Sumatra, the northern hill country of Thailand, walked around the Kerry Peninsula, Ireland and climbed six Munros in Scotland.

Professionally, I am a biologist (B.S., M.S., Ph.D) and conservation biology is an important part of my work. I conducted field studies in Grand Teton National Park, the Beartooth-Abiakorko mountains, the Wind River mountainous and the Bighorn mountains. I spent a month in the upper Amazon basin with a team to describe the primary tropical forest there and almost a year in Costa Rica working on a small mammal survey in the dry tropical forests of the Area de Conservacion Guanacaste where I did find a new mammal.

I am very excited about the opportunities that lie before us here in Utah to conserve the many stunningly beautiful places we are lucky enough to have and to protect them from the onslaught of threats that loom large.

Wayne Hoskisson, my predecessor, served as Utah Chapter Chair for the past three years and is a long time Sierra Club activist in Utah. Fortunately for all of us, Wayne continues his service with the Utah Chapter ExCom in the position of Wilderness Chair and delegate to the Utah Wilderness Coalition. His experience and sage advice remain invaluable in our efforts to protect the places we love.

I would like to welcome some new members to the ExCom; Ron Franklin from the Ogden group (Check out Ron’s profile as a national outings leader in the January/February 2011 issue of Sierra Magazine on p 72), Sandy Bassett, Salt Lake Group Delegate, Leslie Hugo, our returning Chapter Secretary, and Steve Thiése, a Beyond Coal activist.

Within the chapter, we have some challenges before us. Membership is declining and along with it, our budget. I hope to bring the conservation and outings communities closer together and feel this is crucial for building membership. Five ExCom members are taking a six month Leadership Team training from national that we hope will make us even more effective in achieving the Utah Chapter purposes, priorities, and increase our success in obtaining our conservation and outings goals. We hope to inspire more people to actively engage with us in order to achieve our conservation goals for Utah.

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 2011.
Beyond Coal
by Mark Clemens and Steve Thiese

Ennecott Utah Copper announced plans on December 15, 2010, to phase out three coal-fired power plants and replace them with a single natural gas fired boiler producing roughly 100 megawatts of electricity. For a number of years, Kennecott had not operated these coal burners during the winter and used electricity from the grid instead.

“Thank you Kennecott for retiring 3 of your 4 coal-fired plants, but please stop burning coal for the health of everyone in our community!”

Kennecott’s fourth and largest historic boiler, dating from 1959, switches between coal and natural gas depending on air pollution levels and will continue to burn coal during the less polluted months.

Chapter Chair Marion Klaus submitted a letter to the editor of the Salt Lake Tribune in December 2010 in which she observed, “As a person who lives in and consequently is forced to breathe the frequently polluted air in the Salt Lake Valley, I would like to see Kennecott agree to stop burning coal all together. Valley, I would like to see Kennecott agree to stop burning coal all together. Our community!”

According to our sources in Panguitch, the coal trucks began rolling in earnest on Monday, 14 February. Happy Valentines Day!

BACK TO THE FUTURE IN KANAB
During part of the 19th century streets were lighted across much of the northern hemisphere with what was called town gas or illumination gas. Town gas was a by-product of coking coal for making steel. Thousands of sites, mostly in older industrial cities, have been or are currently being painstakingly cleaned up from the coal tar residue produced in making town gas.

Even before all the old sites have been cleaned up, new processes are being touted for making what’s now called synthetic natural gas that claim to avoid emissions or dangerous contaminants. Time will tell if such claims are reliable. Viresco Inc, supported by federal research funds secured by former Senator Bennett, is proposing to build a model synthetic gas facility in Kanab, Utah, that would process five tons of coal a day according to the Salt Lake Tribune.

The Sierra Club supports the rapid phase-out of coal burning in order to avoid catastrophic climate destabilization. Synthetic natural gas fabricated from coal combines the disadvantages of coal, such as coal ash, combustion by-products and acid mine waste, with a level of CO2 emissions at least 180% greater than lifecycle CO2 emissions from coal. (See chart.)

Kanab residents worry about water use and possible waste products that might be generated. They want their questions answered before a conditional use permit is issued by the city planning commission. In January, backers of the proposed plant were notified by the US Department of Energy that they must conduct an environmental study before it begins operating. A citizen complaint was filed with the agency because no such study was planned.

Federal funds should not be used to promote a new spin on antiquated technologies that worsen current problems. The Utah Chapter is working with groups and individuals concerned about this anachronistic and potentially damaging project to slow or prevent its construction.

A 2011 MILESTONE: 150 COAL PLANTS DEFEATED NATIONWIDE
In early February 2011, Purdue University’s Board of Trustees announced its intention to scrap a planned coal boiler and applied to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for a permit to build a gas-fired boiler instead. In a separate announcement on the same day, the university’s board announced its intention to allow development of a wind farm on land owned by the university through a lease agreement with a third party. Purdue University was the only college or university in the US actively pursuing construction of a coal-fired electricity plant.

The Purdue coal boiler makes the 150th coal facility canceled or defeated since the beginning of the coal rush in 2001. Thanks in part to the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign, in the last two years no new coal plants have started construction and the industry has announced the phase out of over 50 plants.

The university context evokes a local connection. In Provo, Brigham Young University operates one of only two coal-fired electricity plants along the Wasatch Front. It’s time for that institution’s leadership to plan the phase out of coal burning.
Gaining a background of North Africa and other parts of the world moving towards more democracy, government accountability and openness, the 2011 General Session of the Utah Legislature has moved decisively in the opposite direction. There have been some disappointments and some minor victories on specifically environmental bills, but the most outstanding characteristic of this session has been the pronounced trend in favor of secrecy, authoritarian process and reduction of citizen involvement.

Many bills answer to this description, and even for legislature junkies, the flurry of bills has been too much to handle and remember. Here's a digest of the principal measures.

SB 44, sponsored by Sen Margaret Dayton (R-Orem), makes changes to both the Utah Tax Review Commission and the Utah Constitutional Revision Commission. Utah law formerly allowed a spectrum of legislators, including members of the minority party, to request a review of constitutional amendments and revisions. The bill changes this so only the governor or a resolution of both houses of the legislature can make such a request. The intent of the bill is to make dispassionate legal advice about proposed changes to the state constitution available only when leadership wants it. As we went to press, this bill had passed the senate.

SB 231, sponsored by Sen Mark Madsen (R-Eagle Mountain), and HB 400, sponsored by Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab), are combined in this analysis because they both seek to reduce the influence of local government and micromanage land-use decisions by county and municipal governments. As described in a Salt Lake Tribune editorial, the seemingly non-specific language of SB 231 is intended to force Summit County to accept a monster 320,000 square foot development on a site not currently zoned for such a use. HB 400 seeks to cut cities and counties out of any role in the regulation of mining on state or federally-owned land within their jurisdictions. As we went to press, SB 231 had been returned to the Senate Rules Committee and HB 400 had passed the house.

HB 220, sponsored by Rep Mike Morley (R-Spanish Fork), would require the public school civics education curriculum to be changed to contrast forms of government such as democracy and monarchy with that identified as the US form of government, a republic. The amended version of the bill dilutes slightly the original bill's artificial polemic between democracy and republic in the description of the US political system. As we went to press, the senate's amendments to the bill were awaiting house concurrence.

HB 399, sponsored by Rep Mike Noel (R-Kanab), would impose a bond on individuals or organizations seeking a stay of an environmental action permitted by three state agencies, the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. This financial requirement, which could already be imposed by judges at their discretion, now becomes mandatory, and the bond would be lost by the plaintiff if the plaintiff doesn't prevail in the litigation of the action the stay is requested against. Such a substantial financial requirement would, if it weren't found unconstitutional, bar most plaintiffs from seeking a stay of potentially damaging projects. This bill, similar to others vetoed in past sessions, passed both houses.

HB 477, sponsored by Rep John Dougall (R-Highland), makes extensive changes to one of the cornerstones of open government in Utah, the Government Records Access and Management Act or GRAMA. The bill would put extensive portions of government records off-limits to the press and organizations like the Sierra Club and substantially raise the cost of getting access to the little information still available as well as shifting much of the burden of proof from government to the requester. This bill had sixty-one house co-sponsors including five Democrats.

From the time the bill's language was revealed to its passage by both houses, only seventy-two hours elapsed. The senate took the extraordinary step—used most recently in 2002—of hearing the bill in the Senate Rules Committee rather than sending it to a standing committee such as the Senate Judiciary Committee in order to speed up the process. Media groups, advocacy groups including the Utah Eagle Forum, most Democrats and even some Republicans such as Senator Chris Buttars stepped up their protests. As we went to press, the senate leadership had recalled the bill because of public resistance and the governor's threat of a veto.

Not all of these bills will become law. But taken together one can see a pattern or philosophy of the majority party in Utah emerge from the session. Not only are citizens not welcome to petition the government, for example, through litigation, but they will be prevented from acquiring the information they need even to know what government is doing.

Previous sessions made citizen access to change through initiative and referendum difficult because of signature requirements in all twenty-nine Utah counties. Another bill this session, SB 165, which had passed both houses when we went to press, tightened those requirements even further by banning electronic signatures and by preventing qualifying signatures on an insufficient initiative or referendum from being carried forward to the qualification of the same initiative in the next election.

The state, or more specifically, the legislature will devolve power to other bodies whether school boards, counties or cities only to the extent they strictly adhere to the ideology and prejudices of the legislature. And the tension between government representing the people's will on the one hand, or acting in what it considers the people's best interest has been resolved entirely in favor of the latter concept.

March 11, 2011 Shine a Light on Government Rally.
Legislative Update

Capitol Action

by Mark Clemens

Two competing bills concerning recycling of consumer electronics were introduced this session. Rep Becky Edwards (R-North Salt Lake) sponsored a bill that would have covered a slightly larger universe of consumer electronics, including for example, telephones and GPS units with a video display of four inches across or greater, as well as computers, peripherals and televisions. Her bill, HB 102, would have established an electronic waste recycling program within the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and levied registration fees to support the program. Starting in 2012, manufacturers would be required to pay recyclers to recycle consumer electronics. HB 102 was defeated in committee.

Salt Lake County had the temerity to question whether more mining for copper and gold by Kennecott was the best use of the recently acquired park land in Rose Canyon, and Grand County had the effrontery to pose questions about mining oil shale in its watershed.

The alternative bill forbids manufacturers from selling consumer electronics in the state, limited in this case to computers, peripherals and televisions, unless the manufacturer reports on the recycling and reuse programs available to consumers. The manufacturer must also conduct some public education program, such as a website, about the recycling and reuse programs available. These reports are submitted by the manufacturer or a manufacturers’ trade association to the Department of Environmental Quality which in turn must report to the Public Utilities and Technology, and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committees. This latter bill, SB 184, sponsored by Sen. Stephen Urquhart (R-St George) is called Disposal of Electronic Waste Program and is a bit of a sham because it’s really Reporting on the Disposal of Electronic Waste. The manufacturers and trade associations could comply with every provision and article of SB 184, and yet not one more consumer electronic device would be guaranteed to be recycled by this legislation than in the year preceding passage of the bill. Readers won’t be surprised that it’s SB 184 that sailed through committee, passed the senate and awaits action in the house as we go to press.

Approximately a third of Utah’s rivers and streams are not in compliance with water quality standards established by the Clean Water Act. A substantial portion of these waters suffer from what is called eutrophication or excess presence of fertilizing agents such as phosphorus. To reduce this problem former Rep Christine Johnson succeeded in getting legislation passed in 2008 to reduce phosphorus to 5% or less by weight of consumer-grade dishwashing detergent. The detergent industry endorsed this change.

Johnson’s legislation provided for implementation starting in the summer of 2010; some constituents of Rep Stephen Sandstrom (R-Orem) began to complain their glasses weren’t getting clean any longer so Sandstrom sponsored legislation to repeal the phosphorus ban. Consumer Reports tested a range of phosphorus-free dish detergents in September 2010 and found several that work as well as or better than detergent with phosphorus, http://www.greenseal.org/products.cfm?product=0810dishdeter.

The House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee entertained this matter three times, and fortunately the effort to report the bill favorably to the full house was defeated each time. Most of the testimony offered opposed passage, but it was almost certainly testimony from Walt Baker, director of the Division of Water Quality, and Jeff Niermeyer, director of Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, that compulsory efforts to reduce phosphorus in municipal effluent could cost up to $270 million statewide that swung the vote.

During the past year, Salt Lake County had the temerity to question whether more mining for copper and gold by Kennecott was the best use of the recently acquired park land in Rose Canyon, and Grand County had the effrontery to pose questions about mining oil shale in its watershed. Because all mining is good mining, Rep Mike Noel went to bat against this unconscionable meddling by counties on behalf of park land and water quality by introducing HB 400.

Here’s the business end of the bill, “Nothing in this chapter authorizes a political subdivision of the state to impose a condition or restriction on mining operation located on state or federal land that is not imposed by a federal or state agency on the mining operation (d) An ordinance or regulation issued by a political subdivision of the state that is more restrictive than a permit issued under this chapter for a mining operation on state or federal land is unenforceable.” As we went to press, HB 400 had passed the house and was awaiting senate floor action.

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...
Tourism-related jobs in 2008.

In 2008, 20.4 million visitors traveled in Utah and around the world are traveling to tourist spending generated $631 million in traveler spending and 113,030 resources will continue to thrive as a renewable, sustainable economic engine.

If we consider just the 6 BLM Field offices in eastern and central Utah that have finalized their travel plans:

- There are an estimated 100,000 miles of jeep/ORV vehicle routes, trails and old mining tracks in Utah.
- About 38% of these routes are on BLM lands.
- Nearly every wilderness or wilderness study unit is bounded by a road.
- Nearly 80 percent of BLM land in Utah is open for drilling.
- Through FY 2009, nearly 5 million acres were under lease.
- In the Uintah basin, Denver-based Gasco Energy Inc. has plans to drill across 206,826 acres of mostly BLM property.
- In fact, the Gasco Energy project is the smallest of four Uintah Basin drilling proposals under review by BLM, which could result in more than 17,000 new natural gas wells.

With the threat of ecosystem damage in mind, I’d like to cite a quote from a recent article printed in the Casper, Wyoming Star-Tribune. The article refers to the ecological impacts of large-scale gas drilling on the Pinedale Anticline and Jonah Fields and a process known as “off-site mitigation.”

Overall, the moose deer population wastering on the mesa has declined by 60% since drilling operations began in 2001. As a whole, the Sublette deer population is down by about 10,000 animals and still declining today. Nobody’s making new habitat anymore. In many eastern states, native ecosystems are essentially destroyed. Wyoming’s lands and wildlife, some of the last best ecosystems in the United States, have been dwindling rapidly since the oil and gas industry discovered Wyoming. Since you can’t create new habitat for any amount of money and even making improvements to boost wildlife populations has proven unattainable so far, the real solution is to save the habitat we already have.

Looking at the big picture for a moment:

- There are an estimated 100,000 miles of jeep/ORV vehicle routes, trails and old mining tracks in Utah. About 38% of these routes are on BLM lands.
- The vast majority, 85%, do not conflict with areas that have been proposed for consideration as wilderness.
- 70% of areas proposed for some level of wilderness protection is within 8 city blocks, or 1 mile, of a road.
- Nearly every wilderness or wilderness study unit is bounded by a road.
- Nearly 80 percent of BLM land in Utah is open for drilling.
- Through FY 2009, nearly 5 million acres were under lease.
- In the Uintah basin, Denver-based Gasco Energy Inc. has plans to drill across 206,826 acres of mostly BLM property.
- In fact, the Gasco Energy project is the smallest of four Uintah Basin drilling proposals under review by BLM, which could result in more than 17,000 new natural gas wells.

The issues at stake extend far beyond a discussion about the establishment of a new ATV trail, a wilderness area or who wins litigation over an RS 2477 right of way. The scale of these issues does not do justice to the ecosystem although collectively, they have a major impact on its stability. In our view, the discussion must be about:

- Science-based management of an extremely fragile ecosystem that is vital to all users—ATV/ORV riders, hunter/anglers, ranchers and the agriculture community, backcountry travelers and literally everyone who lives in or visits this ecosystem.
- Smart growth development vs. short-term, profit driven decisions.
- Ensuring we have sufficient water to support growth while maintaining the health and integrity of the ecosystem.

As an organization of more than 1.4 million members and supporters, the Sierra Club is dedicated to the preservation of ecosystems and the development of healthy, resilient habitats that can sustain the impacts of climate change. This is our number one priority. Is wild lands protection not an investment in our future? Do we care enough to preserve the best of the best for future generations or do we think drilling and roads should have no restrictions? Surely the legacy of our generation will not be the destruction of Utah’s natural wonders in pursuit of economic gain at the expense of future generations.

This article was adapted from a speech delivered recently to a Women’s Legislative Council of Utah forum on public lands.
April 2011


GGC Tues, 4/4, Dinosaur mega-tracks. Explore the dinosaur tracks site. The parking lot is approximately 1 mile from the airport, drive a short distance on a dirt road to the bottom of an old mine site, Park, and hike up the old road through all the mine workings to the top of the ridge. Then go along the ridge top on slick rock with some very mild boulder hopping to view the track site. Return the same way. About 6 miles round trip, with 500 feet elevation gain. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 9 a.m. Leader: Bonnie Crystale 259-0246.

GGC Sat, 4/9, Fisher Towers Overlook. From Dewey Bridge follow the Kokopelli Trail west for a short distance. Where the road gets rough, well walk. View a spectacular overlook of the Colorado River towards Fisher Towers and the La Sals. Ascend an arroyo to the west. A difficult terrain may be encountered through some heavy vegetation. A trail is available nearby on BLM land. Mike Strong, 259-8379, for information. Leader, Tom Messenger for further information, 435-259-1776.

SLG Sat, 4/13 Bike Ride on Legacy Parkway. The Legacy Parkway bike path is an excellent route for an easy spring bike ride. The plan is to start riding at about 1 pm and cycle as long as the group desires. The total one-way distance of the path is about 13 miles, and there are options to ride off trail as well. Call Jim Paul 801-580-9079 for meeting place and other details.

May 2011

OG, Sun, 5/1 Skyline Trail Hike West of Pleasant View. Meet at 9 a.m. Parking lot off Highway 24 at the corner of Highway 24 and Highway 95. There are several interesting attractions on this hike: pictographs canyon narrows, high walls, and SkyLight Arch. The hiking is moderate. At the head of the canyon, there is a loop hike that is about 4 miles long. To go to the arch and narrows will take an additional 3 or 4 miles, or can be done as a day hike starting from the canyon mouth. The canyon is about 90 miles from Moab. On the morning of May 12, Marc Thomas will lead a party of anyone wishing to camp in Goblin Valley State Park for 2 to 3 nights to explore the area further. Free primitive camping is also available nearby on BLM land. Mike Strong will lead those who want to drive there and back in a day. We will meet in a predetermined spot before the hike begins. More coordination info later: Marc Thomas, 435-259-2028. Mike Strong, 259-8379.

SLG, Sat, 5/14 Leaders’ Hike in Emigration Canyon. The plan is to hike the ridge between Little Mountain and Mountiewell. The wildflowers should be in full bloom and views will be spectacular. After the hike a leaders meeting will be held to plan summer outings and indulge in a potluck BBQ dinner at Fred’s residence. Although this hike is for leaders, non-leaders are encouraged to attend as well. Please email Fred Swan sonfalonsw32@msn.com for meeting time, place and directions to his house, or call 801-588-0361.

SLG, Sun, 5/15 Native Plants Service Project. The invasive species Dyer’s Woad crowds out native plants and reduces browse for such species as deer. The Ogden Group has helped eliminate Dyer’s Woad in a number of locations, but the fight isn’t over yet. Contact Dan S, 801-393-4603, for meeting time and place.

SLG, Tues, 5/17 Tuesday Night Hike on the Legacy Parkway Bike Path. Meet at 8 p.m. Parking lot at the Moab Information Center parking lot. Meet at 8:15. The Legacy Parkway bike path is an excellent route for a night ride. The plan is to hike the ridge between Little Mountain and Mountiewell. The wildflowers should be in full bloom and views will be spectacular. After the hike a leaders meeting will be held to plan summer outings and indulge in a potluck BBQ dinner at Fred’s residence. Although this hike is for leaders, non-leaders are encouraged to attend as well. Please email Fred Swan sonfalonsw32@msn.com for meeting time, place and directions to his house, or call 801-588-0361.
June 2011

OG, Sat, 6/4 Mueller Park Trail Hike. This Davis County favorite is accessible for members from Salt Lake to Weber County. It’s 6 miles round trip and approximately 3-4 hours. We will hike across a clear area where the Kern Creek pipeline crosses the canyon causing a stark on the landscape, and then to a rock faced Head where we will turn around. Call Larry Wooley at 801-713-7090 for more info.

SLG, Sun, 6/5 Salt Lake Overlook and Backpacker Gourmet Experience. A two-part adventure. The first part will be a hike to the Little Cottonwood Overlook. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Skyline High School parking lot (3251 E and 3760 S). Afterwards, we will gather to partake in a gourmet tasting the backpacker gourmet face found in ethnic markets. We can tabulate opinions and publish the results. You may participate in one, or both, parts of this activity. Please contact the leader beforehand if you will be joining us for the backpacker gourmet experience. Leader Aaron Jones 801-467-3533 or ajeneswmpvsm.com.

SLG, Tues, 6/7 Jack’s Mountain Hike. This Mountain is located just about 1-215 near Mill Creek Canyon. The hike is far enough away to enjoy nature without the distractions of the city below. Meeting place is Skyline High School parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Call Richard 801-363-3387 for questions.

GGC, Sat, 6/11, Miners Basin Rim, From near the Warner Lake Campground, follow the Shuman Gulch trail up to divide with Miners Basin Road, keep right along the ridge to a cliff viewpoint into Miners Basin. From here head SWW to the head of a side drainage of Little Cottonwood Creek and follow the drainage to Shuman Gulch and return on the trail to the starting point. About 3 miles and 1000’ (a slow and easy out and back to the viewpoint could be done from Miners Basin for about the same distance and climb) A longer hike could be done by heading down a side drainage to Dry Fork and meeting the established trails at about the Dry Fork / Wet Fork junction. Follow the trail back to Warner Lake. About 6 miles and 1800’. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m. Leader Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

OG, Sat, 6/11 Skull Crack Hike. Not as painful as it sounds. The trail provides outstanding scenery along Causey Reservoir. It’s a short day hike and excellent for your first time out. There is a small dispersed camping site at the end of the trail. The only other access is by canoe. Along the trail you will see the remains of an old shelter and been a 4 miles one-way trail. Call Joanie at 801-399-0034 for info.

SLG, Tues, 6/14 Great Western Trail /Big Mountain. The trail begins near the working area of a sawmill and follows a small portion of the Great Western Trail near the Salt Lake/ Morgan county line. This hike is a favorite of the leader due to the variety of terrain, meadows packed with flowering wildflowers, and the possibility of wildlife sightings. Meeting place is in the parking lot of the old K-Mart shopping center on Foothill Drive at 6:30 p.m. Call Debbie 435-830-9201 for info.

SLG, Sat, 6/18 City Creek /Black Mountain Hike. The hike will begin in the City Creek Nature Preserve and hikers will ascend to Black Mountain, the highest peak in the surrounding area. The outing is an excellent opportunity to explore trails close to the city but outside of the city in favor of more popular routes. There are steep sections of the trail so be prepared for some moderate exertion. This is a good trail and plan for an all-day adventure. Call Constance 801-833-6304 or Rebecca rebecawal-_laco@msn.com or 801-557-5261 for meeting time, place and other info.

OG, Sun, 6/19 Hidden Valley Hike. It is a fairly steep trail, but the path is well defined. The hike is about 3.5 miles one-way Road End. It calls for a vertical ascent of about 2,200 feet. Hidden Valley, a substantial mountain bowl, was for centuries a favored hunting ground for Indians, trappers and the early pioneers. Populations of Rocky Mountain elk, deer, and other animals used the area for spring forage or relief from the heat of the summer. Call Dan H at 801-479-9018.

GGG Tues, 6/22, Hyper VIP Solarstice Sun Dagger. Head up Pritchett Canyon and then up a side canyon to the east to the Snake Panel Petroglyph. At about 11:20 a sun dagger points to the head of the rock. It happens a couple of hours before local apparent noon. I Generally easy walking (some on jeep trails) and gentle grades, but it’s a 1200 climb and 9 miles round trip. Bring plenty of water for this long, hot hike. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m. Leader Mike Stringham, 435-259-8579.

SLG, Tues, 6/22 Bell City Canyon Hike. The hike through Bell Canyon near Little Cottonwood Canyon will offer a refreshing retreat from the stress of a hard day’s work. The trail passes a reservoir and leads to waterfalls, a cool greenery section and enjoy the canyon and friendship of the group. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood Canyon park & ride to the mouth of the canyon. Contact Paul Stratton 801-450-1128, rgt.stratton@gmail.com, for more info.

OG, Sat, 6/25 Ogden Overlook Trail. Approximately 5 miles round trip with 800 foot elevation gain starting at Snowbowl. We’ll be on a well maintained trail with great views of Snowbasin area and Ogden Canyon. Call John B for meeting time and place, 801-985-6854.

SLG, Sun, 6/26 Dry Creek Exploratory Hike. Dry Creek is part of a network of footaths near the north end of Salt Lake City. The path is another example of prime biking destinations bypassing most hikers. Along with good company and favorable weather, there may be pleasant surprises to explore along the way. Call Robert 801-949-3597 or Chris 919-720-9420 for meeting place, time, and other details.

SLG, Tues, 6/28 Mill B North Fork Hike. The Mill B trailhead is at the S curve in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail passes through dense pine and oak stands and offers splendid views of surrounding peaks. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood canyon parking lot and at 6:30 p.m. Call Ken 801-414-6067 for info.

July 2011

GGC Sat, 7/9, South Mountain. Climb from the east, south about through La Sal, near Medicine Lake on the east side of La Sal Pass. Pretty good pull over toes of rock climbers then up a steeply wooded then bare ridge. Six miles, 1800’. Meet at the Moab Information Center, Main and Center, at 8 a.m. Leader Tom Messenger, 435-259-1756.

SLG, Sun, 7/10 Bell Red Lake Hike. Hike scenic Bell Canyon along the creek all the way, passing the lower reservoir, the beautiful lower and upper falls, and up to the meadow. Along the way you enjoy majestic views of the Salt Lake Valley and the imposing cliffs and rock climbers. Meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead on Little Cottonwood Road just east of Wastach Blvd. Trailhead is approximately 3430 E Little Cottonwood Road in Sandy. Contact organizer, Paul Stratton 801-1112, rgtstratton@gmail.com.

SLG, Tues, 7/16 Red Lake Hike. Red Lake is a fabulous hike to get away from the heat and clamor of the city. Located in Big Cottonwood canyon, the trail is an excellent way to experience the alpine ambiance of the Wasatch. The slope is moderately steep, so bring plenty of water along with snacks and a comfortable sort of footgear. Call Debbie 435-830-9021 for meeting time, place and other info.

TUESDAY NIGHT HIKES

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements 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 activity. If you choose to carpool, you do so at your own risk, and only fair fees for gas charged by the U.S. Forest Service to be shared by all participants. All costs of the outings liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/signinwaiver.PDF. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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UtahSierran Spring 2011

National Organizing Staff

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Several invasive plant species have seriously degraded riverside and range habitat in Utah. One of the worst is dye’s weed, known to botanists as latisia tinctoria. The plant is native to central Asia and has been cultivated for centuries as a source of blue dye. It’s a member of the mustard family and has a yellow flower typical of mustards. (See photo.) Dyer’s weed has few insect enemies in Utah and has been able to infest large areas in which it crowds out other plants that better forage for our native bird, insect and mammal populations. The Ogden Group has helped to eradicate wead in a number of locations over several years, but the work continues. Check out Dan Schroeder’s 2011 weed tootting on May 15.
The Utah Chapter's new Facebook page is the place for the Sierra Club community to come together in Utah. Catch up with your friends and find out about future events. You can check us out at www.facebook.com/utahsierran, or navigate there from the chapter homepage. Become a fan today.

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University of Utah Continuing Education Instructor

Remembering Leo

The chapter gratefully acknowledges a generous gift made in loving memory of Leo Slowikoski by his family.

Leo was an avid marathoner whose inspiration came from Utah’s pristine landscapes. The Sierra Club will work to fulfill Leo’s hope that Utah should remain as beautiful as when he experienced it.

Mark your calendars for the third week of May to join in this exceptional celebration of land and life on the Colorado Plateau. All events are open to the public, and most are free of charge. Pick up your Amazing Earthfest Schedule of Events at the Kane County Office of Tourism, 78 South 100 East, and at Visitor Centers and businesses throughout the region, or go online at www.amazingearthfest.com. A destination for discovery, exploration, and adventure in the heart of America’s Grand Circle.