Cover Photo: Skyline Arch by Jamie Hoggard

About the photographer

The landscape photos in this issue were contributed by Jamie Hoggard. Jamie lives in Salt Lake City, works as a geologist in town and puts his hours in the back country to good use capturing the essence of wilderness. He enjoys exploring the mountain and desert wilds. You might come across him mountain biking, trail running or back country skiing. Jamie and his wife Tracy M arafiote are learning Spanish to accompany them on their explorations of Latin America where-Vice-president Quayle notwithstanding-Latin is not spoken.

Wild by Law: Environmentalism & the Creation of the Wilderness Act
Salt Lake City Main Library Auditorium, Tuesday, June 22nd, 7:00-8:30pm

Released in 1991 by Florentine Films and produced by filmmakers Lawrence H ott and Diane Garey, Wild By Law was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Included in the renowned PBS series, “The American Experience,” this film chronicles the evolution of American attitudes towards wilderness from the early 20th century to the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. Wild By Law tells the wilderness story through its three main heroes: Aldo Leopold, who started his career as a forester with the U.S. Forest Service and authored A Sand County Almanac, a seminal work of ecological philosophy; Bob Marshall, millionaire socialist who co-founded the Wilderness Society with Aldo Leopold; and Howard Zahniser, a tireless bureaucrat who saw the Wilderness Act through countless rewrites and died just months before its passage. Interviewees include Leopold’s children, David Brower and the always entertaining, Floyd Dominy. By reminding us of the reasons we originally protected Wilderness, Wild By Law provides us with the perspective to appreciate what we have today and to search our hearts for what we want our nation to look like tomorrow.

For directions to the Main Library, see http://www.slcpl.lib.ut.us/locations.jsp?parent_id=8&parent_id=20.

Statement of Purpose

“To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.”
It is my honor to serve as chair of the Utah Chapter for 2004. The Sierra Club is an amazing organization and the Utah Chapter is composed of some very amazing people. The more time that I spend working with members of the Executive Committee and other activists in the club, the more impressed I am with their skill and dedication. In Utah we are presently an organization of about 4,900 people. Despite the popular misconception that we are a group of environmental extremists funded by wealthy Eastern liberals, what I have learned during my six years of involvement in Utah is that we are an organization of extraordinary local people who care passionately about the club's mission “To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.” The club members I have met also care passionately about maintaining Utah as a place of beauty and a place where we and our descendants will be able to enjoy a healthy environment for at least “seven generations.” And as for being well funded, I can only wish it were true. With the exception of a paid 3/4 time coordinator, the Utah Chapter is run totally by volunteers like you and me.

I have observed Utah Chapter members have strong opinions on environmental issues and that not everyone always agrees on priorities or how we should proceed. This is to be expected. However, I have also seen that we are all trying to achieve the same end: conserving this wonderful God-given land.

Following my election in January, I have been reflecting on my personal goals as chapter chair. Perhaps you would be interested in knowing what I have chosen.

• First, under the able leadership of Conservation Chair Ann Wechsler, I want the chapter to be more intensely focused on conservation goals. Chapter leaders met earlier this year and defined our priorities as (1) wilderness protection, (2) loss of open space to urban sprawl, (3) the encroachment of off-highway vehicles and illegal “roads” in wild areas, (4) clean air, and (5) radioactive waste. These are worthy goals; now the challenge is to make things happen.

• Second, I want to empower more individual activists. I continue to be amazed by what passionate individuals in the club have achieved, whether it is combating off-highway vehicle abuses, bringing sanity to nuclear waste issues, or trying to protect our rivers both wild and damned (or damned, if you prefer). These individuals are the heart of our conservation effort: we just need more of them.

• Third, I want our message to become more positive. Most of us are really good at protesting things that threaten our wild lands, or our clean air or water. This is natural and often necessary, but, if taken too far, can lead to a perception that we are obstructionists and opposed to pretty much everything that some people would view as progress. I want us to always define and emphasize what we are FOR, even as we fight the things we oppose. And we are always FOR something. As we fight the Legacy Highway and urban sprawl, it is important to emphasize that we are FOR other transportation options, smart growth, and protecting our ever-more precious urban open spaces. As we fight the licensing of more coal-fired power plants in our state and states up wind of us, we need to work hard FOR energy conservation and renewable energy sources. And I view this as much more than just message framing; we need to be working FOR solutions. I find the very thought to be energizing.

In closing, I want to thank the executive committee members who completed their service at the end of 2003. They are Tracy Marafiote, Nikki Sharp, and Teri Underwood. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Ivan Weber and Jean Binyon in leading the chapter through a challenging year. As the saying goes, they are a hard act to follow.
Volunteer: Colorado River Issues.

The Colorado River and its tributaries constitute the major water source for the Southwest. There are many serious environmental problems caused by the present state of the river system. To overcome or mitigate these problems, one must understand a variety of legal, political, economic, and technical issues. The volunteer would work on these issues and attend a few meetings a year at Sierra Club expense. The intent of this volunteer position is to develop skilled and knowledgeable activists to lead the club on Colorado River issues. Contact Jim Wechsler for further information and details. telephone: (801) 583-2090; e-mail: jawex@aros.net.

On The Web

Utah Chapter
http://www.utah.sierraclub.org/
Sierra Club Homepage
http://www.sierraclub.org/
Utah Wilderness
http://www.uwcoalition.org
Legacy Highway
http://www.stoplegacyhighway.org
Online News
http://www.sierraclub.org/news/
Sierra Club Magazine
http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/
The Planet
http://www.sierraclub.org/planet/
Volunteer Opportunities
http://utah.sierraclub.org/questionaire.asp

The Planet is an exclusive benefit for Sierra Club members who belong to the Environmental Rights Network, which links activists around the country.

Each issue contains:
- Environmental news;
- Legislative updates;
- In-depth look at regional conservation campaigns;
- Grassroots victories, Club organizing campaigns and more.

Please sign me up for the Environmental Rights Network and send me a free subscription to THE PLANET. I agree to get involved in efforts to protect the environment.

[Subscription Form]

Please clip and send to: The Planet, Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
More than one million visitors tromp Arches National Park annually, but two people are working hard to protect the fragile land from the onslaught of tourism. Moab residents Dave and Marilyn Stolfa, the Glen Canyon Group Outings and Membership Chairs, proactively monitor the National Park and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) territories in their region, along with the help of a few other admirable couples. The Stolfas—avid campers and hikers—lived in many western states before retiring in Moab in 2002, and they quickly began a campaign to protect their magnificent new homeland. The lack of public lands in other states in which they resided, including California, Arizona and Texas—in which Marilyn says the only public lands are “reclaimed ranch land with only petrified cow droppings to look at”—inspired them to defend Utah’s bounty.

The retired electrical engineer and teacher strongly believe in the maxim that if you introduce people to the land through recreational activities, they will want to preserve it. They encounter conflicting opinions regarding land overuse, and many Moab business owners striving to increase tourism clash with residents fighting to decrease traffic to save the land. “We are on the side of, ‘hey, let’s slow down the use or there won’t be anything left,’” Dave says. The couple monitors public land for the BLM and the National Park Service; advising tourists how to avoid killing cryptobiotic soil, reporting vandalism or creek intrusions, and repairing trails and campsites. This year, the Monticello and Moab BLM offices are reviewing thirty-year-old regulations regarding use, and the Stolfas are lobbying (in conjunction with other environmental groups) to ensure the new regulations account for increased tourism and require users to be more respectful. Efforts include, restricting off-road-vehicle use to designated roads or closing camping in delicate areas.

“The ORVs are such an appealing, growing thing. During Moab Jeep Safari weeks, the town easily doubles,” Marilyn said. “The Safari itself is well-meaning, but it becomes Spring Break hangers-on, out-of-control, camping in washes and trampling areas. There were 700 people in an area by our sand flats. We counted 125 Jeeps on one road in three hours, and that was during an non-event day.” She said the Jeep Safaris and Fat Tire Festival spells success for many business owners, and many proponents believe environmentalists are, “trying to quell our God-given right to do anything with the land”, fighting efforts to restrict ORV use and impact.

Dave’s outings are often attended by dozens of people, including an April hike in the Willow Spring Drainage of Arches National Park. Join the Stolfas on a June 5th hike up Mary Jane Canyon's Professor Creek, a gradual stroll along cottonwood-lined streambeds and vertical canyon walls that leads to a magnificent waterfall. The Stolfas hope that increased participation on outings will increase Sierra Club visibility in the region. Often attended by non-members, Dave plans to utilize the outings to “suck them in and get them involved.” In doing so, the Stolfas hope to protect the millions of acres of BLM land and some of the world’s most impressive parks and monuments surrounding their home for future generations to admire.
Thank You to Our Generous Members & Contributors.

by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter Co-ordinator

Special thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to our 2003 and 2004 annual fundraising drives. These contributions make possible our conservation programs to protect clean air and clean water in Utah, our crusade to protect Utah wild lands and our abilities to reach out to you and other Utahns.

Beverly J White in memory of Frances Farley
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Janean Anne Waterstradt
Pauline Wiessner
Don Womack
Brad Yates

To protect our members’ privacy, if 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, 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!

Make a Difference

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to your Chapter. You will not receive any contributions requests from national Sierra Club in this time period, as we want you to concentrate on your local Chapter.

These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter’s budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club’s work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able — remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Thank You.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Act Now and Save the Environment!

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

For more information and confidential assistance, please complete the form and send to:
John Calaway, Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 • e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet
The Wilderness Act of 1964: An Anniversary to Celebrate

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair

On September 3, 1964, Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law and thereby created the National Wilderness Preservation System. During the signing ceremony, he stated:

“If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them with more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them with a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”

In order to qualify as wilderness, this law requires that the area be 1) federally-owned public land, 2) primarily roadless, 3) a minimum size of 5,000 acres, and 4) “primarily affected by the forces of nature, with the evidence of human activity substantially unnoticeable” where “mankind is a visitor who does not remain.” Hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, oar-powered boating, and (alas) grazing are allowed activities in wilderness areas. Creation of a wilderness area requires passage of legislation by the U.S. Congress and approval by the president.

Since passage of the Wilderness Act, about 106 million acres of public lands, mostly within national forests, have been protected as wilderness. According to a recent Salt Lake Tribune article, “That figure represents about 5 percent of U.S. land, although just 2 percent of the lower 48 states enjoys wilderness protection.” Utah contains over 54 million acres, but only 829 thousand acres of National Forest plus BLM-administered lands is protected as wilderness (which amounts to only 1.5 percent of the total area of the State).

The 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act will be celebrated by environmental groups across the nation, culminating with a major event in Washington sponsored by Americans for Wilderness, a group led by notables such as Utah’s own Robert Redford and Peter Metcalf.

However, one organization that will not be celebrating in a timely fashion is the U.S. Forest Service. As an Associated Press headline noted last December, “Wilderness Act Anniversary Celebration Delayed Until After Election.” The story told how the Forest Service announced it would not be participating in the National Wilderness Summit and Expo scheduled for Oct. 1-7 in Denver. Sally Collins, Associate Director of the Forest Service, said she found out the conference was scheduled for “before the presidential election and got really concerned because I don’t want anything to take away from the celebratory nature of this summit.” To put it mildly, environmentalists were skeptical of Collins’ motives. As a Wilderness Society spokesman stated, “No bureaucrat in their right mind would call off a major conference on the 40th anniversary (of The Wilderness Act) without being told by one of the political bosses in the Bush administration to do it. . . . [They are afraid that] somebody might ask them some very tough questions in a political year that they don’t want to answer.”

With or without the forest service, Sierra Club members in Utah are encouraged to participate in local events commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and to continue fighting for a good Utah wilderness bill.
Whether you’re in designated wilderness, or just sauntering about on local trails, minor injuries and medical emergencies do occur. Relief comes in many forms, according to Rebecca Wallace, a nurse practitioner who hikes often with the local Salt Lake Group.

Rebecca hosted a First Aid Workshop on the morning of February 7th, which attracted 17 people interested in the Group Outings Programs offered by the Salt Lake, Ogden, Glen Canyon, and Southwestern Sierra Club entities. She brought many “field expedient” props to the session, all of which she keeps in her own kit for any outing. A partial list includes:

- Band-aids and bandage wraps
- Non-adherent dressing such as Telfa (which does not stick to the wound)
- Ibuprofen or acetaminophen for pain, Benadryl for allergic reactions, hydrocortisone cream for itching
- Blister repair materials such as moleskin
- Safety pins (to enhance first-aid items)
- Duct tape for making splints, closing wounds, and general repair
- Micro shield mask for CPR (for the squeamish at accident sites)
- Gloves
- Plastic re-sealable bags (for wound irrigation)
- Water purifying tablets or pumps
- Tweezers to remove ticks or dirt/stones from an abrasion
- Report forms or paper and writing implement

Participants watched with rapt attention as Rebecca demonstrated a variety of uses for these materials. We were also afforded time to hear of others’ first-hand experiences with medical crises, and took time to go over some of the National Sierra Club’s outing prescriptions. With a quarter of a million people participating in Sierra Club outings every year, those “prescriptions” are enough to fill a fat loose-leaf binder; however, common sense counts for a lot.

For those who lead hikes and should be armed with more than a kit and some common sense, Rebecca recommends the book, *Wilderness 911*, First Edition, by Eric Weiss, published by The Mountaineers in 1998. She also prepared a written primer with recommendations for “the ABC’s of Accident Management”. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy before the spring hiking season begins in earnest may call Ann Wechsler at a daytime phone (801-585-3296) for a faxed, mailed, or e-mailed copy.

This workshop was sponsored by a national Sierra Club One Club grant received by Richard Dougherty to recruit activist outings leaders. Since the Salt Lake Group’s winter outings are generally less frequent, the February doldrums presented a convenient time to brush up on first-aid, an essential component of the outdoor and backcountry experience. We are grateful to Rebecca for giving her time and considerable talent to this effort.
Note To Participants:
All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Unless otherwise noted in the description, outings are not suitable for children. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outing leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings. Call the Sierra Club office (801) 467-9297 for a recorded message on forthcoming activities.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. For the most current and updated outings listings, please visit the website http://utah.sierraclub.org and look at the outings under the Salt Lake, Ogden and Glen Canyon Groups.

Liability waiver policy: In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club’s outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/ or call the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed copy.

Call For Volunteers:
Volunteers needed to monitor ATV damage in rural Utah. For information on how to assist the club in this important issue contact Dick Dougherty:
172 West Clinton Avenue # 201
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
Phone: 531-7830
e-mail genres@sisna.com

UTAH CHAPTER

APRIL/MAY
April 30th, May 1st and 2nd
Friday--Sunday
Canyonlands Car Camp
To anyone interested in exploring the Needles area of Canyonlands National Park in southern Utah. The outing will include day hikes to Big Spring Canyon and a hike to a point overlooking the gorge where the Colorado and Green Rivers merge. Expect a moderate level pace and a round trip hiking distance of 11 miles. The Wooden Shoe Camp Ground will be reserved. Bring camping supplies and all the essentials needed for an extended weekend of camping and hiking. The number of participants will be limited so RSVP to leader in advance. Call Margaret (292-7602) for meeting time, place, and other details about the outing.

May 22/23 SAT-SUN
Service/ Fun: Eastern Sid’s Mountain
This trip will focus on the eastern side of the Sid’s Mountain WSA. This trip will include a service day for the Price River BLM office. Please bring work gloves and a can do attitude as we will be inventorying and replacing Carsonite signs on Saturday along Cane Creek. Sunday we will enjoy a day hike near the head of Cane and Saddle Horse Canyons. We will car camp near an isolated free standing butte; bring water for a dry camp. Call Will McCarvill 942-2921 for details. This is a great opportunity to hone your map and GPS skills.

JULY
Hike to Mt Nebo Car Camp
July 10th and 11th

August 17, 2003, Sunday, Sierra Club Trekkers at Cliff Lake (10,240’) in the Uintas. Be the first (before May 15, 2004) to list the first name of six of these trekkers and receive a Backcountry Guide Book for the High Uintas. Send list to Ron Younger at 920 East 1500 South, Bountiful, UT 84010.
SALT LAKE GROUP

MAY

Sunday, May 2nd
Rails to Trails Mountain Bike Ride
Wanship to Park City
The ride will an out and back, beginning in Wanship with the turnaround point in Park City. There is a slight uphill grade to Park City, so riders will enjoy a gentle decent on the way back to Wanship. The pace will be moderate and the trail is suitable for novice mountain bikers. It is planned to dine at a family style restaurant in Wanship after the ride. Helmets are required. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place and other information about the ride.

Sunday, May 9th
Jordan River Parkway Bike Ride Utah County
This easy bike ride will take place on a section of the Jordan Parkway Trail in Utah County. The ride will include a loop around Camp Williams and time permitting indulging in a relaxing soak at the Saratoga Hot Springs on the north end of Utah Lake. Mountain or road bikes are appropriate for this ride but helmets are required. Bring plenty of water and snacks and be prepared for approximately 20 miles of riding. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other information about the ride.

Tuesday Night Hike, May 11th
Twin Peak Hike
The first Tuesday night hike of the season, destination Twin Peaks, located in the foothills just above the avenues. Expect intermediate level hiking and pleasant spring temperatures. Meeting place is the top of Terrace Hills Drive which intersects 11th Avenue on block east of M street and across the street from the northwest corner of the Salt Lake City Cemetery. The trail head is at the very end of Terrace Hills Drive, approximately 1 mile north of 11th Avenue. Call Kathleen or Rob (485-3262) for more information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, May 18th
Parleys Canyon Hike
An intermediate hike along an old historical railroad grade in upper Parleys Canyon. The hike offers a quiet and pleasant excursion just minutes from the workweek grind of the Salt Lake valley. Meeting time is 6:30 pm at the east end of the K-Mart parking lot on Foothill Drive and Parleys Way to carpool or at Exit 137 on East bound I-80. Call Ron (292-4040) for details about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, May 25th
Lime Kiln Gulch Hike
Enjoy an interesting mid spring hike in the foothills just behind the U of U Campus. The trail passes by the restored Historic Lime Kiln originally constructed in the mid 1800’s. The hike offers a splendid view of the Salt Lake Valley and an excellent photo opportunity for hikers with cameras. Although the hike is intermediate in difficulty, there are a few steep sections on the trail. Meeting place is the Merrill Engineering Parking lot on the U of U campus at 6:30 pm. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for more information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, June 1st
Little Twin Peak
Little Twin Peak is located in the foothills above the U of U campus, in the vicinity where the Olympic rings where displayed. A nice intermediate level hike in close proximity to the Salt Lake Valley. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at Popperton Park located on Virginia Street and 11th Avenue across the street from the Shriner’s Hospital. Call Margaret (292-7602) for information regarding the hike.

Sunday, June 6th
Bike Ride One The Provo Parkway Trail
The ride begins on west Center Street in Provo with the destination being Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon. The trail is mostly flat with some elevation gain from the mouth of Provo Canyon to Bridal Veil Falls. The out and back distance is approximately 26 miles on a paved trail free of motorized vehicles. Road or mountain bikes are appropriate for this ride. Helmets are required. Call Ken (484-3112) for meeting time, place, and other details about the ride.

Tuesday Night Hike, June 8th
Salt Lake Overlook
A popular trail leading to a spectacular view of the Salt Lake valley just minutes from the east bench area of the city. The hike begins at the Desolation trail head in Millcreek Canyon. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Skyline High School parking lot. Call Kathleen or Rob (485-3262) for questions regarding the hike.

Sunday June 13th
Uinta Mountain Trip
A moderate level hike on either the mine trail or the Boulder Creek trail from the Mirror Lake Highway east of Kamas. Bring lunch, lots of water, and appropriate hiking gear for an all day excursion. To car pool meet at 9:00 AM at the south-east side of the Parleys Way (2100 South) parking lot. Call Ron Younger (292-4040) for questions regarding the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, June 15th
City Creek Canyon
An easy hike on the trail that parallels the paved road in City Creek Canyon. The hike offers a chance of encountering wildlife seeking an evening drink from the creek just below the trail. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at Popperton Park across the street from the Shriner’s Hospital. The park is located at the north east corner of 11th Avenue and Virginia Street. Call Ken (484-3112) for information regarding the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, June 22nd

Saturday and Sunday
At nearly 12,000 feet, Mt Nebo is the highest peak in the Wasatch Mountain Range. Although sections of the trail are steep, hikers will be rewarded with picturesque alpine scenery along the trail and a breath-taking view at the summit. The hike to the peak will take place Saturday and a campground will be reserved for Saturday night. Participants will caravans to the trail head via the Payson side of the Nebo Loop. Camping space is minimal so the number of participants will be limited. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for meeting time and place and other information about the hike.
Heughs Canyon
Heughs Canyon is located just beyond a residential area between Millcreek and Big Cottonwood Canyons. This little known trail offers surprising solitude and alpine ambiance in spite its close proximity to the busy roadways and development. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Skyline High School parking lot. Call Rebecca (487-4160) for information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, June 29th
Great Western Trail
East Canyon
This section of the Great Western Trail begins at the Big Mountain Summit parking area in East Canyon. Hiking towards Parleys Canyon the route passes through pine, oak, and aspen stands as well as broad patches of wild flowers. Round trip hiking distance is about 4 miles through rolling terrain. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at eastern section of the K-Mart parking lot on Parleys Way and Foothill Drive. Call Ken (484-3112) for information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, July 6th
Mineral Fork Big Cottonwood Canyon
Escape the heat of the valley and enjoy a refreshing hike in Big Cottonwood Canyon. This is an intermediate level hike and expect some steep terrain along the trail. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Park and Ride at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more information regarding the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, July 13th
Brighton Lakes Loop Big Cottonwood Canyon
The destination is Dog Lake in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The loop begins at the end of the road near the ski resort. Bring flashlights in the event the hike extends beyond dusk. Meeting time is 6:30 PM at the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Dick (531-7830) for information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, July 20th
Albion Basin To Cecret Lake
A short albeit relatively steep hike to Cecret Lake in Little Cottonwood Canyon. If hikers continue to the saddle they will be rewarded with magnificent views of Mt. Baldy, Sugarloaf, and Devils Castle. There will be sun exposure so bring plenty of sun screen. Also bring flashlights in the event the hike extends beyond dusk. Note the early meeting time of 6:00 PM due to the length of the ride to the trail head. Meeting place is the Little Cottonwood Canyon park and ride at the mouth of the canyon. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, July 27th
Doughnut Falls
Big Cottonwood Canyon
A popular destination to some refreshing water falls in Big Cottonwood Canyon. If time permits hikers will continue to the mine a short distance past the falls. Bring flashlights in the event the hike continues beyond dusk. Meeting place is the Big Cottonwood canyon park and ride at the mouth of the canyon at 6:30 PM. Call Ken (484-3112) for information regarding the hike.

Sunday, August 1st
Broads Fork Meadow
An invigorating hike through the glaciated slopes of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Bring plenty of water and snacks in preparation for an all day excursion. Meeting time is 10:30 AM at the park and ride at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, August 10th
Albion Basin to Catherines Pass
At the crest of Catherines Pass hikers can view the convergence of 5 canyons and 3 mountain lakes. Albion Basin is also well known for its plentiful wildflowers that should be in bloom at the time of the hike. Meeting place is the park and ride at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon at 6:30 PM. Call Bill (582-9223) for more information regarding the hike.

JUNE
Sunday, 6, Bike West of Corinne, easy-moderate
A 30-mile loop on a seldom-traveled road, surveying farmlands, other rural countryside, and a wetland. Figure 2-3 hours. Meet 7AM. Call Al Stockland, 2-3 hours. Meet 7AM. Call Al Stockland, 479-9597.

Saturday, 12, Mueller park, moderate.
Hike above Bountiful. See Elephant Head and damage associated with the pipeline. Expect 6-7 miles for 3-4 hours. Meet 8am. Call Larry & Chris Woolsey, 731-3701.
Saturday, 19, Black Mountain and Willard Peak, moderate
Mike will take us up to see how the motorheads are treating the area between Black Mountain and Willard Peak. Meet 9AM. Leader, Mike Morrison, 475-4845.

Saturday, 26, Hike the Indian Trail, moderate-strenuous
Hike from 21st St Trailhead to the smokey-the-bear sign, and finish up with milk shakes at the restaurant in the canyon. Leader, Peter Vernesses, 626-664, pvernezze@weber.edu

JULY

Saturday, 3, Mollen’s Hollow Overlook, moderate.
Escape the heat and enjoy this delightful hike through forests and meadows along a high plateau in the Monte Cristo Range. The route ends at the brink of a cliff overlooking “northern Utah’s Grand Canyon.” The Forest Service is proposing to open this route to motor vehicles next year, so now may be your last chance to enjoy the view in peace and quiet. The hike is only 6 miles round trip, but the drive to the trailhead takes a full hour, so plan on most of a day. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the NE corner of the Ogden High School parking lot, 28th and Tyler. Bring lunch, water, and sun protection. Leader: Dan Schroeder, 393-4603.

Saturday, 10, Bear Hollow, easy
Enjoy the contrasting colors of the rock formations against the blue sky and lush green trees. One of our favorites! We’ll go to the base of Lightning Ridge. The hardier ones can climb to the top. It’s a great chance to see wildlife in what is now the Ogden Ranger District’s first proposed Wilderness area. Meet, 7:30. Call Larry & Chris Woolsey, 731-3701.

AUGUST

Saturday, 14, Tony Grove to White Pine Lake, moderate
Visit a picturesque, alpine lake with a chance to see lots of wildflowers. Expect 6.5 miles, 3-4 hours. Leaders, Larry & Chris Woolsey, 731-3701.

Weekend of 21-22, Yellowstone adventure.
2-nights backpacking somewhere in Yellowstone country. Call to discuss arrangements by 1 August. Leader, Cliff Nowell, 393-8530.

On March 6, the Glen Canyon Group had its first officially advertised outing. Twenty club members showed up for a hike into the North Fork of Mill Creek that is part of Mill Creek WSA. There was a challenging hill to descend, but the scenery was outstanding, as was the lunch spot near Otho Arch. Several additional outings are scheduled during the spring. Hikes in the LaSal Mountains are planned during the summer. Thanks to Dave Stolfa, the new Outings Chair.

June

Saturday, June 5th
Hike up Professor Creek in Mary Jane Canyon This hike is up the sand and gravel streambed of Professor Creek for a very gradual 500’ climb in an 8.7 mile round trip. This trail starts in a very wide-open, cottonwood-lined streambed that narrows to a canyon with vertical walls. There is a waterfall at the end of the trail. You will need some old athletic shoes in order to cross/walk the stream 20-30 times. Very refreshing! This is in the proposed Mary Jane Canyon wilderness near Castle Valley. We’ll meet in front of Star Hall at 9AM. We should return about 4PM. Bring a lunch and water. Call Dave Stolfa (435-259-1721) for other information regarding this outing.

GLEN CANYON GROUP

May

Sunday, 4, North Ogden Divide Towards Ben Lomond Peak, moderate
This will be a joint outing with the SLC group. Expect motorcycles. Meet 9AM.

Saturday, May 1st
Location to be determined. Hike will be moderate. Call Dave Stolfa (435-259-1721) for more information regarding this outing.
Utah Wilderness — Why Not?

by Kevin Walker, Public Lands Coordinator

Utah wilderness has obvious strong appeal. Certainly anyone would agree that what remains should be preserved as it is, unless there are good reasons not to do so. Are there any such reasons? Let’s take a look at some of the claims of wilderness opponents.

“There’s already too much protected land in Utah. Only a portion of remaining mostly-pristine areas should be spared from development.” Nationally, less than 10% of the land still qualifies as wilderness. 90% has been turned into subdivisions, oil fields, farmland, off-road vehicle playgrounds, logging areas, highways, etc.

Utah is fortunate to have a disproportionately high share of the remaining de facto wilderness, but even in Utah the large majority of land is either privately owned or open for (and scarred by) oil drilling, logging, mining, etc. The remaining de facto wilderness in BLM, Forest Service and Park Service Lands amounts to only about 1/3 of the state. Utah has more private land per capita than most other states, and this does not take into account federal lands that would be open to development under even the most ambitious proposals of conservationists. In short, there is no rational or factual basis for the claim that preserving all of Utah’s remaining wilderness would result in too much wilderness. If anything, it would result in too little. Saving all that’s left is a balanced, sensible approach.

“Most of the wilderness proposed by conservationists doesn’t really qualify as wilderness. There is little real BLM wilderness outside of BLM’s Wilderness Study Areas.”

This used to be the main and most common complaint of wilderness opponents, but it hasn’t been heard much lately. And for good reason: it’s been thoroughly refuted. In the late 1990’s, the BLM did a careful reinventory of 2.8 million acres of land outside of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) that conservationists claimed qualified as wilderness. Their conclusion: over 90% did indeed qualify as wilderness. In other words, the old WSA boundaries were discredited. Even wilderness proposals endorsed by former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt—no friend of Wilderness—included significant acreage beyond WSA. While there is still some disagreement around the edges, no informed person seriously disputes that the large majority of our wilderness proposal meets the standards of the Wilderness Act. Why was this disputed in the past? Basically, because wilderness opponents failed to read the Wilderness Act and subsidiary documents. Minor human impacts do not disqualify an area as wilderness. According to the Wilderness Act and subsequent wilderness bills passed by Congress, Wilderness Areas need not be 100% pristine—mostly pristine is good enough.

“Designating all remaining wilderness areas would have a devastating impact on motorized recreation. There would be few good places left for off-road vehicles.” The facts do not bear this out. Our BLM wilderness proposal would close less than 10% of the motorized roads and trails in the state. If our wilderness proposal were to pass Congress, the majority of the designated wilderness would be within one mile of a road. Saying that our wilderness proposal is inaccessible to motor vehicles is true but misleading. It’s like saying that most of Salt Lake City is inaccessible to motor vehicles. In one sense this is technically true: most of SLC’s land area consists of buildings, front yards, parks, and other places that cars are not allowed. But it is of course misleading, since you can get close to just about anywhere in SLC in your car. Similarly, most of our wilderness proposal...
Sage Grouse and Sage Steppe Habitat Update

by Debbie Goodman, Utah Audubon Council Lobbyist

On March 24, BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and Utah BLM Director Sally Wisely hosted the Greater Sage Grouse Forum. The meeting included representatives from a host of federal and state agencies such as USFWS, USFS, NRCS, senate and congressional staff, governor's office, DNR, DWR, Farm Bureau, county commissioners, and conservation groups. Director Clarke is visiting all western states to understand their efforts and positions regarding sage grouse conservation. Seven petitions for listing (under the Endangered Species Act) have been filed with the USFWS for the greater sage grouse in recent years, and over half of sage grouse habitat is managed by BLM. BLM is therefore undertaking a collaborative effort in 11 western states to conserve the species and preclude listing. Greater sage grouse populations have declined over 90% in the last century, and over 30% since 1985. A total population of around 150,000 remains, and the species is increasingly threatened by habitat fragmentation and degradation. One factor the USFWS takes into account in its petition review process is ongoing conservation efforts that would remove or eliminate threats to the greater sage grouse. Each of the 11 affected states is in a different stage of developing and implementing a greater sage grouse conservation plan. Utah’s effort is well underway as part of the Sagebrush Steppe Habitat Initiative undertaken by DWR Director Kevin Conway for the last two years. Utah’s plan is habitat-based (as opposed to focused on sage grouse alone), and intended to benefit the full range of sagebrush species including Gunnison sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl, and pygmy rabbit. Utah’s plan is directed at ecological recovery of range-land vegetation, and will address the challenges of invasive species, pinyon-juniper encroachment, decadent sagebrush systems, lack of herbaceous understories, grazing management, and catastrophic wildfires. An interagency working group, Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, has been formed to pool resources and work together on sagebrush ecosystem recovery. The group consists primarily of state and federal agency representatives, but their joint resolution document emphasizes that they will work with local agencies, communities, livestock operators, private landowners, non governmental organizations, and tribal governments. To this end, nine of eleven local working groups around the state have already been established. Interested members would be welcome to participate in various ways, including by participating in habitat restoration projects or assisting with bird counts. For more information, contact Rory Reynolds of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 435-691-1362 or Rory Reynolds@utah.gov.
Not Time to Pack Up the Tent Yet

by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter Lobbyist

For several years past, any review of the Utah Legislature’s performance on environmental issues deserved all the morbid connotations the word post-mortem conjures up. Brace yourselves. This year we actually have some good news to report.

Senator Leonard Blackham (R-Moroni) introduced Senate Bill 19. This bill provided a sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment used to generate electricity from both renewable sources and waste materials. Initially, most of the environmental community was sufficiently unhappy with the waste materials provision that we opposed the bill. However, thanks to messages from club members and other environmentalists as well as the hard work of several senators including Senator Patrice Arent (D-Holladay), the bill was eventually substituted with another bill, Second Substitute Senate Bill 19, that excludes the sales tax exemption for both medical waste incinerators and municipal solid waste incinerators. With this change we felt the positives outweighed the negatives sufficiently to support the bill.

After the session, we heard rumors that Blackham might be interested in sponsoring a bill to promote renewable energy in the 2005 General Session by requiring a substantial increase in the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources by the year 2012 or 2020. This kind of legislation is called a renewable portfolio standard.

Substitute House Bill 71 was Representative Judy Buffmire’s (D-Murray) legislative swansong. She is not seeking re-election in 2004. In addition to her reputation for thoughtful questions, good humor and hard work, this bill will serve as an important part of Buffmire’s legacy. She had passed legislation several years ago requiring water retailers to develop conservation plans. Some water retailers ignored this legislation entirely; others wrote empty or meaningless plans. Substitute House Bill 71 defines what constitutes an acceptable water conservation plan and provides a penalty for retailers that don’t comply. Under this legislation, the conservation plans must include numeric goals and monitoring plans.

Representative Michael Styler (R-Delta) continued the aquatic theme with a proposal for a water conservation task force. Five years of drought has a wonderful concentrating effect. In the weeks before the 2004 General Session began, Styler offered legislation for consideration to an interim meeting that would have allowed non-profits to acquire water rights dedicated to in-stream flow as opposed to consumption; currently only government agencies can hold water rights dedicated to in-stream flow. His idea was not well received by the committee.

Representative Stephen Urquhart (R-St George) introduced and succeeded in shepherding through a bill, HB 247, to establish a two-year task force to study water conservation, water rights and in-stream flow.

DIDN’T MAKE THE CUT

Several good bills went nowhere this session. Representative Ty McCartney (D-South Salt Lake) sponsored a bottle-recycling bill that did not make it to the house floor. Senator Gene Davis (D-Salt Lake City) succeeded in getting legislation through the senate to extend the same tax credit for the Toyota Prius that is currently available for certain Honda hybrid models. The house rejected the bill towards the end of the session. The bill carried what is considered a high fiscal note. In other words, some critics balked at the price tag: $2,048,000 in fiscal 2006. And finally, the house refused to consider a bill, sponsored by Representative Ralph Becker (D-Salt Lake City), that would have allowed voters to endorse issuing bonds to protect open space in the November 2004 elections.

A group of citizens, disappointed by the defeat of Becker’s bill, has launched an initia-
At the Sierra Club, we’re committed to protecting America’s environment and the progress we’ve made cleaning up the pollution and poisons in our air, water and land. But that progress is in peril. The Bush Administration is allowing corporations to rewrite laws that protect our health and safety and the land we love. Thirty years of progress have taught us there is a better way. Work with us. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean air, water and wild lands. Please join. With your support, we can do better... together.

**HOT AIR**

Although a majority of Utah’s legislators—Republican and Democratic—represent urban districts, legislators from rural districts often have a disproportionate influence. For years a powerful cowboy caucus was led by the likes of Met Johnson and Mel Brown. Representative Mike Noel (R-Kanab) carries on in the same vein, and during this session introduced House Joint Resolution 17.

In the resolution, Noel argues, “the people of the state of Utah are denied the right to form and to administer a government upon that portion of territory otherwise committed to them for the purposes of their state by terms of their enabling Act compact with the United States, but which remains under complete federal legislative jurisdiction.” To remedy this perceived injustice, the resolution encourages the Utah attorney general to pick fights with the federal government over ownership of public lands. In the first iteration of the resolution, Noel sought authority to waste unlimited amounts of taxpayer funds seeking to overturn precedent and re-write laws and the US Constitution. Some restraint was exercised by his colleagues, and he wound up having to settle for exhorting the attorney general to, “develop nonfrivolous arguments for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law,” undoing federal land ownership in Utah.

Despite the fact that the vast majority of Utahns value federally-managed public lands as the cornerstone of a high quality of life in Utah, this counterproductive and profligate resolution passed both houses without a single no vote.

For more information about these bills and the legislature generally, see [http://www.le.state.ut.us/](http://www.le.state.ut.us/). For more information about the Utah Chapter’s legislative program and to review our legislative scorecards for the last three years, check out [http://utah.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp](http://utah.sierraclub.org/legislative.asp).
There are many ways that Sierra Club members and other individuals can help protect Utah wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). Here are some possibilities:

• Use the wilderness (in an appropriate manner, of course). Take a hike, go backpacking, or explore the area on horseback. And when you get fuel, food, or a place to stay before or after your wilderness adventure at a nearby town, let people know that the only reason you are spending money there is because of the wilderness area.

• Write a letter. After spending time in the wilderness, write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper and talk about your experience and the value of the nearby wilderness that you explored. Think about copying in your U.S. Representative and Senators.

• Become a wilderness adopter. The Utah Chapter has an Adopt-A-Wilderness Program for wild areas administered by the BLM. As an adopter, you can be a positive influence in working to protect the area. Besides, it gives you an excuse to explore the area. (Need more information? Contact the chapter office at mailto:utah.chapter@sierraclub.org or 801/467-9297.)

• Work with others. Many outdoor recreation organizations, especially hunting and fishing groups, are increasingly concerned about loss of habitat and the disappearance of roadless areas. If you belong to one of them, encourage the group to take an active role in protecting Utah's wild areas. Do you drive an off-highway vehicle (OHV)? Please make sure that you and others you travel with know and obey travel restrictions in the wilds. Don't become a trailblazer.

• Know the issues. The major threats to wild areas in Utah at the present time are oil and gas development, and OHV abuses. If one of your favorite wild areas is threatened, get educated and get involved. Your comments to the agencies responsible for land use plans, Draft Environmental Impact Statements, etc. are important.

• Volunteer. The Sierra Club and other organizations, such as the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, can always use volunteer help for activities ranging from office work to building barriers to stop vehicles from illegally entering protected areas.

• Give financial support. Wilderness protection is now the number one conservation priority for the Utah Chapter, and funds gathered will be prioritized for this purpose.
Atlas Mill Tailings and Other Nuclear Wastes Update

by Sarah Fields, Glen Canyon Group Nuclear Waste Committee Chair

The members of the Nuclear Waste Committee of the Glen Canyon Group (GCG) have been working for a number of years (starting in the 1980s, before the GCG was formed) on issues related to the reclamation of the Moab Uranium Mill (former Atlas Mill) tailings site.

The Moab Uranium Mill was the fifth largest uranium mill in the United States. It was built in 1956 and operated until 1984. It is located at the edge of Moab. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed the mill as a Title II site under the Uranium Mill Tailings Act of 1978 (UMTRCA) until Congress transferred the mill to DOE as a Title I site in 2000.

The general problem is the long-term stability of the mill tailings impoundment, which sits on the floodplain of the Colorado River. As the responsible federal agency, DOE is in the process of determining the appropriate remedial action for the approximately 13 million tons of tailings. DOE is evaluating a cap-in-place alternative and three off-site disposal alternatives. Two off-site disposal options would isolate the tailings above a natural clay barrier 1,000 feet thick. These are clearly the most environmentally sound alternatives. However, capping the tailings in place has been identified as the least costly alternative, so we anticipate a great deal of pressure on DOE to approve that alternative. The specific issue to be analyzed is whether DOE has adequately considered the potential that extreme flood events on the Colorado River will compromise the tailings impoundment, no matter how it’s capped, within the next 200-1,000 years and in the very long term.

The stability of the Moab Mill tailings impoundment is important because if a catastrophic flood occurs, the impact on the Colorado River would be devastating. Such an event would (among other things) destroy critical endangered fish species habitat on the Colorado River; deposit radioactive and toxic materials on river beaches and in high elevation backwaters in Canyonlands National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and potentially Grand Canyon National Park; destroy recreation on the river and on Lake Powell with grave local economic consequences; and pollute a major source of irrigation water and municipal drinking water for the cities of Las Vegas, Phoenix, Tucson, Los Angeles, and San Diego. These impacts will not diminish over the hundreds of thousands of years that the tailings will remain radioactive and toxic.

Another of our concerns has been the possibility that DOE will approve an off-site disposal alternative that would dispose of the tailings at the White Mesa Uranium Mill, near Blanding. This alternative would (among other things) adversely impact the White Mesa Ute and nearby Navajo communities and the town of Bluff. It would also destroy cultural sites on White Mesa. The committee is actively working with the San Juan County communities to oppose the disposal of the Moab tailings at White Mesa. The committee has been actively gathering information related to the cultural sites on White Mesa and in other ways preparing for the release of the Draft EIS. The committee has been actively gathering information related to the cultural sites on White Mesa and in other ways preparing for the release of the Draft EIS.

The Nuclear Waste Committee will submit written comments on the Draft EIS when it is released and attend hearings in Moab and San Juan County where there will be an opportunity for oral comment. The Draft EIS is currently scheduled for release in May.
The U.S. E.P.A. says, “...emissions from lawn mowers...are a significant source of pollution”

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