On June 22, 2004, the Bush Administration announced that the amount of toxic pollutants released into the air, water and land increased by 239 million pounds or five percent in 2002. This is only the second time that toxic pollution has increased since the yearly Toxic Release Inventory began in 1987.

EPA Administrator Leavitt signed a new Nonroad Diesel Rule on Tuesday, May 11, 2004. The Nonroad Diesel Rule will steeply cut pollution from diesel engines used in construction, agriculture and other industries and require the removal of 99 percent of the sulfur in diesel fuel.

On February 3, 2004, the Bush Administration proposed to cut $35 million for the lead hazard control program managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program pays for expert home evaluations and repairs to prevent young children from being exposed to paint particles, dust or soil containing lead.

According to a January 31, 2004 Washington Post article, the Bush Administration’s proposed new rules to regulate power plants’ mercury pollution includes language identical to the recommendations of a law firm representing the electric companies, dust or soil containing lead.
Utah Chapter Sierra Club

Newsletter Editor, Mark Clemens

Newsletter Layout, Ben Nielson

The Utah Sierran is published quarterly (February, May, August & November) by the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club. Views expressed in this paper are the opinions of the individual authors, unless otherwise noted, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Sierra Club.

Submit all articles, artwork, photographs, letters, and comments to:

utah.chapter@sierraclub.org

Phone: (801) 467-9297

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Cover Photo: Solitary Hiker at Ruth Lake

by Karen Marshall

Utah Chapter Seeks Candidates for Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates to run in the upcoming fall Utah Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) election. ExCom members serve a critical role in providing leadership for the chapter. Candidates should be able to serve for a two-year term beginning in January, 2005, and all ExCom members are expected to be actively engaged. This means attending bi-monthly meetings (normally on Saturdays), conducting chapter business by telephone or e-mail, accepting committee appointments, and serving as ExCom officers.

If you would like to be considered for candidacy, please submit a personal photo and ballot statement of no more than 150 words which outlines your experience, qualifications, and what you wish to accomplish by serving on the ExCom. Include a phone number and/or e-mail address where you can be reached.

Send your name and ballot statement to: Nominating Committee; Utah Chapter, Sierra Club; 2120 South 1300 East, Ste. 204; Salt Lake City, UT 84106. You can also e-mail the information to Jean Binyon, Nominating Committee Chair, at Binyon@sisna.com. Nominations for this year’s election must be received by September 1, 2004.

Candidates not selected by the Nominating Committee may nevertheless run for the ExCom provided the candidate submits a petition signed by 15 current members of the Utah Chapter supporting her/his addition to the ballot by September 15, 2004. The committee will inform candidates if they have been selected for the ballot in sufficient time for them to prepare a petition if they choose.

The Glen Canyon, Ogden, and Salt Lake City Groups are likewise governed by ExComs of elected volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for a group ExCom position, contact the appropriate group chairperson listed below:

Glen Canyon Group: Ginny Carlson, ginny@wyn.org

Ogden Group: Dan Schroeder, dschroeder@weber.edu

Salt Lake Group: Dick Dougherty, genres@sisna.com

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.”
Urban sprawl, along with related transportation issues, is a priority concern for the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club. Many areas of our state are experiencing challenges caused by growth. The Greater Wasatch Area is expected to gain a million people by the year 2020. St. George, Park City, and Cache Valley are also feeling the impacts. In Eden, pro- and anti-development factions battle over the issue of incorporation. In Centerville, the battle is over a proposed new Wal-Mart. Across the nation the amount of land lost to urban sprawl is staggering. During the last two decades an area about the size of Illinois has been covered by roads, parking lots, homes, and businesses, and the rate of urbanization continues to accelerate.

Urbanization is welcomed by many because of the economic growth and jobs. Others, however, are concerned about the increased congestion and air pollution that result, and they mourn the loss of open space and – in some cases – the loss of a rural way of life. One of my biggest concerns is the loss of prime agricultural land in Utah and across the nation. But I recognize that continued growth (at least in the short term) is going to happen. The question then becomes, “Can we do it right?”

I am cautiously optimistic that we can do it right in Utah. The Sierra Club and others have championed transit first for the Wasatch Front, and this seems likely to happen. Open space protection in and around urban areas seems to be gaining urgency. I take heart when I read that a 219-acre parcel near Jeremy Ranch is being purchased by the Basin Open Space Advisory Committee and that Summit County residents will be voting on a $10-million bond for additional open-space purchases. I take heart that Utahns for Clean Water, Clean Air and Quality Growth may have succeeded in getting a state-wide, tax-based bond initiative on the November ballot and that farmers, ranchers, rural city and county leaders, and hunting and fishing organizations have expressed their support. I take heart when I attend the dedication of the Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve in my own hometown of Layton.

During my lifetime I have seen other changes that offer hope. Many cities, counties, and states now have meaningful land use plans. It wasn’t that long ago when I first heard the terms conservation easement and smart growth, but now I hear them regularly. The Nature Conservancy began its important work during my lifetime; organizations like the Audubon Society and The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have become actively involved in protecting sensitive areas; and conservation trusts have proliferated. More recently, I have been encouraged by Envirion Utah’s work and by passage of Utah’s Quality Growth Act of 1999 (although funding for this act is now embarrassingly small).

The national Sierra Club has also gotten into the fray by establishing Stop Sprawl as one of its top priorities. I encourage all Club members and friends (and even enemies) to visit the Sierraclub.org internet site to learn more about sprawl issues. Links to articles such as “So What Can We Do – Really Do – About Sprawl?” and “If We Don’t Like Sprawl, Why Do We Go On Sprawling?” are especially helpful.

I agree with the National Resources Defense Council when they state that “The battle against sprawl is not a battle against economic growth; it’s a fight for growth that’s done right.” My hope is that members of the Utah Chapter will actively “fight for growth that’s done right.” How to do this? Get educated (I have listed some sources); chime in (public hearings, letters-to-the-editor); get involved (volunteers are needed by all the organizations I have mentioned); vote (especially for the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Quality Growth Initiative – if it makes it to the ballot -- and for office seekers who support smart growth), and make smart personal choices (like living near where you work and using public transportation). Like I say, I am cautiously optimistic that, as Utah continues to grow, “we can do it right.”

This issue also provides another chance for our readers to assess the Bush Administration’s environmental achievement, or lack thereof. The timeline provides a selection of the significant actions the administration has taken on environmental issues, with the most current actions at the front. See if you can find the positive developments.

**December 2003**

According to a December 8, 2003 Knight-Ridder report, the Bush Administration is punishing far fewer polluters than the two previous administrations. Since 2001, violation notices against polluters have dropped 58 percent and fines have dropped 28 percent from Clinton Administration levels.

On August 21, 2003, the EPA Inspector General (IG) issued a report on the air quality in the World Trade Center area after the September 11th terrorist attack. The IG found that the White House Council on Environmental Quality appears to have pressured EPA in the weeks after the attacks to downplay risks to public health.

**August 2003**

The Washington Post found that “at least a dozen paragraphs were lifted, sometimes verbatim, from the industry suggestions.”
Help Wanted: Experienced Accountant—No Pay but Great Benefits

We do need a treasurer, but you don’t necessarily have to be an accountant. Anyone who is good with numbers and is interested in working as a volunteer with the volunteer leadership of the Utah Chapter is welcome. The treasurer helps coordinate the budgeting process and reports to the chapter’s executive committee on the financial condition of the chapter. The treasurer also produces the chapter’s annual financial statement. Training is available at the Sierra Club’s expense. We’re hoping for a one- to two-year commitment. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org or 801/467-9297.

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

May 2003

On May 29, 2003, the Department of Interior announced it was suspending designation of critical habitat for endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Despite a 1995 National Academy of Sciences report that concluded habitat conservation “is absolutely crucial to species survival,” the Administration has not yet indicated how it will promote the recovery of imperiled plants and animal.

On the Web

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Volunteer Opportunities
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April 2002

On April 11, 2003, the Administration agreed to settle a lawsuit with the State of Utah dropping protection for over 2 million acres of wilderness-quality lands in Utah. Interior Secretary Norton also agreed to forbid the BLM from even considering future wilderness resources in its planning process.

On April 9, 2003, the Administration signed a memorandum of understanding with Utah Governor Leavitt that will allow
Olympus High Valedictorian Recounts Lessons Learned

by Sophia Nicholas, Utah Chapter intern

Editor's Note: The Utah Chapter has been very fortunate in its interns this year. Joey Caputo, Jeff Norris and Sophia Nicholas have all been hard-working, even-tempered, self-starting helpers. They’ve brought important new ideas to the chapter.

My best friend Natalie is not an environmentalist. Environmentalists, she says, are too “radical.” Our hearts are in the right place, but not our minds. Her opinion has, inevitably, caused some tension between us over the course of an otherwise placid and fun-filled summer. I am, after all, working every day in the chapter office as a Sierra Club intern.

I began this summer internship on a hiatus from Wellesley College to learn all I could about how an environmental not-for-profit operates to achieve change, from coordinating with the national headquarters and other environmental organizations to defeat large-scale environmental degradation, to the nitty-gritty of how to decide which priority issues to tackle independently. I also secretly hoped that maybe I would learn how to convince my best friend that it’s her mind that’s not in the right place.

On all levels (except perhaps with Natalie), I have exceeded my expectations in how much I have realized so far. I began immediately to learn about the NEPA process. First thing to do: learn what the heck all those acronyms mean: NEPA, DEIS, EA, FONSI, ROD, USEPA, CERCLA. After that, I was on my way.

I began to make plans with Ann Wechsler to organize a training for commenting on NEPA (yes, even in the Deseret News). In the process, I learned about the proposed coal-fired power plants and all of the pollution they will create for Utah. I went home thinking, “How could a significant decrease in air quality and star visibility in our national parks not upset everyone? This certainly is not a ‘radical’ concern; perhaps it is even something I could bring up with Natalie?” Well, that didn’t work.

But I continued to work and learn. I met with some of the local political candidates that the Sierra Club endorses and learned how they plan to take action and gain support. However, I still wondered why environmental issues are considered more liberal than conservative when their main emphasis is on conservation.

I’ve found myself grappling with many topics of which I have no sense of expertise, and having to learn about them in a relatively short amount of time (like calling the Ashley Forest ranger for information and being placed on a conference call because I said I was from the Sierra Club). Nonetheless, I learned a good deal about forest fires, prescribed burning, and “fuel reduction projects.”

Most importantly, I’ve had the opportunity to be around and work with inspiring, thoughtful, and proactive people who believe in what they are doing and make things happen—the staff at the chapter, committed volunteers I met through various meetings, and the network of activists concerned about population growth at the Planet Awakening workshop, among others.

The specific challenge I’ve discovered is in making people care. In contrast to animal and human rights organizations, with which people can more easily identify and that are a little less overwhelming, environmental organizations face the unique challenge of making long-term environmental problems hit home. (So what if the birds leave? We have bad traffic! What can I do about the rainforest? That’s all the way down in Brazil!) How do keep working without getting overwhelmed yourself and throwing in the towel for somebody else to pick up?

And so far what I’ve learned from those around me is to keep it small, work diligently to research the issues, educate the public, and strive to integrate environmental values seriously into decision-making and the minds of people (hence the importance of the NEPA process, as unclear as it may be). Analyze the values and focus on what you share. While money will always be very important, most people do not want to jeopardize their home. Find a way to communicate that.

So my goal now is to begin the conversation. That’s where it all counts. And that’s how the best decisions for all will be made and how change will begin. So, I’m working on it. And Natalie? Well, my personal goal is to have a “Stop the Legacy Highway” sign on her front lawn by the end of the summer. If I can communicate to her, I can communicate to anyone.
More Thanks to Our Generous Members.

by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter Co-ordinator

Special thanks to the members listed below for their contributions to our 2004 annual fundraising drive. Your 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. 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) 467-8297. We try hard to spell people’s names correctly; please accept our apologies if we misspelled your name!

Fred Adler
Janice M Allred
Michael Attridge
Michael Blomgren
Dee N Burton
David & Inga Chapman
Jack Clark
William Clark
Jean L Coles
Gary L Colton
Beverly H Dalley
Sean Damitz
Angelika Davis
Marla Gault
Jock Gildden
Mark Handy
Duke A Hayduk
David & Jennifer Heldenbrand
Brooke Hopkins
Sara E H Johnson
Mary V Joslyn
Karel I Kumpfer & Henry O Whiteside
Rebekah Lichon
Matt Lindon & Tracey Douthett
Kathryn Lindquist & Jim Moore
Jeff Marcous
Suzie & Jampe Martinsson
Martin McGregor
Katie Pappas
Nelson Reese
Kathleen & Hal Robins
Robert B Reemer
Polly Samuels
Nikki & Tom Sharp
Stacey Sigler
WF Snyder II
Neil Spencer
Duna Strachan
Jim Struve & Jeff Bell
Tim Wagner

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For more information and confidential assistance, please complete the form and send to:
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION’S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

Administration after ten years of planning and scientific review. The new proposal would allow trees up to 30 inches in diameter to be cut down in any area.

On January 10, 2003, the Administration proposed changes for managing waterways under the Clean Water Act. The proposed rules would affect enforcement of the Clean Water Act by defining protected and unprotected lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. The rule would remove 20 million acres of wetlands from protection.

On December 31, 2002, the Administration issued final regulations that would weaken the Clean Air Act’s New Source Review program. The program was established in 1977 and requires utilities, refineries and other industrial facilities to install modern pollution control equipment whenever modifications are made to existing
How Do We Get The Fancy Transit We Want?

by Nina Dougherty

Why should we worry about getting people to use transit (commuter rail, light rail, streetcars and busses)? Shouldn’t people just have a smorgasbord of all transportation choices—all the fast highways they want, fancy transit, safe and beautiful bicycle and pedestrian amenities? Well, it seems that our rapid population growth is surpassed by an even greater growth rate of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which means we could easily run out of road space, not to mention open space and air we can breathe.

There is also the fact that fancy, frequent transit requires a sufficient predicted level of ridership in order to get the federal and local money needed to build and operate it, which means an increasing number of drivers need to learn that fancy transit is a desirable way to commute. Non-drivers and the growing senior population, will also certainly reap the rewards of a very robust transit system.

Land use, transit demand management strategies (TDM) and the sequencing of which system one builds first (new freeways or major transit) all contribute, alone and especially together, to increasing transit ridership—which will help us to get our fancy, frequent transit, clear our air, get us where we want to go and maybe enjoy life more once we get out from behind the wheel.

Land Use

Envision Utah worked with UDOT on a "Growth Choices" process about the relationship between land use and transportation as they apply to the Mountain View Corridor, first known as the 5600 West segment of Legacy Highway. Scenarios were developed by a stakeholder group and in public workshops. Some conclusions resulting from testing the scenarios included (and which support other studies)

1. "Land use can have a dramatic impact on transportation, especially VMT, hours of travel and average delay." The land use referred to is compact, mixed-use centers that put households closer to destinations and to transit. "This resulted in significantly less impact on the transportation system", as well as increasing rates of walking and transit usage. These centers were viewed as "the central gathering place of a community similar to the historic function of town centers."

2. "Land use near potential transit stations can help justify timelier funding for transit and may support higher quality modes. Only scenarios with the most transit-oriented land uses had the ridership to justify the more expensive and higher capacity transit systems. Increases in housing and jobs within walking distance of transit stations increased ridership and can also increase the

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

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- Legislative updates;
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Please clip and send to: The Planet, Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
likelihood that the higher quality transit could be funded."

**Transit Demand Management (TDM)**

TDM measures added to mixed use centers near transit has a synergistic effect on use of transit when coupled with compact mixed-use transit and pedestrian oriented centers. Such measures include (but are not confined to) frequency, transit pricing, ease of access by pedestrians and bicycles as well as by drivers, parking pricing, connectivity to the larger communities and to destinations and related aspects.

**Sequencing And Transit First**

I was taken aback by a statement at a recent South Davis County transit needs assessment meeting. The presenter of transit options started out by saying, "I don’t agree that we need to destroy the highway system.

Has any person or organization suggested such a thing? Certainly not the Sierra Club or the civic organizations in Utahns for Balanced Transportation (UBET). Roads and highway networks are essential. Our members like everyone else depend on highways when we drive and when we use buses. I can’t imagine anyone wanting to destroy the highway system.

When we say Transit First, we’re talking about at least some catch-up on the part of transit in order to have a more balanced transportation system. By far the preponderance of public investment for years—the better part of two generations—has been in highways. Transit has been a poor stepchild. We’re not talking about no investment in highways, just much better balance.

One of the rulings of the United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit (filed September 16, 2002) was: "Delaying the Legacy Parkway and I-15 project until after all or part of the public transit expansion is in place is an alternative that could be reasonable and one the Agencies did not include in the EIS. " This is the sequencing that is being analyzed in the current SEIS process.

Three conservative judges have said that it is highly reasonable that what should be built first should be analyzed. Is it cost effective to build a freeway before it’s time (in internationally significant wetlands) to have an alternative route or to provide a route while I-15 is improved? Are there no alternatives? Excellent commuter rail and east of I-15 transit improvements can provide a lot of commute time respite—and time for riders who can sleep, read, prepare for or unwind from the day without the twice daily threat of their, or their cars, being maimed. Arterials such as Redwood Road can be improved before, not after I-15 work. Another aspect of sequencing is what it does to transit ridership. Building the commuter rail and supporting systems first would provide much higher ridership than building a new freeway first.

Such estimated higher ridership goes a long way to ensuring getting the money and, hopefully, the frequency and other amenities that support getting the federal and local funds. In addition, transit-oriented community centers are more likely to be built, further ensuring impressive transit use.
Utah Wilderness: A Brief History

1964: Wilderness Act signed into law.

1976: Passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) which requires that the BLM undertake inventories and make wilderness recommendations to Congress within 15 years.

1978: Utah gets its first wilderness area. (Lone Peak Wilderness, 30 thousand acres of forest service land.)

1981-89: During Reagan administration, BLM initially identifies less than 1 million acres of wilderness in Utah. Environmental organizations appeal and BLM ultimately sets aside 3.2 million acres in the state as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). However, the BLM recommends to congress that only 1.9 million acres be protected. Some Utah politicians reject the proposal, saying the figure is too large. In the midst of all these struggles, the Utah Wilderness Coalition (UWC) forms in 1985.

1984: US Forest Service lands in Utah totaling 745 thousand acres are protected as wilderness. Most notable is the High Uintas Wilderness of 457 thousand acres.

1989: Citizens complete an on-the-ground study that identifies 5.7 million acres of BLM land that qualifies as wilderness. Rep. Wayne Owens introduces bill in the U.S. Congress to protect this amount.

1996: Rep. Jim Hansen challenges Secretary of the Interior Babbitt to prove his assertion there is more than 5 million acres of wilderness on BLM lands in Utah. The state sues to stop the review but is overruled. Pres. Clinton protects 1.9 million acres in south-central Utah by creating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENIM).

1996-98: BLM completes its long-awaited re-inventory and adds 2.6 million acres of “wilderness inventory” lands to its previous total. Thus, BLM concludes it manages a total of 5.8 million acres meeting the criteria for wilderness protection.

UWC completes its own re-inventory and concludes 9.1 million acres of BLM land in Utah qualify as wilderness (including about 1.8 million acres in the GSENIM).

In 1997, America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act is first introduced in both houses of Congress to protect 9.1 million acres of Utah wilderness.

1999: Rep. Hansen introduces a bill to protect wilderness areas in western Utah. However, the bill contains language that undermines the Wilderness Act of 1964, and it dies quietly.

2000: Rep. Cannon introduces a bill to create a San Rafael Swell Conservation Area which designates zero wilderness areas and continues to let off-road vehicles run rampant. After the House votes overwhelmingly to expand the conservation area and protect all wilderness areas within the swell, the bill’s sponsors pull it from the floor.

2003: America’s Redrock Wilderness Act is reintroduced in the 108th Congress. Out of 157 house co-sponsors and 15 senate co-sponsors, none is from Utah.

Gov. Leavitt and Interior Secretary Norton sign an agreement (negotiated in secret) that eliminates protection for the 2.6 million acres of Utah “wilderness inventory” lands identified by the BLM during its 1990s re-inventory. Norton also agrees to prohibit the BLM from conducting further wilderness inventories or designating new WSAs without explicit congressional authorization. In reaction, the Outdoor Industry Association threatens to move its twice-annual Outdoor Retailer shows from Salt Lake City. Gov. Leavitt begins backpedaling, creates a task force to study the outdoor recreation industry in Utah, and declares in his farewell address (before leaving to become the new EPA Administrator and evidently ignoring the existing bill for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act) that “Utah needs a wilderness bill in Congress. The land needs to be protected...”

2004: Gov. Walker begins the challenging task of creating a wilderness initiative. In the meantime, the BLM continues approving gas and oil development leases on previously identified “wilderness inventory” lands, and off-highway vehicles continue to assault these same lands.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION’S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD
THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

On September 18, 2002, the Administration announced it was replacing members of the scientific advisory committee on the effects of environmental chemicals on human health. Fifteen of the eighteen members will be replaced with new members that in many cases have connections to the chemical industry.

On August 12, 2002, the Administration announced plans to expand drilling beyond the boundaries of the Canyon of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado. The area has the highest density of archaeological sites in the U.S. Approximately 85 percent of the monument is already leased for energy development. This is the first time drilling has been permitted to extend outside leased areas at a national monument. On August 21, 2002, a U.S. District Court temporarily stopped the oil drilling at the monument due to the...
the Park and Ride at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon at 6:30 p.m. Call Ken (484-3112) for more information about the hike.

Sunday, August 8th
Notch Pass Day Hike
The Notch Pass trail begins at the Crystal Lake trail head in the Uintas. A loop of moderate difficulty, the trail passes by several small lakes and offers superb scenic opportunities. Meeting place is the K-Mart parking lot on Foothill Drive and Parleys Way at 9:00 a.m. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more information about the hike.

Tuesday Night Hike, August 10th
Albion Basin to Catherine’s Pass
At the crest of Catherine’s Pass hikers can view the convergence of 5 canyons and 3 mountain lakes. Albion Basin is also well known for its plentiful wildflowers which 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.

Tuesday Night Hike, August 17th
Prince of Wales Hike
The destination for this hike is the Prince of Wales Mine by way of Grizzly Gulch in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The hike offers spectacular views of Silver Fork and Little Cottonwood Canyon. Being an abandoned road bed, trekking will be easy and facilitates the decent in the event the hike extends into dusk. It is recommended that participants pack a flashlight for this hike. Expect a 4 mile round trip with an elevation gain of approximately 1300 vertical feet. Note the meeting time of 6:00 p.m. in order to get to the trail by no later than 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Richard (487-1840).

Sunday, August 22nd
Uinta Mountains Hike
Although long, the scenic opportunities makes this moderately paced hike well worth the effort. The hike will begin at a trail head just off the beautiful Mirror Lake Highway the Uintas. Bring enough water, snacks, and gear for an all day excursion. Call Jon or Gaynelle (435/649-8917) for meeting time, place, and more information about the hike.

August 27th-29th Friday-Saturday-Sunday
Uinta Mountain Car Camp
Reservations have been made at the Lincoln Group Campsite in the Washington Lake Campground for a fabulous weekend of camping, hiking, biking, fishing, and scrumptious dinners prepared by a champion Dutch Oven cook. Being in close proximity to the Crystal Lake trailhead, this area offers multiple recreational opportunities for children and adult activities. Check in time is 2:00 p.m. and the campsite is limited to 50 campers. Contact Rebecca (487-4160) for details about the outing. Co-listed with the Wasatch Mountain Club.

Tuesday Night Hike August 31st
Leaders Choice Hike Millcreek Canyon
Although the destination has not been determined, expect a moderately paced hike on a scenic trailhead in Millcreek Canyon. Pack flashlights in the event the outing extends into dusk. Meeting place is the Skyline High parking lot at 6:30 p.m. Call Ken (484-3112) for more information about the hike.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday Night Hike, September 7th
Killyon Canyon
Come out and enjoy the last Tuesday Night Hike of the season. The hike begins on a trail in the Pine Crest area of Emigration Canyon. Bring flashlights in the event the outing extends beyond dusk. Meeting place is Reservoir Park just east of the Hogel Zoo Parking lot on Sunnyside Avenue. Call Dick (581-7830) for more information about the hike.

September 19th, Sunday
North Canyon to Mueller Park
Explore the lush foothills adjacent to the city on a hike from North Canyon to Mueller Park in Bountiful. This will be a one way hike with plans to park vehicle at the beginning and end of the trail. Expect a moderate 7 to 8 mile hike, some elevation gain, and bring enough water and snacks for an all day outing. Meeting place is the Mueller Park entrance at 1800 South in Bountiful at 10:30 a.m. Call Margaret (292-7602) for more details regarding the hike.

September 26th, Sunday
South Willow Lake Hike
Located in the Stansbury Mountains, the South Willow Lake trail is similar in terrain, topography and viewing opportunities as the Deseret Peak trail but not as long or steep. Expect a moderately paced hike and bring enough food and water for an all day excursion. Meeting place is the Division of Wildlife Resources Building at 1500 West North Temple at 9:00 a.m. Call Dick (531-7830) for more information about the hike.

September 25th-October 1st
Paria Canyon Back Pack
The Pariah Canyon is part the Paria

July 2002

irreparable harm that could be caused.

On July 15, 2002, the Administration approved a Navy plan to use low-frequency sonar to detect submarines, despite evidence of injuries to whales and dolphins. The permit exempts the Navy from the Marine Mammal Protection Act, allowing it to harm whales, and other species while flooding the oceans with intense sound. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration granted the Navy a permit for five years to power new sonar to spot super quiet submarines. In March 2000, Navy sonar tests resulted in the death of 23 whales in the Bahamas.

On July 2, 2002, the Administration proposed to weaken federal oversight of Clean Water Act rules and allow states to clean up rivers, lakes and streams. The proposal would reverse a Clinton Administration rule requiring EPA...
Today, according to the EPA, 44
states enforce the Clean Water Act.
In June 2002, the Bush Administra-
tion issued the United States Climate
Action Report, which states: “green-
house gases are accumulating in the
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human activities, causing global
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link between human activities and
global climate change, and its
detailed listing of the alarming con-
sequences of climate change, the
Administration suggests that little
or nothing can be done to reduce
emissions and, therefore, that the

Kodachrome Basin State Park is a
small, attractive park surrounded by col-
lection about the outing.
To anyone interested in participating in
the worlds only collection of “sand
pipes” 67 in all. It is planned to hike Slot
Canyon one day and possibly spend
another day in nearby Bryce Canyon.
There is also the possibility of extending
the trip to October 11th. Number of
participants is limited so call by mid
September to sign up for the outing.
There will be a camping fee of $3.50
per night and participants must supply
their own camping gear. Call Margaret
(292-7602) for more information about
the outing. Co-listed with the Wasatch
Mountain Club.

October 17th, Sunday
Antelope Island Day Hike
Enjoy a delightful fall hike on a yet to be
determined trail on Antelope Island.
There are a variety of scenic hiking
opportunities and the possibility of
encountering buffalo as well as other
wildlife living on the island. Meeting
place is the causeway entrance on the
west end of the island at 10:00 a.m.
Call Dick (531-7830) for more informa-
tion about the hike.

October 24th, Sunday
Bike Ride to City Creek Canyon
Weather permitting, Ken will lead a
leisurely bike ride into one of his favorite
riding destinations. The ride will begin at
Liberty Park after which riders will spin
through downtown Salt Lake City,
Memory Grove, and to where the pave-
ment ends in City Creek Canyon. Total
distance will be approximately 20 miles.
Meeting place is the northeast pavilion
in Liberty Park at 10:00 a.m. Road or
mountain bikes are appropriate, and
helmets are required. Call Ken (484-
3112) for more information about the
hike.

Family Outings E-mail List
To anyone interested in participating in
a family outing e-mail list. The list is
intended to serve as an electronic com-
municated for interested parties to post
and respond to family oriented activi-
ties. Communications of suggested and
planned outings will be carried out exclusively via the e-mail
list. The list is intended to accommodate
both planned and impromptu outings.
Contact Kurt Alloway at
desertquest99@yahoo.com for more
information about posting and respond-
ing to the list.

GLEN CANYON
GROUP

SEPTEMBER
Saturday, September 1st, Manns
Peak from Warner Lake
moderate
8.5 miles round trip and about 3000’
climb. Get out of the summer heat and
climb to an easy (relatively) 12,272’
peak. Climb to Burro Pass and then
1000’ up to the peak. Meet at the
Branding Iron to carpool at 8AM. Call
Mike Binyon (435) 259-1633 if you have
any questions.

OCTOBER
Thursday-Saturday, October 14-17,
car camp and day hiking in San
Rafael Swell
easy
Set up base camp on Thursday night.
Hike Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Call
Mike Binyon (435) 259-1633 for further
details.

OGDEN GROUP,
SIERRA CLUB
P.O. Box 1821, Ogden, UT, 84402
http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/
The public is welcome on all outings.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>July 2002</th>
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<td>approval of states’ efforts to restore impaired water bodies. The Clinton Administration rule was in response to lawsuits in 34 states that claimed that officials failed to enforce the Clean Water Act. Today, according to the EPA, 44 percent of the nation’s water bodies are still impaired by pollutants. On June 3, 2002, the Administration issued the United States Climate Action Report for 2002. The report states: “green-house gases are accumulating in the Earth’s atmosphere as a result of human activities, causing global mean surface air temperature and subsurface ocean temperature to rise.” Despite its recognition of the link between human activities and global climate change, and its detailed listing of the alarming consequences of climate change, the Administration suggests that little or nothing can be done to reduce emissions and, therefore, that the</td>
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<td>THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION’S ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD</td>
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Participants are requested to call the leaders in advance for outing details. For information related to outings in general, contact John Besbekos, 985-6854.

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.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 11, Hidden Valley hike. 4 miles RT 2100’ gain. Short but steep climb to vistas of Ogden and Taylor Canyon. Meet 9am Call John Besbekos 985-6854.

Saturday, 18, Ben Lomond Pk. 16.5 miles RT 3500’ elevation gain. About 7 hours hiking time. The Ogden Group has proposed this area for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Join us to find out what makes this area so special. Meet 7 am. Call Larry Woolsey 731-3701

Saturday, 25, Box Elder Creek loop hike.
The fall colors should be near their peak along this moderate hike south of Mantua. As an added bonus, the Forest Service has finally fenced out the motorcycles and ATVs that were being used here illegally. They may reopen the trails to motorized use next year, so come enjoy this area while it’s quiet. The loop is only about four miles, but side trips are possible for those who want more exercise. Call leader Dan Schroeder (801-393-4603) to coordinate carpooling from Ogden or a meeting place in Brigham City.

OCTOBER

Saturday, 2, Ogden Valley Overlook trail at Snowbasin hike.
5 to 6 miles RT 800’ gain. Well maintained trail to great views of Snowbasin area and Ogden Canyon. Meet 9am Call John Besbekos 985-6854.

Sunday, 10, Bear River Refuge bike ride.
Call Al Stockland 479-9554.

Saturday, 16, Antelope Island Elephant Head.
10.5 mile RT hike Great views of the lake and Split Rock Bay. Meet 8 am. Call Larry Woolsey 731-3701

NOVEMBER

Saturday, 6, Indian Trail
It’s 5 miles in about 2.5 hours. Popular hike. We’ll snack at the shelter and enjoy views from Nevada viewpoint. Call Larry Woolsey 731-3701

DECEMBER

Saturday, 18, Snowshoe or XC ski in Snowbasin area.
2-3 hours. We’ll go where the snow is best. Meet 9am. Call Larry Woolsey 731-3701

United States should merely “adapt” to climate change. On June 6, 2002, President Bush dismissed the report saying, “I read the report put out by the bureaucracy.”

On May 21, 2002, the Administration announced plans to open approximately one million acres of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in the Siskiyou region. The Siskiyou region in Oregon is one of the most diverse ecological regions in the nation. The area contains 15 Wild and Scenic Rivers and some of the best remaining free flowing salmon and steelhead trout habitat in the U.S.

On April 24, 2002, the Administration proposed management plans that would weaken pro-

Photo: Three Hikers at Willow Lake by Ron Younger
Celebrating Our Wilderness Activism

by Kirsten Shaw, Utah Chapter Secretary

Forget celebrating the nation’s 106 million acres of protected Wilderness. Forget that bipartisan congressional support for the Redrock Wilderness Act reached record levels recently. Forget that the public has repeatedly supported Wilderness protection. Remember this: naturally magnificent Utah has by far the least amount of Wilderness protection of all the Western states. And the Bush administration wants to reduce protection for Wilderness-quality lands even further.

This fall, events across the nation will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. These events, including organized walks for Wilderness, lobbying campaigns and activist training, will offer insight regarding Wilderness concerns, and—most importantly—will hopefully inspire citizens to create major changes for Wilderness protection during this year’s elections.

Conservationists have identified more than nine million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Utah that qualify as Wilderness under federal law—more than any other intact wilderness in the lower 48 states. But currently only about 28,000 acres of BLM lands are protected as Wilderness in Utah (and a little under 5 percent of the nation’s lands is so protected (www.wilderness.net)). America’s Redrock Wilderness Act, originally introduced in Congress in 1989 and finally garnering the largest number of co-sponsors last year, would protect the last great blocks of undeveloped, BLM land in Utah. The act has yet to pass.

Utah wilderness is now gravely at risk. Currently threats include use of the antiquated and repealed “http://www.suwa.org/page.php?page_id=103” & “_self” 1866 Mining Act (R.S. 2477) to halt Wilderness designation, and last year Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Governor Mike Leavitt placed millions of acres at risk by announcing the Wilderness-quality land could never again be designated as wilderness study areas by BLM. Earlier this year, Intermountain Region National Park Service Wilderness Program Coordinator Jim Walters charged that the Service has, “accomplished relatively little in implementing either the letter or the spirit of the Wilderness Act.”

The Bush Administration has repeatedly proposed oil and gas leases in areas the Clinton Administration and conservationists agreed qualify as wilderness, and the administration directed the BLM to give energy development top priority. Bush revealed his true agenda regarding national monuments during a 2001 interview with a Denver Post reporter. "It depends upon the cost-benefit ratio," Bush said. "There are some monuments where the land is so wide-spread, they just encompass as much as possible. And the integral part, the precious part, so to speak . . . will not be despoiled." Bush also added that he would consider "all public lands" for energy development, which led to public outrage. The administration’s celebration of the act’s anniversary appears decidedly muted. A federally-sponsored conference to celebrate the anniversary was postponed until after the November election. Fortunately, the Wilderness Act’s anniversary events will attract the attention of citizens nationwide to the protection our last great places need. Advocates can obtain information regarding how they can work towards Wilderness protection (including the Utah Adopt-a-Wilderness Program) via the Sierra Club and at the website, http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/anniversary.asp; and a national Wilderness events calendar as well as an outreach guide that instructs activists how to publicize events, lobby politicians, raise funds or organize celebrations and press conferences is available online at www.wildernessforever.org.

Utah Wilderness Act Anniversary Events
Perspectives on the Values of Wilderness August 10th
Wild By Law: The Rise of Environmentalism and the Creation of the Wilderness Act. This Academy Award nominated documentary chronicles the evolution of American attitudes towards wilderness from the early 20th century to the passage of the Act. Free and open to the public. Salt Lake City Main Library Auditorium, 210 E. 400 S., from 7:00-8:30pm.

Reading by Utah Naturalist Stephen Trimble August 21st
A limited edition Leia Bell silk-screened poster commemorating the event will be on sale; benefits Save Our Canyons. Free. Ken Sanders Books. 7 p.m.

Walk for Wilderness – Ogden September, Date TBD
Three-mile walk events include keynote speakers and Wilderness information booths. MTC Pavilion, Ogden Parkway. Contact Randy Welsh at (801) 625-5250 for details.

Wilderness Walk and Work: National Public Lands Day Celebrating Wilderness September 18th
Volunteers meet for a work and walk day beginning at the Logan Ranger District. An education fair at the meeting place will provide information on the seven Wilderness areas in the Wasatch Cache National Forest, the Wilderness Act, ethics and invasive species identification. Participants work projects in the Wellsville Mountain and Mt Naomi Wilderness areas, trailheads and other National Forest sites. 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Go to www.wilderness.net to learn how to organize a Walk for Wilderness in your community.

April 2002

President Bush announced in April 2002 that the Department of the Interior would propose to establish a regional or local management board for each national monument and increase oil and gas development, mining and use by off-road vehicles, and other commercial activities. On April 5, 2002, the Administration delayed for at least two more years a requirement that industry reduce hazardous air pollutants. This delay pushes back the Clean Air Act requirement to control toxic emissions from a variety of industrial sources. The Clean Air Act requires that the 189 most hazardous air pollutants are listed and require any large source of such emissions to set maximum achievable control technology standards. On April 2, 2002, the Administration urged the removal of 47 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for hazardous air pollutants.
of Robert Watson, who advocated action to curb greenhouse gas emissions, as chairman of the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In 2001, the ExxonMobil Corporation sent a letter to the Administration asking, “Can Watson be replaced now at the request of the U.S.?” The IPCC assessments of climate change have led to two climate treaties that call for stabilization and reduction of world’s greenhouse gas emissions.

On March 28, 2002, the Administration proposed to lift the ban and expand oil and gas exploration in Rocky Mountain Front in Montana. In 1997, the Clinton Administration declared a moratorium on new oil and gas leases in some areas of the Rocky Mountain Front. In February 2002, Agriculture Secretary Veneman endorsed oil and gas exploration in the Rocky Mountain Front, said “when you look at the new technologies that we have today, in...
Utah Sierran Fall 2004  7/27/04  3:52 PM  Page 16

Bird Droppings
by Ann Wechsler

Wasatch Powderbird Guides (WPG) is the helicopter skiing concessionaire on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Their latest proposal to the US Forest Service (USFS) for a five-year permit, if granted, will greatly expand their operations and promote further conflict between heliskiers and a growing number of backcountry users. The history of WPG’s entry into the recreation market in Utah is rife with conflict between conservationists, politicians, and USFS officials who are charged with balancing multiple uses of our public lands. One of those uses could be described as highly industrial.

Helicopter skiing figured prominently in the establishment of a Utah Wilderness bill over two decades ago, when Jake Garn was one of Utah’s senators and an ardent supporter of helicopter skiing. Senator Garn also helped get a wilderness bill for Utah’s Wasatch Front through congress, which he claimed was a lengthy and tedious process. “After resolving controversial issues over specific boundaries, acreage, timber sales, oil, gas, mining, watershed protection, predator control, the very last [emphasis original] issue to be resolved with environmentalists dealt with helicopter skiing on the Wasatch,” (Letter from Jake Garn to Gray Reynolds, 14 November 1991, on United States Senate stationery) Garn wrote to Reynolds, then regional forester in Ogden. There was pressure to create wilderness, and pressure from Greg Smith, owner of WPG, to be allowed to fly his helicopter in areas that were proposed for wilderness designation.

Additional pressure in the negotiations came from the Sierra Club that, both nationally and locally, fought hard to preserve the integrity of wilderness as established by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Club negotiators took exception to permitting a helicopter to intrude into wilderness—“an insult to those seeking solitude in wilderness as well as a very bad precedent to set for wilderness designation.” Garn, however, confessed that he would have preferred helicopter skiing to continue within the wilderness itself. He spoke of the thrill of flying into an undeveloped area, being dropped off on a mountain peak in several feet of powder snow, and skiing out. What could be “more enjoyable to a down-hill skier than deep powder and an open mountain,” he asked. Ultimately, the legislation reduced areas requested for heli-skiing but provided a base for WPG to begin operations in the Wasatch.

The current permit request again makes WPG’s economic viability an issue, and once again the US Forest Service seems determined to act as their enablers. In the name of “operating efficiencies” the USFS has appeared to develop a plan that will abandon the hard-fought restrictions of the previous permit and exacerbate conflicts with the skiers who claim silently to get to the same high peaks. Tour routes into the Twin Peaks Wilderness are proposed, as well as an increase in the number of days WPG may fly two helicopters in the tri-canyon area (Big and Little Cottonwood and Millcreek Canyons). The potential for a Wasatch mountain and forest experience that can satisfy its many and varied users, as we grow our population as readily as houseplants, seems ever more elusive.

February 2002

terms of extraction of resources, we can’t preclude any options.”

On February 25, 2002, the Department of the Interior appeals office halted an oil and gas exploration project on federal lands.

Between Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in Utah that could cause irreparable harm. The exploration activities include the cable and heavy-duty thumper trucks to conduct seismic testing.

On February 4, 2002, the Administration proposed to cut 200 employees from the EPA enforcement office in the Fiscal Year 2003 budget. Some pollution enforcement activities would be shifted from federal authorities to state officials, who would have less ability to curb pollution that crosses state lines. The Administration attempted to cut the enforcement budget last year, but the funds were restored by Congress.

Representative Bishop Goes to Bat For Cedar Mountains Wilderness

by Al Herring, Chapter Chair

Representative Rob Bishop has introduced a “Utah Test and Training Range Protection Act” (HR 2909) in Congress which would give added protection to the range, block the possibility of rail transportation of spent nuclear fuel rods to the proposed medium-term storage site in Skull Valley, and provide wilderness protection for almost 100,000 acres in the Cedar Mountains.

The Cedar Mountains lie a little over 50 miles west of Salt Lake City and run generally north-south. Interstate 80 skirts the northern end of the range. This bill has been approved by the House Resources Committee and is now ready for further consideration. The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club supports this legislation, and we commend Rep. Bishop for his effort in trying to protect our economy, safety, and a valued wilderness area.
Kennecott and Jordan Valley Opt For a Black Box Disposal Method
by Sophia Nicholas

The Sierra Club recently issued comments to the Utah Department of Environmental Quality questioning Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation’s plan to dispose of contaminants resulting from its groundwater clean-up project in southwestern Salt Lake Valley. The comments specifically addressed the legality and hazardous environmental consequences that will be caused by Kennecott and the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District’s (JVWCD) revised proposal.

Two plumes of contaminated groundwater resulted from Kennecott’s mining activities throughout much of the 20th century. One plume, designated Zone A, has a high acidity with a pH of around 3.5, and contains high concentrations of heavy metals and sulfate. For 30 years, Kennecott held the highly acidic water used to strip copper and other trace metals from rock in the Large Bingham Reservoir. The reservoir was not lined until the early 1990s, and leaked between one and seven million gallons of contamination per day into the aquifer. Heavy metals of concern include selenium, aluminum, arsenic, copper, cadmium, chromium, lead and iron.

The plume known as Zone B, much of it located under the cities of West and South Jordan, contains high levels of sulfate that leaked from Kennecott’s unlined evaporation ponds from the 1930s through the early ’80s. Although it does not contain the heavy metals and high acidity of Zone A, the water is unusable for drinking or irrigation.

Kennecott fended off Superfund listing in 1995 for these contaminated groundwater plumes by settling with the State of Utah and JVWCD, and agreeing to the court-issued Consent Decree. This required Kennecott to complete source-control efforts preventing more contamination from reaching the aquifer, to set up a trust fund to repair the damage, and to ultimately provide municipal quality water to the public in the affected area.

A Technical Review Committee was formed in 1995 to oversee the remediation studies and project future groundwater and contamination movement. On the basis of these studies, Kennecott prepared its current Proposal in conjunction with the requirements of the Consent Decree to provide the affected area with a total of 8125 acre-feet/year (afy) of water for 50 years.

The Proposal allows for the construction of two reverse-osmosis water treatment facilities—one for the Zone A acid/metals plume, and the other for the Zone B sulfate plume. In its previous version of the Proposal in autumn 2003, Kennecott intended to dump the concentrates resulting from the Zone B reverse osmosis treatment into the Jordan River. After much public comment, they withdrew that alternative and now propose to put the concentrates either directly or indirectly, through Kennecott’s North Tailings Impoundment, into the Great Salt Lake.

While the Sierra Club supports the clean-up of the contaminated groundwater, it strongly opposes Kennecott’s solution of dealing with the resulting contaminants on several grounds:

Waters laden with heavy metals, particularly selenium, and an excess of total dissolved solids (TDS) will certainly have negative biological consequences for the lake’s ecosystem and the 10 million migratory birds that use it.

Although the revised Proposal offers the possibility of establishing a selenium standard for the Great Salt Lake, no further scientific studies on other metals, sources of pollution, or their cumulative effects is even considered. Ecological damage would thus be difficult to monitor, assess, and mitigate.

Additionally, the North Tailings Impoundment, located right beside the Great Salt Lake, is not a responsible or safe place to store toxic metals from the Zone A concentrates. While the acidity of the plume water can be neutralized, its metals will continue to build up in the impoundment, blow off as dust into the Salt Lake Valley, and make their way into the lake.

Large earthquakes also threaten the impoundment’s stability. On these grounds, the Sierra Club questioned the legality of storing Superfund-level contaminants in such a way.

Finally, the Proposal plans to withdraw vast amounts of water from the aquifer, without addressing the ecological or economic possibilities of additional contamination or land subsidence.

For more information on the Proposal and its ecological consequences, to learn how to get involved or to send a letter to Governor Walker, please visit our website at www.utah.sierraclub.org.
In December 2001, the Administration began undermining the provisions of the existing regulation that limited commercial activity on 58.5 million acres of national forest lands, while permitting continued recreational activities in those areas. In January 2001, the Clinton Administration issued an administrative rule that banned new road building in roadless sections of national forests. However, the rule was suspended in May 2001 by a District Court in Idaho, after the Bush Administration declined to defend the rule. This ruling is currently under appeal.

On October 31, 2001, the Administration reversed an earlier decision and established the arsenic drinking water standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb) after eight months of delay. In 2000, the Clinton Administration established the 10 ppb after more ten years of research and studies by the National Academy of Sciences.

Kennecott's Noxious Toxic Release Reporting

Great news! According to Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report, the company decreased their poisonous release by seventy four percent in one day. Kennecott's release was reduced overnight from 697 to 182 million pounds of toxins for 2001. Wait a minute…

If you think this is perplexing, read further.

Until June 22, 2004, Kennecott had been reporting the initial 695,929,704 pounds of toxic waste for 2001. The next day, they adjusted their report, claiming only 181,667,704 pounds was released in the environment. How could they do so legally? By referring to the April U.S. District Court decision ruling that mine operators are not required to report trace metals in so-called waste rocks to TRI. Barrick Goldstrike mines defeated the Environmental Protection Agency in a landmark case that is being heralded by mining companies across North America. This case will make it significantly harder for citizens to determine the truth regarding the toxins they eat and breathe daily.

TRI, part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, lists releases of nearly 650 chemicals from mining, utilities and manufacturing industries. An exemption to the Act states companies are not required to report TRI chemicals in mixtures at concentrations below one percent if the chemical is an identified carcinogen. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson ruled in the Barrick case that this exemption applies to waste rock. However, usually more than 95 percent of the mining industry's TRI reported chemicals are from waste rock. The mining industry claims the environment is not being harmed by this waste rock.

“All you're doing is digging them [rocks] up in one place and moving them to another, nothing is being released to the environment,” claims Northwest Mining Association Director Laura Skaler. Not quite, according to environmental groups and government agencies, arguing that moving the rocks disturbs areas otherwise left intact, therefore exposing chemicals and channeling heavy-metal pollution into Utah's drinking water. The National Research Council reported in 1999 that waste rock contaminates water unless the rock is capped and sealed. Even then, tailings rarely adequately protect water or neutralize toxic metals. Utilizing the Barrick decision, Kennecott is circumventing Clean Water Act regulation. Brad Johnson, Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation director, told the Salt Lake Tribune that Kennecott's astonishing TRI decrease is due to, “how things are reported rather than what's out there.”

Kennecott remains the top polluter in the nation, and the company’s original 2001 Toxic Release Inventory was more than total statewide releases for thirty states. Many chemicals released are known carcinogens, as well as neurological or respiratory toxins. Kennecott continues to deceive the public. A few years ago, Kennecott’s “Social and Environmental Reports”, mailed to community members, claimed, “Selenium Discharge Reduced by Eighty Percent.” However, while the discharges to one body of water were reduced by 1,419 pounds, overall selenium discharges increased by 7,735 pounds. Another smoke-and-mirrors mailing claimed lead and arsenic air emissions from its smelter would be lower than the previous year, but arsenic releases from Kennecott's other smelter increased by nine million pounds; lead releases increased by more than 33 million pounds in one year. With this new TRI report, Kennecott has taken one more step to camouflage the jeopardy to public health.
Building Environmental Communities

by Lawson LeGate, Senior Southwest Representative

The Bush administration, with remarkable single-mindedness, has set about undoing more than thirty years of work to protect the nation’s air, water, and shrinking wilderness.

The New Yorker, 11/14/02

It is difficult to think of an area of environmental protection that the Bush Administration hasn’t attempted to weaken, whether it’s the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, National Forest roadless areas, or Utah’s incomparable desert wilderness. The Bush Administration has sought to weaken Clean Air Act enforcement of coal-fired power plant emissions and calls it “Clear Skies.” It has played upon peoples’ fears of wildfire and established a program to greatly increase logging of the national forest roadless areas at the expense of thinning near forest communities and calls it “Healthy Forests.” It has met in secret with the energy industry to craft a campaign to maximize oil and gas drilling in wild areas such as the Book Cliffs—and has refused to divulge what went on in those meetings or who attended them.

We are well aware that the Bush Administration has established the worst environmental record of any presidential administration in living memory. The problem is that despite overwhelming evidence that most Americans strongly support protection of our environment, many are simply unaware of this assault.

Why is this? Nowadays most people lead very busy lives. Many things compete for our attention: paying bills, putting kids through school, issues of war security, health care. We are bombarded daily with TV and other messages. It has become clear that a sure-fire way to reach people is to talk to them one-on-one, neighbor-to-neighbor. And so the Building Environmental Communities program was born.

Building Environmental Communities (BEC) is a ten-year program aimed at getting people to talk to each other on the phone, at their doorsteps, at the grocery store, and in neighborhood meetings about the
In this, the inaugural year of the BEC program, the Sierra Club has launched pilot projects in about 20 communities from New Hampshire to Georgia to Oregon and Texas. Closer to Utah, the cities of Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico are BEC sites.

In these cities volunteers are joining together to give their time to call fellow Sierra Club members to ask them to help spread the word. They are holding house parties in their homes to discuss the Bush Administration’s record and the environmental threats to their communities. They are handing out information at local stores, they’re planning and attending citizens’ hearings and public meetings devoted to environmental issues. And they are walking neighborhoods to knock on doors to talk to people face-to-face and carrying the message that there is a better way.

Recently, some of us from Utah had the privilege of participating in one of these events. On June 26th, we joined with 25 volunteers and staff to walk through neighborhoods in Santa Fe to talk about the Bush Administration’s efforts to put off the goal of removing mercury from the emissions of coal-fired power plants. We know that mercury is a powerful toxin that affects learning and development in young children. Pregnant women and their unborn children are at high risk when exposed to mercury. Twenty-two lakes and streams in New Mexico have been deemed unsafe from mercury pollution. Nearby are two major coal-fired power plants that spew mercury into the atmosphere.

So these Sierra Club volunteers walked through the Santa Fe streets, knocking on doors and holding conversations with people about the Bush Administration’s plans and how we have the technology to clean up mercury emissions sooner, not later. They reported generally positive receptions; in fact, many signed a postcard to President Bush.

It’s a big job, reaching out to thousands of your fellow citizens. Utah members of the Sierra Club can help. Beginning July 15, Utahns will start pitching in by calling Sierra Club members in New Mexico and asking them to become involved in the Building Environmental Communities program there. We are meeting at 6:30 pm at the Sierra Club office in Salt Lake City at 2120 South 1300 East, Suite 204. Afterwards, we plan to go out for refreshments. If you think you can help, please call the Sierra Club office at 467-9294.
Ten New Scholarship Winners Wrap Up The Colorado Plateau Scholarship Program

by Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter co-ordinator

The winners of the 2004 Colorado Plateau Scholarship include ten of the most talented and promising high school seniors from across the Colorado Plateau. This year’s winners represented towns from across the broad reach of the Colorado Plateau’s rugged topography. The winners are Cody Dalton, Moab; Samantha Hamblin, Kanab; Dolores Heaton, Hurricane; Cameron J Henrie, Panguitch; Trevor Hoyt, Hurricane; Connor Houghton, Helper; Ramie L Linton, Kanab; Brittany Anne Richins, Orderville; Sarah Stock, Castle Valley; and Miriam Christine Tate, Hurricane.

Scholarship applicants were evaluated on their academic record, involvement in their communities and a written essay. Essays were given the highest marks if they proposed solutions to community problems.

The 2004 scholarship recipients all come from small towns, some with only a few hundred residents. The students’ essays reflect their attachment and affection for the communities. Some of the students tackled environmental issues in their essays. Connor Houghton, for example, wrote about the scarcest resource of all in Carbon County: water. Houghton observed, “If everyone were to use a logical amount of water on their land, then everyone could survive the drought for several years without any serious trouble. However, many people simply do not realize the amount of water they are using when they run their irrigation lines and sprinklers.”

Other students gave serious thought to the best ways to nourish a sustainable economy in their hometowns. In her essay, Ramie Linton proposed leveraging the advantages of Kanab’s surroundings to build a new economy based on the sciences, “Welcome to southern Utah, home of the Grand Staircase College of Science and the Grand Circle Museum of Natural History,” she wrote—anticipating the completion of her dream. Linton foresees the college, “…would have a scientific emphasis on geology, archeology, anthropology, paleontology, and wildlife/botanical studies.”

Linton adds, “Along with the college, there would also be a museum of natural history drawing from Anasazi, Paiute, Navajo and Mormon Pioneer cultural resources and heritage…. The museum would also have an economic impact through job creation and increased tourist visitation. The two new entities would work closely with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Indian Nations, especially in the new college’s field classroom studies.”

“This year [2004] is the final year for the scholarships,” said Jean Binyon, Utah Chapter Vice-chair, “and this three-year program has given a tangible demonstration of the commitment of the Sierra Club to our communities.” The program has not only helped thirty students through college, but it has also impressed their families, neighbors and teachers and school counselors.

Awards banquets were held to celebrate the scholarship recipients and their families at the Parry Lodge in Kanab and the Red Cliffs Lodge outside of Moab. Each of the winners will receive a $1,000 scholarship for each year of a four-year college program, for a total of $4,000.
Sierra Club volunteers gathered June 22, in the first meeting of an ongoing NEPA commenting group to discuss the process of commenting on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and to evaluate possible projects.

Darrell Mensel led the discussion about NEPA, a federal policy that specifies the procedure for how agencies propose and evaluate any action that will affect the environment. Mensel formerly critiqued Central Utah Project NEPA documents as an environmental consultant for the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. He described how NEPA mandates full disclosure in Environmental Impact Statements, and how the public can get involved in developing environmentally-responsible alternatives for agency undertakings.

The volunteer group, composed of Conservation Chair Ann Wechsler, intern Sophia Nicholas, former Bureau of Reclamation employee Gordon Lind, Bill Kneedler, Jeffrey Norris and Richard Nielson, decided to investigate Kennecott Copper's proposal to clean up massive amounts of groundwater pollution caused by decades of mining activities.

This proposal, which addresses how to dispose of highly acidic and heavy-metal-laden waters, will affect the vitality of the Great Salt Lake and its wildlife, the sustainability of the aquifer, and the quality of air. The importance of reinforcing the Sierra Club's role in carefully reviewing Kennecott's proposal and suggesting alternatives thus presented itself as a critical project for the group.

While not formally a NEPA process, the proposal closely follows the NEPA procedure and provided ample opportunity for all to develop and hone their commenting skills. Volunteers worked to persuade Kennecott, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, and the Department of Environmental Quality to follow the wisest action possible.

If you would like to become involved in other projects with the Sierra Club's NEPA commenting group or read the chapter's archived comments on a wide-range of issues, please contact Mark Clemens at mark.clemens@sierraclub.org.

Volunteers Learn the Nitty-Gritty of Holding Federal Agencies to Account

by Sophia Nicholas

Second Annual Celebrate the Wasatch Party

by Will McCarvill

There are many clubs and organizations whose members enjoy the Wasatch Mountains and who care about them. The Wasatch Mountain Club is hosting a party aimed at bringing us all together for an evening of meeting old friends and making new ones. No lectures, no donations, no writing letters or signing postcards—just a get together to celebrate our common love for our mountains.

You are invited to join the Wasatch Mountain Club for a celebration at our lodge. Entertainment will be provided by The Disgusting Brothers—playing good old rock and roll for our listening and dancing delight.

Place: Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge at Brighton

Time: Saturday, August 7 starting at 5:00 PM.

Bring: Your own Beverage and a pot luck dish to share for 5-6 people.

We will supply tables, plates, utensils, chairs and grills. Our lodge is behind the Brighton Lodge at the southwest end of the Brighton Ski Area Majestic and Mary lifts parking lot. You can park in the ski area lot. Make sure you bring a flashlight or headlamp to help you find your way back to your car. The lodge is a couple hundred yards up the hill from the lot. Look for the cars and listen for the noise.
Utah Wilderness: Who Needs It?

by Mary and Al Herring, adopters of the Deep Creek Mountains Wilderness Study Area

The short answer, we contend, is that we all need Utah wilderness. Even those who may never set foot in a wilderness area still benefit from it. It is their magnificent view as they drive down the highway, it is a source of the oxygen they breathe, and it is their watershed. For those of us who explore Utah on foot or horseback, the wilderness is much more. It is our escape, our adventure, our sanctuary.

A resident of Moose, Wyoming, died last year at the great age of 101. Her name was Margaret “Mardy” Murie. Many know her as the author of the classic outdoor epic Two in the Far North; others know her as a champion of wilderness protection, especially in Alaska. In 1975 Mardy shared her thoughts on why we need wilderness, be it in Utah or elsewhere. Her wording is simple, direct, and worth repeating. She said, “I believe that Man needs Wilderness for five reasons:

For space.

For scientific research—for Man’s benefit of course, but also for that of all creatures, plant and animal. There are all kinds of things to be discovered in the natural world which can be discovered nowhere else.

For watershed protection—for a healthy earth.

For physical recreation of all kinds.

For what it gives Man’s spirit.”

Mardy’s reasons strike us as self-evident and convincing, but we would like to add a few comments in support of numbers four and five. First, concerning outdoor recreation, have you been to one of the High Uinta Wilderness trailheads during a recent summer weekend? Finding a parking spot has become a real challenge. As Utah’s population continues to grow and as wilderness solitude becomes more precious, it seems that more and more people are seeking the opportunity to share time with their families in the wilderness, uninterrupted by TVs and motorized vehicles. Hunters and fishermen are also feeling more protective of the recreational value of wilderness. Field and Stream, in an article, “Drilling the Wild,” published last October, noted that, “Bush and Cheney have unleashed a national energy plan that has begun to destroy hunting and fishing on millions of federal acres throughout the West, setting back effective wildlife management for decades to come.” Further, as noted in a Salt Lake Tribune article last January, the Outdoor Industry Association has been trying “to convince state leaders that protecting the wilderness for recreationists was important to Utah’s family-oriented philosophy as well as its tax base.”

As important as recreation is, Mardy’s last reason (“For what it gives Man’s spirit”) may be the most compelling. Wilderness has played a critical role throughout Judeo-Christian history. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments in the Sinai wilderness; John the Baptist preached and performed his baptisms in the wilderness; and it was into the wilderness that the Spirit led Jesus to battle the devil. The Puritans who first settled in New England viewed the wilderness as a place of intense religious perpectivity and it was there, some two centuries later, that Emerson observed, “Into the woods we return to reason and faith.” And the Bible warns, “Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!” (Is. 5:8)

As evidenced by a recent symposium at BYU on “Our Stewardship: Perspectives on Nature,” Mormons are also more closely examining their environmental ethics. One LDS speaker stressed that humans have a responsibility in preparing the earth to receive “its paradisiacal glory.” Another stated, “God recognizes that just as each of us requires an adequate and healthy diet, we also require a ‘sacred grove’ into which we can retreat and feel the proximity to God that only nature can provide.”

Utah’s own Wallace Stegner also argued eloquently for wilderness: “We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope.” So woe unto us if we join our houses, fields, drill pads, roads and shopping centers until there is no place to be alone in the midst of the earth. Who needs Utah wilderness? We contend that we all do.
# Executive Committee Members or Officers 2004

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