Thank You, Mr. President, for Protecting Bears Ears
by Marc Thomas

Once again President Obama has put himself on the right side of history by acting on the call from Tribal Nations to protect the Bears Ears as a national monument. This designation is a fitting way to recognize an important piece of our full American story, protecting Native American sacred sites, Mormon pioneer artifacts, and an incredible natural area. Take a moment to thank President Obama for protecting this heritage as a national treasure for all.

Until now, Bears Ears was arguably the most significant cultural landscape in the United States left unprotected. Field work had documented the existence of more than 100,000 cultural and archaeological sites linked to the history of the Navajo, Ute, Hopi, and Pueblo people who considered this region their homeland. The 1.35 million acres of America’s public lands south and east of Canyonlands National Park protected by presidential proclamation contain prehistoric hunting camps, pit-house burrows, cliff dwellings, and ornate petroglyph and pictograph panels that record thousands of years of human history.

Historically, inadequate monitoring and insufficient funding had resulted in damage to these archaeological treasures from illegal looting, mismanaged recreational use, and inappropriate energy development. The Antiquities Act was enacted in 1906 to provide protection for objects of historic and scientific interest from looting or destruction. The designation of the Bears Ears National Monument provides the means to protect this national treasure. The proclamation withdraws all monument lands.

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Our Mission

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

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

For the benefit of present and future generations.

UtahSierran

Winter 2017 Vol. 50 No. 1

EDITOR: Mark Clemens
DESIGN: Cecily Sakrison, Peridot Design

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Utah Sierran, Sierra Club, 423 West 800 South, Suite A103, Salt Lake City UT 84101.

Annual dues for the Sierra Club are $39, of which $1 is for a subscription to Utah Sierran. Non-member subscriptions are available for $10 per year from the Utah Chapter office.

Submit all articles, artwork, photographs, letters and comments to utah.chapter@sierraclub.org. Phone: 801-467-9297. The Utah Sierran reaches more than 5,000 members and friends of the Sierra Club in Utah. Display advertising is accepted. For a current ad rate card, contact Mark Clemens, utah.chapter@sierraclub.org or 801-467-9297. We reserve the right to refuse advertising that we feel conflicts with the goals and purposes of the Club.

Bylined articles represent the research and opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Utah Chapter.

Sierra Club’s sexual harassment policy can be found online at mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp or by contacting the Salt Lake City office.

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**On Politics**

**Why Federal Agency Appointments Matter Here in Utah**

by Amy Mills & Dan Mayhew

As we watch the parade of nominees emerging from the President-elect’s administration, we can anticipate what the next four years hold for the federal agencies that oversee public lands and environmental conservation in Utah. The top tier managers of all federal agencies including the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Energy Department, and Environmental Protection Agency are appointed by the White House. Appointees bring the views and beliefs of the White House to bear on their organizations where they trickle down to policies, regulations, budgets, and day-to-day interactions. There can be little doubt that the new appointees will shift the moderate positions of the Obama administration toward deregulation and budget cuts.

Because the new appointees are likely to be staunch opponents of conservation, as well as proponents of dirty fuel development and climate-science deniers, we can expect a slowing or reversal of environmental progress throughout the nation, including Utah. Much of the state is comprised of public land administered by federal agencies, therefore the impacts here could be particularly acute. The proverbial fox is now guarding the henhouse, or closer to home, the fossil fuel industry is now guarding Utah’s health and great outdoors.

The Utah Chapter must be vigilant and focused in pursuit of our conservation goals, including protection of natural resources and public lands. We need to be vocal about what matters most to our membership, engage federal agencies charged with environmental stewardship, and collaborate with our partner non-profit conservation organizations to solidify and grow our movement. We hope you will add your voice and support in any way you can.

*Amy Mills and Dan Mayhew are the Utah Chapter Conservation Co-Chairs*

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**Your Chance to Make an Impact—**

**GREEN LOBBY NIGHT 2017**

The state legislature has always had a major influence on environmental issues in Utah. One of the results of the November election is that federal government agencies will not be putting their thumbs on the scale in favor of higher environmental standards for the next four years. That’s where you come in. People power is back on the agenda at the Utah Capitol!

Join the Utah Chapter and the Utah Rivers Council on **Tuesday, January 31, at 6 pm, in the Centennial Room in the Utah Capitol (350 North State St)** for our annual Green Lobby Night.

We’ll discuss the dos and don’ts of lobbying your senator and representatives and highlight some of the critical bills affecting the environment that will come before the legislature in 2017 such as attacks on solar energy, funding for boondoggle water pipelines and attempts to take away Salt Lake City’s ability to protect its watershed.

*RSVP here!*

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from mining under the 1872 Mining Law and leasing or development for oil, gas, and coal under public land laws.

Arriving at this historic moment took years of public dialogue and open collaboration revealing a broad consensus in Utah and the rest of America that the lands in question needed conserving. The president’s action came only after the final version of Congressman Bishop’s Public Lands Initiative bill (which received a tepid response in Grand County) failed to achieve that objective.

Perhaps the most remarkable event along the way was the formation of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (BEITC). In a July 2015 meeting on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation, the BEITC formally organized with representatives from the Navajo, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, and Uintah and Ouray Utes. Getting these tribes to unite behind Bears Ears galvanized support from the Rio Grande Pueblos and the National Congress of American Indians. With such widespread backing, Native Americans for the first time requested that a President of the United States use the Antiquities Act to protect and preserve the lands of their culture history, the land of their ancestors. The proclamation by President Obama honors that request.

Importantly, the proclamation specifies that the tribes will have a role in the management of the new monument, with a commission made up of officers from each of the five tribes in the Bears Ears Coalition providing “guidance and recommendations.” The managing agencies, in turn, are to “carefully and fully consider integrating the traditional and historical knowledge” of the tribes into their decision-making. The proclamation allows for the continued “collection of medicines, berries, and other vegetation, forest products, and firewood for personal non-commercial use” by Native American tribes. This provision was expected, but opponents of the Bear Ears erroneously spread fear among the various tribes by insisting that these uses would not be allowed.

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club enthusiastically supported the efforts of the BEITC. Chapter volunteers attended rallies, signed petitions, and mailed post cards asking the President to honor the wishes of the tribes and most Utahans. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune visited the monument proposal twice and camped with the tribes near the Bears Ears Buttes. Last July, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell visited the Bears Ears and at a public hearing in Bluff heard overwhelming support for a national monument from chapter members and their allies. We will continue to support the BEITC in its effort to have a voice in the management of the new Bears Ears National Monument.

How long ago it now seems, yet it was only four years ago in my home county that the Grand County Council, without any public input, sent to Washington a letter opposing the establishment of any new national monument in the Greater Canyonlands area. That action awoke our county residents to demand a more open and robust vetting of the Public Lands Initiative, to scuttle its membership in the wolf-in-sheep’s-clothing 6-County Infrastructure Coalition, and to elect newer councils dominated by public lands champions. In Grand County today we can actually raise our voices to the current council asking that it send a thank you letter to the president for designating the Bears Ears.

Today we are all ancestors of the people who will benefit from this proclamation.
Last year a wide range of local officials and representatives of interested parties signed the Mountain Accord. The Accord is an agreement on goals needed to resolve current and future issues regarding the use of the Central Wasatch and its preservation. The goals include exchange of private ski area lands for US Forest Service properties, adding better management of Forest Service land, conducting long term environment studies, improving recreation, reducing the impacts of transportation and forming an ongoing commission to ensure the other goals are achieved. As of December, here is where we are.

Private land owned by the ski areas including large parts of Emma Ridge, Grizzly Gulch and Mount Superior would be traded for Forest Service land at the ski area bases. This discussion is ongoing with the goal of getting appraisals done on land value followed by a NEPA process.

The Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act as introduced in 2016 by Representative Chaffetz foresaw permanent boundaries beyond which no developments such as ski lifts or runs would be permitted. We anticipate the bill to be reintroduced in the forthcoming 115th Congress will continue similar language. It also includes the new Mt Aire/Grandeur Peak Wilderness and will improve conservation protections for the Central Wasatch.

An Environmental Dashboard committee is at work gathering all past data and is determining which monitoring and measuring methods should be used to keep an eye on the ongoing environmental health of the Wasatch. This will maintain the ecological health of our mountains and protect our water supplies.

A committee to work out what an enhanced trail network would look like for the Central Wasatch and how it would interconnect to trails outside the Wasatch has come up with a draft plan. This network will be closely tied to transportation options and improve trail head facilities.

There are two ongoing transportation studies, one is for the Cottonwoods, the other is for Parleys and SR 224 going into Park City. The Cottonwood canyons study is looking at more parking in the valley, more winter bus service focused on the three routes that were initiated this year then evaluating those routes at the end of this year. Initiating summer transit service to include bus stops/trailhead improvements such as restrooms, bus pull outs, picnic tables wheelchair accessible ramps etc, and real-time information systems that will let you know where parking is available next bus information etc. And last but not least, bike lanes in the canyons!

The Parleys/SR224 study is focusing on getting mass transit priority on the 224 corridor.

The Central Wasatch Commission is the crucial administrative body to see forward the actions the Accord outlined including the land bill, land exchange, more winter bus service, and summer bus service. Currently the Salt Lake County council is evaluating whether to support the formation of the commission.

The goals of the Accord will take years to come to fruition, but they are required to protect our beloved Wasatch.
Chapter News

Our Top 10 Accomplishments in 2016

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

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

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

4. **The Utah Chapter’s service outing program set new records in 2016.** While existing commitments, such as the Ogden Group’s work to clean up the Ogden River and root out alien plant species, continued, **new service outings burgeoned.** Will McCarvill leads wilderness monitoring outings in the San Rafael Swell. Jim Catlin orchestrates a citizen science campaign to monitor and control grazing impacts on BLM and US Forest Service land. Par Rasmusson leads service outings in Utah and around the country building and repairing trails and protecting resources in national parks.

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

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

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Chapter News

Top 10 Accomplishments, continued

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

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

9 Our first annual Utah Sierra Club Jamboree unrolled from August 19 through 21 without a hitch. Great volunteers, great presentations, great food and great weather. We were indoors and outdoors at Camp Roger in Soapstone Basin in the Uinta Mountains where we learned about everything from wilderness boundary monitoring to the science of awe and from the club’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion campaign to identifying birds. Join us for the jamboree in 2017!

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

Please make a generous contribution now to the Utah Chapter to ensure we can continue and expand this work in 2017! Click HERE to give now.
Calling Wilderness Warriors:

COME TO THE WSA SURVEY WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

The Utah Chapter, Sierra Club is developing techniques to maintain the wilderness qualities of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The current focus is to ensure that there are no vehicle intrusions into the WSAs which is a recurring problem that degrades the natural and habitat values. Using Google Earth, a WSA boundary is surveyed from home looking for vehicle tracks. Problem sites are visited to confirm the actual condition. Survey findings are reviewed with the appropriate BLM Field office to work up a remediation plan. So far this technique is being applied to the five WSAs in the San Rafael Swell.

A training session for chapter volunteers will be held on Saturday, April 1, in the chapter office at 423 West 800 South, Suite A105 in Salt Lake City, in preparation for spring in the desert. This session will teach volunteers how to do the surveys and work with the BLM to fix problems. There will also be two trips to the Swell in April and May to conduct remediation work.

Contact Will McCarvill at will@commercialchemistries.com.

JOIN US!
Saturday, 1 April 2017
1–2:30 p.m.
ArtSpace Commons Complex
423 W 800 S, Ste A105, SLC

The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club extends a very special thanks to the

George B. and Oma E. Wilcox and Gibbs M. & Catherine W. Smith Charitable Foundation

for its continuing generous support of the Chapter’s programs. The Foundation challenges you to increase your support for the Utah Chapter in 2017.
The Sierra Club, founded in 1892, has long been a voice to protect the environment. In essence, its philosophy could be summed up in the words of Chief Qwatsinas of the Nuxalk Nation, “We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can’t speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees.” It has done this through education, rallies, lobbying, advertisements and activism. I have been a member of this organization for many years because of my strong beliefs in protecting the environment, but my membership included little more than writing an annual check and hastily browsing the Sierra Club magazine. I supported Sierra Club causes, signed the petitions to direct congress in certain areas, responded to email requests telling President Obama the importance of such national monuments as Bear Ears and thank him for his decision to halt the Dakota Access pipeline. I wanted the Sierra Club to be successful in protecting our lands, our animals, and our air quality. But that was all I did.

Two things changed that: retirement and Donald Trump. As a teacher, my life was consumed with the task of teaching. I constantly searched through ideas to engage my students, explored various motivational techniques, studied information that was new to me, and wondered how to help my students realize the importance of an education. I had little time for much else. Now I am at an exciting time where I can choose to use those skills in other areas. There are many organizations that need volunteers, but I feel at this time, Sierra’s club work to protect our natural resources and our environment is foremost.

I am truly afraid of what a Trump presidency and one-party control will mean for many things, in particular, the environment. Though I usually consider myself optimistic and I have always believed that every unfortunate event also carries with it a silver lining, I have had trouble finding even a slight shimmer of grey from this election. Trump is filling his advisory circle and cabinet with many climate change deniers and my letters to our Utah Republican congressmen are answered with circular talk about bettering our country, but the thing is, their proposals for improvements go against many of my own moral values and convictions. I am afraid congress will give Trump a free hand in the name of party unity and as a Democratic woman living in a Republican state, I feel helpless about affecting any changes or even being heard by our current legislators. Many of their proposals worry me, but reversing the environmental progress made during the Obama administration will have such long term, devastating effects that I feel I can no longer sit back and hope someone else takes care of it. Now I have no excuse not to become an active member of Sierra Club.

However, I am not one to attend rallies, stand in the cold to protest, scream at legislators, or carry around petitions. I am not even a very good environmentalist in practice. I do not drive a Hybrid car (though my husband does, if that counts). I do not have solar panels on my home. I cannot get the knack of going paperless, and sometimes I drive to Salt Lake City from Ogden all by myself in my minivan. Unfortunately, guilt probably has no positive effect on the environment, but volunteering can. Through volunteering, I join a dedicated group whose mission it is to protect the environment in many different ways.

President Theodore Roosevelt said it best, “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches, or its romance.” I volunteer with the Sierra Club to help prevent the incoming administration from skinning our country of its beauty, its riches, its romance.

Take the first step to follow Patty’s lead by completing the online volunteer questionnaire.
Clear the Air. Cool the Climate.
MOVE MOAB TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY!

THE PROBLEM: Rocky Mountain Power provides electricity for Utahns that is 80% generated by polluting fossil fuels. In 2015, 62% of that electricity was generated by coal, the world’s dirtiest energy source. Global climate change, due to carbon emissions, is warming Utah at double the average rate. These changes will have drastic impacts on our fragile water supply and our quality of life. The State of Utah is actively seeking to prop up the dying coal industry, while the incoming Federal Administration is comprised almost exclusively with climate-denying fossil fuel executives.

THE SOLUTION: There is hope - energy markets are subject to consumer demand. Local City and County governments have a huge role to play in jump-starting Utah’s energy transition. Cities in Utah and across the country are taking the initiative to urge utilities to build new renewable energy infrastructure, and send the signal that inaction on climate change is not an option. Join the movement to build 100% Renewable Energy Moab now!

In November, 2016 the Salt Lake City Council passed a joint resolution, signed by Mayor Biskupski, to set a goal of 100% Renewable Energy for community electricity supply by 2032, with an interim 50% renewable electricity supply goal by 2020. The resolution also includes a goal of 80% reduction of community greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. The City is currently in negotiations with Rocky Mountain Power to achieve these goals.

In March, 2016 the Park City Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 04-16 to achieve net-zero carbon by 2022 for all municipal government operations, and by 2032 for the broader community. The City Council has emphasized that they will achieve this goal by working with Rocky Mountain Power to build new, designated renewable energy power plants. The resolution also included a provision to reach out to other local governments and encourage similar goals.

The City of Moab, Utah...Coming soon in 2017! But we need your help:

- Demand that Moab take a stand to require 100% Renewable Energy from Rocky Mountain Power.
- Contact your City Council Representative.
- Join the Sierra Club’s 100% Renewable Team to stay engaged.

To get involved contact your Utah Sierra Club representative, Lindsay Beebe at lindsay.beebe@sierraclub.org
Utah Chapter Outings

EXPLORE WITH US! JANUARY–MARCH 2017

Abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing. [E] = educational content, [C] = conservation focus, [S] = service activities.

All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. 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.

FIND OUT about changes in hike schedules, last-minute outings and socials by subscribing to the new UT-OUTINGS-FORUM listserv. More information is available at www.utah.sierraclub.org/email_list.asp

ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!
All the outings, book club meetings and socials for the chapter and all three groups are now found in one place, www.utah.sierraclub.org/activities.asp. You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.

January

SLG Sun 1/22, Little Dell to Aftleck Park. We will park at the winter gate at Little Dell Reservoir and walk along the trail to Aftleck Park, where we will take a break and eat lunch. The return will be along the road, which is closed to cars. The trail is mostly level and traverses a variety of winter habitats for animals including moose. Meet at 9:00 AM in the southeast corner of the Walmart parking lot on Parley’s Way, in front of the Bombay House. Please bring water and lunch. Proper winter clothing and snowshoes are mandatory. Plan on being on the trail for 4+ hours. We will return to SLC in the early afternoon. Leader: Colleen Mahaffey, (801) 484-4105 or (801) 554-7153.

GCG Sat, 1/28, Amasa Back. Nice winter hike. Hike initial part of the Captain Ahab trail and then explore the mesa to the west before return. 5 to 8 mile hike depending on extent of mesa exploration. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

February

SLG Sun 2/5, X-C Ski to Scotts Pass in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The trail to Scott’s Pass in winter never fails to delight with sweeping views of the Brighton Bowl snowy mountain peaks. Expect about 3.5 miles round-trip, about 600 feet elevation gain, and a leisurely 3 hour tour. This is an easy to moderate trip for folks who hike and ski regularly. Please bring your cross country or back-country skis, poles, winter clothing, daypack, water and lunch. Meet at the south end of the 6200 S Park and Ride Lot in SLC (above Wasatch Drive) at 10:00 for carpooling. Call or email organizer Rebecca Wallace, rebecca-walace38@msn.com or 801 557-5261 for more details or if weather is threatening (in case the trip is cancelled).


SLG Sat 2/18, “Nature in Winter” snowshoe, followed by Green’s Basin snowshoe. Join Rebecca as we explore the winter wonderland of Spruces Campground, including plant, animal winter adaptations and geologic and human history of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Tour will last about 90 minutes. School age children welcome! Bring your own snowshoes, winter clothing, daypack, water and lunch. After lunch, about 12:30, there will be an optional snowshoe up the adjoining slopes to Greens Basin (4 miles roundtrip, 800 feet elevation gain). Meet at the south end of the 6200 S Park and Ride Lot in SLC above Wasatch Drive at 10:00 for carpooling. Call or email organizer Rebecca Wallace, rebecca-walace38@msn.com or 801 557-5261 for more details or if weather is threatening (in case the trip is cancelled).

GCG Sat, 2/25, Dark Angel Hike. Hike to the Dark Angel from the Devils Garden Trailhead and return. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 jockhovey@gmail.com.

March

GCG Sat, 3/11, Cameo Cliffs. Loop begins and ends approx. 2 miles south of Wilson Arch and 1 mile east of Highway 191. Hike through lovely area, mostly on jeep/ATV tracks, past an arch that you probably haven't seen. High clearance desired for the one mile from highway. Approx 7-8 miles, 4-5 hours. Easy walking but long. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Albey M Reiner 435-260-8708.

SLG Sat 3/18, Terraces to Elbow Fork Loop snowshoe in Millcreek Canyon. This snowshoe tour is another winter classic. We travel up the Bowman Fork drainage, cross over the ridges and through the spruces and firs of Millcreek Canyon to descend to Elbow Fork and follow the snow-packed Millcreek Road back to our cars. Expect about 4 miles, 800 feet elevation gain and about a 3 hour tour. Bring snowshoes, poles, winter

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The Hour of Land by Terry Tempest Williams

BOOK REVIEW BY AMY MILLS

Behind each National Park are the backstories of how they came to be, the people who fought for them, and the contrast between these islands frozen in time with the surrounding explosion of 21st century life. Terry Tempest Williams, esteemed Utah author, educator, and champion for conservation provides us with twelve extraordinary explorations into national parks and monuments across the country. Each unique and surprising chapter takes us into the less known history, nuances, sights and sounds, and hidden splendors of the parks, and the edge between being forever protected and on the cusp of change where many parks exist today.

With the insights, musings, and beautiful prose that make her writing so highly regarded, Williams leads us to destinations as diverse as the Gulf Islands National Seashore, where impacts from the 2010 BP Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continue to be felt, to Glacier National Park, where Williams describes the harrowing experience of being caught in a forest fire, to that icon of imprisonment, Alcatraz Island, and a current view of confinement vs liberty. We’re led through Theodore Roosevelt National Park, a serene, preserved home of the early president in North Dakota, where drilling in the Bakken oil field laps at the doorstep.

Each park visit is personal as well as allegorical and political. Each supplies the opportunity to learn much more about the parks than we can read in a superficial travelogue. Williams celebrates all that the parks offer, while she confronts the uncertain future of these oases of our natural environment and culture. Readers familiar with the red rock country of southern Utah might find the chapter on Canyonlands National Park and vicinity particularly compelling, given the recent victorious designation of Bears Ears National Monument by President Obama.

The Hour of Land is a fine read, for National Park visitors and armchair travelers alike.

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clothing, daypack, water and lunch. Meet at the Skyline High School parking lot (3251 E 3760 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84109) for carpooling at 10:00. Call or email organizer Rebecca Wallace, rebecca.wallace38@msn.com or 801 557-5261 for more details or if weather is threatening (in case the trip is cancelled.)

GCG Sat, 3/25, Wilson Arch. Hike to the top of Wilson Arch and then explore Wilson Canyon rim before return. 5 to 6 mile loop hike. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

Glacier Service Trip

SEE GLACIER NATIONAL PARK WHILE THERE ARE STILL GLACIERS

Join us beginning Sunday, July 16, for a week of service in beautiful Glacier National Park in northern Montana. We will be census taking in the Citizen Science program there, hiking to pre-designated locations and surveying the activities of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and pikas. For details, please view the video invite: https://youtu.be/7Xem8CAZbQo

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants. Text of the outings liability waiver may be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/signinwaiver.PDF. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America’s natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the grizzly bear has made a strong recover, but there is still more work to be done. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.