

Save Our Canyons

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

www.saveourcanyons.org

Autumn, 2007

Never Forget What SOC Is All About

A ramble in the Wasatch might bring you to this overlook of the Twin Lakes Reservoir near Brighton. This stump is probably a reminder of the range's mining past. The reservoir level reminds us of our dry future.

Save Our Canyons

is the quarterly publication of the Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

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ALEXIS KELNER, Perennial Editor

GALE DICK,
Associate Perennial Editor

"Timely, pithy, informative, witty,
and interesting."

Wasatch Environmental Update

KRCL (90.9FM) Radio:
Tuesdays, 4:30 pm

This program
is produced and broadcast
by SOC Trustee John Worlock.





President's Message

Wilderness Expansion Now

This year Save Our Canyons celebrated its 35th anniversary. SOC started in 1972 with ambitious dreams and the most starry-eyed of those dreams was to use the Wilderness Act, then just 8 years old, to help protect federal land in the central Wasatch Mountains. SOC joined the Wasatch Mountain Club, the Sierra Club, the Utah Wilderness Association, as well as several national and state groups to push for the creation of the Lone Peak Wilderness Area and congress did so in 1978. A coalition of Utah environmental groups, including the vigorous presence of SOC, successfully convinced congress to create the Twin Peaks and Mt. Olympus Wilderness Areas as well as other Utah wildernesses outside the central Wasatch in 1984. The Wilderness act of 1964 has been realizing its promise.

Legislation involves compromise and that creating these three wonderful Wilderness areas in the central Wasatch has been no exception. Many areas were excluded to placate objections even though the areas qualified for the designation.

As population growth in the Salt Lake Valley has hastened, the importance of our watershed has become more dramatically evident. Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities has for nearly a century been protecting its watershed in a series of far-sighted actions. They are heroes and need to be celebrated in song and story. The recently retired Leroy Hooten and Jeff Niermeyer, the newly appointed director of this agency, have played leading roles in this epic and they (along with Save Our Canyons, the Wasatch Mountain Club, the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, Salt Lake County, ski resorts) have come to realize that the central Wasatch Wilderness Areas should be expanded to include some of the areas left out of the 1978 and 1984 legislation as well as newly threatened. You

can see a map of the SOC proposal, along with that of Salt Lake City, on our website. Wilderness designation by congress is the surest way to protect the much embattled mountain terrain to the east of Salt Lake City from overdevelopment.

This newsletter has often covered this story and will continue to do so until the goal of expanded central Wasatch Wilderness has been achieved. The prospects for the introduction of legislation to accomplish this goal have never looked better. We believe we have sponsors for the bill. The coalition of supporters in local and national government, businesses and organizations is growing steadily. The Wall Street Journal (9/26/07) reports that the long-standing congressional blockage of wilderness bills is beginning to crumble as the leadership has changed. It appears that even longtime wilderness foe, Rainer Huck, has thrown in the towel (see The Good the Bad and the Ugly in this newsletter). SOC has new friends in Washington and among national organizations fighting for Wilderness throughout the country. Lisa Schmidt, SOC's Executive Director, has patiently been building this network.

This Wilderness expansion is the right thing to do. It protects the watershed, the wildlife habitat, the wildness and beauty of the mountains and canyons of Salt Lake Valley's most precious asset. Over-the-top Walt Whitman said it eloquently when he wrote, "Praised be the fathomless universe, for life and joy, and for objects and knowledge curious." He could have been standing by the Maybird Ponds in the Wasatch. These treasures are not just for local residents but also for the whole nation – the ultimate owners of the National Forests. — Gale Dick

Mayor Corroon Receives Prestigious Pfeifferhorn Award

By Mark Clemens, Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club

Several leading environmental organizations in Utah awarded the annual Pfeifferhorn Award to Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon for 2007. The Pfeifferhorn, named for a prominent peak in southeastern Salt Lake County, is awarded to a citizen or government official who has made extraordinary contributions to protecting the Wasatch Range and the environment in Utah generally. "Corroon has been refreshing as a leader who brings together stakeholders to have open and candid discussions about positive problem solving," said Lisa Schmidt, executive director of Save Our Canyons, one of the organizations that present the Pfeifferhorn.

The list of Corroon's environmental good works is already long, despite the fact that he's still in his first term, and includes significant victories for open space preservation, trails, watershed preservation and promotion of new wilderness.

Perkins Flat, 190 acres of open space in Emigration Canyon, was purchased by Utah Open Lands in 2005 with substantial support from Salt Lake County and Mayor Peter Corroon. Of the total purchase price of \$1.4 million, Salt Lake County provided \$485,000. Corroon also strongly supported another project involving Utah Open Lands and Save Our Canyons on the west flank of Grandeur Peak. Fourteen acres formerly owned by Utah Power were acquired by Salt Lake County with a conservation easement conveyed to Utah Open Lands. This acreage is crucial for trail access and protection of views from around the valley.

By seeking a \$1,000,000 appropriation for further open space funding in fiscal year 2006, Corroon helped insure that Salt Lake County will have the means to continue the current pace of open space acquisition.

Working closely with Public Works Director Linda Hamilton and environmental groups, Mayor Corroon identified the county's transportation needs in canyons and watershed and discovered numerous errors and problems in the so-called highway claims made by vote of an earlier county commission under the now-repealed, 19th century law called RS 2477. At least one of the claims—Mill Creek Canyon—was made for a road alignment on which the county already had a legally enforceable right of way. Other claims were made on narrow trails in sensitive watershed lands. After careful review, Corroon issued an order vacating



the previously-lodged RS 2477 claims. "Our collaboration on the highway claims set a positive precedent for the rest of state to deal with the RS 2477 issue," observed Schmidt.

Corroon has also endorsed the Wasatch Wilderness Proposal to protect the remaining roadless lands in the Tri-Canyons Area with congressional wilderness designation. This move is more evidence of his profound commitment to protecting the sources of clean water on which we all rely.

The county council and Mayor Corroon stuck their necks out to support an important new mountain bike/hiking trail system to be built in Emigration Canyon that will improve access to public land and link together a number of existing trails such as the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and the Great Western Trail. Although opposed by a vocal minority of homeowners in the canyon, county leaders realized that most of the arguments made against pedestrian trails, eg. trails encourage crime, decrease property values and make wildfires more likely, are specious.

With the mayor's support and invaluable contributions from staff, Salt Lake County has implemented a new landscaping ordinance. The new ordinance establishes water allowances and professional standards for new or upgraded developments that will hold down water usage and promote native and drought tolerant species.

As the name suggests, most of the recipients of the Pfeifferhorn Award have made significant contributions to the protection of the Wasatch Range. A little-understood aspect of protecting our wild and open spaces is the promotion of good urban design. Walkable, mixed-use developments help create an attractive urban environment that makes new construction on open land less necessary. Corroon understood this before becoming mayor. One of the best examples of pedestrian-friendly, mixed income housing was built near the 900 South Trax Station by Green Street Development of which Corroon was a partner. □

The Pfeifferhorn Award was inaugurated in 1995 to honor an individual who should be recognized for serving the public interest by helping to preserve and protect some aspect of the natural environment of the State of Utah.

The Sikh View of Nature

By Mahan Singh Khalsa

The Sikh spiritual path has its origins with Guru Nanak who lived in the Punjab area of India/Pakistan during the 15th century. Guru Nanak's world, like our own world today, was beset with challenges, which he addressed in his teachings. Nanak's teachings were preserved and developed by a succession of nine Sikh Gurus for the next 200 years until 1699, when the last living Guru, Guru Gobind Singh formalized a distinct religious identity. So the question before us is this: Do the spiritual teachings of the Sikh Gurus assist us in meeting the many environmental challenges we face in today's modern world? Before we explore this nexus of Sikh spiritual thought and temporal activity it might be helpful to qualify what we perceive as environmental challenges.

Of course global warming is a "hot" topic now. How about species extinction; water quality; air quality; biodiversity; food quality; and preserving wilderness to name just a few. But isn't our environment really more than this? Aren't our cities part of our environment? Aren't our jobs and businesses a large part of our environment? How about our lifestyles; our health care; our education; our government; and our international relations?

There is the rub. Nothing seems to stand alone. Over half the world lives in poverty. These people need stronger economies, which seem to necessitate greater energy consumption. How can we talk about air quality and CO2 buildup and not talk about global poverty and the inevitable increase in air pollution if poverty is to be reduced. For the sake of our own air quality do we help or hinder greater global wealth? To help means increasing air pollution and perhaps negating our own personal efforts to lessen environmental degradation. To hinder not only means seeing others as less entitled to the creature comforts we enjoy, but also invites greater global security threats if we accept the premise that poverty is part of the breeding ground for terrorism and conflict.

Narrowing our focus to life along the Wasatch front, what a blessing to live at the foot of such beautiful mountains. This blessing is no secret to members of SOC. Yet for some reason it seems to be a secret to most of the metropolitan valley. Let's be honest. If the local population ascended into the mountains as frequently as SOC members do, the "getaway" experience would not

be the same. We would be queuing up at the trailheads.

In the summer we flee the city, even if only for a few hours to find relief from the heat and ozone-filled air. In the winter we flee those unhealthy, depressing inversions. We flee, but what about all those people like the working poor and inner city children without the time or means to escape. Is it our good fortune and their tough luck? Then we protest the mega-rich who are not satisfied to only visit this pristine environment but want to buy it and fence it for their own private enjoyment. Yet, if money were no concern how many of us would do the same? And each time we go up the canyons we leave our mark no matter how careful we are. How often would we visit this oasis without a good paved road and a gas-powered car?

One could go on about the paradoxes, which confront us in these modern times. But is this human condition really different than the challenges that Guru Nanak faced 600 years ago? For Nanak, the challenge and solution was, is now and will always be the same. According to Nanak, the paradox is caused by the illusion of separateness.

The foundation to Sikh thought is called the "Mul Mantra" (root mantra). It begins "*Ek Ong Kar, Sat Nam, Karta Purkh*"

Translation: There is one and only one creation to which all manifestation belongs; this is our true identity. Yogi Bhajan, who brought Sikh teaching to our western culture, had this motto: "*If you can't see God in All, you can't see God at all.*" As human beings, our security or insecurity hinges on the depth of this understanding. We are longing to belong. Why do we love wilderness? Is it because we feel a timeless serenity that gives us a deep sense of belonging? We say "I need to get up into the mountains to recharge my batteries". When we feel that we belong, we are balanced and effective in our activities. One would think if a little trip to the wilderness were so invigorating, what would it be like to live there. The sad truth is we get jaded. Our insecurities and negativity reassert themselves. We lose that special sense of belonging, of feeling that oneness. Sometimes that sense of wonder lasts for days; sometimes we lose it in minutes.

So how is belonging to be achieved if our adventures into nature seem so fickle? This is what the teachings of the Sikh Gurus ultimately address:

The yogic technology to break through the illusion of separateness in our conscious, subconscious and unconscious mind. Happiness is an internal manifestation not an external event. Our batteries are now permanently charged as they are plugged into the essence of the universe itself. Peace comes to our hearts.

Without this inner spiritual strength, will we have the capacity to make the inevitable social changes and, yes, sacrifices to preserve our endangered natural world. How long will we continue to support political and economic systems that value competition over cooperation. Somehow we must evolve from living *at* each other, or *with* each other, and learn to live *for* each other. As Gandhi said "We must be the change we wish to see in the world".

With inner spiritual security these challenges become opportunities for creativity. More importantly the whole world, especially the natural world becomes sublime and purely mystical. Just listen to Guru Nanak:

"In the azure silver platter of the sky are the lamps of the sun and the moon. The stars are scattered pearls. The sandalwood forests are sacred incense and the breeze a divine fan. These, along with the flowers of vegetation are laid as offerings at creation's feet. What other worship can be compared to Nature's own Festival of Lights. While the Divine Music resounds within. Thousands are Thine eyes, yet Thou hast no eyes, Thousands are Thy forms, and yet Thou hast no form; Thousands are Thy lotus-feet and yet Thou hast no feet, Thousands are Thy noses to smell, yet Thou hast no nose. I am enchanted by thy play."

Mahan Singh Khalsa



Growing up in Durango Colo., Mahan Singh Khalsa developed a deep and enduring love of the mountains. Mahan currently lives in Salt Lake City with his wife, Meherban Kaur, and his two children who both attend the University of Utah. During the 1970's, Mahan and Meherban became students of Yogi Bhanan and took Sikh vows. For the past thirty years, they have taught yoga and meditation throughout the Salt Lake area. Mahan and Meherban have been organizing activists in a number of progressive causes including Utahns for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze; Utah Population and Environmental Coalition; Utahns for a Just Peace in the Holy Land; and Wasatch Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Photo at left is of Mahan and daughter Sat Kirtan Kaur at the Golden Temple, principal Sikh Temple located in Amritsar, India

Alternative Gifting

If you would like to give a contribution to Save Our Canyons and have some highly appreciated stock or mutual funds, consider gifting alternative funds rather than cash.

There are distinct advantages.

For more information call Rachael at 363-7283

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

GOOD and BAD. In the recent Salt Lake City mayoral primary election Rainer Huck only got 37 votes. — These 37 votes are 36 too many! It's OK for a candidate to vote for himself, we guess.

GOOD. Rainer Huck supports wilderness in Utah! Patty Henetz of the Salt Lake Tribune (10/20/07), reporting on a ruling by U.S. District Judge Dale Kimball supporting closure of some OHV "roads" in the San Rafael Swell area, interviewed Huck:

"A hard-line advocate for untrammelled motorized back-country adventure said Friday he would no longer fight efforts to turn federal land into wilderness, saying 'stupid environmental pretexts' would always win the day in court.

Rainer Huck, former director of Utah Shared Access Alliance, said a federal ruling handed down Thursday that upheld motorized travel restrictions in the San Rafael Swell signaled the end of his efforts to thwart conservationists.

'It's like battling the Borg: Resistance is futile,' Huck said during a phone call from Blue Notch, a desert region near Lake Powell's Hite Marina where he was dirt-biking with his family. 'We might as well just designate all of Utah wilderness now and get it over with.'"

GOOD. The local Black Diamond Equipment Company is featured in a recent article in the International Herald Tribune emphasizing that the company "has embraced the Mount Olympus Wilderness, in effect using it as an outdoor product-testing center." It is important when Utah businesses come forward in support of the wildernesses that make Utah a good place to do business. Peter Metcalf, CEO of Black Diamond, says, "We live and work in a grand place, but this region is growing fast and we're changing. I compare it to what happens to people when the age from 40 to 50. Genetic inheritance will only take you so far. After a certain time, you just have to work at it to look good." He adds, "If this place is ruined, this company and others will go."

GOOD. They say that the mills of the law grind slow but they grind exceeding fine. Here in the Wasatch we were overjoyed when Salt Lake County's Mayor Peter Corroon abandoned the county's RS 2477 claims. This 1866 law is still breeding land-grab efforts elsewhere. This September, a Boulder County Colorado District Court judge ended a five-year legal battle by ruling that Barking Dog is a private trail, not a public road.

Barking Dog Trail, above Lyons, Colorado first became a point of contention in the 1990s when increased off-road vehicle activity on the route led property owner Boslough to block it off. "All the time my family has owned property up there, since the 1960s, it was a single-track hiking trail," Boslough said, adding that it only became a road when people started driving on it. Encouraging to see the renegades thwarted again.

GOOD. The Wall Street Journal (9/26/07) reports that "the Democrat-controlled U.S. Congress, stepping up a push that gained little ground when the Republicans were in the majority, is on the verge of walling off as many as 3.5 million acres of the nation's wilderness from commercial and recreational development." SOC's proposed Wasatch wilderness extension would be less than 1% as much and it is as needy of congressional protection as any of the acres in Washington, Oregon, Colorado or Virginia that are being proposed.

BAD. Hotel Park City, the upscale lodge located steps away from the Park City Golf Course, wants City Hall to allow helicopter pilots to land on the grounds, a service that an official with the hotel says could be popular with travelers and developers. But the idea, which has not been widely publicized, will likely raise concerns with people living in Thaynes Canyon, the sprawling neighborhood that surrounds the golf course and extends to Park City Mountain Resort. "It's to alleviate a lot of the traffic congestion," says Ron Fisher, a co-owner of a helicopter firm that wants to land and take off from hotel. A skeptic has observed, "It'll have zero effect on congestion - a quick calculation based on hotel guest numbers and local traffic volume will show that.

In order to have even a tiny effect on congestion, the heli shuttle service would have to run multiple helicopters continuously, creating very noticeable noise impacts along the entire flight path, and especially around the hotel. The pollution per person would skyrocket, compared to even the most gas-guzzling limo service imaginable." Yet another dumb idea.

BAD. The New York Times (9/9/07) reports on the growth of heli-hiking, described as the bastard child of heli-skiing. Quoting from the Times, "The idea is that a heli-copter drops the hikers (and a guide) off at the top of a mountain in the morning. Then they spend the rest of day hiking in and around unimaginably beautiful country before being helicoptered back to the

lodge, just in time for a late-afternoon dip in the pond and some predinner wine and cheese.” This doesn’t sound like such a good idea even in the Canadian Rockies where it’s being offered. It’s unthinkable in the tiny Wasatch Mountains.

BAD. Bad logic, that is. A recent letter signed by about a fifth of the U.S. House of Representatives urged the federal government to block OHV use in some of Utah’s most remote federal lands. In response, Utah’s Rep. Chris Cannon blustered: “I don’t presume to set transportation policy for Chicago or New York.” Is Rep. Cannon aware that BLM lands, unlike Chicago, are owned by U.S. citizens everywhere? Maybe not.

UGLY. The half-burnt sign at right was photographed this summer at Red Pine Lake. Who are these yahoos?



Wilderness on the Horizon...

By Lisa Schmidt, SOC Executive Director

Nearly 25 years have passed since Congress used the 1964 Wilderness Act to protect additional critical and pristine areas of federal forest lands in Salt Lake County. Building upon the 1978 Lone Peak Wilderness designation and at the urging of then Congressman Wayne Owens, Congress established an additional 27,652 acres of wild forest lands (Twin Peaks and Mt. Olympus areas) along the central Wasatch front as federally protected wilderness areas.

Over the last 25 years, we have seen the population of Salt Lake County swell to over one million residents. We have also seen the visitation of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest grow to a number nearly double the annual visitation of Yellowstone National Park, but our State leaders have made no effort to protect the sensitive and pristine roadless areas that make up much of our watershed for the Salt Lake Valley.

Save Our Canyons and the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities have proposed additions to the Lone Peak, Twin Peaks, and Mt. Olympus wildernesses to preserve the sensitive ecosystems, protect our water quality, and to help

preserve the overall quality of life for the residents in the valley below. As pointed out on page 2 this proposal has wide support among various organizations. The time is certainly right and we in SOC are optimistic that our long-standing effort to get this legislation enacted into reality will finally come to fruition.

We hope that you will join with Save Our Canyons in asking Rep. Matheson to sponsor a wilderness bill for the central Wasatch in the 2008 Congress. Please write to him and tell him why protecting the Wasatch is good public policy and why these areas mean so much to you.

Representative Jim Matheson
1323 Longworth HOB
Washington DC 20515
Phone - (202) 225-3011

To make a contribution to help fund these efforts or for more information about the Save Our Canyons wilderness proposal, please visit our website www.saveourcanyons.org. You may have already received our appeal for contributions to this project, one of our four annual appeals. □



Approximately twenty SOC members and guests participated in Bill Parry's annual Geology Hike. This year's hike went from Brighton to Twin Lakes Pass.

Annual Geology Hike



Geology Professor Bill Parry details a variety of geological features to interested hike participants.

A squirrel took time out from his busy schedule to enjoy the lecture.



"Tabling" at Utah Wilderness Day.



At the table, left to right, Kathryn Knight, Chris Whipple, and Henry Whiteside (partly hidden)

This Summer SOC Act

There is always plenty going on with Save Our Canyons, starting from the summer of 2007. In addition to "tabling," only a few of which are geology hikes attracted many individuals. One hike was attended by some 75 members of the community at the many events. SOC's success in meetings to view proposed developments is a battle against the Wasatch's Weapons.

Visitation to Proposed Development



Left to Right: Gale Dick and Lisa Schmidt, this is the right Tom Roach (S.L. County Planning). The others are representatives of "Von Von". At far right are Carl Fisher and John Wood. Photo at Right: Kurt von Putthammel to new Parleys Canyon development.

Woad Pull

Dyers woad didn't stand a chance at the "weed pull" above the avenues.



Summer's Activities

with Save Our Canyons. Here is a sam-
 There were numerous opportunities
 depicted. Traditional Botany and Ge-
 iduals. Our 35th Anniversary party
 s and guests. It was not all entertain-
 staff and directors attended numerous
 ovements. Volunteers waged a heroic
 on of Mass Destruction: dyers woad.



Gale Dick introduces Alexis Kelner and his SOC history slide presentation.

SOC's 35th Anniversary Get-together

*Rachael Mathey cuts the
 Birthday cake.*



*Party goers Sarah Brummel, Tom Lund, and
 Sandy Brookner.*



Parleys Canyon Development



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"Tabling" at Salt Lake's Gay Pride Festivities

*Aurora Shlien, Dave
 Bastian, and Gale Dick
 man the Save Our Canyons booth.*



*SOC's limited edition
 bumper sticker produced for the event.*



Many Businesses Support Save Our Canyons

We could not operate SOC without the participation of local businesses. Many thanks to these good members of our community.

\$2 Bill	Hotel Monaco	Pinon Market & Café	The Coffee Garden
Alchemy Coffee	IME	Porcupine Pub	The Green Building
Alta Ski Resort	Juhl Haus Market &	and Grille	Center
Amy Asherman Massage	Deli	Red Rock Brewing Co.	The Oasis Café
Backyard Birds	Kathy Crismon	REI	The Wild Bird Center
Beverly Hill's Bakery	Ken Sanders Rare Books	Reliance Homes	Tracy Aviary
Black Diamond	Kennecott Land	Rockreation	Uinta Brewing Company
Boulder Mountain	Kings English Books	Ruffwear	Utah Symphony
Lodge	Kirkhams	Rusted Sun Pizzeria	and Opera
Brewvies Cinema Pub	Liberty Heights Fresh	Sage's Café	Utahyaki Pottery
Cactus & Tropicals	Manic Project	Salt Lake Acting	Voilé Equipment Inc.
Carlucci's Bakery	Mazza Middle Eastern	Company	Wanderlust Images
Catalyst Magazine	Cuisine	Salt Lake Roasting Co.	Wasatch Recreation
Chaco	Millcreek Coffee	Sam Wellers	Wasatch Touring
Coldstream Creative	Mountain Safety	Skip Smith, CRS Remax	Westminster
Cyberflora	Research	Associates	Wild Oats Grocery
Desert Edge Pub	Newpark Townhomes	Snowbird Ski and	Downtown
Deuter USA, Inc.	One World Café	Summer Resort	Wild Rose
Enhanced Engineering,	Orions Music	Squatter's Pub Brewery	Xmission
Evergreen Café	Patagonia Outlet	Stoneground	
Gibbs Smith Publishing	Peery Hotel	Sundance Outlet	
Great Harvest	Pet Stop Veterinary	Teva	
Green Building Center	Clinic	The Banff Centre	
Havoc Photography	Petzl	The Beer Nut	

Foundations Which Support Save Our Canyons

Aquarius Plateau Foundation
Funding Exchange
Handley Foundation
Jeps Foundation
Maki Foundation
Martha Ryland Foundation
National Forest Foundation
PI Foundation
Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemmingway Foundation
Salt Lake City Foundation
The Wilderness Society
Wilcox and Smith Foundation

Over 100 Volunteers Helped with This Year's Save Our Canyons' Projects

Among the opportunities for volunteering are Trail Maintenance, Big Cottonwood Canyon Highway Clean Up, Tabling, Photography, Artwork, Mailing Help, Newsletter and Poster Delivery, Website Help. Here are some of the good folks who came forward to help the cause. Thank you, every one.

David Andrenyak
Roger Arhart
Jane Arhart
Libby Bailey
Tony Barron
Dave Bastian
Brooke Bastian
Kurt Becker
David Becker
Jeff Bell
Alex Bennett
Christ Biltoft
Sarah Brummel
Craig Bushmann
Jim Catano
James Comeford
Tyson Costello
Douglas Crapo
Liz Davis
Rob DeBirk
Erik DeWall
Gale Dick
Ann Dick
Dr. Steven F.
Dobrowolski
Alan Erdahl
Anika Fassia
Liz Ferrin

Mary Fleming
Julie Frenette
Howie Garber
Stuart Gleason
Lori Grant
William Gray
Sylvia Gray
Brian Grekowicz
Carolyn Guild
Florentina Gustai
Walt Haas
Julia Hendrian Lester
Luke Hinz
Erica Holeman
Noah Howell
Phil Istomin
Richard Jirik
John Johnson
David Jones
Alexis Kelner
Karla Kelner
Bill King
Dwight Klettke
Megan Knight
Kathryn Knight
Brian Kretschmar
Jim Kucera
Kristen Lampe

Herbert Ley
Mikee Linville
Paden Lloyd
William Lockhart
Randy Long
Tom Lund
Luke Marrott
John Matro
Nancy Matro
Will McCarvill
Lawrance McClung
Nancy McCormick
Lee Moss
Bill Nelson
Sam Owens
Haley Pankratz
Charis Pankratz
William Parry
Gayle Parry
David Pearson
John Porcher
Mike Price
Todd Rosier
Barb Ross
Howard Ross
Jeff Roundy
Chris Saunders
Dan Schmidt

Duane Schmute
Kathie Schmute
Barbara Scrafford
Mary Settle
Aurora Shlien
Gretchen Siegler
Sheldon Smith
Nathan Smith
Eric Spreng
Carrie Springer
Tom Stephens
Jim Struve
Bill Tomas
Nole Walkingshaw
Tom Walsh
Angela Washenko
Sam Weller
Chris Whipple
Henry Whiteside
John Wilbur
Greg Wilson
David Witherspoon
John Worlock
Jeff Wright
Ron Younger

Join Save Our Canyons

Save Our Canyons has been working to protect the wildness of the Wasatch canyons, mountains and foothills for 35 years and it needs you to be a part of this work.

Join us now.

Annual dues are \$25 for students, \$35 for individuals and \$50 for couples. You'll get our newsletter and invitations to parties – both social and work parties. You'll be supporting and participating in a good cause. It's the right thing to do.

Kurt Becker, Dave Andrenyak, and Jim Kucera frequent many SOC trail maintenance functions.



Trails Wrap Up

By Rachael Mathey, SOC Staff

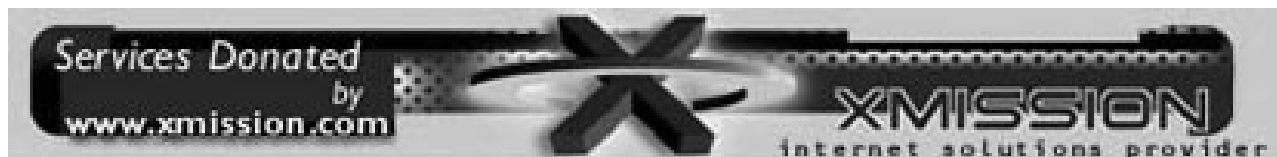
We would like to extend a huge Thanks to our tremendously dedicated volunteers, the Wasatch Mountain Club, and The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation and to the Forest Service for making our Trail Maintenance Program a success. We had a remarkable 2007 summer season and together achieved some major accomplishments including: tread repair, check dams, water bars, increasing the view corridor, removing hazardous trees, limbs and rocks, finishing work on the Mill D - Desolation trail intersection area and some heavy work in Brighton area on an extremely eroded section of the Twin Lakes trail. We completed work on Mill B (north and south) Mill D (north and south), and on the Twin Lakes trail.

Save Our Canyons would also like to give an enormous thanks to the National Forest Foundation (NFF) who generously contributed grant funding to the Trail Maintenance Program. We have been able to purchase maintenance tools for our trail days, which has assisted the Forest Serve and alleviated some of

the pressures placed upon the upkeep and overuse of their tools. The work completed facilitates all types of Wasatch trail users, and was performed in accordance with the standards and regulations set forth by the National Forest Service.

This year our talented volunteers honed their trail skills with two workshops instructed by the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. These workshops were designed specifically to inform trail workers on the best way to construct a safe, long-lasting trail for the many different users of the Wasatch.

Thanks again to all of you who participated in the maintenance this year. You have helped the Wasatch and the results of your work show. We have already begun the planning for next year's maintenance so remember to help out on the second Saturday of each summer month! □





The old Lake Mary trail, as it looks like today after two summers' worth of revegetation. In some places it has almost disappeared.

Lake Mary Trail — Two Summers Later

The assignment was to find a place to reroute the old, well loved, eroded and braided lower Lake Mary Trail away from a major tributary that feeds into Big Cottonwood Creek. The primary criterion was to make sure that the new trail was not placed in a wetland. The search started in 2003 and the route not selected until 2005 as it seemed that the Brighton Bowl was just one big wetland. At the suggestion of Randy Doyle, manager of Brighton Ski Area, in 2005 the trail was placed at its present location. It is probably the only place in Brighton that did not interfere with a wetland.

Chris Biltoft, representing the Wasatch Mountain Club, and Gayle Parry and Alexis Kelner, representing Save Our Canyons, had searched for a good

place for the trail, and had envisioned a much narrower trail winding amongst the flowers. The Forest Service, with borrowed mechanical trailblazer at hand, chose to make it wide to accommodate the many thousands of visitors who make the hike each year.

The new Lake Mary trail was dug by a trail building machine. It is wide enough to accommodate three individuals walking abreast.



Save Our Canyons put in hundreds of volunteer hours taking out the old trail and putting in the new. In addition to SOC and the WMC, twelve other organizations sent volunteers to put in the new trail. The trail was partially financed by a Save Our Canyons grant from REI.

Powder Mountain To Become Mountain Property

By Carl Fisher – SOC's Issues Coordinator

Powder Mountain Resort with its 5500 skiable acres (7,961 total acres) has been Utah's secret powder stash for years. The rural atmosphere of the surrounding towns, Eden and Huntsville, provide the small town experience that many of our local resorts seek to recreate. This could all change if the Ogden Valley Planning Commission (OVPC) decides to grant the Rezone Request put forth by Daly Summit Consulting. They plan to fill their "backcountry experience" with homes, condos, hotels, corporate retreats, restaurants and golf courses (yes, all plural).

This resort sits on the boundary of Cache County and Weber County, Cache providing most of the terrain and Weber slated for development. These two counties should be working together on this proposal; however, the development company was interested in pitching this project to each county separately. Consequently, Cache County has been put in an awkward position because they haven't dealt with the proposal in a timely manner while waiting for Weber County to play their

cards.

For the past three months the OVPC has been discussing this request and it has been tabled each meeting. Other than not meshing with the Ogden Valley General Plan, which has been put in place to help retain the rural, quiet atmosphere of the Ogden Valley, the major point of contention for this development has become the Powder Mountain Road. The fact is that this road cannot safely accommodate more traffic. Its very steep grade has numerous avalanche paths that cross it and cannot be widened due to geographic constraints. This area is just simply not suitable for the type of resort that has been proposed.

If you would like to submit comments to the Ogden Valley Planning Commission please do so before the Nov. 27 meeting. Comments can be sent via email (ssillito@co.weber.ut.us) with "Powder Mountain Rezone Request" in the subject line. For more information visit www.saveourcanyons.org and click Powder Mountain.

Announcements

Wasatch Front Forum

Tuesday January 29th 2008 7:00 – 8:30 PM

What are the issues facing our growing population in Salt Lake County?

By the year 2020, the Greater Wasatch Area will add a million more residents. Increased growth will require planning and strategy. What are the issues facing our growing population in Salt Lake County, and what responsibility do we have as citizens to reduce the effects of unsustainable consumption of resources and population growth?

Come engage in the conversations about your environment!

Forest Service Heli-Skiing Permit Lawsuit

At long last, the appeal stage of the lawsuit brought by Save Our Canyons and the Utah Environmental Congress is to be heard by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on November 14. Many thanks are due Bill Lockhart (Jr.) for taking on this important case. The decision will not be handed down for some time. We'll keep you informed.

Wasatch-Cache and Uinta National Forests Say Their “I-Do’s”

By Lisa Schmidt, SOC’s Executive Director

Changes are in store for the National Forests along the Wasatch Front. After facing budget constraints for the coming fiscal year, the Wasatch-Cache and Uinta forests have decided to pool their resources and combine the two forests into one.

The difficult decision came as a result of decreasing federal funding combined with the rising costs of fire fighting and suppression. The percentage of budget dedicated to fire has grown from 13% to nearly 45% in many forests, placing an enormous strain on already dwindling budgets. The combining of the two forests will help prevent some job losses and reduce expenditures in overhead and high position salaries in an effort to preserve more on-the-ground forest personnel.

Many of the changes will go into effect over the next six months, but full integration is expected to

take place over the next three years as the forests combine leadership teams and specialists. One of the most visible changes will be the location of the Wasatch-Cache-Uinta forest offices. The Forest Supervisor will now be located in the Provo offices while the Deputy Forest Supervisor will remain in the Salt Lake City offices. In addition to these changes, the Kamas and Heber ranger districts will also combine into one district with one district ranger.

With two different and recently adopted forest plans and several different issues facing the two forests, the merger will not be without challenges and hurdles for both the forest personnel and the public. However, without working to reverse the drastic decreases in federal funding, one can only speculate that this is the first of many forest changes to come.

CACTUS & TROPICALS



As a special promotion, Cactus & Tropicals is offering gift cards that will benefit Save Our Canyons.

For each card purchased, 10% of its value will be donated to SOC.

Help support TWO great causes and get your gifts and flora from Cactus & Tropicals. At the time of your purchase simply request a Save Our Canyons gift card. These cards can be used like cash at either Cactus & Tropicals location. Be sure that your gift card

SALT LAKE CITY

2735 South 2000 East

DRAPER

12252 South Draper Gate Drive (1325 E.)

Give a gift to the Wasatch!!



Save Our Canyons has been very good this year and as we gear up for 2008, we are hoping to find some extra surprises in our stocking. If you are looking to wrap up a gift for your favorite organization, here are a few items on our Christmas list:

Rent for a year \$4,920
IT Support and maintenance of our website \$3,000
Travel to DC for wilderness expansions in the Wasatch \$2,500
Postage \$ 2,500
Printing our newsletter \$800
New software \$500
New office chairs \$400
Wilderness Maps \$300

Please consider helping support SOC and our many efforts by making a donation towards one of our “wish list” items. You are guaranteed to get that warm and fuzzy holiday feeling that lasts all year.

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons
P.O. Box 112017
Salt Lake City, Utah 84147

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Save Our Canyons

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35 years
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