

Save Our Canyons

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

www.saveourcanyons.org

Winter, 2007-08

Need title and descriptive text

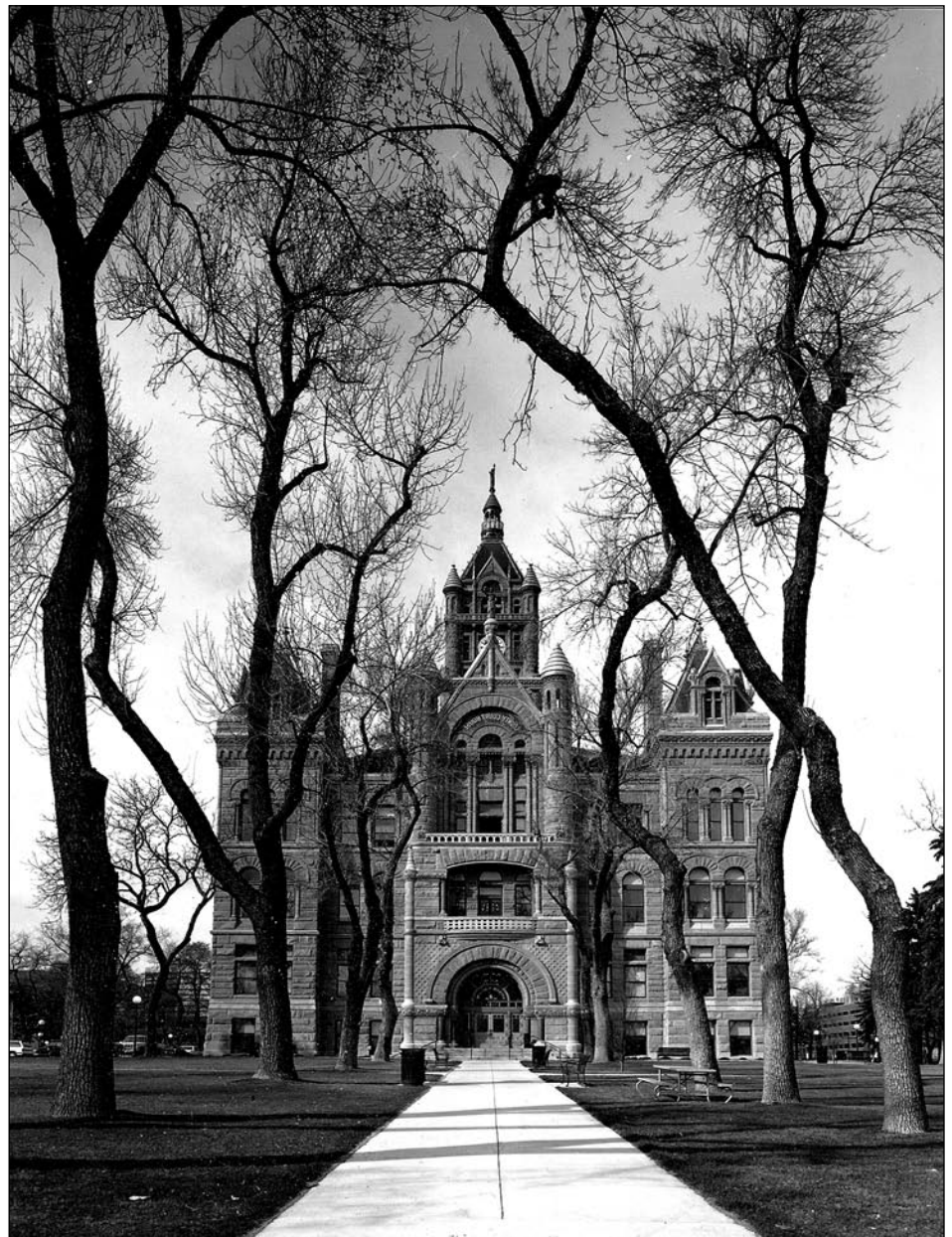
Save Our Canyons
is the quarterly publication
of the Citizens' Committee
to Save Our Canyons

CONTENTS:

President's Message	2
New Interns at SOC.....	3
FAA Update.....	4
Neffs Canyon Dam.....	5
Ute Indian Beliefs	6
Ogden Travel Plan	8
Cache County RS2477	9
Ogden Golf Course Saved. 9	
Trash Mars Brighton.....	10
Dave Bastian Moves On ...	11
Good, Bad, and Ugly	12
Adopt A Highway	13
Wasatch Trail Work.....	14
Wasatch Front Forums	15

ALEXIS KELNER, Perennial Editor

GALE DICK,
Associate Perennial Editor





President's Message

How Good Were Those Good Old Days?

The nineteen sixties were an uncomplicated and carefree time in the Wasatch. We used to joke that if you met someone while hiking up there they would be either a person you already knew, over 40 or someone who had grown up in northern Europe. More than half the time that was true, but it's certainly not true today as more and more people enjoy visiting these wonderful areas.

Things change.

In those bygone days you could drink from almost any stream and many of us carried those cups made of a pair of flexible metal sheets cunningly riveted together so as to form a watertight drinking vessel. That was before the giardia invasion of our mountains. You could camp anywhere, could ski from the top of Alta's Wildcat lift into Peruvian Gulch on delicious powder through the Keyhole, could drive a jeep anywhere in the foothills of the Salt Lake Valley. Harassment of the few backcountry skiers by private property owners was rare. Equipment was clunky and skinny skis were practically unknown. Any number of people could hike together in the areas that were soon to become designated wildernesses. You could drive up Days, Silver Fork or on any old mining or reservoir road. There were no helicopters in the hills.

The same sort of nonchalance prevailed on the Green and Colorado rivers. No permits, no rangers – you just went. And didn't have to lug out "human waste", you just did your business in a hole in the sand heedless of the fact that downstream was your destination.

Those happy-go-lucky ways are mostly gone – and good riddance for the most part! We gradually began to realize that our outings were too dangerous, too disruptive, too damaging or just plain bad. Though they seemed natural and universal in the past, they had to be abandoned. They weren't and should never have been regarded as

entitlements or god-given rights. Sheer pressure of numbers forced control of access and public safety demanded education on mountain hazards. User conflicts have become inflamed and simple courtesy in backcountry encounters has often been lost. What was widespread when there were only a few backcountry users has proved to be unsupportable with the huge growth of population and the increasing popularity of outdoor recreation in wild areas.

The squabbling among user groups has become particularly alarming as the bikers-hikers, climbers-heli-skiers, snowboarders-skiers and snowmobilers-snowshoers slug it out. There is a looming tragedy in all this bickering. Is anybody thinking about the wild lands themselves, the watershed, the wildlife habitat, the endangered flora, invasive non-native species, erosion? Often not. We are focused all too frequently on our own particular sport or game.

We can't let user conflicts govern the policies that can save what wilderness and wildness there is to be saved. Save Our Canyons has been using the amazing tool of the 1964 Wilderness Act to develop wise policies for the future of the Wasatch for the real long run. Think 100 years and 100 years after that. Establishing congressional Wilderness Areas is not about adjudicating user conflict. It's about watershed, habitat and the famous "opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation" enshrined in the 1964 Act. We must not let this opportunity be lost in the welter of battle among groups holding imagined entitlements. It's the land itself, folks, not our hobbies!

– GALE DICK

Eagles Study

Following the recent Wasatch Powderbird Guides (WPG) Special Use Permit Renewal process, at the urging of Save Our Canyons with the full support of the Wasatch-Cache and Uinta National Forests a study examining helicopter-golden eagle interactions was undertaken. Teryl G. Grubb (Forest Service), David K. Delaney (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and William W. Bowerman of Clemson University. Their November 2007 report entitled "Investigating Potential Effects of Heli-Skiing on Golden Eagles in the Wasatch Mountains, Utah" is available at saveourcanyons.org > Current Issues > Heli-Skiing > relevant links bar.



The study was discussed at a recent breakfast meeting attended by Teryl Grubb, local Forest Service and members of Save Our Canyons. Grubb described the methods used and observations made in the study. An excerpt from the Executive Summary:

"To establish the context for WPG operations in the Tri-Canyon Area, we collected data on levels or recent trends in recreational use, avalanche control, population growth, and other helicopters operating in the area. We surveyed as many historical golden eagle nest sites as possible between Parley's and Provo Canyons, as well as monitored a number of lower elevation sites west and south of Salt Lake City used in our experimental testing. Historical records for golden eagle nesting in the Tri-Canyon Area, as well as WPG operational records for 1974-2007 were reviewed."

After reviewing details of the study such the positions of the nests, the types of helicopters used, the number of flights, the number of eagles observed and the behavior of the eagles during various sorts of fly-bys, the study concludes (Executive Summary, IV)

- 1) there is minimal overlap between golden eagles and WPG, with nesting at higher elevations occurring later than may have been thought previously;
- 2) when there is simultaneous presence, golden eagles do not seem to be bothered or disrupt-

ed by WPG activities; and
3) should egg-laying occur while WPG is still operating, incubating golden eagles do not normally react other than to watch the aircraft. For the specific question of WPG operating in the Tri-Canyon Area without potentially impacting nesting golden eagles, we found no evidence that special management restrictions are required.

The Summary includes the following *AUTHORS' NOTE*:

"The results of this research were very much unexpected since helicopters are usually considered more disruptive to bald eagles than any other type of aircraft. Plus, golden eagles are traditionally thought to be more sensitive, and therefore more responsive, to human intrusions than bald eagles. However, we found the golden eagles studied during this project to be just as adaptive, tolerant, and acclimated to human activities as any bald eagles in our rather considerable, collective experience with this species. We hypothesize this may at least be in part due to the proximity of the large, growing, and outdoor-oriented population of the Salt Lake Valley and Wasatch Front. It is unlikely any golden eagles within our study area and beyond are truly naive to anthropogenic influences, no matter how remote their nesting locations appear to be. Even so, despite this apparently high tolerance, we would still point out that any activity, initially tolerated or not, in excess or extreme, can cause negative impacts. Nonetheless, with that said, we found nothing to suggest current levels of WPG heli-skiing operations in the Tri-Canyon Area have any detrimental effect on resident golden eagles."

This report prompted a vigorous and peppery discussion with questions centering mainly on the design of the research and the validity of the conclusions. There was general agreement with the authors that the results were surprising and far from intuitively obvious. The study is to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals where the methodology can be expected to gain expert scrutiny. ♦

SOC Lawsuit Over Heli-Skiing Permit is Decided in Appeals Court

By Bill Lockhart, Jr.

In July, 2005 SOC, together with Utah Environmental Congress (UEC), commenced a lawsuit against the United States Forest Service challenging the issuance of the most recent special use permit (SUP) to Wasatch Powderbird Guides for its helicopter skiing operations in the Wasatch Mountains. This effort, including an appeal to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals of an adverse decision in November 2006 by the United States District Court for the District of Utah, came to an end last month with a three-judge panel ruling that the Forest Service had acted properly in issuing the SUP.

From the beginning, SOC and UEC recognized that success was improbable. (Indeed, some 95% of the type of lawsuit brought by SOC and UEC against the Forest Service are unsuccessful.) Still, it was the conclusion of the SOC board and UEC that they must challenge what they viewed as agency business-as-usual favoritism of an operation that imposes widespread impacts on the Forests and other Forest users while inherently benefiting few. Contributing to this conclusion was the troubling, less-than-honest way that the agency apparently justified the terms it selected for the 2005 SUP.

You need to know a little bit about how Federal agencies operate in order to understand the claims SOC and UEC made in the case and how they were resolved. Under some circumstances, when an agency considers taking an action that could adversely affect the environment, it must prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the preparation of this EIS actually involves a process that requires the agency to 1) inform the public of its intention to consider taking the action; 2) publish a draft EIS on which it invites and receives comments from the public about the proposed action and the draft EIS; and 3) publish a final EIS when it announces its decision about precisely what, if any, action it will take. The agency generally has broad discretion in selecting the action it ultimately will take, but it must study and, in the EIS, thoroughly describe the expected environmental consequences (and associated social impacts) of this action, as well as present all the considerations and conclusions that the agency relied on in support of its decision.

Generally, NEPA cases involve claims that an EIS reflects the agency's failure to consider a critical factor or develop information it should have considered before making its decision. In the WPG case, the most troubling part of the EIS process was in a sense the reverse—that the Forest Service considered information but failed to include this information in the draft EIS.

Specifically, it was very clear that the only basis for the change in the terms for the 2005 SUP was found in an independent accountant's report commissioned jointly by the agency and WPG specifically to determine how the permit had to be changed to make sure WPG would remain economically viable. Yet the Forest Service withheld this report from the public, and its data, reasoning, and conclusions were in no recognizable way included in the EIS.

More than that, the agency asserted in the EIS that WPG's economic viability was "not an agency concern" and would not be a factor in the agency's decision. The Forest Service acknowledged that, in the past, it had made WPG's continued economic viability a central consideration in deciding how WPG could operate. But this time, for the 2005 SUP, the agency said it would consider only the factor of WPG's "operational efficiency"—a term whose meaning was never clearly defined or discernable from its usage. In comments to the agency, SOC said that it looked like a "code word" for the economic viability concerns that the EIS purported not to discuss.

In fact, it became clear this is what it was. When the lawsuit was commenced, the Forest Service provided the administrative record—some 14,000 pages of documents the agency generated in preparing the EIS. Among these was a memorandum prepared early in the EIS process that reflected the Forest Service's intention to make WPG's economic viability (via the accountants' report) a central factor in its decision—but call it something else. This memorandum also laid out the complex factors that created the motivation for the agency to deliberately obscure the role that the accountants' report played in the agency's decision.

In the end, the Court of Appeals ruled that the Forest Service had adequately identified economic concerns as a factor in its decision. It was clear that the court was greatly influenced by the fact that SOC itself discussed economic viability in its comments on the draft EIS for the new permit. Unfortunately, even if the judges did understand the singular role the accountants' report played, I think they might well have misunderstood SOC's comments as going to the substance of this report, undercutting SOC's claim that it wrongfully had been excluded from the draft EIS.

In the lawsuit, SOC and UEC also claimed that the EIS failed to provide any meaningful analysis of the impacts of helicopter noise on other Forest users. Though the EIS identified noise as the impact requiring the most thorough analysis, it very simply offered no

*Bill Lockhart in his element
on the Mulrow Glacier in Alaska.
You should see him, though,
spiffed up to argue
a case before a federal judge!*



information about the noise WPG creates in the permit area, no information about the degree to which WPG would subject other Forest users to noise, or the impact this noise would have on their experience. (This contrasted with a then recently completed EIS for heli-skiing in Alaska's Chugach Mountains.) At most, the EIS permitted only the rudimentary conclusion that WPG would impose noise on other Forest users. Nonetheless, the Court concluded that the EIS adequately analyzed noise impacts on other users.

Finally, SOC and UEC claimed that the EIS failed adequately to examine the potential safety impacts from WPG's use of explosives in the heavily used Wasatch Mountains. The EIS stated that "[t]he conclusion is that, for several reasons," which it never identifies, "the risk [to other Forest users] . . . is quite low." In fact, for this conclusion, the Forest Service clearly relied solely on the operational requirements it has imposed on WPG for many years—that WPG conduct its bombing only when it has at least half-mile visibility and to try to finish bombing by 9:00 a.m. Though the efficacy of these limitations has become ever more doubtful as the popularity of non-motorized backcountry use, especially "dawn patrol" outings, has increased so dramatically over the past decade or two, the Court of Appeals found that the EIS adequately addressed the safety issue.

Of course, I regret that there was not a better outcome for SOC and UEC in this litigation. Still in the process, I learned something positive about the local Forest administrators that I would like SOC members

to understand. The administrative record draws a rather clear picture of the agency, over the years, being drawn by pressure from WPG ever deeper into a focus on its viability as a business. Though, this time around, Forest administrators dealt with the issue of WPG's continued economic viability in a manner that was unfortunate, it strongly appears from the record that this actually developed from an earnest desire to stop effectively participating in the management of WPG and to free themselves to manage the Forests. In a time when Washington heavily pressures land management agencies to regress into their historical focus on management for economic interests, this could be some unexpected progress. ♦

EDITORS' NOTE. SOC owes Bill Lockhart a huge debt of gratitude for taking on this case and doing so for extraordinarily low fees. We too have learned a lot in the process and are glad that the organization pursued it to the end.



In Memoriam

WALLACE S. BROOKE, M.D., prominent Salt Lake physician, active outdoorsman, serious naturalist, scholar, humanitarian and tennis player, all round good citizen and friend died January 16, 2008. He was a generous and interested supporter of Save Our Canyons. He will be sorely missed by many.

2007 REPORT CARD

The issues and initiatives in which Save Our Canyons involves itself are complex and commonly multi-year efforts. Threats to the Wasatch literally never die. Successes can be short-lived, as development pressures are impossible to kill permanently, especially given Utah's anti-conservation political and legislative climate.

For the year 2007 (with some references to 2006 and earlier origins) we want to give you a flavor, or maybe we can call it a report card, as to just what Save Our Canyons has been up to, so you can feel comfortable that your support is being earned by SOC's staff and volunteers who so graciously give their time and energy.

◆ Save Our Canyons knows that the best protection for the Wasatch is wilderness designation. SOC has been working tirelessly throughout 2007 (and in prior years) to realize the goal of expanding the boundaries of the Mt. Olympus, Twin Peaks and Lone Peak Wilderness areas in order to bring more land under the protection of the Wilderness Act of 1964. This is an exquisitely difficult process, highly political and fraught with special interests. The goal for 2008 is to create a draft bill and reconcile the interests of the diverse parties involved.

◆ In 2007 the FAA formerly stated that it was not going to continue trying to route aircraft over the Wasatch as part of its Northern Airspace Initiative. This issue began in 2003 with SOC sounding the alert, publicizing the threat, researching, communicating with those opposed to the FAA's plans and building a coalition of local governments, conservation groups and allies who successfully fought the FAA. Salt Lake City, the Town of Alta and Representative Jim Matheson played important and effective roles in bringing about this success.

◆ 2007 saw the end of SOC's litigation against the U.S. Forest Service in its efforts to limit commercial helicopter skiing in the Wasatch. SOC first filed suit in federal court in 2005 with Federal Judge Ted Stewart ruling against SOC. SOC then appealed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, which very recently upheld Stewart's ruling. In spite of not prevailing in this specific litigation battle, it is yet another warning that SOC will engage in litigation if it thinks the issue is important enough and there are reasonable grounds for legal remedy. The current helicopter skiing permit expires in 2009 and SOC will be engaged in the renewal permit process. SOC's lawyers in this case, Bill Lockhart, Jr. Joel Ban and Sarah Tal deserve huge amounts of credit for the completely selfless and largely uncompensated time they spent on research, writing the briefs and making SOC's case in court.

◆ During the summer of 2006 Salt Lake County made public its plan to build a debris basin and dam at the mouth of Neffs Canyon as part of the County's flood control efforts. Beginning in the latter part of 2006, and continuing into 2007, SOC, with the active involvement of the Sierra Club, Utah Rivers Council, local residents and recreational users of Neffs Canyon successfully lobbied the County to put the debris basin and dam plans on hold.

◆ Beginning in 2005 SOC began to realize just how toxic the Utah State Legislature is as respects conservation and zoning and planning issues. SOC works with the Sierra Club and various grass roots organizations to keep tabs and publicize the anti-conservation legislation that is introduced during each session. Only through broad-based opposition to the proposed legislation is there any hope that it can be killed. During the 2006 and 2007 sessions, SOC and its allies enjoyed watching certain proposed laws fail and suffered through the enactment of others.

◆ In 2007 SOC resurrected the Wasatch Front Forum. There were four forums presented in 2007, dealing with wilderness, the west desert, the mayoral debate, west bench development.

◆ In 2007 the Wasatch Interconnect tunnels scheme came to life again. SOC met with the individuals involved, attended the so-called task force meetings and was a vocal opponent of tunnels. At this point in time, it appears the promoters of this scheme have put it on the back burner, given the amount of negative publicity and opposition it engendered. SOC is, however, monitoring the 2008 legislative session to be sure that the tunnels are not sneaked into the fine print of some proposed bill.

Although it occurred in 2006, it is worth noting that Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon formally renounced all road claims in the Wasatch that were associated with Revised Statute 2477, the federal law by which conservation opponents have been working to fragment and destroy natural areas. As a prelude to Salt Lake County renouncing its RS 2477 claims, SOC staff worked tirelessly in researching these road claims and ultimately presented the County with documentation that was sufficient for Mayor Corroon to move forward with his renunciation.

◆ 2007 saw the beginning of RS2477 road claims in Cache County. SOC made the Forest Service aware of Cache County's intention to claim RS 2477 rights of way. SOC is continuing to work with the Wilderness Society on this matter and is in the process of documenting road histories that will be used to oppose Cache County in its claims.

◆ 2007 has been an active year for the developers who want to turn the Powder Mountain ski area and surrounding areas into a huge resort. SOC has attended public meetings, made written comments and been engaged with local public officials. As of the writing of this article, in January 2008, the developers have filed a petition to have Powder Mountain become its own city thereby circumventing Weber County's and Cache County's involvement. Again, we see the destructive handiwork of the Utah State Legislature in passing a law that allows special interests to incorporate themselves into their company towns.

◆ The fortunes of the Malan's Basin ski resort development & Ogden gondola scheme for Ogden appear to be less threatening at this point in time than they were a year ago. Dan Schroeder of the Sierra Club has been the main opponent to this project and deserves the lion's share of credit for the current hiatus status of these schemes. SOC has been involved in the background on this matter, filing GRAMA requests with the city as respects the proposed sale of city land to the developer.

◆ In 2007 SOC has been and continues to be an active participant in the Little Cottonwood Canyon Transportation Study. Transportation issues in Big & Little Cottonwood Canyons continue to escalate with proposals to re-route the main road in Little Cottonwood Canyon to the south to lessen the risk of avalanches or to build avalanche sheds across the road at the prominent slide areas, both of which SOC strongly opposes.

◆ 2007 was an active year for SOC's trail maintenance activities in the Wasatch. Seven discrete projects were undertaken during this past summer. An average of 12 volunteers took part in each project. In addition, SOC applied for and received a grant of \$7,500 from the National Forest Foundation to be used strictly for

trail maintenance, most of which has now been spent.

◆ Salt Lake City in 2007 began developing its Riparian Overlay District Ordinance. SOC submitted comments, met with city council members and attended to public hearings in support of this proposed ordinance, which the Salt Lake City Council very recently enacted it into law.

◆ SOC throughout 2007 continued to maintain communication with the U.S. Forest Service, meeting quarterly, discussing and reviewing the myriad issues that confront the Wasatch, such as RS 2477, trails program, tunnel interconnect, signage, ATV abuse and the Forest Plan.

◆ Given that approximately 20% of the land mass in the Wasatch is privately owned and therefore under the control of Salt Lake County's planning and zoning ordinances and political decisions, SOC throughout 2007 continued to maintain involvement and dialogue with Salt Lake County on many issues, such as open space, transportation, planning and zoning, expansion of the wilderness areas.

◆ In 2007 Salt Lake County purchased 150 undeveloped acres in Killyon Canyon, which is located in the upper reaches of Emigration Canyon. SOC facilitated this outcome by bringing together the private property owners, Salt Lake County and Utah Open Lands to begin this open space land acquisition process and took county officials and others on site visits.

In addition to this tally of issues and outcomes, SOC's staff operates an office five days a week 52 weeks a year. Website maintenance, fund raising, grant writing, membership management, accounting, publicizing opportunities for public participation in canyon decisions, organizing events and responding to the needs of those who call the SOC office daily in and by itself is a full time job. ◆

Wasatch Front Forum

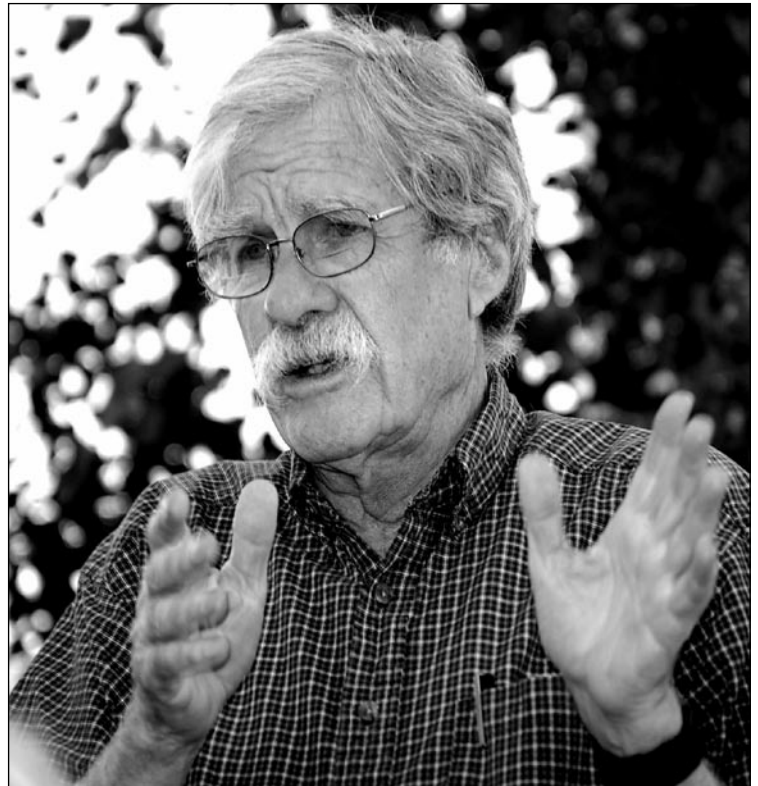
Topic: "TOURISM AND UTAH PUBLIC LANDS"

March 19 - 7:00 pm at Westminster College

*John Worlock is the Golden Voice
of Save Our Canyons.
He can be heard on KRCL's (90.9 FM)
"Wasatch Environmental Update"
every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.*

Wasatch Environmental Updates

By John Worlock, SOC Trustee



Real-Estate Developments and Ski Resorts in the Wasatch Back¹

These are perilous times in the Wasatch Back – the country out there on the eastern, or back, side of the Wasatch Range.

Powder Mountain, a quiet family-run ski resort up behind Ogden on a ridge between Weber and Cache Counties, has changed hands and is trying to expand into a world-class, four-season resort. Although the featured activity is skiing, the new owners want to mount an extensive real-estate development, which will obviously make more money than the skiing. Their plans require rezoning of at least the portion of the resort that lies within Weber County. Weber is thinking about it.

Meanwhile, another development-minded individual, one Dean Sellers, owning some 5000 acres of a hillside a few miles south of Heber, has the brilliant idea - you guessed it - of a world-class, four-season ski resort and second-home community. His trick was to bypass the Wasatch County Council and its zoning by forming his holdings into a new town, ambitiously named Aspen, Utah. Its incorporation would be facilitated by an idiotic law passed earlier this year by the legislature – the same law that allowed Ruby's Inn, at the edge of Bryce Canyon, to incorporate as a town and withdraw its revenue and its zoning from Garfield County. Fortunately, Sellers talked too much too soon, frightening his new neighbors, whom he needed for his town. They quickly requested annexation into the nearby

1) Aired November 27, 2007

town of Daniel, beating Sellers to the county offices by just a few hours. That, of course, doesn't necessarily end the dream, but Sellers will now have to work with the county in order to develop his property.

Return now to Powder Mountain. The developers there have mounted a public-relations campaign, promising more details of their plans. One specific item stands out: a consulting firm estimates that the peak daily traffic on the single, narrow, steep road leading to the resort would rise from today's fifteen hundred trips to a staggering fifteen thousand trips. And there's plenty more...

We are hopeful that this ploy of revealing plans will also backfire, as people hear and learn more, and begin to get a clearer picture of the true impact on the rural Ogden Canyon community.

Amending Utah's Easy-Incorporation Law²

We had a brief moment of celebration when we learned that Representative Mel Brown is amending his ill-begotten one-year-old law that greases the skids for entrepreneurs wishing to secede from the county in which they do business. But our celebration was soon diminished by news that the House Speaker, Greg Curtis, vows to delay any amendments until after the resolution of certain existing petitions for new-town incorporation under the old law.

Last year's law was understood to be designed, and

2) Aired January 29, 2008

pushed through by skillful lobbyists, to facilitate the creation of a new town in Wasatch County, containing an upscale development on the east shore of Jordanelle Reservoir. The new town, to be called Hideout, would still be in Wasatch County, but no longer subject to the zoning and land-use regulations of the county.

However, the first to take advantage of the new law was Ruby's Inn, the complex of commercial tourist services on the edge of Bryce Canyon. They quickly seceded from Garfield County, to make their own laws, and keep a large portion of taxes that hitherto flowed into the county's budget. Nothing could be done, as the law made it that easy.

In the past few months two ambitious developers have announced intention to incorporate their holdings into independent towns for the purpose of building or expanding winter and four-season resorts. The first of these, with the ominous name of Aspen, Utah, seems to have been stymied by its neighbors in the valley south of Heber, who asked to be annexed into the neighboring, existing town.

The other one is Powder Mountain, the ski resort on the ridge between Cache and Weber Counties. They

envision an immense expansion of facilities and traffic, and their negotiations with the planning boards of the two counties have not been entirely friendly, as they threaten to inundate the rural atmosphere with development and traffic. So their next move is to incorporate, set their own laws, and grow according to their own wishes.

We sincerely hope the legislature can adopt quickly the amendments in Representative Brown's new bill, HB 164, as the current law makes this process of secession all too easy, and gives the counties no role in their own development.

Both of these issues warrant careful attention. Their status changes almost hourly and the stakes are high.

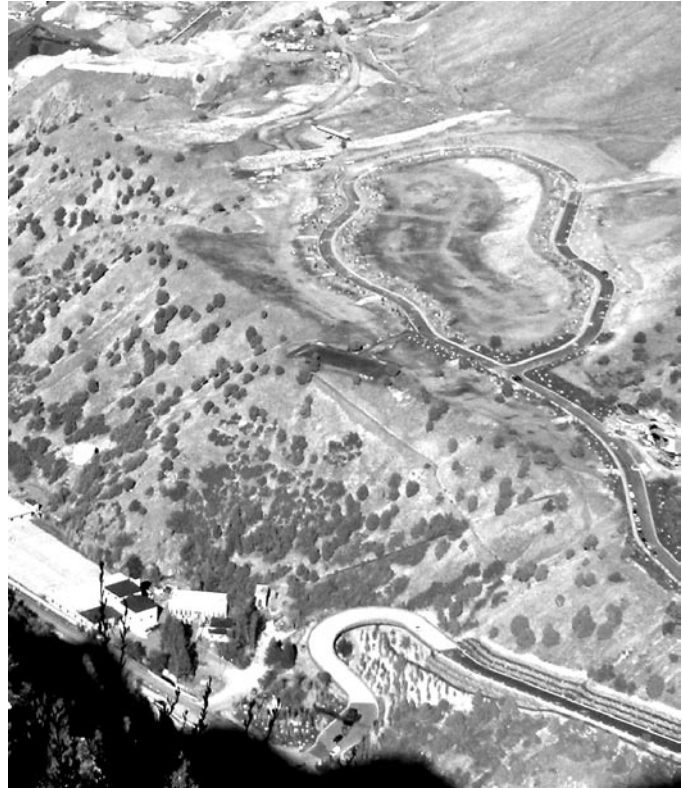
EDITORS' NOTE: These are but two examples of commentary by John Worlock that airs every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. on KRCL 90.9 FM. John turns out important, hard-hitting and pithy short essays on environmental matters that should interest not only SOC members but also all citizens of Utah. Thanks, John for this on-going contribution to civic dialog.



Once a year in November the Save Our Canyons' Board of Trustees and staff meet for an all-day retreat to discuss the previous year's work, current issues and plans for the coming year. This is a picture of the 2007 retreat. We thought you would like to see faces of this hard-working group. Back row (l to r) Tom Stephens, Executive Director Lisa Schmidt, Gayle Parry, Carl Fisher (staff), David Witherspoon. Front row (l to r) Julia Lester-Hendrian, Ron Younger, Rachael Mathey (staff), Bill King and Gale Dick. Inset picture is of Trustee Alexis Kelner, who took the group's photograph.

Need Caption

give credit to Bill Gray



The Very Good, the Good,

the Bad, and the Ugly

VERY GOOD: From *NY Times* (1/9/08): “*APPEAL DROPPED IN NEW FOREST RULES.*”

The Bush administration has dropped its appeal of a 2007 court decision that overturned new management rules for 191 million acres of national forests. Opponents to the Bush administration rules had argued that they weakened protection for wildlife and the environment to benefit of the timber industry. The Justice Department notified the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit this week that it was withdrawing its appeal, saying the other parties, including the timber industry would do likewise. Last March a federal district court in California found that the US Forest Service had bypassed required environmental reviews and provisions under the Endangered Species Act in its overhaul of the management rules, including changes in logging limits, for its national forests. At last – the right ultimate decision!

GOOD: 4th graders, 216 of them, are pushing for the Utah juniper to be named the Utah State Tree. That title has been held since 1933 by the Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), but student proponents of change say that the juniper would be more appropriate since it is tough and scrappy like Utahns. Controversy has been growing over the 4th graders’ suggestion, but they have momentum since they shipped an information packet and DVD to every school in the state, lobbying fourth

graders from Box Elder to San Juan to join the cause. It’s the legislators who decide things like this. Go after those legislators, fourth graders!

BAD: The Utah governor’s office is trying to use that old 1866 Revised Statute 2477 to claim ownership of roads that cross federal lands and keep them open to off-highway recreation and oil and gas drilling. This same statute has been used by many Utah counties to thwart wilderness designation; but, thanks to Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, this county has renounced almost all such claims in this county. Heidi McIntosh, conservation director for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and an attorney, expressed some wariness about possible legal precedents the state’s new efforts could set. During a 2006 Utah legislature House floor debate, Rep. Jacki Biskupski, D-Salt Lake City, called the bill an “open invitation to further litigation.” In Utah, use of RS 2477 almost always is an alarm signal suggesting some sort of land grab of federal land – that is, your land!

WE TOLD YOU SO: From this photo taken by Bill Gray from a vantage point high up in Ferguson Canyons, you get a good view of the layout of the development served by that often deplored road up the steep slope on the north side of the entrance to Big Cottonwood Canyon, which you can also see. Not good. It’s the product of monkey business in the Salt Lake Coun-

ty Board of Adjustment some years ago. SOC tried to right the bad decision in the courts but couldn't prevail. Win some, lose some but keep fighting.

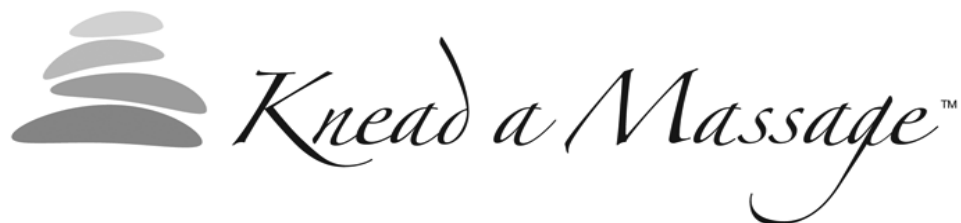
BAD: Bet you didn't know that conservation organizations working to establish federal wilderness areas are to be lumped with Osama bin Laden and Iran President Mahmud Ahmadinejad. That's the message being sent around by a nonprofit Denver group called Americans for American Energy. Utah legislators Mike Noel (R-Kanab) and Aaron Tilton (R-Springville) signed onto the letter and agree with the message. Why terrorists? Because wilderness "weakens America" by hamstringing our ability to produce American energy right here in Utah". Now you know.

BAD: There seems to be no end to suggested vandalism in the name of oil and gas exploration and development on wilderness study areas and notable public treasures. A recent example has been news of plans for drilling for oil in the north end of Great Salt Lake near Robert Smithson's Spiral Jetty. News was released that new oil development plans threaten the integrity of the Spiral Jetty. It is said that the oil wells would not be above the water, but that means some kind of industrial complex of pipes and pumps beneath the water and on the shore. The operation would require roads for oil tank trucks, cranes, pumps, which produce noise and will severely alter the wild, natural place. There are also threats to Desolation Canyon and many other scenic extravaganzas. Watch for more such suggestions!

GOOD: Congratulations to the Salt Lake City Council for making one of their first priorities this year the protection of Riparian Corridors within the City. Save Our Canyons partnered with Utah Rivers Council, riparian

scientists and community members to help the Council understand the need for protecting these areas which serve as a building block for increasing environmental quality. This was also a way for the environmental community to "feel out" the new council members Luke Garrott and JT Martin who both voted in favor of this ordinance. Look for the reintroduction of songbirds, wildlife and native plants at a stream near you!

GREAT- And Congratulations! Two possible new SOC members have arrived – born to especially important members of the organization. David Witherspoon and Lara have a new son, Kai Odin Witherspoon. Gavin Noyes and Steph are parents of Ilario Tonin Noyes. Congratulations to you all. SOC will wait a while before sending membership recruiting materials to Kai and Ilario. ♦



In support of Save Our Canyons and the important work it promotes, *Knead a Massage* is donating 30 minute gift certificates to every Save Our Canyons member who purchases or renews their membership in 2008. In addition, when you purchase gift memberships in 2008, you will receive a 30 minute gift certificate for each gift membership to give with your gift or keep for yourself.

At *Knead a Massage*, we believe that therapeutic massage should be an integral component of your active lifestyle. Whether you've just volunteered to clean up and maintain the Canyon trails or just want to build an additional component into your wellness routine, we are here to offer you affordable massage in 3 convenient locations,

Seven days a week from 9am to 9pm. — Same day appointments are welcome.

Foothill Village 801-582-0752 – Sugarhouse 801-467-6988 - Park City 435-615-8440

Quakers And The Environment

By Elaine Caldwell Emmi

QUAKERS (FRIENDS) don't have set doctrines; rather they rely on Testimonies to guide them. These Testimonies are Peace, Simplicity, Equality, Integrity and Community.

Salt Lake Quakers are part of a statewide organization called Utah Friends Fellowship, which is part of a regional gathering called Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Friends have neither paid Clergy nor any hierarchy. In essence the members are the Clergy.

Started in England in the mid 1600's, Quakerism's belief in equality between men and women and among all people set them at odds with officials in England, which led them to spend a lot of time in jail. That spurred many of them to migrate to America. Early on they were referred to as Seekers of the Truth. The emphasis being on "seeking". Not found. (That convinced me, as I realized that Friends are constantly learning and incorporating new elements into their faith.)

How did Quakers get so involved in the natural world? What sparked this concern for Quakers were their Testimonies. We kept asking ourselves questions (queries) about living on earth and, as the loss of habitat and species became more widespread, Quakers added their voices to the care for the earth.

This is a good example of how Friends seek – we ask ourselves questions (queries) about our Testimonies and how we are living our lives. A new set of queries has evolved over the last few years concerning how we live on the earth.

A query about *STEWARDSHIP*:

Do we practice and encourage thoughtful family planning? What are we doing to ensure adequate water, food, shelter, education, and respect for those who do not have ready access to these blessings? Are we informed about the effects of our lifestyle on the global economy and the environment?

And a section on *HARMONY WITH NATURE (Environment)*:

The environmental crisis is at root a spiritual and religious crisis; we are called to look again at the real purpose of being on this earth.

London Yearly Meeting, 1988, in Quaker Faith & Practice of Britain Yearly Meeting, 1993, 25.02

Interspersed into the Queries are *ADVICES*:

The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.

John Woolman, 1772, in Quaker Faith & Practice of Britain Yearly

Meeting, 25.01

And more *QUERIES*:

How do we inform ourselves about how our style of living affects the global economy and the environment?

How do we exercise our respect for the balance of nature? Are we careful to avoid poisoning the earth, the air, and the water? Do we use the world's resources with care and consideration for future generations and with respect for all life? Do we recycle all that we can?

How do we encourage environmental responsibility within our community?

How do we live in accord with our sense of God in all creation?

Twenty-one years ago, *Quaker Earthcare Witness* sprang up. Many Friends had been talking for years of their intense concern for the Earth. *QEW* strives to integrate Friends' concerns for the environment with Friends' testimonies. From *QEW's* Vision and Witness: *WE ARE CALLED* to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. *WE WORK* to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity. *WE PROMOTE* these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth. (At the *QEW* website you will find curriculum for earthcare for both adults and children!)

Another outward sign of Friends beliefs is evident in the *Friends Committee on National Legislation*. It is the oldest religious lobby in Washington, DC. A few years ago, the *FCNL* building was falling apart and it was decided to make it a 'green' building. This decision had an impact Friends couldn't imagine. It helped Friends refocus their lobbying efforts toward the environment. Just changing the heating system from a traditional furnace to a heat pump allowed for the funding of a full time lobbyist on energy and environment.

Quakers are probably best known as pacifists; they also know that fossil fuels are the current cause of wars. *FCNL's* green building uses no fossil fuels. This is one way that Quakers witness for peace.

Since the greening of the *FCNL* building, Capitol neighbors (including the Capitol architect) have visited this building and learned of the Friends' commitment to environmental sustainability as a moral issue. ♦

Elaine Caldwell Emmi

ELAINE CALDWELL EMMI is interested in community, environment and spirituality and how they intertwine. She is a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and is the current co-Clerk of the Salt Lake Monthly Meeting. Elaine also serves on the boards of Quaker Earthcare Witness and Friends Committee on National Legislation. Beside her 'real job' (paid work), Elaine is Chair of the Salt



Lake Interfaith Roundtable and is tryin to help the newly formed Utah Interfaith Power and Light lessen the carbon footprint of all faith communities.

She has lived in New York, Turkey, California, Indiana, Spain, Sweden and Utah.

She enjoys being a cog in the wheel that is turning for peace on earth and peace with earth. Elaine feels that peace is not passive; it has to be waged. It is noisy, it is active, it is a verb.

QUAKER LINKS:

<http://www.saltlakequakers.org/>

<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/>

<http://www.fcnl.org/index.htm>

<http://www.friendsjournal.org/friends-testimonies-and-ecological-understanding>

http://quaker.ca/cfriend/CF_V102_1/CF.V102.01.P5.6.pdf

Membership Reminder

You will soon receive a letter asking you to renew your membership. This important part of SOC's fund raising cycle, this year, will be accompanied with a survey questionnaire which we very much hope you will fill out.

We are always interested in learning more about SOC's membership and your interests and concerns.

This information helps SOC serve you better.



Mark Your Calendar

Here are some up-coming Save Our Canyons events that you won't want to miss:

Wasatch Front Forum

Topic: "TOURISM AND UTAH PUBLIC LANDS"

March 19 - 7:00 pm at Westminster College

Lone Peak Celebration

April 24 6:30 pm at the Old Mill Clubhouse

Membership Reminder

You will soon receive a letter asking you to renew your membership. This important part of SOC's fund raising cycle, this year, will be accompanied with a survey questionnaire which we very much hope you will fill out. We are always interested in learning more about SOC's membership and your interests and concerns. This information helps SOC serve you better.

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SALT LAKE CITY, UT
PERMIT NO. 7271