

# Save Our Canyons

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

[www.saveourcanyons.org](http://www.saveourcanyons.org)

November, 2010

**The Wasatch Mountains are still wild  
and this gnarled patriarch is happy  
about that.**

*Save Our Canyons is an organization of citizen activists "dedicated, since 1972, to the beauty and wildness of Wasatch canyons, mountains, and foothills."*

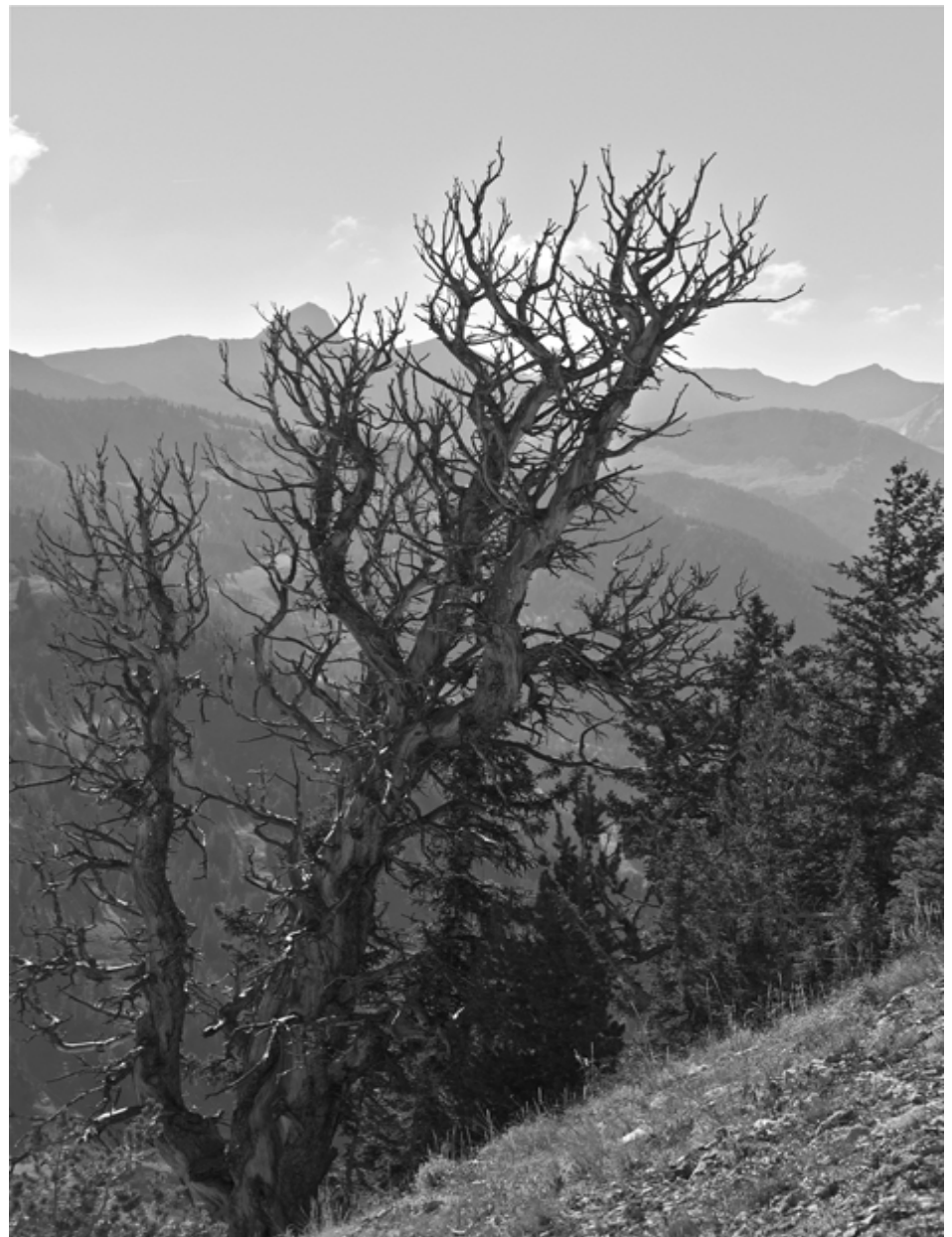
*Save Our Canyons* is the quarterly publication of the Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

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ALEXIS KELNER,  
Perennial Editor

GALE DICK,  
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*Photo by Carl Fischer*



## President's Message

# Whence? Whither?

What would the Wasatch be like today without Save Our Canyons and its many supporters and allies? In a recent letter to its membership, we invited reflection on this question and emphasized some memorable episodes in SOC's 39-year history. It's an impressive list:

- ◆ Led successful fight for Wilderness designation – Lone Peak - 1978.
- ◆ Played important role in Wilderness designations for Twin Peaks, Mt. Olympus, Mt. Timpanogos and Nebo and High Uintas –1984.
- ◆ Kept Olympic venues out of the canyons of the Central Wasatch –1988.
- ◆ Played a significant role in the Salt Lake County Canyons Master Plan and Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone ordinance - 1989.
- ◆ Successfully challenged the USFS concerning a Snowbasin Ski Resort lift development –1988.
- ◆ In 1992 helped defeat Brighton Ski Resort's effort to expand into Snake Creek Canyon and then worked with environmental organizations, Utah State Parks and Midway landowners to prevent any future development in the canyon.
- ◆ Significantly influenced SLC's Watershed Management Plan - 1999.
- ◆ Successfully opposed Snowbird's expansion into White Pine Canyon and Scotties Bowl in the year 2000.
- ◆ Helped Salt Lake City purchase Willow Heights from United Park City Mines protecting it for watershed - 2001.
- ◆ Uncovered the Salt Lake Olympic Committee's green washing of the Utah Winter Olympic Games - 2002.
- ◆ Persuaded Salt Lake City to launch a campaign to permanently stop illegal motorized use of foothills - 2002.
- ◆ Successfully challenged Salt Lake County's flouting of its own zoning Ordinances with regard to Harper's Quarry in Parley's Canyon - 2002.
- ◆ Raised public awareness of FAA airspace initiative that would have routed incoming commercial flights to paths low over Wasatch Wilderness - 2005.
- ◆ Weighed in on the controversy surrounding trail development on public Land in Emigration Canyon urging provision for public access to public land - 2005.
- ◆ Helped relocate the bottom section of the Lake Mary Trail at Brighton in 2005 and participated in many trail restoration and improvements over the years.
- ◆ Conducted extensive research on Salt Lake County's RS 2477 highway right-of-way claims, which ultimately led to the County dropping all of its claims - 2006.
- ◆ Helped stop the expansion of Solitude Resort onto public lands in Silver Fork Canyon - 2010.
- ◆ Actively participated in the Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow process during the revision of the Salt Lake County [www.history.org/.../life/politics/signers.gif](http://www.history.org/.../life/politics/signers.gif) Wasatch Canyons Master Plan 2010 and still ongoing.
- ◆ Played a leadership role in the development and introduction into Congress of Rep. Matheson's H.R. 5009 Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act - 2010 and ongoing.

This list gives an idea of the "Whence" mentioned in the title of this piece. What about the "Whither"? What role will Save Our Canyons be playing in its future? Much of our recent effort has gone into the huge task of Wilderness Legislation. .

We need, of course, to get that Wilderness Act through congress if we can. This effort will either see success or, in the crosswinds of politics, be put on hold for a while. If so, we must work on interim modes of resource protection.

We see an unending need for the continuation of the work that SOC has done. Inevitably a good deal of the work will continue to be, as it has been, unforeseen and unforeseeable – perpetual brushfires.

But some of the future does seem clear. It will take a lot of inventiveness to develop ways to share, among the increasing number of users, the wonderful recreational resource that is also our watershed.

Everything will become more difficult as the looming population wave engulfs us. We will need to continue the fight against loss of what we value most by squabbling engendered by user conflict and keep our eye on the real goal of controlling development.

Illegal depredations on our public lands remain a huge problem. Motorized vehicles threaten them winter and summer; extreme mountain biking is a danger to man and beast on public lands. Campers and hikers ignore closures and prohibitions. From what I have read, the Forest Service has never in its whole history had sufficient resources to enforce its regulations and it probably never will. Education of the users of the Wasatch is the only way to begin to change the situation. Save Our Canyons needs to step up its educational role in its newsletter and wherever else it can. We need to realize what is at stake, how misuse affects us all and how we can avert loss of what we most value. There is much misinformation and ignorance about public lands and the agencies that manage them. This has to be cleared away.

SOC must continue its scrutiny of the terms attached to permits for helicopter skiing. We

must also continue to use the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Utah's Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA) to abolish secrecy in the management of public lands. SOC has long been a strong proponent of public participation in decisions bearing on our public lands.

To do these things SOC will always need a strong organization with a great staff, a dedicated board along with a supportive and growing membership. We need to engage people of all age groups in these undertakings.

We have learned that the overwhelming majority of residents of the Salt Lake Valley want to limit commercial development in the Wasatch canyons. Poll after poll has demonstrated this, and that majority has only increased over the decades. It is encouraging that this view is supported by an alliance of federal agencies, municipal and county governments. Also among these allies are businesses along with mature and well-developed environmental organizations. The leadership in these sister organizations is impressive – well informed and well connected as well as dedicated and diligent.

And so:

Q. Whence?

A. From a substantial four decades of accomplishment and success.

Q. Whither?

A. Onward to many decades of ever more glittering successes!

At this point, off stage: Stirring Sousa Marches.

GALE DICK, SOC President

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**Save Our Canyons has started a BLOG!**

**[www.saveourcanyons.blogspot.com](http://www.saveourcanyons.blogspot.com)**

While we are only in the beginning stages of this, we are really excited about blogging! We will be posting on a variety of topics and subjects that have to do with the environment, the Wasatch, and more! Take a look and let us know what you think!

**We're also on Facebook!**

Link over from our website or blog or go directly to: **[www.facebook.com/saveourcanyons](http://www.facebook.com/saveourcanyons)**



*Julia and Roger Lester enjoying Roger's birthday picnic on American Fork Twin's western summit. Photo by Ric Ansley*

## How I Got Involved In Environmental Activism

By JULIA LESTER, SOC Trustee

Memories of growing up on the densely populated East Coast do not include vast tracts of wilderness easily accessible from home.

About 20 years ago a group of us 'City Slickers' visited Utah for a ski vacation. Each day I skied from the start of the first chair lift ride until the last one at Alta. That week spent skiing under Utah's breathtakingly blue skies alternating with clouds wafting fluffy powderflakes impressed upon my being a feeling of 'living in the moment'. After returning home from vacation, it took me two weeks to get used to living among gray buildings that blocked views of the sky from the ground.

Four years later I relocated to Utah. Alta continued to be my particular Utah haven. During my first full winter season of 1994-1995, I reveled in nighttime Alta walks under the stars and moon. I knew while watching the moonlight reflect off the snow that, despite all the conflict in the world, special and spiritual places in the Wasatch canyons must be recognized, treasured and protected.

Over the last 16 years more development has come

to the Wasatch canyons. As public land in the Wasatch canyons is constantly sought for further building, I recalled an old Joni Mitchell song called 'Big Yellow Taxi'. Living in the East, I'd never seen the fields and meadows that preceded the large structures. In Utah, I'd seen some of what was there pre-construction. According to Joni's lyrics, "You don't know what you got 'til it's gone...They paved paradise and put up a parking lot".

My intention to protect the prized, rugged Wasatch canyon landscapes and vital Salt Lake City watershed became reality about 15 years ago as a Save Our Canyons ('SOC') volunteer. Since its creation in the early 1970's, SOC has been a vital player in discussions regarding the Wasatch canyons.

I began my quest to give back to the Wasatch. With other dedicated volunteers I fostered discussion about issues facing the Wasatch via involving participants at community events (aka 'tabling', a fun and informative activity) and helped maintain beloved trails by combating things like erosion. Working on submitting comments to the USDA-Forest Service as a concerned



*Backcountry expedition to Silver Fork from Brighton via Honeycomb Cliffs. Photo by Greg Buchanan*

citizen on different canyon-related topics and providing input on Environmental Impact Statements clarified issues facing the Wasatch canyons for me.

Inspiring SOC volunteers encouraged me to undertake more projects like the Big Cottonwood Canyon road Adopt-A-Highway (Miles 8-10) and even more volunteers assisted over the years with those projects. Despite the many concerns that still face the Wasatch canyons, there recently have been ever more collaborative discussions about how to treasure the Wasatch canyons and expand the Wasatch wilderness. Cur-

rently there is The Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act of 2010 bill in Congress, HR 5009, that would add 26,000 more acres to the existing Wasatch wilderness.

On that positive note, let's keep enjoying the bounty of having the Wasatch canyons in 'our backyard', with their unparalleled opportunities for backcountry, Nordic, and alpine skiing, hiking, camping, photography, and mountain- and road-biking, among many other pursuits. □

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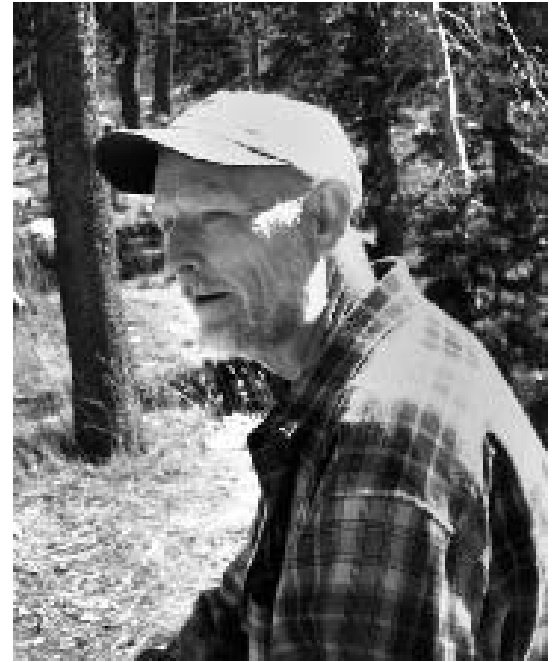
On October 7th, Save Our Canyons was given the opportunity to participate in Whole Foods 5% Community Giving Day



The Whole Foods Market in Cottonwood Heights helped raise just over \$1,500 for Save Our Canyons! We want to thank Whole Foods and all of the customer's who shopped on that day to help support us!



*Margaret Pettis*



*Dick Carter.*

## High Uintas Preservation Council Leaves an Important Legacy

By Gayle Parry, Trustee

Fifteen years ago Dick Carter and Margaret Pettis established an organization called the High Uintas Preservation Council. The organization has fought hard and long to protect the Uinta Mountains and everything they encompass. Admirable passion and the respect such an ecosystem deserves have accomplished much and are an example of what two people with volunteers can do.

When Dick Carter writes about the Uintas, it comes out as poetry. His love and respect for these mountains is embodied in every line as he describes the many virtues of this unique Utah mountain chain. In the Welcome to the High Uintas Preservation Council web site, he writes: "We must recognize that the real world consists of wild places inhabited by wild critters living their lives as they know how. The Uintas are Utah's most primeval mountains - not only a place of lumber, but of wild forests; not only a place of sheep and cows, but of mountain lions living out their dance with elk; not only a place of hikers or snowmobilers, but of an intense mystery and spirit where creation is at work."

Few people who recreate in the Uinta Mountains have any idea that this remarkable mountain range where we find so many enduring outdoor memories has been preserved and kept so hauntingly wild large-

ly because of just two people and the volunteers who share their mission to protect these special mountains. To our sorrow, we have been informed that these two, Dick Carter and Margaret Pettis, are leaving the fight and are disbanding the High Uintas Preservation Council

Carter's letter of farewell states that their membership has not suffered and finances are fine. He feels that the modern environmental/conservation movement has changed. Carter writes that the environmental movement "is a vastly different movement with a deeply different psychology, and engaged in a very different manner...". Carter lists in his farewell piece that, "A wild and Scenic River decision was meaningless; an Ashley forest travel plan... openly embraced only motorized users. Timber harvesting was done in the name of pine beetles or fire prevention; domestic grazing was offered as an ecological necessity...all of these we have documented over and over again. Now the Ashley proposes mechanical removal of pinyon, juniper and other conifers for bighorn sheep in the Flaming Gorge area and the use of helicopters to dump poisons into some High Uintas Wilderness lakes! There is simply no room for a measured or collaborative approach."

Carter's reasons are many and understandable, es-

pecially to those of us who have been fighting the same kind of fight for the preservation of the Wasatch and its watershed. As we see them go, we would like them to know that the board, staff and membership of Save Our Canyons hold them in the very highest regard and although our thanks can't possibly be adequate for all the dedicated hard work over the many years of service that they have given, we send them anyway, and will remember Dick and Margaret as we continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor in the beautiful, wild and ecologically diverse Uintah Mountains.

Dick Carter has had a long history protecting the natural world. He started his environmental career with the Wilderness Society spending four years as the Utah Regional Representative. Then, because the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service were not advocating for any new wilderness, Carter and others formed the Utah Wilderness Association in 1979, and, eventu-



ally, in 1984 through the efforts of these people, including Save Our Canyons, the Utah Wilderness Act was made into law. The result was twelve designations for wilderness in Utah's National Forests. Save Our Canyons was also deeply involved in the wilderness designations. Carter spent seventeen years with the Utah Wilderness Association followed by fifteen years with the High Uintas Preservation Council. Throughout his life, Carter has fought every kind of battle to preserve fragile ecosystems including the protection of roadless lands and biodiversity, wrong-headed timber sales, oil drilling, bear baiting, to name only a few. He has fearlessly taken on the Bureau of Land

Management and the Forest Service when he thought their decisions were poor.

Utahns owe a debt to the founders and volunteers of the High Uintas Preservation Council. We can only hope that there is someone out there who will carry on the fine work of Dick Carter and Margaret Pettis. □

## Want To Know More About Save Our Canyons?

***Save Our Canyons* has a presentation that can be given to schools, community groups, clubs – any place where people congregate.**

**If you would like to hear about Save Our Canyons' history, current issues and events, we would love to introduce us to your organization, group or class.**

**Everyone has a stake in the health of the Wasatch mountains and canyons.**

**Contact [saveourcanyons.org](http://saveourcanyons.org) or call 363-7283 to book the presentation.**



*Trail work volunteers pause for photo. What's that dog doing in there? Timpanogos is not on Salt Lake City's watershed.*

## Final Trail Work Report

By Alex Schmidt

Now that the first blanket of snow has covered the Wasatch foothills, it's time to stow away the pulaskis, shovels and work gloves to make room for all that winter gear. The trail maintenance season flew by but a lot was accomplished from trail improvements to campsite inventories. August 14th had six volunteers heading up American Fork canyon for a day on the Timpooneke trail of Mount Timpanogos. We met with Pleasant Grove district rangers Matt and Gary before setting off up two miles of trail. We trimmed back overgrowth, cleared some low hanging tree limbs (allowing easier access for equestrian use) and dug or repaired five water bars, which will create more efficient water drainage off the trail. It was a classically beautiful day on Timpanogos so after washing off the dirt from our day of work with a hard hat full of fresh, ice cold water from one of many small waterfalls nearby, we headed back to the trail head.

The last trail event of the

year took a little more coordination than the previous few so we would like to give extra thanks to Gayle and Bill Parry and the Wasatch Mountain Club for providing freshly painted patio seating and hot pizza for the end of season volunteer party. Eight volunteers met with three U.S.D.A Forrest Service Wilderness Rangers: Kate, Brett and Tara that morning at Lake Blanche where we inventoried 20 campsites, many containing illegal fire rings, which were removed. We also hauled

out four bags full of litter and broken glass. In addition, we had the opportunity to help educate a few campers on the reasons why camping within 200 feet of the lake, with or without a fire, is prohibited. This created some good conversation and hopefully will help sustain the beauty of our canyons for the future.

This summer has been unbelievable due to the pristine venues that all of you have given so much of your time, energy, expertise and voice to help protect over the years. Every time we



stepped off the dirt back to civilization everyone had a smile on their face and more empty garbage bags than full ones. This is a nod to all of you who have and con-

tinue to use the Wasatch trail systems in a responsible manner. Thank you!

## Special Thanks

SOC would like to give special thanks to Dave Andrenyak of the Wasatch Mountain Club, Dax Reid and the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Pollyanne Popola from the Forest Service, Brett Smith and Marv Stoddard of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee and all of the absolutely amazing volunteers that have helped make this a memorable summer. In addition to those volunteers we thanked in our previous newsletter, we would like to thank Aerie Debevec, Elsa Gustavson, Margie Gendler, David Grinnell, Gina Klimoura, Jim Kucera, Joanna Libby, Sushil Sompur, Fred Swanson, Steve Willis, Mike Yomel, Peter Anerson, Laurel Casjens, Ed Chillington, Scott Crabill, Carlton Detar,

Joe Fisher, Gabe Glass, Max Goldsmith, Taylor Graves, Aaron Herberer, Henry Liston, Julie Shrieve, Gina Ramoz, Taylor Williams, Jon Kammerer, Jena Schmidt, Kara Hargrove, Josh Gardner, Carl James, Jim Cantona, Chris Bilotft, and Randy Long. We couldn't have done it without you - THANK YOU!

**Note:** Alex Schmidt worked seasonally as the Trails and Outreach Coordinator for Save Our Canyons. His position was funded through the generous support of the National Forest Foundation. Many thanks to the National Forest Foundation for making his position possible and to Alex for and all of his hard work and dedication. □

*Volunteers keeping our Wasatch beautiful and safe. We'd be lost without them.*



# Wilderness Update

By CARL FISHER,  
Save Our Canyons Executive Director

It has been six months now since Congressman Matheson introduced HR 5009, *The Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act*, into the US House of Representatives. Since that time we have learned, some of us reminded of, the tumultuous nature of the political machine. While, this effort is lucky to have the support of Congressman Matheson, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities, Sandy City, Snowbird Ski Resort and a large segment of the public, it still hasn't been able to get past the House of Representatives. Any number or combination of factors could be playing into this, but here are a few:

**1) Election year.** We kept our hopes up that we could get a hearing before the US government took a hiatus to go home to their districts and work on their elections. While our hopes didn't get us a hearing, much to our delight, Congressman Matheson has been busy during the month of October signing on to letters and sending his own asking for a hearing before the 111th Congress ends.

**2) US Forest Service.** You may remember we ran into a bit of a hiccup at the June 10th hearing when US Forest Service Deputy Chief, Joel Holtrop, spoke in opposition to the legislation. Since that time we have, as have all the other supporters, worked diligently to win the Forest Services support of this legislation. In September, we met with both the Legislative Affairs staff and the Chief of the Forest Service. We left those meetings with hopeful words that the support of the agency would soon come [www.history.org/.../ life/politics/signers.gif](http://www.history.org/.../life/politics/signers.gif) but have yet to see any follow through to date.

**3) Other members of the Utah Delegation.** There has not been much outspoken opposition to this legislation. As a matter of fact, at our hearing the general tone was, it doesn't seem like any of the problems brought up are irreconcilable. So we have had our nose to the reconciliation grindstone. Watershed protection is an issue that transcends party lines, we hope that we can get the full support of our delegation behind this legislation.

**4) Town of Alta and Alta Ski Lifts.** Still advocating to build a lift into the heart of the Wasatch backcountry and watershed. This is exactly the type of degradation this legislation is trying to prevent from happening.

We are 100% behind the existing avalanche control program in the canyons, but more developments and ski area expansions will only increase the need for more avalanche control, not reduce it. To date, the legislation has even gone so far as to allow a ski lift for patrol access only, but now Alta advocacy isn't about patrol access, it is about full blown ski area expansion.

On the other hand, support for protection of Wasatch is growing. Envision Utah recently published their final report of the Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow visioning process. Over 16,000 people participated in this study. While this document was prepared primarily for Salt Lake County as they begin to update the 1989 Wasatch Canyons Master Plan, it does look at the entire Salt Lake County Canyon environment across jurisdictional boundaries. Numerous points were made in this plan by the public and many of the following are in line with what HR 5009 would accomplish:

- ◆ Prioritize protection of high-priority lands (such as watershed, viewshed, recreation areas, and wildlife habitat), while respecting private property rights.
- ◆ Offer diverse, high-quality recreation experiences while protecting the natural resources of the Wasatch Canyons.
- ◆ Acquire strategic land and/or easements for recreation access.
- ◆ 62% of people surveyed said we need to strengthen regulations regarding land use in the canyons, 34% to enforce existing regulations.
- ◆ Prepare and implement updated road corridor avalanche control plans for Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons (Congressman Matheson has committed to further study avalanches and road safety as part of the legislation).
- ◆ Limit resort development to existing footprints

Our hope is that we can use this document as a tool, to protect the balance -- the balance we have today, a balance that could be terribly skewed by just one development. After all, it is based on public opinion, and the take home message from this study is that people highly value the Wasatch and would like to see it, our water, our recreational opportunities, our environment protected. Wilderness is the best tool we have to accomplish this. □

# The Next Stages for Cottonwood Heights Planning and Zoning

By JENNIFER KECOR, SOC Issues Coordinator

It's been a busy year for Cottonwood Heights, still a relatively new city by any standards. The Planning and Zoning department has been busy with new developments, zoning ordinances and General Plan amendments. Interesting to note the timeliness of certain proposals prompting the city to take another glance at their "toolbox." Looking into things has certainly led to discovering some deficiencies in the planning and zoning department.

This year the city was definitely reevaluating its processes and provisions, what with one committee after another convening on new ordinances such as the Canyon Resort Residential Zone and the much anticipated Sensitive Lands revision. Even the General Plan was revisited to consider Tall Buildings.

Every planning and zoning department ought to periodically revisit its rules and regulations: after all nothing remains stagnant, as cities are constantly evolving and changing. The Cottonwood Heights Planning Commission is finally reviewing a working draft ordinance, which will be discussed in November's meetings before moving forward with a public hearing and a vote. Approving and adopting the new ordinance could possibly happen before year's end. Tavaci is currently on hold, pending implementation of the new Sensitive Lands Overlay Zone.

Save Our Canyons has played a part in some of this change going on in Cottonwood Heights. From the front lines to the sidelines, we have managed to stay in touch with city officials on certain issues, we

provide a steady presence to City Council and Planning Commission meetings, and we also present SOC's position when provided the opportunity.

Cottonwood Heights is aware that we serve to protect and preserve the beauty of the Wasatch. We represent the interests of the foothills that are the backdrop of Cottonwood Heights. We represent the gateways to the canyons, and the sensitive lands that require more forethought that your average parcels of property.

We are curious to see what the city has come to define as "sensitive lands", the new ordinance to be titled the Sensitive Lands Evaluation and Development Standards. Cottonwood Heights has put a positive spin on this issue, hoping it will become a model ordinance.

Our concern is that certain provisions critical of inclusion in such an ordinance have been removed altogether, provisions which include preserving visual and aesthetic qualities, preserving the natural character of the foothills, preservation of environmentally sensitive areas, minimizing disturbances, and open space. The Sensitive Lands Zoning is an overlay zone and should provide added security to elements of the environment, rather than relying on an underlying zone to make those recommendations. SOC can only hope the new ordinance will be a preservation tool for sensitive areas. A tool that considers striking a balance between continued development and the natural world. □

## “Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow”

—Envision Utah's Final Report Released—

Over the past 18-months, a vast group of stakeholders including Save Our Canyons, worked on producing this document which will be used to update Salt Lake County's 1989 Wasatch Canyons Master Plan. About 16,000 people participated in this planning effort, including Save Our Canyons' Executive Director Carl Fisher who served on the Steering and Technical Committees.

These responses and this report have been presented to the Salt Lake County Council who will now use the data collected by Envision Utah to improve ordinances and set priorities (conservation is high on the list) for the next 20 years. Some of the report's highlights:

- Limit resort development to existing footprints.
- Increase/Enhance public transportation (year-round) in the Canyons.

- Increase funding for public acquisition of high-priority lands/watershed protection.
- Conduct a Capacity Study for trails in the Wasatch Canyons

Of course, this is not the end of planning for the future of these canyons. Now, everyone will be tasked with carrying out the additional studies, creation of ordinances, and implementing the plan's recommendations. Save Our Canyons will be intimately involved all along the way.

You can download a copy of the report at this web site:

<http://saveourcanyons.org/sites/all/modules/civocrm/extern/url.php?u=300&qid=58556>

Let us know your thoughts and concerns on this important document. □



Utah's new US Senator Mike Lee.



Alta's new Howitzer.

## The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

**GOOD.** The Wasatch Mountain Club's Alexis Kelner Conservation Award was presented to SOC's Carl Fisher at the WMC Organizer's and Awards dinner at their lodge. This award recognizes significant contributions to preserving and protecting the Wasatch, our recreation core. It is a non-denominational award and it has gone to WMC members, Sierra Club members, and business leaders like Peter Metcalf, CEO of Black Diamond. Carl was born and raised in Utah, becoming a volunteer at SOC and even getting paid for it starting in 2005. SOC has been working hard on the Wasatch Water Conservation and Wilderness Act, as well as stopping Solitude from expanding into Silver Fork Canyon and getting the Forest Service to crack down on illegal trail construction.

### *Kilyon Canyon*



**GOOD.** The Utah Department of Transportation has deployed some new heavy artillery in the Wasatch Mountains as part of the continuing war against avalanches. One 105-millimeter Howitzer replaces an older gun, positioned to protect Alta and Snowbird following winter storms. Liam Fitzgerald, UDOT's director of Highway Avalanche Safety, explaining how the department uses the artillery, has said "We close the road, and we shut down travel within the town of Alta, and we fire artillery rounds into the slopes in order to initiate avalanches." The road to Alta is rated the nation's riskiest for avalanches. Alta Mayor Tom Pollard says his town might not be there without the artillery. The economic benefits and the safety benefits far outweigh the minimal risks that there would be here," he said.

**GOOD.** Utah Open Lands has raised the \$900,000 needed to save an important part of Killyon Canyon as open space. An anonymous donor rescued the mountain property after learning of a substantial gap in public funding. The purchase price for the 265 acres of pine and aspen forest — an area that's a favorite of hikers and cyclists — was dropped to \$1.8 million by the landowners to facilitate the sale.

Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon said he has visited Killyon Canyon and discovered it is



like “experiencing all the different parts of Utah in one place,” because it features red rocks, pine trees and a desert atmosphere. “This is one of the most beautiful pieces of open space I have ever seen,” he said. The landowners have been working with Utah Open Lands for three years to safeguard the property.



UGLY. Another chapter in the Sagebrush Rebellion. In August of this year more than 5000 off-road enthusiasts drove up Salt Lake City’s State Street urging citizens to “Take Utah Back”. It is never clear who, exactly, will be receiving the part of Utah that is to be taken back from “The Feds”.

BAD Utah’s new US Senator Mike Lee has a terrible idea about the management of federal lands in the state. Lee wants to give state lawmakers, in essence, veto power over every county-level proposal that involves wilderness. He is quoted as saying, “Before Congress passes any law declaring wilderness, the state Legislature should sign off on it.” Lee, an attorney, acknowledges the courts don’t support his interpretation. They instead have found that the federal government does not need permission to turn already public lands into protected wilderness. Here we have another tiresome rhetorical flourish on the perpetual Sagebrush Rebellion that bedevils Utah.

The beneficiaries are clearly intended to be those who want increased motorized access to public lands, state and federal. There was a lot of heated talk about “Big Brother” and “Freedom versus More Government”. It was disheartening to hear Governor Gary Herbert calling for renewed vigor in the fight for even more access to wilderness lands. ATVs are expensive. Motorized recreation is practiced by a well-heeled minority. Polls, repeatedly and overwhelmingly show majority support for some public lands without the infestation of motorized vehicles.



STILL BAD. Ten years ago Harper Quarry in Parley’s Canyon applied to expand its pit from a 10-acre site to 62 acres, leading to a court fight between Save Our canyons and Salt Lake County. In 2004, the Utah Supreme Court ruled that Salt Lake County had improperly granted Harper’s request to expand. Enforcement of this ruling has been slow in coming and blowing dust from the quarry continues to be a significant problem for nearby residents. This was reported at length in the CITY WEEKLY of August 19 2010. Salt Lake County planners are looking into the matter. How long are residents and canyon commuters going to have to wait? Photo of quarry’s damage to canyon at left. □

## Keep Your Eyes and Ears Open!

Throughout the year, SOC staff receives numerous calls telling us about violations, confrontations, illegal trespassing signs, illegal trail construction, and other nefarious activities going on our public lands. While we do our best to notify the Forest Service about such activities, sometimes the most important thing for you to do is to fill out a documented *Incident Report* (reproduced on the opposite page for your convenience).

Your action will assist both law enforcement and land managers in cooperating to address any issues

on public lands. Please keep this report form in your pack while you are enjoying the splendor of nature in case you notice something. You are the eyes and ears on this forest. Carry a cell phone, GPS, camera, paper, pencil and map. Help us keep our public lands safe and accessible for everyone by filing incident reports, *supported with evidence*, so we can work together with land managers and law enforcement to address the problems you encounter or observe.

—Thanks!



Gayle Parry, energetic Save Our Canyons Trustee, was recently honored by the staff of Save Our Canyons with a plaque reading:

### Save Our Canyons

Presented to

GAYLE PARRY

In recognition of Your Outstanding Efforts  
in Organizing Volunteer Activities  
that Protect the Natural Environment  
of the Wasatch Mountains  
—2010—

Gayle invented and built SOC's trail and campsite maintenance program that assists the Forest Service with volunteers drawn from SOC and other organizations.

# Incident Report Form

*NOTE: Do NOT put yourself in danger trying to get this information. Be respectful of property rights and carry a map that clearly shows where private lands are located within the forest. If you are uncertain as to whether you are on public or private land, do not travel cross country, stay on the trail. Always notify law enforcement as soon as possible.*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Location Description \_\_\_\_\_

(example: {x} miles up {name of trail/trailhead} near {geographic feature/place name})

Describe what you were doing \_\_\_\_\_

GPS Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

(Datum and coordinates)

Describe Observation/Encounter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of People you encountered \_\_\_\_\_

Description of People you encountered \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle description(s)/markings \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle \_\_\_\_\_ License/registration # \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Other Info \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notify Local Law Enforcement

**Salt Lake County Sheriff - 801.743.7000**

Take photos noting direction, distance and coordinates of where it was taken

Send this info to us so we can make sure the Forest Service and all appropriate parties have been notified:

Snail mail: Save Our Canyons  
PO Box 112017  
Salt Lake City, UT 84147

Email: info@saveourcanyons.org

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

*Return Service Requested*

**Save Our Canyons has started a BLOG!**

**[www.saveourcanyons.blogspot.com](http://www.saveourcanyons.blogspot.com)**

While we are only in the beginning stages of this, we are really excited about blogging! We will be posting on a variety of topics and subjects that have to do with the environment, the Wasatch, and more! Take a look and let us know what you think!

**We're also on Facebook!**

Link over from our website or blog or go directly to: **[www.facebook.com/saveourcanyons](http://www.facebook.com/saveourcanyons)**