

Save Our Canyons

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

www.saveourcanyons.org

August, 2010

The Forest Service Takes Long Overdue Action to Curb Illegal Mountain Bike Trail Construction

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,
Associate Perennial Editor

US Forest Service Reclaiming Illegal Trails in Little Cottonwood Canyon

SEVEN IMPORTANT REASONS TO RECLAIM ILLEGAL TRAILS

1. Protect watershed from uncontrolled erosion
2. Protect the watershed's filtering functions within riparian areas
3. Prevent further damage to sensitive riparian habitat
4. Remove hazardous conditions, i.e. steep grades & man-made "stunt" apparatuses
5. Eliminate perception that trails are legal and okay to use
6. Avoid collisions resulting from unintended and incompatible uses
7. Restore healthy ecosystem and natural beauty



Stunt apparatuses create hazards and erosion problems

Illegal trails through wet and marshy areas damage natural filtering functions

PROJECT INFORMATION

What? To protect watershed health, USFS officials are reclaiming unauthorized mountain bike and hiking trails and restoring the areas to their natural condition

When? Starting August 2010 and over the next several field seasons

Where? Little Cottonwood Canyon below the White Pine area

What You'll See — Signs and natural barriers blocking access to illegal trails

Where else can I go? There are 1,797 miles of non-motorized trails open on the Forest. Trail maps available at Public Lands Info Center at REI and USFS offices.

Questions? Call 801-733-2676, Salt Lake Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest





President's Message

Messy Politics

The legislative process is notoriously messy. Otto von Bismarck said, "If you want to get a good night's sleep, do not get involved with sausage making or politics." This caution applies to wilderness legislation just as much as it would to a proposal for a hefty increase in taxes.

We are very happy to see Jim Matheson's H.R. 5009, the "Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act of 2010" wending its way through congress and we rejoice in the measures it will put in place to control harmful development in the central Wasatch. However in getting to this point Save Our Canyons, along with other stakeholders in the process, has had to swallow some bitter pills of compromise.

SOC would like to see a clean and pure wilderness established for the entirety of the 26,000 protected acres in the central Wasatch without any quid pro quos or ifs, ands and buts. Some ski resorts would like to frame wilderness legislation that includes abundant opportunities for the expansion of their businesses. Every group has its own agenda - hence the mess, the non-negotiable demands and the inevitable compromises. It's the way of the world.

How did the uncomfortable compromises come about and how can we justify them?

SOC members have asked a lot of questions, most of them centering around three concerns: heli-skiing, Snowbird's tram to American Fork Twins and Flagstaff.

HELI-SKIING. From the outset, it became clear that there was not going to be congressional support for any wilderness bill that voided permits that had been granted through properly constituted NEPA processes - for example the heli-skiing permits granted by the Forest Service to Wasatch Powderbird Guides. The choice here was some sort of modified land management or no wilderness bill at all. The compromise in H.R. 5009 is the establishment of about 11,000 acres of Special Management Areas (SMAs) in which heli-skiing continues to be permitted but in all other respects

the areas will be managed to "maintain the area's presently existing wilderness character." These SMAs will become wilderness without further necessity for legislation when "commercial helicopter-assisted skiing or snowboarding activities on the lands has been terminated." Maintaining the SMAs to preserve their existing wilderness character certainly affords them better protection than they currently enjoy.

SNOWBIRD ON AMERICAN FORK TWINS. This has been an agonizing dilemma as it became evident that there wasn't going to be any wilderness bill at all unless a tram from Hidden Peak to American Fork Twins was somehow part of the deal, a condition imposed by politics. SOC, Salt Lake City Public Utilities and other wilderness supporters squirmed. How could the most unacceptable aspects of this compromise be mitigated? Where would tram terminals be located; would lift-supported access to White Pine Canyon be facilitated; would land exchanges be necessary to give Snowbird ownership of the Twins summit; if so how much of it?

FLAGSTAFF. There has been much well founded consternation about the possible construction by Alta Lift Company of a resort-operated lift from Alta to the summit of Flagstaff peak. The purpose of the lift would, ostensibly, be avalanche control on the north slopes above the Town of Alta. If this lift served resort skiers and/or snowboarders, it would cut off public muscle-powered access to the very popular backcountry slopes of Cardiff, Days and Silver Forks. Not good! Also, it has been authoritatively pointed out that skier compaction is not an adequate solution to avalanche control on the slopes above Alta.

A ray of hope began to emerge as SOC learned that Snowbird owned much of the property on Flagstaff Peak, property that would be part of the land exchange with the Forest Service that would be necessary to gain American Fork Twins for Snowbird. H.R. 5009 contains a provision that prohibits commercial enterprises (such as a resort lift)

on the Flagstaff and Superior parcels that will become part of Forest Service lands in the land exchange. In short, swallowing the bitter pill of Snowbird's acquisition of the summit of American Fork Twins would sweeten the fate of Flagstaff by preventing that highly controversial lift.

SOC believes that these compromises are good ones. Special Management Areas provide more protection of wilderness quality lands than they presently

enjoy. Giving up on the unattainable goal of blocking of a tram to American Fork Twins has brought the benefit of solving the worrisome Flagstaff lift problem.

Bismarck was right about the political process, but the question is not whether the outcome was ideal but whether it improved things. In the case of H.R. 5009 there will be a clear improvement for the Wasatch.
—Gale Dick

Hearing, Forest Service Hubris, and Hurdles

Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act

Carl Fisher, SOC's Executive Director
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Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act Gets Hearing, Hurdles
Carl Fisher
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More good news on the Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act (HR 5009), which was introduced into the House of Representatives by Congressman Jim Matheson this past April. In June, SOC Board President Gale Dick and I travelled to the nation's capitol to be present for the hearing before the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. We had the opportunity meet with all members of Utah's Delegation and talk about this long over-due piece of legislation. Much to our surprise, the majority of the Delegation was supportive of these efforts and were aware of the hard work that went into getting this legislation where it is today.

The hearing began with opening remarks from Rep. Jim Matheson speaking very pointedly to the efforts that went into the formation of this legislation and how this legislation is essential to protecting our water supply and recreational interests in one of the most heavily used forests in the United States. He also spoke to the broad support that has been built over the past few years including a number of businesses including Black Diamond; user groups like the

Wasatch Mountain Club and IMBA; environmental groups including SUWA, the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club; and of course those who came to show their support at the hearing: Campaign for America's Wilderness, SOC, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities staff and Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker.

After Congressman Matheson introduced the legislation and submitted the written statements of Save Our Canyons, Mayor Ralph Becker took the stand, giving an eloquent speech on the importance of protecting the Wasatch canyons because of their valuable watershed resources and also their recreational values which contribute so much to Salt Lake's high quality of life. "Protection of our watersheds is critical for our future health and security, particularly as we face combined challenges due to population growth, increased water demand, climate change and drought."



While support for the legislation seems to be growing, two entities showed up to the hearing, two to testify in opposition. Town of Alta Mayor, Tom Pollard opposes the legislation because it will not allow Alta Ski Resort to construct a lift up Flagstaff Mountain. He feels that legislation does not make adequate allowances for avalanche control, even though the bill specifically highlights the avalanche concerns and has provisions for control work to be done, merely banning "commercial enterprise" on the flanks of Flagstaff Mountain. SOC, Congressman Matheson, Mayor Becker, the Little

Cottonwood Canyon Corridor Study, and recently Salt Lake County Mayor Corroon feel that this legislation adequately addresses the avalanche issues above the Town of Alta.

The support of Mayor Corroon is welcome and significant. Senator Bennett has stressed the importance of having both Salt Lake City and County mayors' approval of this proposed legislation.

Opposition from the Obama Administration was also expressed by Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, Joel Holtrop. From skepticism that these lands were even eligible for Wilderness designation because of their proximity to an urban area to questioning the roadless nature of the proposed units (*SOC's proposal is based off of the 2002 Roadless Inventory done by the Forest Service for the 2003 Revised Forest Plan*), it was very clear the agency is not interested in protecting the remaining wild lands of the Central Wasatch. At the end of his testimony, Holtrop did retort that the Forest Service was willing to work with Congressman Matheson to find resolve to their concerns.

This is very alarming to us as we ask ourselves, then what does the Forest Service have planned for the Wasatch!? More roads, more ski area expansions, more development, more ATV trails? For now, these are prohibited by the current Forest Plan, but the future of finding solitude and viewing fields of wildflowers in the Wasatch is looking mighty grim if the Forest Service is successful in stymieing the foresight of Congressman Matheson.

As for the Flagstaff lift, it is clear that it is not the desire of Alta to simply build a lift to control avalanches. Rather, they want a full blown resort expansion that would alienate an ever-growing population of backcountry enthusiasts. We completely acknowledge the importance of and have made provisions for avalanche control; control that is a necessary consequence of permitting alpine development. Congressman Matheson has made a commitment to secure money to further study avalanche control in the canyons as part of the legislation.



Backcountry Skiing in Valdez – An Environmental Perspective

A presentation by Matt Kinney

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27th 2010

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Storm Mountain Amphitheater in Big Cottonwood Canyon

A benefit for Save Our Canyons and Bob Athey

Valdez, Alaska and the surrounding Chugach Mountains offer some of the finest backcountry skiing in the world. Its record snowfall amounts and vast untracked terrain make it a winter paradise. However, over the past twenty years, motorized access into the backcountry has created environmental and user conflicts that remain unresolved and unaddressed today. Matt Kinney, a 30-year Valdez skier, environmental activist, and land-use planning advocate will give an informative talk about the history of backcountry skiing in Valdez, including the development and evolution of environmental and recreational issues related to heli-skiing.

REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS EVENT TODAY BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AT: www.saveourcanyons.org

Suggested Donation of \$7 will benefit Save Our Canyons and Bob Athey



A young Gavin Noyes heads for a slippery stream crossing in this 1983 photo.

How I Got Involved in Environmental Activism

By Gavin Noyes

The Wasatch Mountains are a special place. I don't know if I always knew this, but I do know they have had a great impact on me. I was raised in Salt Lake and spent a lot of time getting to know them and myself in them. I think of highlights such as skipping school with my dad to enjoy a great powder ski day, backpacking with my brother up Neff's Canyon at twelve years old, sitting around campfires in Millcreek as a teenager, summiting peaks, scrambling up trails, sliding down scree hills, jumping off cliffs into deep snow, and simply enjoying the view of Mt. Olympus towering above the city from a hammock in my backyard.

Along with many residents in Salt Lake, I sometimes take the Wasatch for granted. I have to remember to marvel at the views of snowcapped peaks, to enjoy the fields of wildflowers when I hike, to taste the purity of water flowing from my tap, and remind myself of the wildlife, which roam these hills. There are few places on earth like this, and few people are as fortunate as we are to be able to enjoy the sustenance and pleasures the Wasatch provide.

To the casual observer, the Wasatch Range is unchanging, seemingly as solid as the granite it is made of. In high school, I witnessed places I camped, hiked, and enjoyed, get fenced off and developed. I also ob-

served mysterious events like Moab's Jeep safari, and even watched jeepers pour the contents of their cooler into the stream as they packed up and left (hot dogs, oranges, and bread all sent bobbing downstream). When I was off at college I learned about other places important to me getting developed by ski resorts, granite quarriers, and by various other tentacles of the animal we know as Progress.

I left Utah for college to attend the University of Michigan. What struck me about the landscapes in Michigan was that by and large everything of value had already been altered. There was very little open space or public land; there were no undisturbed forests; the rivers were polluted; there were people everywhere, and there was nothing of interest in land form. (It is so flat, they ski on garbage dumps). I missed the mountains and I missed the opportunities for solitude. I also failed to be moved by environmental initiatives like recycling garbage, because I was hearing reports about the land and waters of Utah, which were actively being chopped up acre by acre for one reason or a dozen while I was away. I longed to return home and join the good fight.

I majored in Natural Resources and Japanese and spent a pivotal year at the University of Utah between 1994-95. I found myself clipping *Salt Lake Tribune* ar-

ticles that were horribly one-sided in their enthusiasm for Salt Lake City one day becoming an Olympic host city. "Real estate prices will blossom," they read, "residents will earn tens of thousands of dollars renting a room in your home for two weeks," and "the world will come, then stay, because it is so great here." These messages terrified me and I wondered, where is the opposition, where is the voice of reason pointing out that living in a crowded, overbuilt city is not going to be as great as living in the one we have today. Why is nobody working to stop this horrible idea? (I didn't know it at the time, but SOC had promised to not oppose the Olympics in an agreement made to keep the Games out of the Tri-canyon area.)

My friend Andrew and I decided it was important to stand up to the Olympics and start the dialogue with our fellow valley residents. We were 19 and 20 years old; had no skills, connections, or status. So naturally we made a bumper sticker. It read:

**THIS IS *NOT* THE PLACE
2002 OLYMPICS**

We pooled our money and hired a print shop to run our first batch of 800 stickers. We took the stickers to crowded places, Jazz games, concerts, ski resorts, campus events. We gave them out for free under the condition that they be stuck in a visible public place (not on your bedroom wall). We also told the sticker takers what they cost (twenty cents each) and if they wanted to offset our costs they could. (Most did.) We also became very skilled at condensing our message and presenting a compelling case against the Games. Three retail stores in town supported our efforts with donation jars and space for stacks of stickers; Wasatch Touring, Wild Rose, and Waking Owl bookstore.

Back then, the Olympics were Salt Lake's sacred cow. Criticizing them was kind of like slapping a child or protesting Mother Therese. Utah officials had high hopes that the Olympics would showcase what a completely normal place it had become. During our nine months of hard work, we collected over 3,000 petition signatures, distributed 4,000 bumper stickers, and raised the poll numbers of Utahns against the Olympics to 34%. We were pleased with the success of our efforts because the shift was real. To no ones surprise SLC still won the bid, however the silver lining came later when the Olympic bribery scandal broke and all the rumors we had heard and helped spread, about the corruption and sleaze of the players involved, turned out to be true. Some of Salt Lake City's and the Olympic Committee's highest officials resigned or were fired from

their posts including Frank Joklik, Tom Welch, Dave Johnson, and many others. We had lost the Olympics battle, but were rewarded by the fact that the two of us, who weren't even old enough to legally drink, could make a real difference.

I had the great fortune when I returned to Salt Lake in 1998 to volunteer for Save Our Canyons to fight Snowbird's Master Development Plan. This led to my getting hired as SOC's first paid staff person. This was a great job because I got to work for a team of talented people who I continue to admire for their dedication, commitment, and the diversity of skills they apply to protecting the Wasatch. I absorbed knowledge from these mentors and had access to boxes and boxes of files containing a history of the issues the Wasatch has faced over the years. After four years of fun, rewarding and hard work, I left to start a business making ceramics, something I still do.

Currently, I am working for a non-profit called Round River Conservation Studies on an exciting project with another great group of people who care deeply about protecting Utah's natural landscapes: Utah's American Indian Tribes. Native rights and perspectives have never been adequately considered in land management decisions, even though tribes may hold some of the richest insights into how we can sustainably live on the lands of their ancestors. It is exciting work because there has probably never been a better time for tribes to make significant gains for themselves, but it is also challenging work because of the deep wounds that have been inflicted on tribes and Indian People again and again throughout U.S. history. It is time we collectively turn a new page.

The Wasatch needs lots of people who care about community health and are willing to fight for the many special places in and around the Wasatch we all depend upon. Save Our Canyons is fortunate to be made up of many such people, which is why we have a Wasatch wilderness bill moving through the political process and why alliances continue to form to improve the land, water, and air for generations of people to enjoy in the future. Getting involved in Save Our Canyons ended up being very formative in my development as a conservationist. This has been an avenue through which I can live some of my core values. As I look forward, the continued protection of the Wasatch will allow me to provide the rich childhood experiences I enjoyed to my own children; as well as continue to foster my own physical and mental well-being. My feeling is that every community deserves a place where people can experience wildness, solitude, and beauty so let's hold on to what we've got. □



Wasatch Water and Wilderness

By Gayle Parry, SOC Trustee

"...I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people.."
Holy Bible, Isaiah 43:20

The Wasatch Mountains have been exceedingly generous to the lucky inhabitants of the valleys that cluster at their base. We have mined these mountains for precious minerals, quarried them for building stone, used their gravel for our roads, cut down their trees for our homes, been nourished by the animals we have hunted and eaten the plants they contain, grazed our animals, used them as our playground, and drunk in their beauty. All these things have great value, but nothing in these mountains can compare in worth with their gift of water. Indians relied on the Wasatch Mountains for water and for what that water provided, as did the early pioneers. Unfortunately today, we are experiencing conditions that threaten our water as never before in our history. Water from our mountains is threatened from all sides at a time when we need pure water more than ever.

Our problems include the fact that eighty-five percent of the Utah population resides along the western edge of the Wasatch Mountains within fifteen miles of their canyons. People in the Salt Lake Valley get sixty percent of their water from these mountain streams. In Salt Lake City and surrounding communities, the population is predicted to be 2,650,000 plus by 2020. In 2050 the population is projected to increase to 5,000,000 or more. All these people will need clean culinary water as well as dependable water for industry and commerce. Our economy depends on it.

At the same time as we are trying to protect our watershed, more people look to the Wasatch Mountains as a place for recreation, creating more mountain development with the accompanying roads, buildings, and parking lots. Rain and snow that falls on buildings and asphalt surfaces is washed away into the streams without sinking into the soil. Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons receive more visitors each year than Yellowstone National Park. Ski Utah estimates that 3.97 million people skied or snowboarded in the past two years at Utah ski resorts. In addition, the unpredictability of what to expect from climate change with the possibility of changing weather patterns add to the complexity of our water dilemma.

Utahns have always appreciated the importance of water in the desert and so have built dams for its

storage. In September 28, 2003, an article by Dennis Romboy in the *Deseret*

News stated, "More than a dozen man-made reservoirs store water for homes, businesses, and farms...All (water) is spoken for. There isn't more to squeeze from the mountainous sponge."

In response to this water crisis, Save Our Canyons has done all in its power to support Representative Jim Matheson's Wilderness Bill HR5009 that was introduced to Congress on April 13, 2010. The comprehensive written testimony in support of HR5009 to Congress by Mayor Ralph Becker of Salt Lake City stated, "Given the continuing and expanding pressures to increase development and uses of the federal lands within the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, it is my strong opinion that this scale of preservation is necessary to ensure the continuation of our high-quality water supply to a growing population and to protect existing wilderness qualities. This protection will provide better opportunities for the watersheds to adapt to challenges such as climate change and drought. In short, I view the Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act as a significant action to ensure the long term sustainability and resiliency of the natural resources relied upon by the Salt Lake Valley."

Deseret News, September 28, 2003, Dennis Romboy, "UTAH'S BACKBONE".

Grundfossen, Peter. Utah Population and Environment Coalition, March 2001.

Mayor Ralph Becker's testimony to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Committee on Natural Resources, June 10, 2010.

Wharton, Tom. *S.L. Tribune*, March 14, 2010. "UTAH LANDS LURE, SATISFY".

Wikipedia-net





Albion Basin parking lot is filled to capacity, even on a weekday.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

GOOD. Jim Matheson's Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act of 2010 has gained the wholehearted and essential endorsements of both Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker and Salt Lake County mayor Peter Corroon. Both mayors were active participants in the long process of shaping and tweaking this proposed legislation and their support echoes the overwhelming wishes of the residents of the Salt Lake Valley. We all look forward to its speedy passage. It will be great gift to future generations.



GOOD. SOC members have been reporting suspicious road building in Cardiff Fork. Our staff promptly reported this to Rolen Yoshinaga, Planning and Develop-

ment Division Director for Salt Lake County. Turns out that the work is going forth without permits. County Planning has issued a *Stop Work* and a *Cease and Desist* notice to the landowner. Much of the work will fall into FCOZ regulation and will also involve SLC Public Utilities and the Health Department. Here you see a system working, rapid reporting, response, and action. So far so good!

GOOD. The U.S. Forest Service has rejected Solitude's proposal to expand its skiing operations into part of Silver Fork Canyon. Solitude Mountain Resort had applied in April to add 182 acres on the east side of Silver Fork Creek to its ski resort permit boundary in Big Cottonwood Canyon. That was a step back from the resort's earlier goal of adding the whole canyon, including Meadows Chutes and the upper west bowl of Silver Fork -- terrain popular with backcountry skiers. Nonetheless the Forest Service upheld its long established policy of not approving resort expansions onto adjacent Forest Service land and that's good.

Save Our Canyons' executive director Carl Fisher, applauded the Forest Service for its detailed rejection.

"Great! That's fantastic! We're pleasantly surprised by the Forest Services' decision. It's good to have in writing that the Forest Service acknowledges some significant impacts from ski area expansion in a heavily used range," Fisher said. "It's a huge step forward in protecting the Wasatch Mountains."

GOOD. A notable compromise has been reached between Bill Barrett Corporation, which seeks to add natural gas wells to its existing field on the Tavaputs Plateau near rock art laden Nine Mile Canyon, and SUWA, which wants to protect this “longest art gallery in the world.” The agreement between the corporation and SUWA cuts the impacted surface area by a factor of almost one-third and eliminates all sites on Wilderness Study Areas. The accord is a welcome change from George W. Bush’s “drill baby drill” campaign and we hope it heralds a new era of moderation and cooperation.

GOOD. Here is a recent message from the Forest Service:

The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, in partnership with Salt Lake City Public Utilities, will be closing a section of user-created trail in Little Cottonwood Canyon.” This work began on Friday, July 30 and will continue throughout the summer. The Forest Service recognizes that the closure will be unpopular with some users of the trail but that it is important to disseminate this information to a wide group of users and other interested parties.

This is a good, and long overdue step. The illegal trail has been built and used by “downhill” bikers (also called “free-riders”) and has been torn out by volunteers from SOC and other organizations only to reappear. This nose-thumbing at the law is the same sort of anarchy demonstrated by the folks from Kane County when they drove all those OHVs up the Pariah. If the Wasatch are to remain a great watershed and recreation resource, we all have to learn to stick to the rules and share.

GOOD BUT... It is good to see people enjoying late July’s spectacular wildflower spectacle as they walk up to Cecret Lake or Catherine Pass. The accompanying photo shows the overflowing parking lot at the Cecret trailhead on a recent Thursday morning. Thursday? Morning? No, we’re not kidding. The eager crowds are coming as the Salt Lake Valley population explodes. No one can blame them. Maybe, however, it’s time to exclude autos from Albion Basin. Let the homeowners in, of course, but get the rest of us get up there on a shuttle or a ski lift. (See photo at head of article).

BAD. Utah State legislator from Kane County, Mike Noel, is usually pretty bad news when it comes to opinions regarding federal lands in Utah. He is famous for in-your-face diatribes against the federal government’s control over these lands. On June 25, the *Salt Lake Tribune* ran an editorial “Noel’s Double Life” that pointed out Representative Noel’s eagerness to use the despised feds when there is money to be had. Examples

cited include a \$12 million reservoir in Kane County that drew on \$5 million in federal funds. We think that it was Wallace Stegner who characterized western cowboy caucus attitudes towards the feds as “Stop pushing us around and send more money.”

Mike Noel



BAD. Dr. Kevin Tolton, perpetual thorn in the side of Salt Lake City Public Utilities department, has been spreading totally false “information” about Matheson’s Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed bill. Here is a flavor of his not overly subtle approach.

UGLY. Snowbasin is launching a Master Development Plan. This is the sort of news that can ruin your breakfast. The plan is, of course, ambitious and you can read about it at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/32851182/060410-Snow-Basin-Plan>. A hint of things to come appears in some of the artist renderings of “villages” and the like that accompany the documents. Solitude is about to be outdone.





Oil-trapping booms appear in Liberty Park's lake to collect the stuff from the spill in Red Butte canyon.

BAD. The Wasatch's Red Butte Creek had its own oil spill this June when a leaking Chevron pipeline dumped at least 400 to 500 barrels of the stuff into the creek. It coated geese and ducks as well as messed up

the lake in Liberty Park. A worse spill in Michigan is polluting the Kalamazoo River. Both, of course, can't be compared to the catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico. What is the moral to these sad stories?

**Save Our Canyons has been selected for Whole Foods'
5% Community Giving Day
at the
Highland Drive Whole Foods Market on
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH 2010**



Whole Foods Market's Community 5% Days are another meaningful way that Whole Foods gives back to the community. On designated days throughout the year, a total of 5% of the day's net sales are donated to local non-profit organizations. Customers help support the selected organizations just by shopping on these 5% Days. So, mark your calendars for Thursday, October 7th and head over to the Highland Drive Whole Foods Market (located at 6930 S. Highland Drive) to get all of your grocery shopping done and help support Save Our Canyons! This is your chance to stock up on paté de foie gras, caviar and saffron.

Trail Days with Save Our Canyons

By Alex Schmidt

What a great first half of the summer SOC has had in the Wasatch! We have had the opportunity to work on some amazing trails with a variety of passionate outdoor enthusiasts. Starting off this summer, Save Our Canyons teamed up with the Wasatch Mountain Club in May for a day of trail work on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in Salt Lake City, organized by the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee. The work involved removing the berms that had built up on the outside of the trail tread, which allowed water to move off the trail instead of down the trail. The trail crew also removed rocks, filled in ruts, and cleaned out water bars. The weather was great and the foothills were green with plenty of flowers in bloom.

In June, we performed trail work and clean up on Mount Olympus with Dax Reid and the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Three SOC / Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers and yours truly spent the day on a 600-foot section of the Mt. Olympus trail about a half mile from the trailhead. The work included pruning back Scrub Oak brush and other vegetation that was growing into the trail space; junked up one illegal switchback shortcut and two user created trails (about 100 feet); removed several large rocks, many small rocks, and several roots on the trail to improve access and safety.

Moving on to July, we coordinated a group of twelve volunteers at the Red Pine Lake for a day of campsite inventories and general maintenance, which included a small amount of litter removal along with dispersal of seven fire rings within 200 feet of the lake. By far our largest volunteer turnout this

summer! We enjoyed the upper alpine lake with its turquoise waters in stark contrast against the surrounding granite scree fields.

The season has been good to us overall and we've accomplished a lot of great things. We're not finished yet though; we will be continuing the summer/fall season with a cleanup on the Mount Timpanogos trail Saturday, August 14th and will be wrapping up this year's Trail Program with a September 11th cleanup and volunteer party. For more information on these trail events please visit our website at www.saveourcanyons.org.

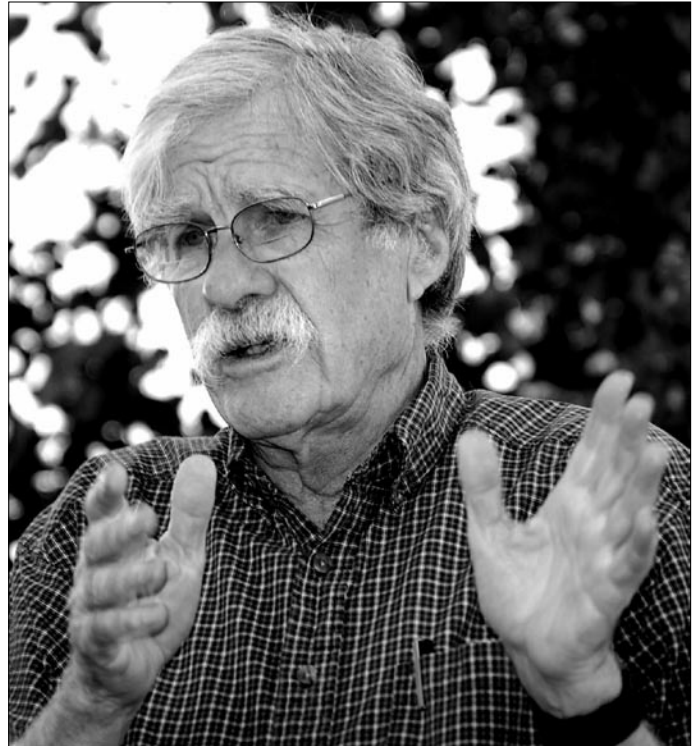
SPECIAL THANKS!

SOC would like to give a 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 so far, including Aerie Debevec, Elsa Gustavson, Margie Gendler, David Grinnell, Gina Klimoura, Jim Kucera, Joanna Libby, Sushil Sompur, Fred Swanson, Steve Willis, Mike Yomel, Peter Anderson, Laurel Casjens, Ed Chillington, Scott Crabill, Carlton Detar, Joe Fisher, Gabe Glass, Max Goldsmith, Taylor Graves, Aaron Heberer, Henry Liston, Julie Shrieve, Gina Ramoz, and Taylor Williamson. If you volunteered with us and you are not listed here, we apologize! Please email volunteer@saveourcanyons.org and we will be sure to recognize you in our next newsletter. □



Alex Schmidt

*John Worlock is host of the KRCL
Wasatch Environmental Update
broadcasts aired weekly
on KRCL at 90.9 FM.*



MOTORIZED RECREATION: Sierra Club, et. al. vs The Forest Service

By John Worlock, SOC Trustee.

This is another of John 's "Wasatch Environmental Update"

For many years it has been known that **motorized recreation** is one of the most serious threats to the health of our National Forests. The explosive growth of off-road motorized, or ATV, travel is compromising not only the quiet and the solitude of the forests, but impacts as well the wildlife, both animal and vegetable. Motorized riders inadvertently import seeds of invasive species of plants, and their carelessly created pathways cause erosion affecting the health of streams and watersheds.

Members of the Ogden Group of the Utah Sierra Club, led by the resolute and energetic Dan Schroeder, have been active in attempts to help the local Forest Service officials recognize and deal with these problems in the Ogden Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. They have hiked the back-country and documented the use and abuse by dirt-bikers, ATV-riders and others. They submitted helpful comments during the process in which the Ogden District formulated its latest Travel Plan, governing ATV travel. Twice, when they found that the Travel Plan did not adequately deal with environmental threats, they appealed to higher authority within the Forest Service, but the Ogden District was able to do some fast foot-

work and a bit of rewriting and come up with a virtually unchanged Travel Plan.

The current venue for this continuing pas-de-deux with the Forest Service is a court of law. The Sierra Club has decided to take the Ogden Ranger District to federal court, enlisting legal representation from Western Resource Advocates, and, as co-plaintiffs, The Western Wildlife Conservancy, The Wild Utah Project, and Save Our Canyons. Perhaps, in federal court, the Forest Service will not be able to get by on the **simple assertion** that it has already considered adequately all the points in contention.

Very briefly, here are the major items in the complaint: Failure to consider impacts from illegal, user-created trails, and the projected extensive Shoshone Trail; failure to analyze the **cumulative** effects of ATV traffic; and finally, defining the purpose of the project as simply to **expand such traffic**. The Forest Service is also accused of violating a pair of executive orders and its own rules.

For more details, please go to utah.sierraclub.org/ogden. □

—Special Notice— Canyon Clean-up Cancellation

**Please be advised that the Sunday, September 5th BCC highway cleanup has been cancelled.
Many thanks to those who have helped the effort this summer and in past years!**

The “Snowbasin Lifestyle”

—All in a Resort Master Plan—

By Jennifer Kecor, SOC’s Issues Coordinator

There is one thing holding Snowbasin back and that is the lack of overnight lodging. However, that could soon change with the resorts desire to create a resort complete with overnight lodging and numerous amenities. It’s been three years in the making, but Snowbasin has a vision. The northern Utah resort has developed a master plan encompassing 12,000 private acres of development, creating a year-round resort of significant scope, spanning both Weber and Morgan counties.

Depending on the season, various recreational opportunities will be offered. You will be able to wine and dine, maybe relax at a spa, and catch the latest blockbuster hit. Endless options, all while staying at Snowbasin, ready to wake up the next morning to do it again, without having to leave the resort. Snowbasin will be more than a resort. With everything it hopes to offer, Snowbasin will offer a “lifestyle.”

Snowbasin submitted a rezone application to Weber County in June. This proposal if approved would rezone 3800 acres to Weber Counties new Destination and Recreation zone, written as an addition to the Recreation Element for the Ogden Valley Master Plan. The new zone sets development standards that will promote preservation of open space, recreation and will help boost the local economy. There is currently no proposal for Morgan County because there is no equivalent planning element to support the proposal at this

time.

The Recreation and Destination Ordinance provides an opportunity to Transfer Development Rights (TDR) from a 26-acre parcel on Pineview Reservoir onto the mountain where the majority of the Holding’s privately owned land is. Through a TDR commitment Snowbasin will be able to get incentive bonus units by dedicating a certain amount of land to Open Space and Conservation Open Space. Of the 3800 acres only about 20% will be developed while the remaining 80% will remain as Open Space and Conservation Open Space. No development will take place on slopes greater than 40% and even though county regulations allow for development on slopes up to 40%, the master plan is only considering slopes less than 25%.

On July 15, Snowbasin held a public open house, encouraging the public to take a look at the signature master plan proposal before it goes before the Ogden Valley Planning Commission for consideration and action on August 4th.

Snowbasin’s Master Plan looks out 50 years; the scope of this proposal is vast. It would be built out according to market demand in phases. When all is said and done, the year-round resort would have almost every available amenity. While the impact to rural and scenic Ogden Valley itself will be minimized, the proposal is still a grand development scheme encroaching upon the natural beauty of the Wasatch. □



Renderings of planned “Snowbasin lifestyle” developments.

Thank You To Our Amazing Volunteers!

The following volunteers helped us with a variety of tasks, including tabling with us at local events, helping out in our office, putting up posters for events, cleaning up the BCC highway as part of our adopt-a-highway program, and so much more! We can't thank them enough!

Jena Schmidt, Allie Jackson, Laura Kelly, Steve Taylor, Jacqueline Pullos, Kristine Simsich, Taylor Williamson, Hugo, Jon Brumbach, Shane Farver, Krista Bowers, Michael Stone, Brett Jones, Jeremy Cohn, Ed Chillington, Liz Chipman, Chris Ban, Rachael Mathey, Hiram Miller, Phil Istomin, Joe Fisher, Ed Fisher, Matt Dazely, Kirsten Halstead, Emily Coelho, William Richmond, Liz Jackson, Bridget Best, Alex Schmidt, Dan Williams, Ron Younger, Dave Andrenyak, Julia Lester, John Porcher, Eric Spreng, William Holloway, and Emma Saarel.

If you have volunteered for Save Our Canyons this year, but you do not see your name listed, we are so sorry! Please email us at volunteer@saveourcanyons.org and we will be sure to thank you in our next newsletter.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Save Our Canyons members are invited to the Wasatch Mountain Club's annual Halloween party in its haunted lodge at Brighton Ski Resort, in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Saturday evening, October 30, 2010.

POTLUCK/BYOB dinner will begin at 6:00 PM. Rockin' DJ Rob Snow's awesome mix of dance music will commence at 7:30 PM and will continue as long as feet are moving. Best costumes in the categories of Greenest, Scariest and Sexiest will be awarded.

A \$7.00 per person cover charge will be collected at the door; children are free. If you wish to stay overnight at the lodge, there is a charge of \$3.00 per person; children are free.

For further details and directions, e-mail or telephone the organizer Craig Anderson: <mailto:canders11238@yahoo.com>>canders11238@yahoo.com or 801-487-2352

DESERET NEWS

Salt Lake Telegram

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

B SECTION

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1958



WHICH WAY UP?—Calvin Giddings of the Wasatch Mt. Club ponders which route he will take up Lone Peak. Three club members scaled peak in 11-hour assault. Lone Peak is located east of Draper, south of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

First Time?

3 Men Scale Lone Peak On West Side

Looking for a way to cool off?

Three fellows from the Wasatch Mountain Club have an angle. A vertical angle. They scale snow-covered mountain peaks.

Their latest "beat the heat" trick was a recent assault of spectacular Lone Peak, spiraling up 11,000 feet along the Wasatch front east of Draper.

The massive west shoulder of the mountain, which lies 15 miles south of Salt Lake City, was scaled by Calvin Giddings, 4853 Viewmont St.; Alexis Kelners, 805 N. 11th West, and Dick Bell, Riverton.

In a grueling 11-hour climb the men ascended a vertical granite wall scaling more than 700 feet, almost straight up.

Taking advantage of vertical cracks and exposed traverses, the three mountaineers began at dawn and scaled the top just at sunset.

The feat required use of all the techniques in the mountaineer's bag of tricks in order to complete the most difficult pitches. The use of ropes and dozens of pitons (iron wedges that secure climbers to the vertical rock) were required to make the climb safe.

One delicate traverse required swinging across a smooth face with a piton and a snap-link as the sole handhold.

At this point the wall swept directly downward for 500 feet before meeting the snow and boulder fields adjoining the west face of the peak.

At another point, even higher in the climb, a giant rock, estimated at 20 tons, formed a roof over the chimney which the climbers were ascending.

Called a choke-stone, considered one of the most difficult obstacles in all mountain climbing, this stone blocked the chimney, forcing the climbers out along its overhanging edges until the top was reached.

Members of the Wasatch Mountain Club believe this is the first time the peak has been scaled from the west—it can be reached with relative ease from the back or east side.

All in all, a pretty "cool" trick!



SLIPPERY SLIDE—Dick Bell edges off into space on Lone Peak. Climbers used every mountaineer's trick in book to scale the peak.



INTO THE CLOUDS—Up in the air at 11,000 feet, Calvin Giddings looks back down for the photographer. Lone Peak is 700 feet high above an alpine meadow.

A Historic Wasatch Highlight

July 10, 1958

Photos by Alexis Kelner

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons
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Backcountry Skiing in Valdez An Environmental Perspective

A presentation by Matt Kinney

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27th 2010
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Storm Mountain Amphitheater
in Big Cottonwood Canyon

A benefit for Save Our Canyons
and Bob Athey

See page 4 for additional information