

Wilderness

In the Central Wasatch



Lone Peak Wilderness



Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness

Wilderness In the Central Wasatch



- **Learning objectives**

- Understand what makes a Wilderness Area a unique land management designation
- Learn about the specific Wilderness Areas in the Central Wasatch and the process leading to the designation of Wilderness Areas from 1964 to present day
- Recognize the importance of additional Wilderness Designations in the future



Mt. Olympus Wilderness
Photo by Sam Werstak

What is Wilderness?



- **Federal Definition of Wilderness:**
 - “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”
 - ***Wilderness Wilderness Act of 1964***

- **Who can designate new Wilderness areas?**
 - 1964 Wilderness Act gives this authority to the United States Congress
 - Federal agencies also play a role in determining where new Wilderness can be established
 - New Wilderness designations often arise from community-led advocacy efforts



Photo by Sam Werstak

Why Wilderness?



*“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations **the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.**”*

-Excerpt from The Wilderness Act of 1964

- **What is Wilderness great for?**

- **Preserving landscapes** which Americans recognize provide excellent recreation, tourism and ecosystem services
- **Ecosystem services**
 - Benefits that humans receive from ecosystems, including the products they provide and the non-material benefits they offer
- **Ensuring continued public access** and ownership of some of the most-visited, beautiful public lands in America
 - In contrast to National Parks, National Forests and BLM Lands

What does *Wilderness* do?



Water Resource Protection

- Intact ecosystems improve water quality before water is treated
- Reduces treatment costs
 - Many communities, including Salt Lake City, rely on water that starts flowing from Wilderness
 - 60% of Salt Lake Valley's water comes from the Wasatch Mountains
- Is the most comprehensive watershed protection tool available to federal agencies



What does *Wilderness* do?



Wildlife Habitat Protection

- Connects intact wildlife habitats across the Wasatch Mountains
 - Wasatch Mountains are the southern tip of Northern American Moose habitat
- Undeveloped areas for feeding, foraging, mating and denning
- Contribute to biodiversity of an ecosystem, native plant & animal habitat
 - Provide opportunities for monitoring and research of rare and endangered species
- Ensures habitats are not fragmented by roads and development
 - Reduce fatalities associated with traffic collisions



Photo by Peggy Peregrine

What does *Wilderness* do?



Catalyst for Outdoor Recreation, Economic Growth

- Subject to limitations, Wilderness Areas allow for remote recreational opportunities not found anywhere else
- Hunting, fishing, skiing, hiking, climbing, trail running are all encouraged in Wilderness Areas
 - Mechanized travel (mountain bikes and OHV's) are prohibited in Wilderness
- Wilderness is not a barrier to recreation, but provides a framework for outdoor recreation to continue unimpeded for future generations without degrading the quality of the environment or experiences

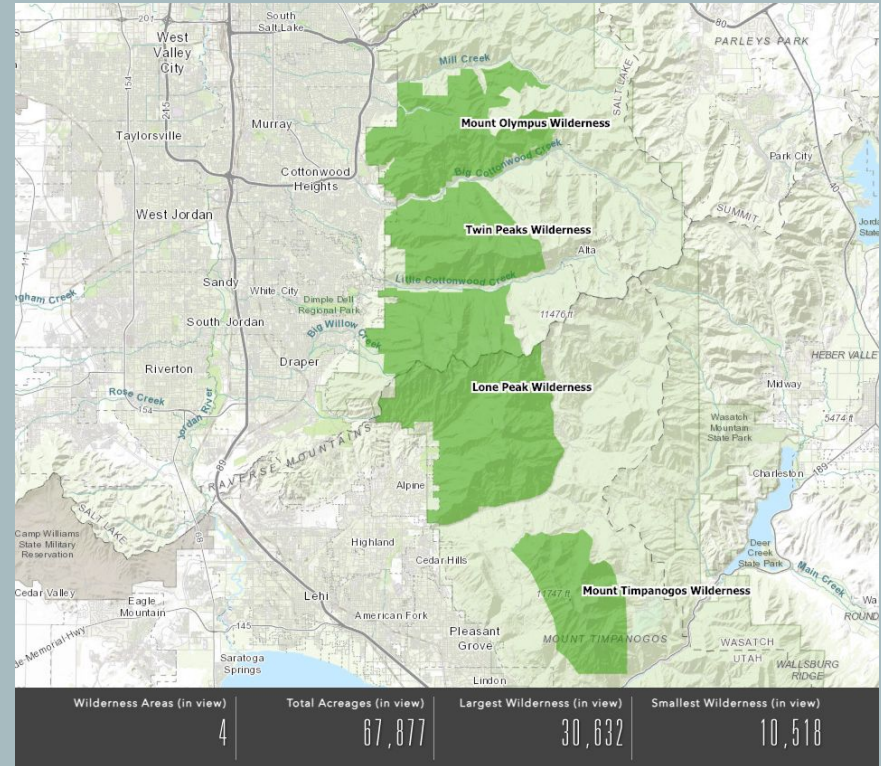


Photo by Sam Werstak

Which Wilderness Areas exist in the Central Wasatch?



- **Lone Peak Wilderness**
 - Established 1978
 - Utah's first Wilderness Area!
 - 30,088 acres
 - Located between Little Cottonwood Canyon and American Fork Canyon
- **Mount Olympus Wilderness**
 - Established 1984
 - 15,292 acres
 - Located between Millcreek and Big Cottonwood Canyons
- **Twin Peaks Wilderness**
 - Established 1984
 - 11,396 acres
 - Located between Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons



How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



- **The Wilderness Act of 1964**

- *“If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”*

- Proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson upon his signing of The Wilderness Act, September 3rd, 1964



How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



- **What did the Wilderness Act of 1964 do?**
- No one knew what the process would look like to establish Wilderness after the Act was passed
- Wilderness Act required the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service to inventory areas not transected by roads under their management which would potentially fit their definition of Wilderness
 - Roadless = areas larger than 5000 acres that do not have roads
- Agencies then meant to pass on their recommendations to the President
 - Prior to recommendation, USFS and NPS were required to provide public notice, hold hearings in the region of the proposals, advise and invite input from Governor's and governing county officials



Photo by
Michelle Kelly

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



- **What did the Wilderness Act of 1964 do in Utah?**
 - Two years after the passage of the Act, the High Uintas Primitive Area recommended by regional Forester Floyd Iverson for inclusion as Utah's first Wilderness Area, encompassing 322,988 acres
 - That summer, editors of the *Deseret News* supported the designation
 - *Deseret News* recommended that each citizen attend Forest Service hearings in Salt Lake City, and to spend time in the mountains to become, “a more pleasant, healthful” and “informed and intelligent citizen”



DELAY URGED IN CREATION OF HIGH UINTA'S "WILDERNESS"

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District does not oppose the establishment of a wilderness area, and has consistently supported recreational developments in connection with the various units of the Central Utah Project. However, the Board of Directors has specifically asked that any action by the U.S. Forest Service on the High Uinta wilderness proposal be delayed until it can be demonstrated at the completion of planning that the construction of the works of the Central Utah Project will not be required within the boundaries of the Wilderness area. The Board also asks that Uinta River Drainage Area be eliminated from the proposed wilderness area. Also, the District has asked that the Forest Service include practical arrangements for maintaining and continuing in sound operation those existing reservoirs presently in use.

A statement presented on behalf of the board at a public hearing presented the District's position: "Our concern for the future welfare of Utah requires us to be realistic and face the fact that Utah is an arid state and its future is dependent upon a water supply, not a 'Wilderness Area'."

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

The Board pointed out that the Upper Colorado River Storage Project Act was enacted by Congress in 1956, and that the Wilderness Bill

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



- **What did the Wilderness Act of 1964 do in Utah?**

- Editors of the Deseret News thought the only objections at the hearings might come from those who wished that a larger area be designated as Wilderness
- Instead, Governor Calvin L. Rampton's representatives asked for a four year delay in designating Wilderness, until the Bureau of Reclamation could complete a survey for Central Utah Project water reservoir sites
 - Former Governor George D. Clyde agreed, noting that Utah depends on stored water, gravity fed to farmers and cities, hence the need to reserve dam sites as high in the mountains as possible
- With two governors insisting delay, the Forest Service's High Uinta Wilderness proposal hit an insurmountable barrier

RAMPTON'S STAND

The state of Utah has no lands classified as wilderness, although Gov. Calvin Rampton said in a statement presented at the Salt Lake hearing that he "wholeheartedly" endorses the Wilderness Act. Rampton's statement on the Glen Canyon NRA called for about 16% wilderness. Most of the business interests and public officials who spoke backed the governors' stand. Most other citizens at the Salt Lake hearings backed Park Service alternative No. 1, which would "maximize" wilderness by protecting 68% of the NRA immediately and 11% later, when incompatible uses were phased out.

U.S. Senator Frank E. Moss of Utah admonished the pro-wilderness majority of the audience: "We need to use our natural resources in a balanced way," he said, suggesting that backpackers in the crowd might be advocating wilderness classification for selfish reasons. We want to preserve these areas "so our people can enjoy them," Moss said. "But not by just one group of people."

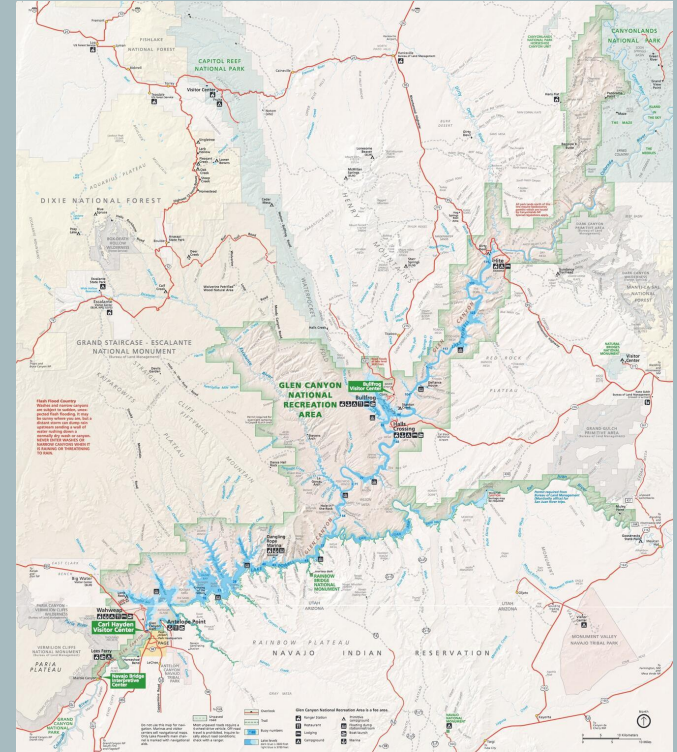
Wayne County Commissioner Dwight Williams warned, "You've got us fenced in if these proposals go."

Early opposition to Wilderness Designations in Southern Utah

Glen Canyon Recreational Management - Comparative Analysis



- Three bills introduced in Congress in 1972 to move land management from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the National Park Service
 - Utah Representative Sherman P. Loyd proposed a reservoir-sized and shaped National Recreation Area (NRA) with a road and bridges circling the reservoir on BLM land, along with selling segments of the federal land to developers for water-side homes, condos and shopping malls
 - Rep. Gunn McKay introduced a bill proposing a similar NRA, authorizing a study for the encircling road
 - Sen. Frank E. Moss proposed an NRA that included protecting land surrounding the water, making a bridge between Grand Canyon National Monument and Canyonlands National Park
- 50 years later, Escalante River Canyon has neither bridge nor wilderness designation, nor is any Wilderness designated in entire Glen Canyon NRA



16-High Country News
Friday, May 23, 1975

Utahn fights to save southwestern canyons

When conservationists get together to talk shop, June Viavant talks canyons. "I can only think about one thing," she says. "That's the Escalante." That particular southwestern canyon and the area that surrounds it have been her obsession since the '60s.

She entered the battle to protect the Escalante through a small group which her husband and some friends had started. While that group was still alive, her husband was asked to tour the Escalante with the Utah Highway Department. June asked to come along, too. No women allowed, she was told.

A friend accuses her of committing herself to battle then, in the name of women's liberation. But Viavant says it was the Escalante itself that prepared her for the long-term fight. On a family backpacking trip she walked for two days to reach Steven's Arch, the point deep in the backcountry where a proposed tourist highway was to cross the Escalante.

"That's what pushed my button," Viavant says. "It's just gorgeous, it's overwhelmingly beautiful."

She and two friends started their own group by printing up a brochure about the Escalante and the forces that threatened it. They mailed it to a few people in the Four Corners states. Money started coming back to them.

"That was really heartening," Viavant says.

Soon the brochure and the message about the Escalante began to reach people all over the country. In Salt Lake City they inspired a corps of about 15 dependable workers. These people later initiated the Uinta Chapter of the Sierra Club. That organizational step built up the conservation effort in the state, but it weakened Escalante support.

"Now all of the original people have two or three major things they're doing at once," Viavant says.

She is similarly burdened, but the Escalante remains her top priority.

ROAD HEARINGS

In 1969 the Utah Road Commission held hearings in Salt Lake City to discuss the trans-Escalante road. Opinions expressed were heavily inclined toward preservation. Two people testified for the road and 29 testified against it. Twenty-three letters supported the highway and 150 opposed it. Hearings at Kanab, Utah inspired three letters for the road and 460 against it.

Despite this showing, the Utah Road Commission approved the trans-Escalante road corridor.

Viavant is accustomed to losing battles in Utah. The Sierra Club, she says, seems "universally villainous in everybody's eyes." The feelings run so strong that Viavant and her friends have had their cars vandalized while backpacking in the Escalante — windows broken, wiring and hoses cut.

"I think it's teenage kids who are picking up the feelings of the local community, but I don't think it's an

organized effort," Viavant says.

Opposition to the Sierra Club comes from "good country people" who are trying to wring out a living on poor land and who are desperate for money, she explains. They aren't interested in preserving southeastern Utah's canyon lands. They are interested in developing whatever attractions their area has to build the local economy.

"They're just dying for power plants down there," Viavant says.

She says she can't blame the local people, however. "They don't just hold a second job; they hold three jobs. But I do blame the politicians because they've got broader horizons and they ought to know better."

GLEN CANYON NRA

Viavant worked hard on a bill which established the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Most of the Escalante drainage recommended by environmentalists for study for wilderness classification was included in the NRA. But the bill also authorized the trans-Escalante road, although no funds were appropriated.

That portion of the bill disturbs her, but Viavant says "we still have choices. The bill requires a study of the road. It does not require the secretary to construct it, unless appropriations are made for this phase of the project."

After the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area bill was passed, the environmental movement in Utah went into kind of a slump, Viavant says. But not for long. Soon proposals for the Kaiparowits and other coal-fired electrical generating plants arose. One of the giants, Utah Power and Light Co.'s proposed Garfield Plant, may include a dam on the Escalante River a few miles outside of the town of Escalante.

The latest opportunity for action to protect the Escalante came at Park Service hearings held last week in cities in Utah and Arizona (see story page 12). Viavant, who was elected to the national Sierra Club board of directors, spoke out for the club's 150,000 members.

Item by item, she commented in detail on the Park Service's master plan and wilderness proposals for the Glen Canyon NRA, which includes much of Escalante Canyon. She knows the NRA well. Over the past 10 years, she has spent 125 nights in the Escalante region, mostly on weekends, during every month of the year except August.

She asked that the Park Service choose the first of six alternatives for the area — the plan that dedicated the largest number of acres to wilderness. She hoped that her grandchildren would not have to inherit "the remnant of the remainder of what was left over of the residue" of the Glen Canyon country.

She quoted Wallace Stegner:

"Nowhere in the world probably is the transitoriness of

human habitation shown so outrageously. Nowhere is historical time pitted so helplessly and so obviously against the endless minutes of geological time. A man can walk into a canyon a block from his house and be face to face with two or three petrified minutes of eternity."

What influence will Viavant and other conservationists in the state have on the Park Service decision on the Glen Canyon NRA? Viavant's not sure.

"We have no political strength in this state," she says. "If the Park Service doesn't have the guts to make a good proposal just for the sake of a good proposal, then we are going to lose a precious resource."

Viavant is willing to admit lack of Utah support. But she feels that lack shouldn't be a deciding factor. "This is federal land and it belongs to all the people in the U.S.," she says.

It is tough working on local issues, she admits, "cringing around like a villain all the time." She finds strength through her position on the Sierra Club board of directors. They think what she is doing is useful and important.

She thinks, despite the difficulties, that conservationists have made some progress in Utah. "If I really thought it was hopeless, I'd quit, because I like to backpack too well," she says.

—JN



June Viavant



How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's first Wilderness Area - How we designated the Lone Peak Wilderness

- The Wilderness Act of 1964 required that the US Forest Service (USFS) inventory and recommend Wilderness area designations by 1974
 - USFS realized it would not meet this deadline and conducted a nation-wide **Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE)**
- Rather than conduct piecemeal, area by area hearings in the regions of proposals, USFS put forward its RARE inventory and invited feedback in the form of letters (from citizens and local governments) before putting forward recommendations to Congress and the President
- RARE 1 Completed in 1973
 - Put forward 336,000 acres as “Wilderness Study Areas” before Congress could decide which areas to designate as Wilderness
 - RARE 1 was considered inadequate by many

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's first Wilderness Area - Lone Peak Wilderness

- By 1974, one Forest Service area receiving special attention included some of the highest peaks overlooking the Salt Lake Valley
 - Sen. Frank E. Moss proposed legislation for the creation of the Lone Peak Wilderness area in 1974, and was backed by the Salt Lake County Commission
- USFS and the Salt Lake County Commission both preferred to create new designation and call it a *Scenic Area*
 - Among the concerns with Wilderness designation were
 - Proposed Wilderness overlooked a large metropolitan area, not providing opportunities for solitude required by the Wilderness Act
 - County Commissioners saw Wilderness as a way to protect water quality, while City commissioners were worried additional backpackers would degrade water quality
 - Many Utahns were concerned that ski resort expansion would reduce water quality and wild character of the area, and since Wilderness designations would stop expansion, they were for it

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's first Wilderness Area - State Wilderness Committee and Lone Peak

- Utah Governor Scott M. Matheson was concerned about designating the Lone Peak area as Wilderness because of the Clean Air Act, which restricts air quality around a Wilderness Area to “Class 1”
 - The Clean Air Act gives special air quality and visibility protection to national Wilderness areas larger than 5,000 acres that were in existence when it was amended in 1977. These are “Class I” areas.
 - With aid of Rep. Gunn McKay, the Clean Air Act was amended to allow Class 2 air across a Wilderness area
- In 1977, Gov. Matheson also created a **State Wilderness Committee** that consisted of representatives of state departments that were affected by federal land management policies, with five local elected officials
 - By January, 1978, the State Wilderness Committee adopted a policy, stating that in Utah “a portion of these lands should be protected as Wilderness.”
 - But the Committee’s policy also read that Wilderness need to be balanced with resource development and limited the types of landscapes to be considered

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's first Wilderness Area - Lone Peak Wilderness

- A month later, in February 1978, President Jimmy Carter's Endangered American Wilderness Bill became law
 - The bill included 30,000 acres of Utah's first designated Wilderness, the Lone Peak Wilderness.
- Within weeks, the State Wilderness Committee voted that no more Wilderness should be established in Utah.
 - County Commissioner Albert H. Neff quoted as saying, "We lock up, lock out and hold these areas for less than one percent of the people. We already have hundreds of thousands of acres of Wilderness in Utah."
 - This wasn't an accurate statement



President Jimmy Carter signs Endangered American Wilderness Bill into law, 1978

Utah's first Wilderness Area - Lone Peak Wilderness



- **Lone Peak Wilderness Area** goes as far north as Little Cottonwood Canyon and south to American Fork Canyon.
- Its elevation ranges from 5,500 to 11,326 feet.
- The two highest and notable peaks in this area are Lone Peak at 11,253 feet and Little Matterhorn at 11,326 feet.
- There are 14 trail systems that run for 46 miles in the Lone Peak Wilderness. These trails consist of:
 - Jacob's Ladder Trail
 - Deer Creek-Dry Creek Trail
 - White Canyon Trail
 - Red Pine Lake Trail
 - Silver Lake Trail
 - Sawmill Trail
 - White Pine Lake Trail
 - American Fork Twin Peaks from
 - Cherry Canyon Logging Trail
 - Maybird Gulch Trail
 - Silver Lake Flat
 - Outlaw Cabin Trail
 - Bells Canyon Trail
 - Box Elder Trail

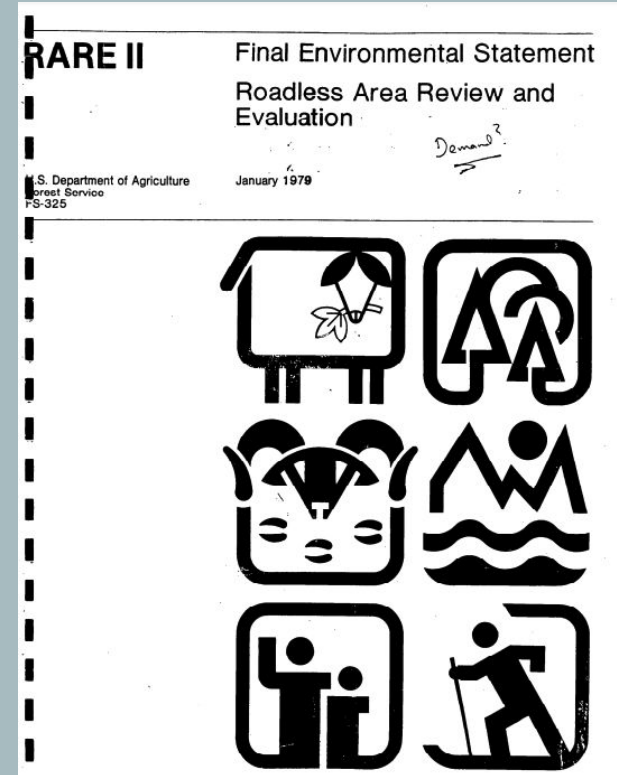


How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's Wilderness Opposition - RARE II

- By mid-1977, the USFS had determined RARE I to be inadequate, and initiated **Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II (RARE II)**
 - RARE II would evaluate an additional 62 million acres of roadless National Forest
 - RARE II was to be completed by the end of 1978 with the warning that it was intended to find the less contentious areas and move them toward wilderness designation.
 - RARE II would not preclude future Forest Service land wilderness recommendations beyond RARE II
- Meanwhile the National Park Service (NPS) had prepared wilderness proposals and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for 4 Utah National Parks (Zion, Arches, Capitol Reef and Bryce Canyon) and for Dinosaur and Capitol Reef National Monuments

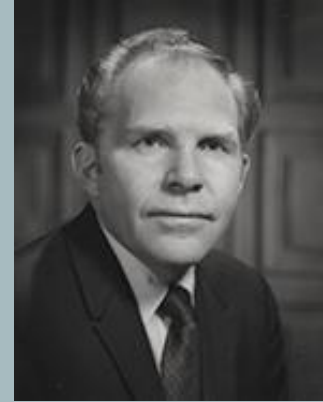


How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's Wilderness Opposition - RARE II (cont.)

- Representative Phillip Burton of California was proposing an amendment to add the National Park Service wilderness proposal to a bill adjusting boundaries of several National Parks.
- Utah Representative Gunn McKay recommended to the State Wilderness Committee that they must formulate a policy on Utah National Park wilderness areas within two weeks before the Burton amendment was proposed or it would become much more difficult to change the Burton and National Park wilderness proposal.
- The office of Utah Senator Jake Garn also let the State Wilderness Committee know that the Senator could buy the committee time since they estimated that if both Utah Senators, Garn and Orrin Hatch, were against a wilderness bill, they promised they could hold up the bill for 10 years.



Representative Gunn McKay



Senator Jake Garn

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's Wilderness Opposition - RARE II (cont.)

- The Bureau of Land Management had directives from Congress to inventory their lands and to send recommendations back to Congress or the President; however, that inventory would not be due until 1986.
- The State Wilderness Committee at first recommended no wilderness for Utah.
 - The Committee was later convinced that if they recommended no wilderness, then Congress would then only see the larger proposals by the Forest Service and environmental groups, plus to not recommend areas was contrary to the State's Wilderness Committee's Policy.
- At the September 1978 Committee meeting, the internally contentious State Wilderness Committee eventually eliminated 90% of the Forest Service RARE II proposal areas.
 - The Committee recommended 13 of the 130 RARE II areas with four more areas recommended for further study. All other National Forest lands were recommended for immediate return to multiple-use.
 - The committee noted that they recommended only the 13 areas with low resource values and high wilderness values.

For Wilderness Character Monitoring, wilderness character is described as five mutually reinforcing qualities derived from the Wilderness Act of 1964:

Untrammeled

The intentional management actions that directly control or manipulate the components or processes of ecological systems inside wilderness.

Natural

The effects of modern people on ecological systems inside wilderness since the time the area was designated.

Undeveloped

The structures, installations, and other evidence of modern human presence or occupation, and the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport.

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The conditions that affect the opportunity for people to experience solitude or primitive, unconfined recreation.

Other Features of Value

The ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's Wilderness Opposition - RARE II (cont.)

- Not satisfied with the majority vote, after the September committee meeting rejecting 90% of RARE II and recommending 684,000 acres for wilderness, county officials on the Committee stormed the Governor's office saying they wanted no wilderness in Utah and the 90% compromise-vote did not represent them.
- Governor Matheson was particularly concerned that the Park Service was requesting raising air quality the standard from Class II to Class I for parks, monuments and wilderness areas in Utah. Matheson wanted the State's comprehensive plan to develop from all three agencies' recommendations and air quality implications.



How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Utah's Wilderness Opposition - RARE II (cont.)

- Matheson's State Wilderness Committee was dissolved late in 1978 then reformed by the Governor in January of 1979.
- Dave Carter, Utah Wilderness Association (UWA) coordinator, and regional representative of the Wilderness Society, represented local citizens and citizens from across the country by attending committee meetings, though not as a voting member, by writing letters to the editor, speaking at public engagements, and by exchanging substantial letters with Governor Matheson.
- Carter's group recommended to the Governor 30 boundary-adjusted areas out of the 130 RARE II areas.
 - Carter also pointed out the 65% of forest lands were never part of RARE II as they were already ruled out as having roads and development.
 - Since Carter had traveled the state to attend RARE II public meeting he asked the Governor how the Governor's wilderness designation process could ever proceed fairly when the public officials were telling the citizens that using motorized equipment during rescues would be illegal and promising that nearby towns would become ghost towns.

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



RARE II Completed - Beyond Acres and Boundaries

- Following the Forest Service RARE II proposal on January 4, 1979, the reformed State Wilderness Committee took “testimony from local elected officials, associations of governments, resource development corporations, environmental and conservation groups, individual citizens, and our own staff.”
- The Committee, in addition to boundary and acreage decisions, took time for comprehensive planning, looking at the broader issues comparing and contrasting wilderness or other multiple-use issues. The Committee on behalf of the Governor recognized that
 - “Utah strongly endorses the concept of multiple use and sustained yield. It recognizes that wilderness is just one of the many present and future needs of the American people that can be met at least partially by public lands.”

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



RARE II Completed - Beyond Acres and Boundaries

- The Committee was concerned about the effects of wilderness on the economics of oil and gas, motorized recreation, school funding, timber, and minerals.
- The State of Utah would hold all wilderness proposals back contingent on air quality standards remaining in perpetuity at Class II unless designated higher by the Governor of the State. The compromise wording in the Lone Peak wilderness designation was seen by the State Wilderness Committee as critical to bring into each possible wilderness designation. .
- The Wilderness Act allows for continued grazing of livestock in wilderness area, but would restrict motorized access to the animals and developed facilities such as water tanks and fences, and shifts the emphasis from maximizing grazing to regulating the grazing under wilderness values.



How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



The State Wilderness Committee Slashes 90% of Wilderness Proposals

- On March 9, 1979, the new State Wilderness Committee recommended :
 - 120 RARE II areas be immediately return to multiple-use management (2.9 million acres)
 - Seven areas be recommended for Wilderness (481,673 acres)
 - And four areas be retained for further study (110,600 acres)
 - For the State Wilderness committee to reach agreement on a few boundaries and acreages to return to multiple-use or recommend for wilderness designation without any committee members storming the Governor's office was consider a small success.
- In attendance to most State Wilderness Committee meetings and hearing was Jim Butler, in 1979 with the Utah Energy Office, then in 1980 with the State Planning Office, and from 1981 to 1985 as a Senior Policy Assistant to Governor Matheson.
- Butler's March 9, 1979, review of the State Wilderness Committee's pivotal successful process attributed the success to starting with only 20 areas rather than the initial 130 RARE II tracts that the first Committee sifted through. With only 20 areas being considered, the meeting attracted less attention than when the 130 area RARE II proposal looked like an "Idaho to Arizona Wilderness."

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



Why does the new State Wilderness Committee succeed?

- The new Committee did not include the polarizing Cal Black, County Commissioner from San Juan County, but instead had the much calmer, Bill Levitt, Mayor of Alta.
 - Dick Carter of the Utah Wilderness Association and Wilderness Society contributed to the negotiations, though not a voting member, and pointed out that the environmental groups had given up the most, over 85% of the RARE II proposals which to begin with was short of what would qualify on all Forest Service lands in Utah.
 - The lands kept for wilderness recommendations were generally small, rocky, and snow covered most of the year
- The 1978 or first State Wilderness Committee, can in retrospect, be attributed with taking the fight to the mat, taking the controversy to the public and emerging with a small but solid proposal.
- That a bold anti-wilderness, and threatening County Commissioner, Cal Black was on the Committee that recommended 13 areas for wilderness made it difficult for any other anti-wilderness player think they could remove any more land from the State's Forest Service land's proposal.

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



A Dozen New Wilderness Designations Across the State

- Over the next four years, boundaries will shift slightly, acreages will shrink to adjust to new resource findings, and a few areas will be brought back into the recommendations, however, the State Wilderness Committee's recommendation for Forest Service lands stops being the "Idaho to Arizona Wilderness" controversy haunting the Committee.
 - The National Park wilderness and BLM wilderness proposals remain tied to the State's RARE II recommendations for several more years.
- For expediency, the Park Service and BLM areas, which become more controversial, are set aside to allow the Forest bill a chance of passing. The forest wilderness bill is controversial enough on its own at the many local hearings.
 - The urban, Salt Lake City hearing, is favorable to much more wilderness designation while the rural hearings suggest that less or no wilderness would be preferred.

How were the Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch established?



A Dozen New Wilderness Designations Across the State

- On September 28, 1984, 20 years and a few weeks after the signing of the Wilderness Act, the **Utah Wilderness Act of 1984 was passed.**
- The Utah Act **designated 12 high mountain areas for wilderness management** and protection in the Wilderness Protection System. All other RARE II lands were released for multiple-use management.
 - The Act allowed that these and all Forest Service administered lands could be reviewed again for wilderness with the next round of forest planning 10 or 15 years out.
- Six years following Governor Matheson's creation of the first and more controversial State Wilderness Committee, a wilderness bill passed looking very similar to their proposal at the end of 1978.

Utah's wilderness bill heads for the House

Three years in the making, Utah's proposed Wilderness Act of 1984 begins its final battle March 27 when the bill goes to the House of Representatives for hearings.

In February, a Senate subcommittee heard arguments for and against the bill, which proposes 706,736 acres of wilderness for Utah. Few major changes are expected from the Senate, although Utah's Senator Jake Garn said the bill is not "cast in concrete."

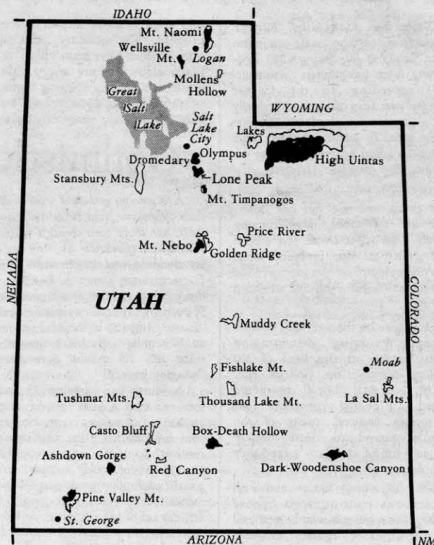
Utah's conservationists originally proposed 1.6 million acres of wilderness and "soft" release language for public lands not included in the bill. As it stands now, the bill designates less than half that amount and uses "hard" release language for roadless lands not included, ruling them out for management and reconsideration as wilderness until the year 2000.

Utah now has just one National Forest Wilderness, 30,000 acre Lone Peak in the Wasatch Range near Salt Lake City. Wilderness opponents, which include local elected officials, oil and gas companies, loggers and the United Farm Bureau, charge that wilderness designation "locks up" the land and restricts multiple use.

To the Utah Wilderness Association, a citizens' group of 500 based in Salt Lake City, the fact there is a wilderness bill at all is a major achievement. Yet as Gary Macfarlane, the group's natural resources specialist, says, "Some changes need to be made."

Calling the High Uintas the "flagship" of the state's wilderness bill, the group is pressing to reinstate 200,000 acres dropped from the bill. The 11,000 foot range is within a one to two hour drive from Salt Lake City where 90 percent of the state's population lives, and its primitive area is one of the most heavily used in the country. The Forest Service originally proposed 512,000 acres and the Utah Wilderness Association wants 659,000 acres of wilderness in the High Uintas. Utah's bill proposes 448,000 acres.

The Wilderness Association is also pushing for 8,000 more acres in the



Utah proposed wilderness areas. Darkened areas are those included in the current Utah Wilderness Act; outlined are

proposed Mt. Naomi wilderness in northern Utah, and the inclusion of 55,000 acres in the Stansbury Mountains in northwestern Utah. Macfarlane said that the conservationists' hope lies in Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), who chairs the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks. The present bill, however, is supported by Utah's Gov. Scott Matheson and the entire state delegation.

An aide to Senator Jake Garn said the bill "represents compromise and balance between competing interests in the state." The biggest obstacle to soft release language, he added, is from local economic interests. What industry has told legislators, he said, is that "We can live with more

additional areas proposed by the Utah Wilderness Association. Lone Peak is the only existing wilderness area in Utah.

wilderness. It's the uncertainty that's killing us."

Gary Macfarlane denied that soft release locks up public lands. "The standard release for undesignated wilderness is that the Forest Service need not manage the area to protect its wilderness characteristics. Hard release says the Forest Service *shall* not. That rules out multiple use."

Before March 27, public comment on the Utah Wilderness Act, Senate Bill 2155, may be sent to Senator Malcolm Wallop's Public Lands subcommittee in Washington, D.C. After that date, comments on House Bill 4516 may be sent to Rep. Seiberling's subcommittee.

--C.L. Rawlins, staff



"We can live with more Wilderness. It's the uncertainty that's killing us."

- Industry to legislators about the 1984 Wilderness Act

Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch

Twin Peaks Wilderness



- The Twin Peaks Wilderness Area is located in the Central Wasatch Mountains, east of Salt Lake City. It is comprised of 11,796 acres that are located between Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.
- It has a series of hiking trails, and encompasses several mountains including Twin Peaks, Superior Peak and Dromedary Peak.
- Twin Peaks Wilderness has breathtaking trails. Many of the trails in this wilderness area are considered hard hikes to the average hiker.
- These include:
 - Lake Blanche Trail
 - Broads Fork Twin Peaks
 - The Triple Traverse Route
 - Mt. Superior Trail
 - Ferguson Canyon to Storm Mountain
 - Stairs Gulch Trail
 - Deaf Smith Canyon South Trail



Wilderness Areas of the Central Wasatch Mount Olympus Wilderness



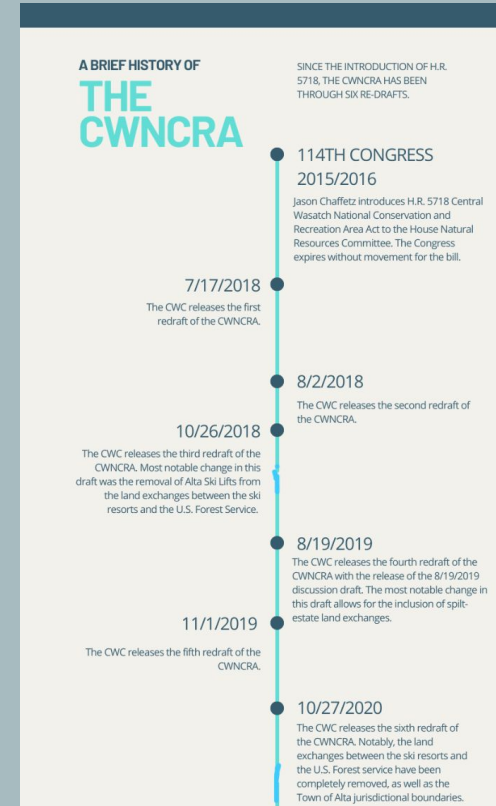
- The Mount Olympus Wilderness ranges from 5000 feet to 10,000 feet in elevation and is home to unparalleled backcountry skiing, splitboarding, snowshoeing and hiking.
- High peaks and shaded valleys are sought out by the many visitors to this highly accessible wilderness area.
 - Notable peaks in this area are Mount Olympus, Gobblers Knob and Mount Raymond.
- There are 12 trail systems in Mount Olympus Wilderness. These trails are:
 - Mill B North Fork Trail
 - Neffs Canyon Trail
 - Butler Fork Trail
 - Z Trail to Tolcats Canyon
 - Mill A Basin Trail
 - Heughs Canyon Trail
 - BST: Tolcats Canyon to Heughs Canyon
 - Mount Raymond Summit Trail
 - Desolation Trail
 - Desolation Lake to Millcreek
 - Thaynes Canyon Trail
 - Bowman Fork Trail
 - Alexander-Bowman Trail



Takeaways about Utah Wilderness Designations



1. Wilderness Areas are only a **61-year-old concept**
2. Utah's Wilderness designation processes have **always been led by citizen-driven advocacy efforts**
 - a. These advocacy efforts have been led by recreationists, conservationists and elected officials who recognized the **responsibility current generations have to future generations to preserve outdoor experiences**, or the landscapes that allow for outdoor recreation would be degraded
3. The environmental laws which we rely on today for protection of wildlife, land, water and air all have roots between 1964-1984
 - a. Endangered Species Act (1972), Clean Air Act (1972), Clean Water Act (1972), Wilderness Act (1964), National Environmental Policy Act (1969), Federal Lands Policy Management Act (1976), and more
4. **Utah's Congressional Wilderness designation bills have never been successful on the first draft**
 - a. The CWNCRAs have been drafted seven different times



Thank You!

Questions?

Visit [SaveOurCanyons.org](https://www.saveourcanyons.org) to become a volunteer to maintain the Wilderness areas of the Central Wasatch with Save Our Canyons' Wilderness Monitoring Program in partnership with the **U.S. Forest Service** and **National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance**.