



SYLVAN SENTINEL

MAY / JUNE 2008
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

Did You Know?

The Wasatch-Cache and Uinta National Forests have merged creating the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

This mouthful was an administrative USFS decision, which will reportedly result in about two million dollars in savings a year. The name change will not affect any maps.

It would take an act of Congress to change the names and boundaries of any National Forest.

Utah Environmental Congress would like to thank Xmission for their continued generosity through UEC web hosting and support!



Meet Rachael Mathey, the new Membership Coordinator for UEC!

Rachael is excited to be a part of the UEC team, working to protect the National Forests and wildlife throughout the state of Utah. Rachael earned her B.S. in Geography from the University of Utah. It was during her college career that she began volunteering for local nonprofits based in the Salt Lake area. Since then she has been interested in Utah activism especially through membership and outreach.



Rachael Mathey, Membership Coordinator

Rachael comes to us from Save Our Canyons, an outstanding local conservation group working on Wilderness, and issues concerning the Wasatch Mountains.

"This is a tremendous opportunity and I am thrilled to be a part of this extraordinary organization!"

- Rachael

Rachael grew up in Wyoming, where she developed a love of the outdoors. She spent considerable time in her youth backpacking and skiing with her family in nearby wilderness areas. She is a two time National Outdoor Leadership School alumna, where she furthered her appreciation for the importance of wilderness and the beauty of forested mountain country. These are the

experiences that formed the basis of Rachael's belief of promoting education and understanding of, and communion with the natural unspoiled world. The work of UEC and its efforts to protect wildlife and the National Forests is a natural fit.

The successes of UEC, especially in the past year, make for an exciting time to be reaching out to our members. We look forward to Rachael's work with UEC's mission to promote membership/community involvement and participation in our outreach activities. She is eager to meet you at the UEC Annual Conference coming up in November.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

UEC Bid on State Grazing Permit Stirs up the Dirt

Our Mission:

Reclaiming and acting upon our ancestral responsibility to the land, the Utah Environmental Congress brings people together to engage in genuine protection of living forest systems that provide islands of refuge in Utah's desert country.

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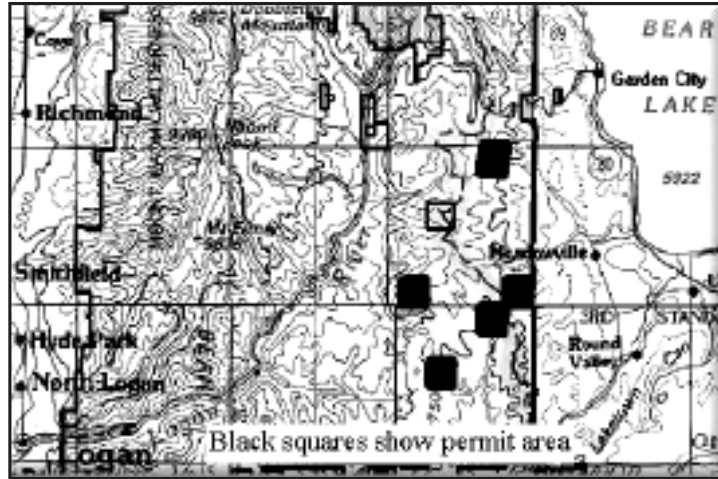
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Action Printing & Design

The Sylvan Sentinel is a bimonthly publication of the Utah Environmental Congress and is printed on recycled paper with soy inks.



In March UEC placed a \$10,000 bid on a large state grazing permit in the Bear River Range, about 10 miles south of the Utah-Idaho border. The permit includes 550 AUM's (Animal Units per Month, or 1 cow and calf pair/month) inside the Wasatch-Cache National Forest on the North Rich Allotment, which has known livestock over-grazing problems. It was a perfect fit for UEC's objectives. If we win the permit UEC will rest the area from livestock grazing for the 15 year duration of the permit.

How can UEC do this? Utah's state land management agency (aka "SITLA") allows anyone to bid on its livestock grazing permits – not just ranchers. That's because the agency is charged with bringing the greatest possible dollar return on the state lands to fund public schools. UEC has been trying for years to get a grazing permit in an area that is causing damage to wildlife and their habitat, particularly when the permittee (rancher) also grazes on National Forest lands UEC monitors. When the UEC places a bid on a permit, the current permit holder has 30 days to match our bid or lose the permit. Thus far the rancher has always met UEC's bid thereby paying more for the privilege of grazing his livestock than he otherwise would, shrinking the already marginal profit margin of public lands ranching.

This year UEC's bid amount was 4 times what we have bid in the past. The rancher is raising cane with elected officials committees and boards, demanding UEC's bid be undone and the rules changed. The Utah Legislature is aware of the situation and doesn't intend to change the program because all monies raised benefit the public schools in Utah. (Utah's schools spend the least per student of any state.) UEC sees it as a win-win program either way, but we really hope to be awarded the permit this year. The Forest Service lands surrounding the 5 square mile permit area is acutely damaged by poor grazing practices. Even the Forest Service has conceded that there are problems with livestock grazing in the area.

Trivia

How big of a square does 2,000 acres make?

(The area of the combined cutting units of the Trout Slope West sale.)

If you put one corner of the square on top of the Gateway mall in downtown Salt Lake City, the opposite corner would reach to the pond in Liberty Park!

FOREST WATCH

Trout Slope West Logging Harms Goshawk

UEC appealed a second decision for the Trout Slope West timber sale on the Ashley National Forest. Sound familiar? We first took this timber sale to court in 2004. It went all the way up to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed that decision due to a failure to use the best available science, a requirement under the National Forest Management Act. Unfortunately, the Forest Service made haste in cranking out a second decision as it didn't even look to see what its own goshawk monitoring had told it over the 4 years since the first decision.

The timber company had just started to log in this timber sale area before the Court stopped it last year; 35 out of 2,000 acres to be exact. And it was this logging and log hauling that caused a recently discovered goshawk Nest Area to be abandoned, according to Forest Service's own biologists. Goshawk is a sensitive management indicator species for mature and old growth forests. Due to this there are many rules preventing logging that may harm goshawks. In this case the new nest area is literally inside a cutting unit for this logging project and biologists have documented the nest abandonment. The nest tree itself has been marked for cutting!



Ashley National Forest Logging Project

Part of the reason is that this Nest Area was not discovered until soon after the 2004 decision (that was reversed). After losing in court last year the Forest Service updated its environmental reports without looking to any monitoring done since 2003, so the second decision approved commercial logging of the new active Nest Area, violating a number of Land Management Plan standards and rules. The Forest Service turned down UEC's appeal resolution offer, which would entailed dropping the logging near the goshawks and in old growth. We await a decision from the Regional Office.

Brief Update On Lawsuits Which UEC Is Involved

- **UEC vs. MacWhorter:** UEC is challenging the 10 million board foot Mt. Dutton Timber Sale on the Dixie N. F. The lawsuit is currently before the Federal District Court in Utah.
- **WildEarth Guardians vs. U.S. Fish and Wildlife:** WildEarth Guardians is spearheading this lawsuit with UEC as a co-plaintiff. The aim is to protect the Utah prairie dog, a federally-listed threatened species, from a "transplantation" program in southern Utah that results in a 90% death rate. Attorney Alletta Belin is managing this suit currently before the Federal District Court in Utah.
- **Citizens for Better Forestry vs. U.S.D.A.:** UEC is co-plaintiff in the challenge to the 2008 National Forest Management Act regulations. The suit is headed by Pete Frost of Western Environmental Law Center and Marc Fink of Center for Biological Diversity. It is before the Federal District Court in Northern California.
- **Western Watersheds vs. U.S. Forest Service:** Headed by Laurie Rule of Advocates for the West and Western Watersheds Project, this suit challenges the grazing Categorical Exclusions used frequently across the Western U.S. UEC is a co-plaintiff; and the case is currently before the Federal District Court in Northern California.



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Utah Environmental Congress

PROTECT OUR NATIONAL FORESTS

UEC could use YOUR help this Summer

The Utah Environmental Congress is looking for energetic volunteers to help us staff our booth at festivals and events, organize and do research on issues affecting the National Forests and Wildlife of Utah, as well as envelope stuffing and button making for specific UEC campaigns. We are also looking for volunteers to help us with website maintenance and on-the-ground field studies. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please call (801) 466-4055 or send an email to rachael@uec-utah.org.

Happenings!

UEC will be hosting a booth at the Pioneer Day Festival at Tracy Aviary on the 24th of July. Stop by and visit our UEC Booth, the Tracy Aviary, and enjoy a community cultural festival with food, arts and crafts, booths, and entertainment for Pioneer Day. The event hours are from 10:00am until 6:00pm. After dark the Aviary will hold its annual fireworks celebration, so be sure not to miss out on this exciting occasion!