



Utah Environmental Congress

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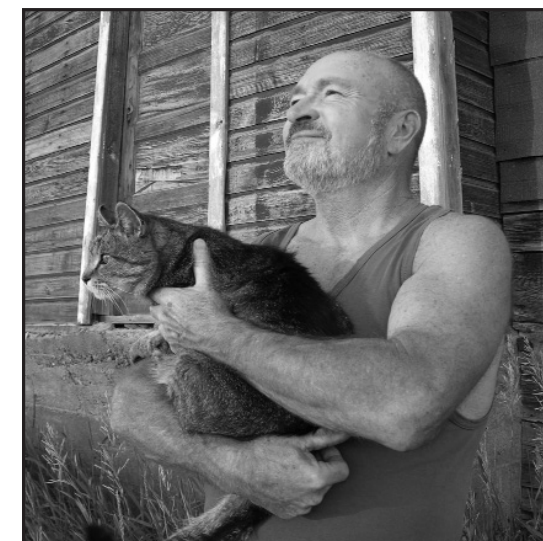
PLEASE JOIN THE UEC IN CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

What's in a Logo?

UEC receives compliments on our logo nearly everywhere we go and thought you would like to know the idea behind it as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary. The center of our logo is a seedling pod representing the birth of the Utah Environmental Congress. It opens up revealing branches reaching towards the sky as a symbol of our growth. From our inception the UEC is a grassroots down to earth member based organization represented by the strong roots growing deep into the soil. The tree symbolizes the National Forests in Utah that we work to protect. Below the tree are wildlife prints whose habitat is preserved because of our work. The circle and earth tone colors signify the interconnectedness of the web of life found in the forest.

Our beautiful logo was created by Kim _____. At our 10th Annual Conference we will have some new merchandise for sale with our logo on it. Items include waterproof Courier Bags made from biodegradable hemp and Tote Bags made from 100% India organic cotton. These one of a kind bags are a great way to show your support for the UEC while making earth-friendly purchases.

Mark the date! On Saturday November 8th, The Utah Environmental Congress will host our annual conference and this year a special celebration to commemorate 10 years of protecting the National Forests and Wildlife of Utah. The evening will kick off at 6:00pm at the beautiful Chase Mill inside Tracy Aviary. Our Keynote speaker is legendary grizzly man and character Hayduke from the Monkey Wrench Gang, Doug Peacock who will present "In the Spirit of Abbey: Protecting wildness during the most perilous time on earth." We will have appetizers generously contributed by Vertical Diner and other delicious treats donated by Carlucci's. We will also be offering a silent auction with all of your favorite gear, books, and gift certificates as well as lively conversation and libations!



Doug and his cat Elk.

Doug is a compassionate supporter of the UEC and is greatly knowledgeable on all issues which the UEC works. Doug has an excellent sense of humor and has captivated audiences for decades. Doug utilizes the spirit and ideals of Ed Abbey to touch on issues like Animal Damage Control, Grazing, Wilderness, Logging, and the desert and forest spirit that motivates us to continue our work protecting wildness.

Please join us for this fantastic opportunity to meet and hear Doug Peacock, show your support for our essential organization, and enjoy a great evening!

The Chase Mill is located inside of Tracy Aviary (589 East 1300 South, Salt Lake City). Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by calling Rachael at 466-4055 or online at www.uec-utah.org!

We hope to see you there!

UEC Waves Farewell to Sarah Tal.

In August the UEC was saddened to hear that our attorney Sarah Tal was leaving for a great opportunity at the district court's office, working for four judges. It is an excellent new career for her, and we are so proud! Sarah has worked hard for the UEC for a little over 2 years.



Utah Environmental Congress

PROTECT OUR NATIONAL FORESTS



This caricature illustration of George Washington Hayduke was created by Robert Crumb for the Edward Abbey book *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. This and other Monkey Wrench Gang illustrations by R. Crumb are available at Ken Sanders Rare books.

For a chance to purchase these items as well as legendary Grizzly Man Doug Peacock's signed limited edition of *Walking it Off* and benefit a local nonprofit be sure to RSVP to our 10th Anniversary Celebration on November 8th with guest speaker Doug Peacock!! Details inside this newsletter or at www.uec-utah.org!



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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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(continued from page 1)

Prior to that Sarah completed an externship with the UEC and Wildlaw in the summer of 2004 where she immediately impressed us with her capabilities and aptitude for law. After law school, Sarah worked for a law firm for some time prior to returning to UEC in 2006 where, among other things, she headed the litigation on projects that she had worked on in her prior UEC externship.

Sarah is an enthusiastic conservationist who is originally from Portland, Oregon. Sarah has been an excellent attorney for UEC using her legal abilities tirelessly providing voice for the forests and wildlife that otherwise would not be represented.



She has a strong passion for animal rights issues and is an active volunteer for CAWS or Community Animal Welfare Society. She is pictured here with her two adopted canines Cletus and Maggie.

We wish Sarah the best of luck in her endeavors and we sincerely appreciate her dedication and hard work protecting our National Forests and Wildlife. Good luck Sarah!

The UEC Welcomes Charles Johnson as our Staff Attorney!

We are pleased to introduce Charlie as our new staff attorney. He is enthusiastic and eager to pursue the mission of the UEC, he is just the person to go the extra mile to help preserve Utah's natural treasures.

Charlie is originally from Utah and recently moved back from Missoula, Montana. While in Montana he earned his BA in History as well as his Juris Doctor from the University of Montana. After school he clerked for the Fifth Judicial District Court in Western Montana prior to moving to Park City to work as an associate attorney. A member of the Montana and Utah bars, Charlie is experienced in Environmental Law; his passion and ambition motivated him to seek out environmentally focused legal work, and luckily he chose UEC!



In the times he's not in the office protecting wild places, he is out enjoying them. He is an avid white water kayaker, skier, and loves spending time with his husky Blue. We are lucky to have Charlie and his education and excellent legal expertise to help preserve the land and its inhabitants.

FOREST WATCH

Reprieve for Roadless Areas on the Aquarius Plateau

In the last Sylvan Sentinel we told you about the recently approved Pockets timber sale on the Dixie National Forest, and that UEC was going to appeal the decision to log 4,000+ acres of spruce and aspen forest. The results are in and the decision has been withdrawn! The decision withdrawal resulted from the appeal resolution process; a mandated opportunity for the appellant and the Forest Service to work out their differences. With the help of co-appellant Mary O'Brien (a UEC member) we succeeded in convincing the Dixie Forest Supervisor of two major points. First, over half of the approved logging would be inside a 'potential wilderness area' (aka roadless area). Second, a large portion of the conifer logging is in live green forest, but that part of the sale is classified as dead-only 'salvage.' Significantly, the Environmental Impact Statement failed to disclose or analyze these issues. The project would have ruined a potential wilderness (roadless) area and habitat for elk, goshawk and flammulated owl.

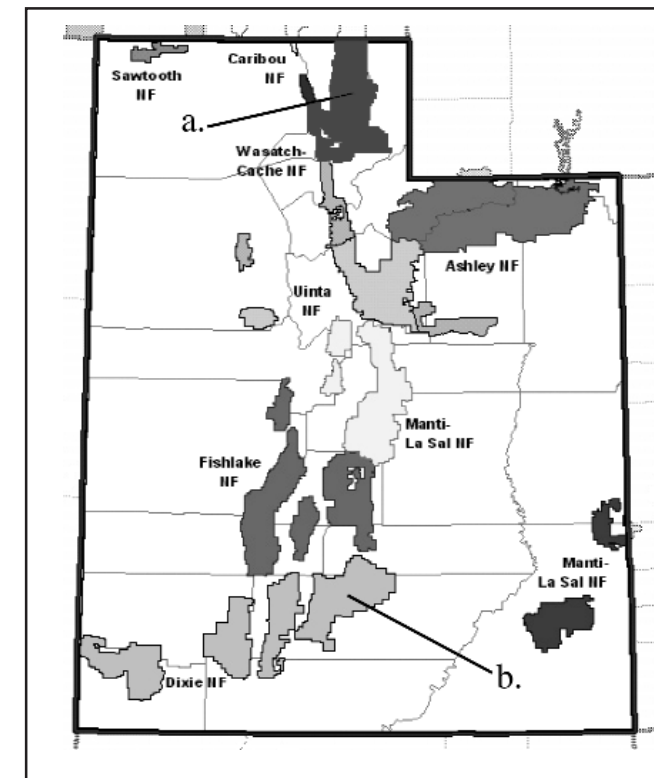
Recently, Supervisor MacWhorter, indicated he would like to initiate a greater degree of cooperation with us, as well as other interested parties. When informing us that he was going to withdraw his decision, MacWhorter invited us to meet in the field weather permitting and work on developing other alternatives and options for the project. No logging in the potential wilderness was the first thing to come up, along with agreement that salvage doesn't mean logging green forest. UEC also suggested that Aspen regeneration clear cuts in the roadless areas could be replaced with prescribed burning, a restoration treatment that mimics natural processes while preserving potential wilderness characteristics. Supervisor McWhorter agreed the EIS needed to be reworked.

We take this as a positive harbinger of things to come. Through the Three Forests Coalition and co-appellants WildEarth Guardians and Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, we have already submitted a very detailed alternative that would protect the roadless areas while achieving forest restoration objectives. We are optimistic that Mr. McWhorter will be a willing participant in future negotiations regarding this project, something that has been lacking with previous Dixie National Forest personnel. We commend him for acknowledging the EIS deficiencies and withdrawing the decision.

State Grazing Bid Update

In the May/June Sylvan Sentinel we told you about UEC's \$10,000 competitive bid on a state ("State Institutional Trust Lands Administration" aka "SITLA") grazing permit in the Bear River Range near the Utah - Idaho border.

Initially UEC thought it would win the 15-year grazing



a. SITLA Bear River b. Reprieve for Roadless

permit. However, it appears the state changed the rules of the game mid-play in order to give the existing permittee an extended period of time to raise the \$10,000 needed to meet UEC's bid. As we understand it anyone, including UEC, has 30 days to place a one-time competitive bid on any allotment after SITLA discloses the permits available for renewal. The holders of the expiring permits have 30 days to match bids placed- or lose their grazing permit. The 30-days passed and the permittee failed to meet UEC's bid but SITLA failed to award the permit to UEC citing it had "reinterpreted" its own rules. SITLA is now allowing the holder of the expiring grazing permit to come up with the money later in the year, when his normal annual grazing fees are due.

Clearly there was political interference in this decision that resulted in a poor deal for the land being grazed, and that frankly cheated the UEC out of a permit it had rightfully bid on and lawfully obtained. But UEC will be back during the next opportunity with further bids and intends to look closer into the process of how SITLA awards bids looking for legal accountability.

UEC sees this process as ultimately a win-win for the land and Utah. UEC received a full refund of its bid to use for another day, and the permittees' \$10,000 match will go straight to the general fund to support Utah public schools that desperately need it. UEC bid on this important permit because the range is in substandard forage conditions and we wanted to improve it for use by wildlife. The rancher who got to keep his permit now has to pay an additional \$10,000 for the privilege of grazing his livestock - hopefully he will now take better care of the land.