



The Stilt

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Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

Hansen Eyes ATV Trail

On March 12, 2002, after meeting secretly for months with ATV organizations and users, Congressman James Hansen introduced legislation that would create a "Shoshone National Recreational Trail System" mandating a focus on motorized recreation on 567 miles of routes in the mountains in northern Utah. The language of this legislation takes a major departure from decades of off-highway vehicle (OHV) management:

"The primary purpose of this Act is to provide recreational opportunities for motorized vehicle use on the Trail. The Trail shall be managed in a manner consistent with this purpose. Non-motorized use of the Trail may be allowed to the extent that such use is compatible with motorized uses." HR 3936, 1(c)(3)

Historically, when trying to manage motorized recreation land managers have sought to prevent negative impacts, promote safety, and reduce user conflicts. In the process, land managers consider wildlife values, soil erosion, the need for quiet recreation, and other factors in making decisions on where people drive their vehicles. HR 3936 would change all of that by

overriding current Forest Service and BLM management making motorized vehicle use the *dominant* use and allowing other uses only when they don't compromise motorized recreation.

This requirement for such focus on motorized use undercuts land managers'

attempts to develop and implement responsible policies in response to changes in the watershed, its wildlife, or other users. Northern Utah is known for its importance to wildlife. Many of the proposed Shoshone motorized trail routes traverse critical

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Shoshone Motorized Trail Proposal

	Miles
Routes on National Forest Land	219.4
Routes on State Lands	47.6
Routes on BLM lands	76.2
Routes on Private lands	259.7
Total for proposed motorized system	566.7
Proposed routes inside roadless areas	
Shoshone motorized routes in Forest Service	
Sugar Pine	0.6
Mollens Hollow	8.0
Temple Peak	11.2
Lone Peak Contiguous	3.6
Willard Peak	0.7
Subtotal	24.0
New motorized routes created by the Sho-	
On National Forest Lands	18.5
On state lands	11.2
On private lands	37.6
Total	67.2
Analysis, Wild Utah Project, April 2002	

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Shoshone ATV Trail

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habitat for elk, moose, and deer. Utah State University analyzed the potential habitat for species at risk and identified 35 animals and 18 plants that are likely to occur in the area where the Shoshone motorized trail system is proposed and which are in serious trouble because of habitat impacts. No studies have been conducted as to the impact that this trail may have on their continued viability.

This law would also take a regressive approach with respect to private property rights. Over 45% of the 567 miles of the proposed Shoshone motorized trail system lies on private lands. Many local landowners in the past have opposed the federal control that the bill suggests on private lands. Once a willing landowner agrees to be part of the Shoshone motorized trail system, that owner would turn over to the Department of the Interior control of vehicle use on the owner's land. This federal control is, for all legal purposes, an encumbrance that restricts the owner's use and sale of land. Many local landowners have waged losing battles to keep all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) off their land and it seems unlikely they would welcome this piece of legislation.

Further, Hansen's bill would undercut current National Forest management on the Logan Ranger District by using the power of Congress to override a long history of local community involvement on a contentious issue. While many of the routes in the Logan District are already designated for motorized use in the Travel Plan, 24 miles of the proposed routes carve paths through roadless areas. The recent Wasatch-Cache Forest Planning

process has collected 3,700 comments from the public, which are being studied, in part, to determine the future management of these and other uses on the forest. Local Forest Service land managers are increasingly frustrated by their inability to prevent ATV abuse as a significant number of these users ignore restrictions and ride off designated trails to create "ghost roads". These illegal routes result in erosion, disturbance to wildlife, and unsightly scars on the land. As more and more ATVs appear, they will travel further off of roads, and the opportunities for quiet, solitude and other recreation activities will diminish substantially. ATV users seem unable to appreciate how their use of the land prevents others from enjoying it and have proven themselves incapable of policing themselves to prevent this land abuse. Hansen's legislation will only encourage more ATVs, more abuse, and make it harder for federal land managers to maintain the quality of the land and wildlife habitats, and provide for non-motorized recreation opportunities.

In order to get his way, Hansen is throwing federal money at an agency that is in dire financial straights. The current state budget crisis has caused the Department of Parks and Recreation to close a number of state parks, an unprecedented action, yet Hansen proposes to spend up to \$5,000,000 dollars for the Shoshone motorized trail system. Where are the priorities for the majority of citizens, who are not motorized users?

The conservation community does not oppose responsible motorized use on public lands. Responsible use means that motorized recreation occurs in deference to the needs of the land and other users. The

What can you do? Write letters to the editor of your local paper. Write letters to Congressman Hansen telling him you don't want to see the Shoshone ATV Trail established; that you don't want to see further encouragement of ATV use because it is already out of control with no prospects for reigning in its impacts. Congressman Hansen is supposed to represent us, too, and that means he should look after the broader public interest by withdrawing his Shoshone ATV Trail bill.

For more photos of problems with the Shoshone Trail, see <http://utah.sierraclub.org/ogden/shoshone/>.

Where to write:
Editor, Logan Herald Journal
75 West 300 North
Logan, UT 84321
Email: hjletter@hjnews.com

The Honorable James V. Hansen
United States House of Representatives
242 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4401
Email: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

language in this Shoshone motorized trail bill removes the checks and balances that are essential to ensure that motorized recreation stays within the limits necessary for the health of the land and its diverse users. Hansen's bill is a bad one intended to benefit a minority of users at the expense of the general public.

—Original essay by Jim Catlin, Wild Utah Project (used with permission), edited for The Stilt by Bryan Dixon, BAS

Green Calendar

Early Summer 2002

8 Birding around Logan for Beginners. This trip is intended to assist beginning birders identify birds, particularly song birds that nest in and around Logan. We will take plenty of time to make sure all participants see and are made aware of the identifying characteristics of the various local birds. We will also try to become acquainted with the songs of some of the more common birds. People of all ages are welcome on this trip. We will meet in the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 East 150 North in Logan) at 8 a.m. and should be finished by about noon. Carpooling will be available and some extra pairs of binoculars will be available for those who request them first. For more information or to reserve a pair of binoculars, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

13 Last General Meeting until Fall. Join us for a slide show on trumpeter swans and their restoration by Ruth Shea, a noted biologist who specializes in trumpeter swans. The meeting begins Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Logan City Building conference room, 255 N. Main St.

15 Boating the Upper Bear River, Overnight Canoe Trip. Come and paddle a wonderful, little-used section of the Bear River with us from Georgetown, Idaho, to Alexander Reservoir by Soda Springs. The reach is about 30 miles long and is mostly flat water with the exception of a few easy class I & II rapids and lots of railroad bridges that add a little excitement. The birding is great and includes nesting bald eagles, cormorants, mergansers, and waxwings, to name a few. Moose and deer are often seen. We will float about 15 miles the first day, leave our canoes in a secure place along the river, and camp in a beautiful little Forest Service campground on the north toe of the Bear River Range called Cold Springs Campground. The next day we will float the last 15 miles to the top of Alexander Reservoir and return home. If you want to throw in \$10, supper and breakfast at camp will be provided, or you can bring your own grub if you prefer. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 East 150 North) with your boat and camping gear. If you have questions, need information, or wish to join in the group food buy, call Bill Masslich at 753-1759.

19 Lean-n-Green Garden Tour. If you're looking for inspiration in converting your thirsty yard into a waterwise paradise, join this self-guided tour of Cache Valley gardens on Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. These gardens feature native plants and xeriscape techniques. Co-sponsored by the Utah Native Plant Society, Cache County Extension, and Cache County Master Gardener Association. Tickets at \$5 per person are available in the Cache County Extension Office (435-752-6263) or at the Master Gardener table at the Cache Valley Gardeners' Market.

22 Birding the South End of Cache Valley. Birding in the canyons and meadows at the south end of Cache Valley is superb and often overlooked. Please join us for a morning of birding up East Canyon and around Paradise and Avon. Walking will be considerable but easy. Some unusual birds such as lesser goldfinches, calliope hummingbirds, and unusual warblers are often encountered. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 East 150 North). You may wish to bring some munchies. For more information, or if you need binoculars, please call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

29 A Visit to the Bear Lake Wildlife Refuge. Many of us go regularly to the Bear River Bird Refuge west of Brigham City, but very few of us get up to the Bear Lake Refuge at the north end of the lake. Join us for a trip there to see the birds and other animals. They are a quite different collection from those seen in Cache Valley or at the Bear River Refuge. We will leave at 7:30 a.m. from the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and the Café Ibis (50 East 150 North). Bring a lunch because we will not be back until mid-afternoon. We will, however, make a stop for raspberry shakes in Garden City. For more information or to reserve binoculars, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

July

13 Tony Grove Wildflower and Bird Walk. This will be a family hike to the Tony Grove Lake area to enjoy wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife. The basins around Tony Grove Lake harbor quiet groves of trees, limestone sinkholes, and high meadows. Wildflowers are abundant, and although the breeding season for the birds will be winding down, it is still a great time to see some of the montane species and possible rarities. The trip leaves at 8 a.m. from the parking lot between the Logan Fire Station and Café Ibis (50 East 150 North) Reinhard Jockel will be our trip leader. Bring binoculars and a picnic lunch. For more information or to reserve binoculars, call Dick Hurren (435) 734-2653.

Local Notes

Bryan's Song

Our own Bryan Dixon should be warbling a tune to rival the meadowlark's, for he has been selected to receive the prestigious Callison Award, a national award for extraordinary volunteer service in Audubon activities and programs.

The nomination was written by Jack Greene, another powerhouse in our Chapter, who enumerated all of Bryan's hard work, leadership and vision as regards Bridgerland Audubon, Stokes Nature Center, our new Barrens Sanctuary, the Wetland Maze canoe route through Cutler Marsh, persuasive revision of the draft Forest Plan for our National Forest, and on and on.

Bryan flies to Lincoln Nebraska to receive the award later this summer. We knew he deserved it, but we are gratified that he is receiving due recognition for his wonderful and persistent contribution to life in northern Utah. ALL the region's life!

Barrens Update

As of this writing, we're moving forward on several fronts:

- Documents are being drafted to transfer the land as soon as possible from Bio-Resources to BAS with a promissory note to document our debt.
- We're applying for several grants to help pay for the purchase and improvements.
- A fund-raising letter and brochure have been sent out to all BAS members.
- The tilled area near the road will be planted in oats this year to minimize weeds

- Transects for bird and vegetation monitoring are being established.
- We've started planning for the necessary fences and a small parking area.
- Todd Sherman has volunteered to survey the site for wetlands and develop a map to guide us.

Many other ideas have been articulated to help with this project and some are in the works. If you've got another one, call Jim Cane, 713-4668, or Bryan Dixon, 752-6830.

NOTE: Please avoid taking your dog to the Barrens Sanctuary this spring. There are many nesting birds in the grass and along the edges of the wetlands.

Logan High Wins State Envirothon

For the third consecutive year, Logan High School has won the state Envirothon competition!

BAS has helped sponsor this wonderful event since its inception five years ago. This year's competition was held at Dinosaur National Monument at the Green River campground. Dinosaur field professionals, along with various Conservation Districts, and other organizations and agencies helped make this our best event yet.

The birding was great. While his students were busy flexing their academic muscle, Mr. Greene, team advisor, was busy chasing birds, and came up with an impressive 45 species along the Green River near the campground. Sixteen teams from around the

state showed up, giving us the highest number to compete to date. Teams compete in five different topics— forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and exotic invasive species, this year's special issue. The LHS winning team of Cassey Anderson, Jenna Forsyth, Erika Neely, Mark Sailor, and Katie Trieu will now head for Amherst College in Massachusetts for the international competition. Thanks BAS for your support!

SNC Seeks Director

Stokes Nature Center Executive Director Jen Levy will be departing from this position on June 28th. Jen will be sorely missed. She has served as SNC for nearly five years. Under Jen's leadership, SNC has experienced remarkable growth in its first five years and now has three full-time and two part-time staff, who are fully occupied with the tremendous demands for their outstanding nature education programs. You will find a job description on the SNC web site at www.logannature.org.

Call for Volunteers

Volunteers are crucial to many of the Stokes Nature Center operations and programs. We will be in special need this summer as the transition to a new executive director will be especially demanding, so if you, or anyone you know might be interested, please contact SNC at 755-3239.

For Sale

Bausch and Lomb Elite 10x40 binoculars, fresh from factory refurbishment. Waterproof and in excellent condition. Asking \$500. Contact Jean Lown, 752-6830.

Welcome to BAS

New Members

M Culbertson
 Kathy French
 Lawrence & Cindy Furse
 Diane Browning Oblock
 Peg Petrzelka
 Kathy Weber

Renewing Members

Cheryl & Brett Adams
 Fred Baker
 Ben Baldwin
 Martha H Balph
 Beth Booton
 Ms Ruth Eller

Deborah Eshelman
 Edward & Deborah
 Evans
 Barbara Farris
 Jack Greene
 R N Hirst, Jr
 Mark Leonhardt
 Jill Morgan
 Mrs Rosalie Mueggler

D Obray
 Belinda Perrell
 Ron Ryel
 Dr R J Shaw
 Jim Sinclair
 Mr Michael J Stones
 F H Wagner
 Michael L Wolfe
 Dr Janet Lee Young

Bridgerland Audubon contacts

Trustees

1999-2002 Jim Cane, 713-4668; Allen Christensen, 258-5018
 Val Grant 752-7572 ; Dick Hurren, 734-2653
 2000-2003 Mae Coover, 752-8871; Ron Goede, 752-9650
 Teri Peery, 753-3249
 2001-2004 Merr Lundahl, 753-1707; Dick Drown 752-3797

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Membership in the Bridgerland Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Stilt*, as well as *Audubon* magazine. The editor of *The Stilt* invites submissions of any kind, due on the 15th of each month. Send to stiltnews@hotmail.com.

National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to contribute to Audubon and receive the Bridgerland Audubon newsletter, *The Stilt*, and the *National AUDUBON* magazine, as a:

- _____ New member of the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon.
- _____ Renewing member of the National Audubon Society and Bridgerland Audubon.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed (\$20 membership dues)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



Please make all checks payable to National Audubon Society and send with this card to:
 National Audubon Society
 Membership Data Center
 PO Box 51001
 Boulder, CO 80322-1001
 W-52 Local Chapter Code: 7XCHA

Note to new National Audubon members: To get on *The Stilt* newsletter mailing list without the usual 8 week delay, contact Susan Durham, 753-5637, sdurham@cc.usu.edu.

Prefer the local newsletter only? Send \$20 and this form to: Bridgerland Audubon Society, PO Box 3501, Logan, UT 84323-3501 for a subscription to *The Stilt*.

National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to selected organizations. To have your name omitted from this, please check this box.



The Stilt

Newsletter of the Bridgerland Audubon Society

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