

BACKCOUNTRY PROGRAM WATERSHED REPORT 2004



Volunteer Trail Work Day: Lake Mary Trail, Big Cottonwood Canyon Utah

Salt Lake Ranger District, Wasatch–Cache National Forest



**USDA
Forest Service**
*Caring for the Land and
Serving People*



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INTRODUCTION

Another productive field season has come to an end with the US Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities working as partners to manage the backcountry watershed areas of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Both agencies have worked together under an agreement for many years. The purpose of the agreement is to provide watershed protection on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the City watershed.

In part, the agreement uses City funds for two Backcountry Rangers who complete resource protection projects, educate visitors, and enforce City and Forest watershed regulations. The US Forest Service's responsibilities are to hire, train, and supervise personnel, as well as to provide transportation and equipment. As part of the agreement, the US Forest Service reports on the accomplishments that result from this agreement by the end of each season. The goals, objectives and accomplishments for the 2004 season make up the bulk of this report. It is summarized with a conclusion followed by an appendix. Additional information is available upon request.

The information that makes up the charts and tables of this report comes from a database developed and maintained by the Forest Service to track and monitor the accomplishments that result from this agreement. The charts and tables display the same information as in the 2003 report with the addition of the 2004 field season's accomplishments. Some of last year's data may be slightly different in this report from the 2003 report. This is due to the correction of some errors found in the database.

Both the US Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities have benefited over the past few years from a hard working and dedicated crew. Both of the Rangers paid through this agreement have continued to return each season minimizing the time lost to training and area familiarization. The crew's accumulated knowledge and familiarity with the area gained over the years makes each day of the season productive for on-the-ground project work. This year, both Rangers took the opportunity to improve their skills by attending a one-week restoration course. The course provided them with knowledge and skills in how to effectively close and rehabilitate heavily impacted recreation sites in mountain environments.

It has long been recognized that areas designated by Congress as Wilderness help preserve and protect watershed's. They do this by minimizing the type of developments or management actions that can occur on those lands, primarily leaving them in an undisturbed state. Our local Wilderness areas are good examples of that and have been congressionally protected for years. Although the acts that legislatively protected our Wilderness areas were subsequent to the original Wilderness Act of 1964, its 40th anniversary was celebrated this year as part of our educational efforts.

Many hours were spent by Joelle Dickson (Backcountry Ranger Staff) organizing a three part educational speaker series in commemoration of the Wilderness Acts 40th anniversary. The speaker series was free to the public and included a variety of topics and speakers including our Mayor Rocky Anderson. A more detailed write-up on the series can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document.



GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To fulfill its responsibility under the agreement with the City, the Forest Service has four main goals that drive the summer backcountry program operations. The program aims to educate visitors in backcountry areas and ensure compliance with regulations. It works to improve the quality of National Forest System (NFS) lands within the watersheds, inventory and monitor backcountry conditions and to maintain a volunteer program. Information is collected with regards to each goal that helps us to monitor our effectiveness. Below, each of the four goals are presented, followed by objectives to meet those goals. Then, based on monitoring, our accomplishments and areas of needed improvement are discussed.

Goal 1. Have a presence in the backcountry to improve public awareness of watershed issues and ensure compliance with watershed regulations.

Objectives

- Patrol the backcountry areas of the municipal watershed regularly.
- Educate the public about watershed issues.
- Educate the public about Leave No Trace hiking and camping techniques.
- Distribute educational literature to the public if needed.
- Erect and maintain educational posters and signs at all trailheads and lakes.
- Contact visitors observed in violation of watershed restrictions and issue warnings or citations.

Accomplishments

Roughly the same number of Rangers (in uniform), volunteer and paid staff patrolled the backcountry this year, hiking a total of 346 miles. This number is down by nearly half (48%) from last year suggesting the range of variability that can be expected each season. Depending on the type of projects, time spent in training and the prioritization of time, the amount of miles covered by Rangers can vary as well as the amount of other work that gets accomplished.

In the backcountry, Rangers record the number of visitors they encounter (observe) each day while on the trail. This tally of users does not fully represent actual use. Rather, it reflects a relative level of use for each trail. The number of encounters recorded by trail and the seasonal totals are a function of several factors. The more popular a trail is, the greater the actual use is and a higher number of hikers may encounter a Ranger. Also, seasonal totals by trail are influenced by how often a trail was patrolled and by the number of Rangers (staff and volunteer) out patrolling.

Comparing the total annual number of encounters is useful as a measure of our presence in the backcountry. It also gives us an idea of the number of visitors our Rangers could potentially contact with key messages about protecting the resource. Each season we attempt to increase our presence by working with volunteer Rangers (in uniform) to help us patrol. As Figure 1 illustrates, last year, 5,563 visitors were encountered in the backcountry versus 4,303 visitors this year (down 23%). Covering



fewer miles this season likely contributed to a lower number of encounters and somewhat less of a presence in the backcountry.

Backcountry Ranger Visitor Encounters by Area 2002-2004

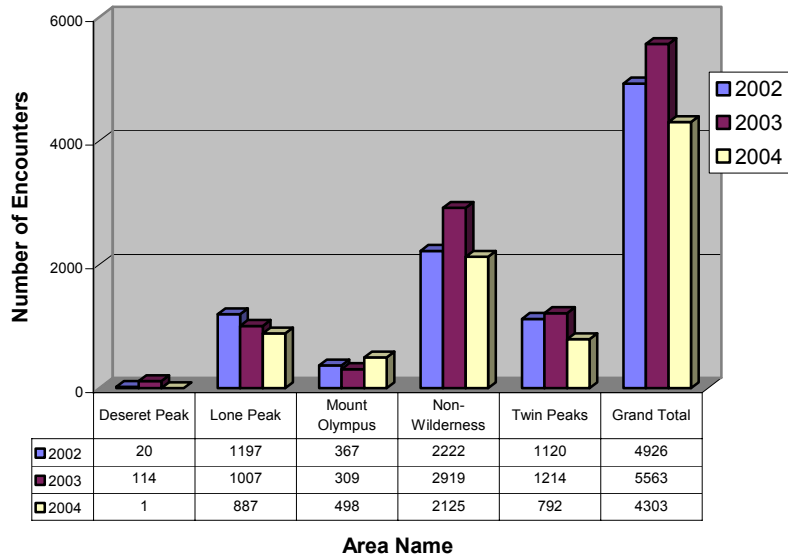


Figure 1: The number of visitors encountered by a USFS Backcountry Ranger (staff and volunteer) in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, Salt Lake City, UT during the summers 2002-2004 as a result of the partnership between Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service.

One reason to patrol the backcountry is to have Rangers available to make contact with visitors, answering questions and delivering key messages about protecting the resource. Rangers track these contacts throughout the season. Contacts are different from encounters. Contacts are those encounters in which either a minimum five-minute Leave No Trace (LNT) specific or watershed specific conversation took place. Not all encounters with visitors lend themselves to either a LNT or watershed contact. For example, LNT is typically reserved for those contacts made with campers who represent only a fraction of the visitors encountered. Rangers often make other contacts with the public, answering questions, etc. These more general contacts are not recorded or monitored. Other times, visitors simply go about their hike and show little interest in stopping for a conversation. Our contacts usually only occur with those that are interested or those that are in violation.

Figure 2 shows the number of contacts by watershed area for the last three seasons. The same factors affecting encounters influence the number of contacts that are reported by trail (i.e. the number of Rangers available and how often a trail is patrolled) so it seems inappropriate to compare trails. Comparing annual totals allow us to monitor how many visitors we are able to reach with these key messages. The chart shows that a five minute, Leave No Trace specific message was delivered to 277 visitors this season



(down 32%). Additionally, 415 watershed specific messages were given to backcountry visitors (down 26%). (Note: watershed contacts were not tracked in 2002.)

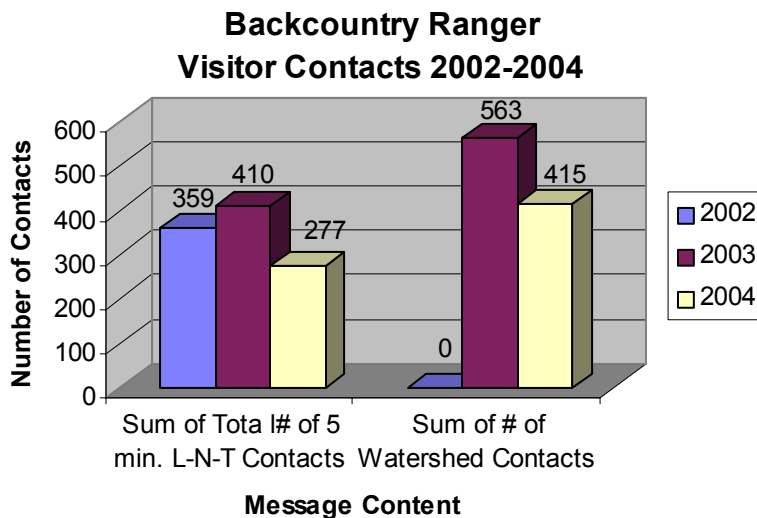


Figure 2: Visitor contacts made by USFS Backcountry Rangers (staff and volunteers) in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons 2002-2004 as a result of the partnership between Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service. (Note: watershed contacts were not tracked in 2002)

Given that we had less of a presence in the backcountry this year, despite our volunteer Ranger’s help, it seems reasonable that we reached fewer visitors with these key messages. Regardless, literature about watershed and LNT hiking and camping techniques were given to many individuals as well as groups affiliated with organizations such as church groups, boys and girls clubs, and hiking clubs. One specifically successful effort was made through a presentation to eighty-second graders about Leave No Trace and Watershed. Ideally, we would like to see both numbers improve.

Trailhead signs and bulletin boards were maintained throughout the summer. Frequently these signs are vandalized and need replacement or updated to inform visitors of new rules, fire closures, hunting and hiking information. Most of the new signs with the “Keep it Pure” theme have been installed and greatly improve the quality and availability of information for canyon visitors. All those responsible for this much needed improvement are to be commended.

Figure 3 compares the number of violations and warnings issued by Rangers for the 2004 season. The past two years, warnings and citations were not separated in the database and so they were compared in the 2003 report as the total of both warnings and citations for each type of infraction. This year, and in the future they will be separated as in Figure 3, which shows only the 2004 data. Camping, Swimming and dogs were the most often broken rules this year. When contacting visitors, the goal is always to try education before issuing citations. However, Rangers issued 41 warnings and 7 violations this year.



Violations and Warnings

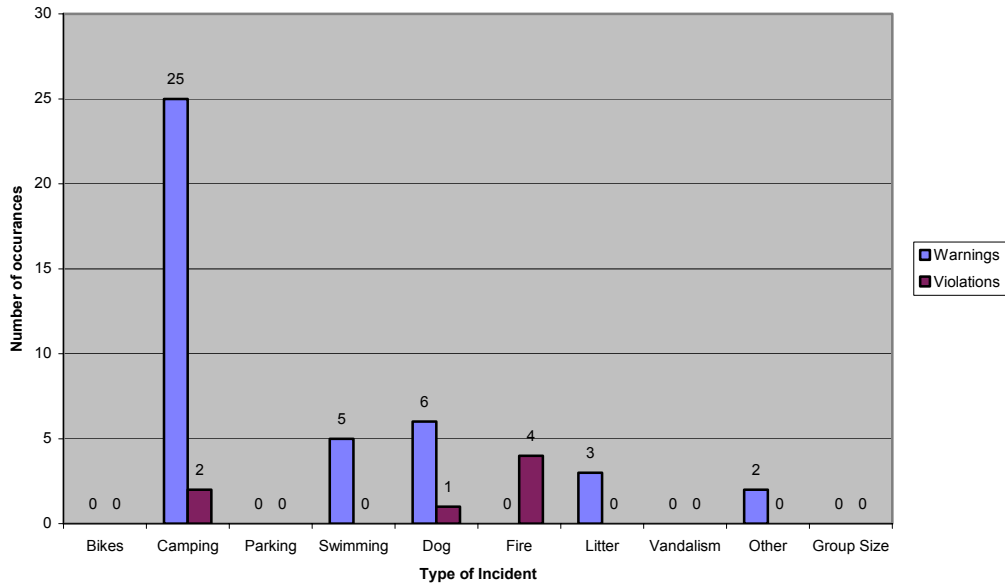


Figure 3: The number of violations and warnings by type of infraction issued by USFS Backcountry Rangers for the 2004 season in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons as a result of the partnership with Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service.

It is interesting to document how many of the various types of violations occur each year. Ultimately, we would like to see all of these numbers go down next year. However, it is recognized that limited staffing can only have so much of an effect on visitor behavior. An increased presence through additional volunteer and paid Rangers may improve our success at lowering these instances of non-compliance. Volunteers however, can only issue warnings and not citations.

Goal 2. To protect and improve the quality of NFS lands within Salt Lake City watershed.

Objectives

- Maintain and improve existing trails to prevent excessive impacts and erosion.
- Rehabilitate all backcountry campsites located within 200 feet of water and any other heavily impacted sites.

Accomplishments

Most watershed impacts in the backcountry come from visitor use. Our objectives are targeted at minimizing these impacts. The season typically starts with an effort to clear the trails of fallen trees. If trails are not cleared, visitors go around them often damaging vegetation and increasing erosion. Maintaining and building the trail's water management structures are critical for a sustainable trail system. Paid staff and a



number of volunteers worked together to complete a variety of trail maintenance projects. Some volunteers work as Ranger's in uniform and others work at their convenience or on special work days unidentified as US Forest Service volunteer staff. Most of the work reported occurred within the boundaries of the municipal watershed. Some volunteers venture outside those areas and help maintain other trails and that fraction of the accomplishments are not filtered out because the management of those volunteers results from this partnership.

This season, the crew cleared 65 trees, maintained or built 139 water bars and 23 check dams on the trails. They also rehabilitated 35 eroding switchback cuts. In areas where the tread was washed out, eroded or unstable, 2,013 feet of tread was rebuilt. Camping impacts in sensitive areas were dealt with by removing 59 fire rings to discourage their use. Eight of the most excessively used sites were rehabilitated and naturalized.

A comparison of the work done (2002-2004) can be seen in Figure 4. It generally shows the program accomplishments with regards to each type of trail maintenance project. There are likely going to be fluctuations in the amount and type of trail maintenance work done each year. It depends in part on how trail structures are holding up to use and weather and how difficult specific projects are. Re-tread was excluded from the figure this year because the units are so large that they distorted the scale. The linear feet of trail re-tread 2002-2004 was 1,064, 565 and 2,013 respectively.

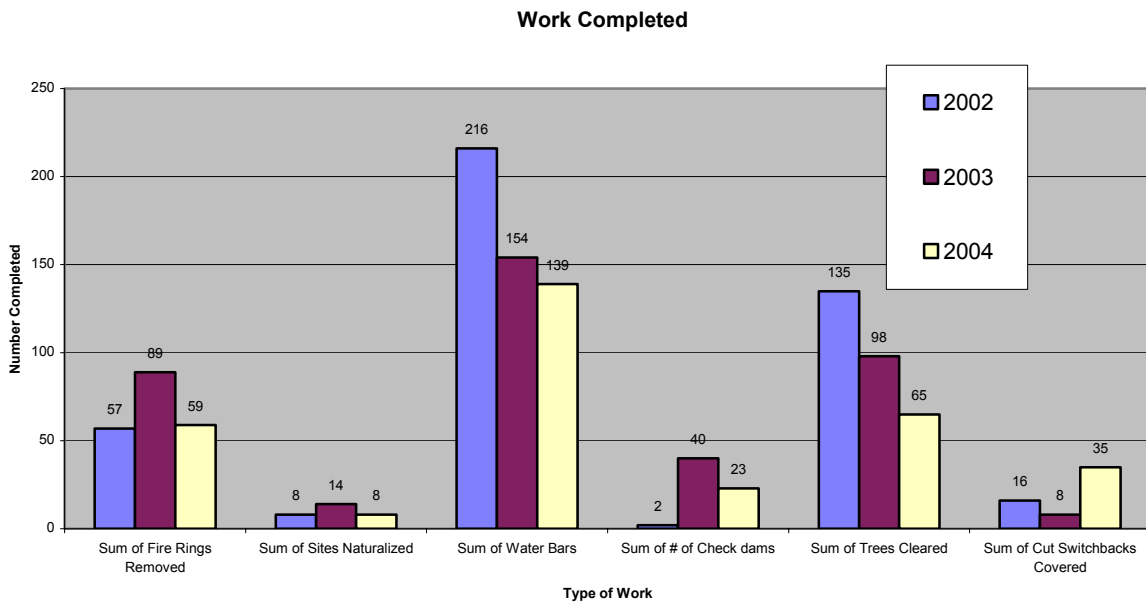


Figure 4: Trail work completed by USFS Backcountry Rangers and volunteers in the Tri-Canyon area of the Salt Lake Ranger District as a result of the partnership between Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service.



Goal 3. To inventory and monitor Backcountry conditions.

Objectives

- Utilize trail counters to monitor trends in visitor use.
- Locate campsites, signs and structures using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and transfer all data into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for mapping and spatial analysis.
- Monitor the number of cars at trailheads.

Accomplishments

In an effort to better understand how many visitors use some of our trails we started a trail counter program in 2003. Trail counters give us an idea of the general level of use. We installed four counters on various trails (2 high use and 2 low use trails). This use survey is not meant to be statistically valid and an absolute measure of use. Nevertheless, it will add significantly to our understanding of the general level of use on these trails. Unfortunately, more trail counters were not installed this summer on other trails as planned last year. Even with the help of volunteers, monitoring the counters proved to be an additional burden, which could not be expanded given the current staffing level and workload. Figure 5 shows the level of use recorded on the four trails the past two summers. Something to note is the relatively high use level September to mid October when program funding runs out.

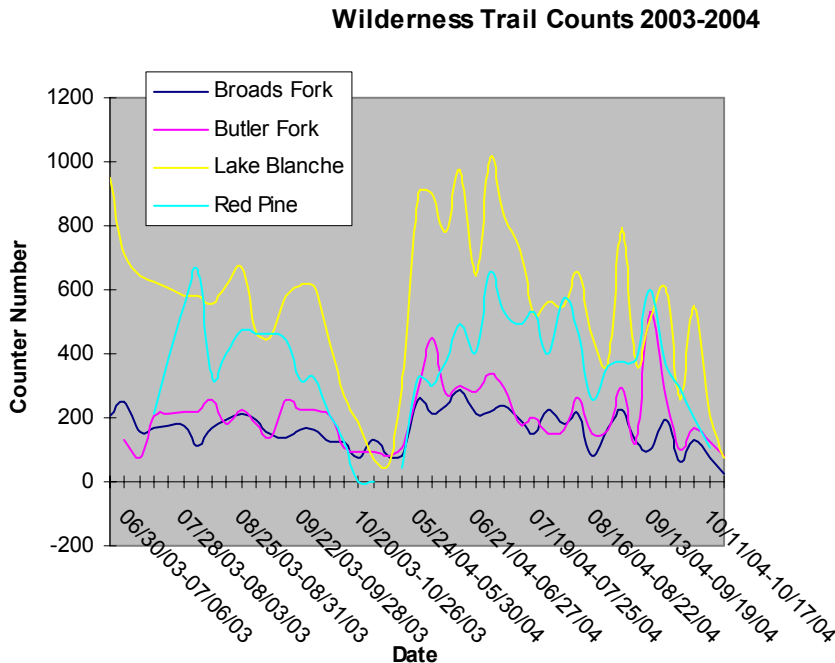


Figure 5: Visitor use (spring – fall) recorded by trail counters on four trails in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons 2003-2004 as a result of the partnership between Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service.



Our other inventory programs, the campsite and backcountry sign inventory are complete for those areas within the municipal watershed. Areas outside of the watershed boundaries are not being inventoried at this time due to budget constraints.

After consulting with USFS staff, it was decided that we would no longer keep track of the number of cars in trailhead parking lots annually. We have that information for 2003 and may decide in the future to spend another season tracking this information for comparison. It was decided that there is little utility in tracking vehicles each year but it may be useful as time passes to do another survey.

Goal 4. Implement a consistent volunteer program utilizing local groups and individuals.

Objectives

- Coordinate with interested groups and individuals and schedule volunteer work projects.
- Conduct training sessions with volunteers that prepare them for project work. Topics include, but are not limited to, tool use, trail construction and maintenance, rehabilitation, and personal safety.
- Increase the recruitment and use of uniform wearing volunteer Rangers to increase presence and make visitor contacts.

Accomplishments

In 2002 we developed a volunteer program to increase our effectiveness under this agreement. There are many benefits to this program in addition to helping get work done on the ground. It genuinely involves the public with management and protection of the resource and builds relationships with the community. The coordinators from Save Our Canyons and the Wasatch Mountain Club, Gayle Parry and Chris Bilotft were given awards in recognition of the time and effort they put into coordinating volunteers on behalf of their organizations and the National Forest. Each of them received a certificate, a Leave No Trace t-shirt and a volunteer pin.

The volunteer hours for the past three seasons are presented in Table 1 showing which watershed areas the various groups helped maintain. Figure 6 compares the number of hours contributed by the various groups for the same time period. The number of volunteer hours decreased 25% from 1,150 last year to 867 this year. The reason for this is unclear, but fluctuation from year to year is expected. The work that was accomplished by these volunteers truly helped leverage the accomplishments that would have been realized under this agreement if the funded staff had worked without their help. All of the volunteers received a Leave No Trace or Keep it Pure bumper sticker as a thank you and are to be commended for their effort.



Sum of Hours Worked			Group Name or Individual					
Fiscal Year	Program Area	wilderness name	Bear 100	Individual	Save Our Canyons	Wasatch 100	Wasatch Mt Club	Grand Total
2002	Wilderness/Backcountry	Lone Peak		34	12			46
		Mount Olympus		53	42		20	115
		Non-Wilderness		44	6			50
		Twin Peaks		14	90		20	124
		Wilderness/Backcountry Total			145	150		40
2002 Total				145	150		40	335
2003	Wilderness/Backcountry	Deseret Peak		9				9
		Lone Peak		86		24		110
		Mount Olympus		220	52		45	317
		Non-Wilderness		307	144	16	84	551
		Twin Peaks		99	31		33	163
Wilderness/Backcountry Total				721	227	40	162	1150
2003 Total				721	227	40	162	1150
2004	Wilderness/Backcountry	Lone Peak		30				30
		Mount Olympus		119	52		22	193
		Non-Wilderness	6	342	62	18	42	470
		Twin Peaks		54	18	78	24	174
		Wilderness/Backcountry Total		6	545	132	96	88
2004 Total			6	545	132	96	88	867
Grand Total			6	1411	509	136	290	2352

Table 1: The sum of volunteer hours by area and volunteer group as a result of the partnership with Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service 2002-2004.

Volunteer Hours by Group

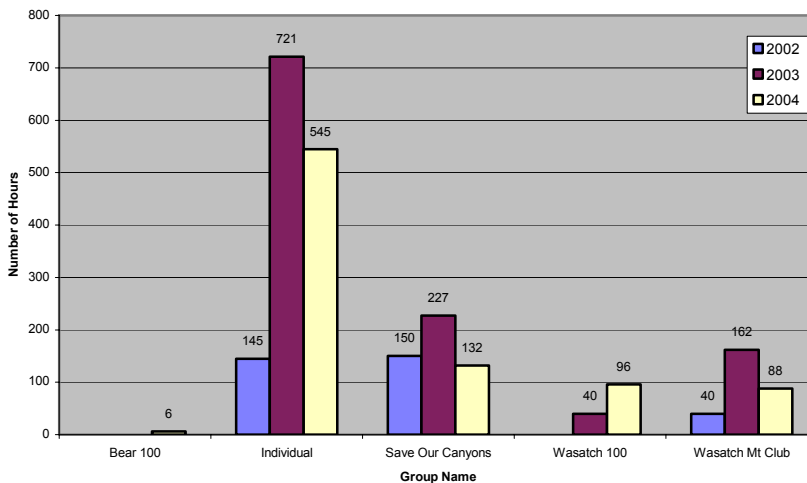


Figure 6: The number of hours volunteered by various groups and individuals 2002-2004 in the backcountry areas of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon UT as a result of the partnership between Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the US Forest Service.



Three local groups consistently helped us in maintenance and restoration projects, the Wasatch Front 100 runners (WF100), Save Our Canyons (SOC) and the Wasatch Mountain Club (WMC). These groups donated 96, 132 and 88 hours respectively. The WMC and SOC teamed up and volunteered on four pre-scheduled project days. The WF100 helped on some of those days as well as others. Each session began with a safety and tool talk that serves as training for new volunteers and a refresher for returning volunteers.

Group volunteer projects included much needed trail maintenance and repair which helps minimize erosion. A day was spent doing trail maintenance on the Mill B North and Lake Blanche trails. Another day was spent on the Mount Olympus Trail and a third day was spent on the upper half of the Lake Mary Trail. A fourth group volunteer day was spent closing an illegal mountain bike trail adjacent to Little Cottonwood Creek between Tanner's Campground and the upper end of the Little Cottonwood Trail. This unauthorized trail would likely lead to watershed and wildlife impacts.

Gayle Parry, the SOC volunteer coordinator was again instrumental in managing the Save Our Canyons volunteer program from their side. Much of the summer work (132 hours) was accomplished with their volunteers and articles were published in their summer 2004 newsletters (Appendices 2 & 3). These newsletter articles are great because they advertise the watershed impacts associated with use as well as how those impacts are mitigated. They also advertise the volunteer program to their members and demonstrate how SOC and WMC are working as partners with the US Forest Service in managing these areas.

Most of the volunteer help came from individuals who worked with us part-time (545 hours). Three of these volunteers worked as Rangers, in uniform. They patrolled with us, and alone to make public contacts and do trail work. Other individuals helped by doing trail work and giving us feedback as to work that needed to be done.

We hope to be able to recruit full-time and part-time help in the future as it increases the effectiveness of this program. Coordinating a volunteer staff is extremely demanding. The two Rangers currently funded through this agreement make this possible. They train, direct and coordinate all of the volunteer projects and daily patrols. Without these positions, it is unlikely that a watershed volunteer program, the work it accomplishes and the relationships it builds would exist at all.

CONCLUSION


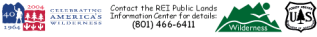


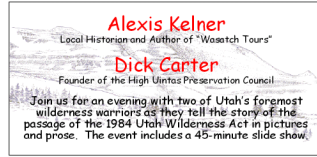

Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons are vital resources to the Salt Lake valley, not only as watershed, but also as recreation areas for the valley's rapidly expanding population. Due to the ease of access into the canyons from Salt Lake City, pressure from public recreational use will continue to increase. Maintenance of the quality of the Salt Lake City watershed is dependent on the continued coordination of planning and activities between Salt Lake City Public Utilities, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the Salt Lake County Sheriff, Alta Town Marshals, and other agencies responsible for watershed protection. The cooperation of businesses operating in the canyons, interested non-profit organizations, and the public is also necessary to protect the watersheds of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

This report demonstrates how the US Forest Service meets its responsibility in the



agreement with Salt Lake City Public Utilities. The program is set up so that our efforts and progress can be tracked. It shows how the funds are used through the accomplishments. The USFS wishes to continue in this agreement, as it is an effective way to maintain and protect the watershed areas of Little and Big Cottonwood canyons. We look forward to working with Salt Lake City Public Utilities and all of our volunteer partners again in the summer's to come.

APPENDIX 1

<p>CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF AMERICAN WILDERNESS</p> <p>The Wasatch-Cache National Forest presents: "Wild by Law"</p> <p>This 1991 documentary film chronicles the evolution of American attitudes toward wilderness through its three main heroes:</p>  <p>Bob Marshall Howard Zahniser Aldo Leopold</p> <p>Salt Lake City Main Library Auditorium 210 East 400 South</p> <p>June 22, 7:00-8:30 PM</p> <p>FREE ADMISSION</p> 	<p>CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF AMERICAN WILDERNESS</p> <p>The Wasatch-Cache & Ashley National Forests Present: "Values of Wilderness"</p>  <p>Rocky Anderson Salt Lake City Mayor Values of Wilderness to Urban Residents</p> <p>Wayne Padgett National Forest Ecologist Ecological Values of Wilderness</p> <p>Margaret Pettis Poet, Artist, & Teacher Intangible Human Values of Wilderness</p> <p>Salt Lake City Main Library Auditorium 210 East 400 South</p> <p>Monday, July 19, 7:00-8:30 PM</p> <p>FREE ADMISSION</p> 	<p>CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF UTAH WILDERNESS</p> <p>The Wasatch-Cache & Ashley National Forests Present: "Utah Wilderness Act"</p>  <p>Alexis Kelter Local Historian and Author of "Wasatch Tours"</p> <p>Dick Carter Founder of the High Uintas Preservation Council</p> <p>Join us for an evening with two of Utah's foremost wilderness warriors as they tell the story of the passage of the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act in pictures and prose. The event includes a 45-minute slide show!</p> <p>Salt Lake City Main Library Auditorium 210 East 400 South</p> <p>Tuesday, August 10, 7:00-8:30 PM</p> <p>FREE ADMISSION</p> 
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40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act Speaker Series By Joelle Dickson, Backcountry Ranger

This summer I organized and presented three public events celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with financial support from the Intermountain Regional Office and the Salt Lake and Duchesne Ranger Districts. The events were held at the Salt Lake City Main Library Auditorium on June 22, July 19, and August 10. All of the events were presented in the evenings and were free and open to the public. The overall goal of the events was to educate the public about the history and values of Wilderness in Utah and nationwide. The objectives of each event precede the event descriptions below.

The objective of the first event was to provide an introduction to the Wilderness Act and the philosophy behind Wilderness preservation. This event began with a 20 minute Powerpoint presentation that outlined the major themes of the 1964 Wilderness Act and introduced the basis for Wilderness designation and management as we know it today. Following this introduction, the 1991 documentary feature that traces the events and attitudes leading to the passage of the Wilderness Act, "Wild By Law" was screened. Event attendance was 90 people, determined by a head count.

The objective of the second event was to encourage people to think about what Wilderness means and what values it provides to both the human and natural communities. This event featured three speakers. Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson spoke to the values of local Wilderness to Salt Lake Valley residents, reminding the attendees that the Wilderness areas outside of Salt Lake City provide residents with clean air, water and outstanding recreation opportunities. He also pointed out that even if we never visit Wilderness, we can still protect Wilderness values by making environmentally sound choices in our everyday lives.

Wasatch-Cache Forest ecologist Wayne Padgett spoke about the ecological values of Wilderness and focussed his discourse on rare plants, biological soils, plant community changes over time, and the effects of fire and disease in local ecosystems. A question and answer period followed Wayne's presentation.

Margaret Pettis, poet, artist, teacher, and wife of High Uintas Preservation Council founder Dick



Carter, rose to the challenge of imparting the intangible values of Wilderness to the soul, psyche and spirit. Margaret’s endearing personality and story-telling abilities shined as she interspersed reading nature-inspired poetry of her own and others’ with stories of her own Wilderness experiences. Event attendance was 46 people.

The objective of the third event was to provide insight into the grassroots efforts that are required in order to preserve and protect Wilderness areas. This event focussed on the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act and featured two local Wilderness advocates, historian and author Alexis Kelner and Dick Carter. Alexis gave a 45-minute slide presentation of photos documenting and explaining the importance of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 which designated Utah’s first Wilderness area, Lone Peak. Alexis was instrumental in lobbying for the inclusion of Lone Peak in the 1978 Act and deftly described its importance as the forerunner to the passage of the Utah Wilderness Act in 1984. Dick Carter, without photos, painted a vivid picture of the fight to pass the 1984 act, from introducing us to the major activists and politicians involved to a poignant description of his experience testifying before Congress. Lively question and answer periods followed both presentations. This event was attended both by a BYU reporter and by Tom Wharton of the Salt Lake Tribune (see articles attached). Event attendance was 60 people.

Press releases for each event were sent to all major media sources, three community radio stations (public service announcements were produced at one station monthly), and an alternative monthly magazine. Event posters were placed at the tri-canyon trailheads, city libraries, the University of Utah and outdoor retail shops in the valley. Announcements were also published in the Save Our Canyons and Wasatch Mountain Club publications, and e-mail alerts sent to members of these and other local environmental organizations. Event information was also available at the Public Lands Information Center and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest web site. Before each event, information tables were staffed outside the auditorium by a ranger from each of the two participating districts.

The granted budget to produce the events was \$400. The table below itemizes total costs of the events. Receipts for all items are available on request. Library space was donated at a value of \$180.00. I spent 77 hours organizing, coordinating and presenting the events. My salary (GS-5) was paid jointly by the Salt Lake and Duchesne Ranger Districts. Ken Straley, Wilderness Manager for the Duchesne District was an instrumental partner, as he also designed and produced the event posters, and invited Dick Carter and Margaret Pettis to participate.

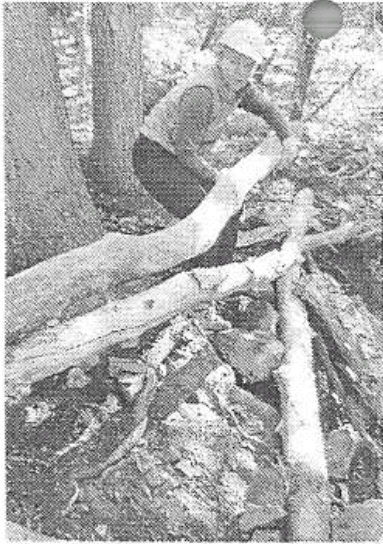
Item	Cost
Grommets to hang Wilderness banner	\$4.50
Gifts for volunteer speakers	\$140.25
SLC Library audio/visual support	\$250.00
Mail Wilderness banner to Ogden	\$5.30
Total Costs	\$400.05

I think the events were successful in accomplishing the goal and objectives of the series. The movie and speakers were well received and questions posed during question and answer periods were thoughtful and promoted discussion of relevant issues. As was mentioned by Dick Carter in his presentation (and by Tom Wharton in his article) the majority of event attendees were veteran Wilderness supporters. Precious few young people chose to spend three summer evenings in celebration of their inherited legacy, yet I was buoyed when Jenn Colby from the Kamas Ranger District brought her young group of volunteer Wilderness rangers to all of the events. I am



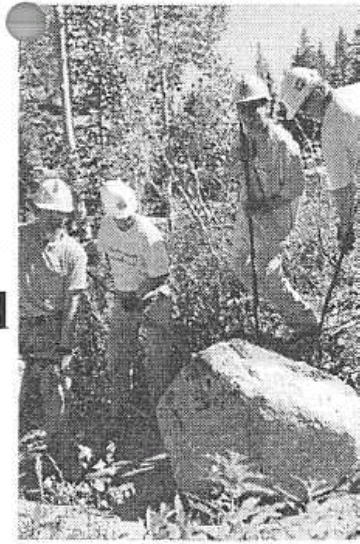
grateful for having had the opportunity to present these events. It was an enriching experience for me not only because it increased my level of knowledge and dedication to Wilderness preservation, but also gave me experience doing something important outside of my normal sphere of duties.

APPENDIX 2



SOC's Wilderness Volunteers Look Forward to Third Season

By Gayle Parry
(SOC's Volunteer Coordinator)



Save Our Canyons Wilderness Volunteers are riding high from the very successful 2003 season. SOC members contributed 227 hours last summer toward trail maintenance and campsite rehabilitation. This was the highest number of hours donated by any organization. We were specifically mentioned in the Salt Lake Ranger District report for this accomplishment, and also for the publicity generated by the newsletter articles that highlighted the watershed impacts in our mountains.

Our success is due to the volunteers who came out time after time to help. It was a rare trail day when you didn't see Dave Andrenyak, Bryan Allen, Alexis Kelner, Julia Hendrian, Ron Younger, Eric Stökel, Katherine Knight, Jonathan Muricami, Fred Smith, Kurt Becker, Jessica Jackson, and Martin McGregor, hard at work. Our thanks to these loyal mountain guardians and to Rick Hoffman, Laura Gee, Alexandra Parvaz, Brittany Merrill, Will Chatwin, Katherine Osborn, Randy Smith, Diane Brown, Liz McCoy, Chad Hoffman, a nice guy named Nolan and the wonderful Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers who also braved the rain, sun, wind, and the wild animals of the Wasatch (mostly squirrels) to protect our watershed and keep our mountains beautiful.

Backcountry Rangers, Sean Wetterberg, Greg Hilbig, and Joelle Dixon, will lead us once again in the 2004 season. We will meet as we did last year on the second Saturday of June, July, August, and September with the Wasatch Mountain Club volunteers and their able and experienced trail leader, Chris Biloft, at the Big Cottonwood Canyon parking lot at 8:00 A.M. We start early because of the summer heat so set your alarm clocks.

Requirements: Wear long pants, boots or sturdy shoes, and gloves.

Bring: 2 quarts of water, snacks, lunch, day pack, sunscreen, sunglasses, rain gear, tee shirt, and a warm shirt.

You can just show up on the above dates; however, if convenient, we would appreciate your contacting Gayle Parry at gwperry@comcast.net or calling her at 277-4124 so we can plan our days and give you the credit you deserve for working with us.

Save Our Canyons and the Wasatch Mountain Club concentrate our efforts on the tri-canyon trails of Millcreek, and Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons for the most part. However, the Salt Lake Ranger District also has jurisdiction over the Stansbury Range and the Desert Peak Wilderness Area. The Stansbury trails are in terrible condition. The Forest Service has asked SOC for volunteers to work on these trails on one day this summer in addition to the four days that will be spent in the tri-canyon area. We would prefer that you volunteer for the tri-canyon trails first; but if, in addition, you can find the time to go to the Stansburys on August 7, please let Gayle Parry know. If we can get enough volunteers, we will schedule this Stansbury trail day. Details will be e-mailed as we work them out.

Working on the trails and campsites with other volunteers is a pleasant experience in every way. The scenery is beautiful, the exercise is good, and the people are terrific. Most people who come out with us once usually return to help another day. Don't miss this opportunity to pay back the Wasatch for what these mountains have given you.

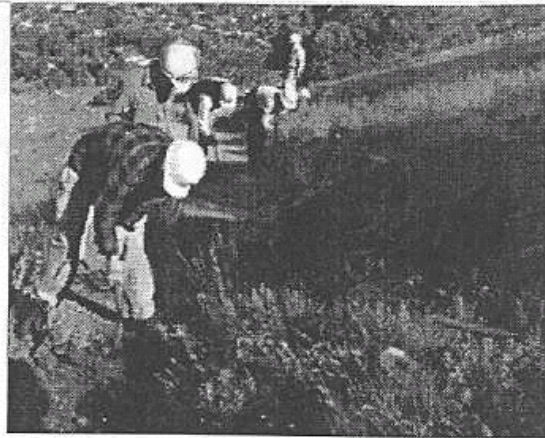
SOC's Wilderness Volunteers Continue Helping the Forest Service

By Sean Wetterburg,
U.S. Forest Service

Saturday morning, 8 am and the only people utilizing the Big Cottonwood park & ride lot were a handful of cyclists preparing for an up-canyon slog and the 9 volunteer trail workers from Save Our Canyons and the Wasatch Mountain Club. This park & ride is where the two clubs met with USFS staff to enjoy bagels, fill out paperwork and get acquainted/reacquainted. This was the start of the third summer that these two groups have been rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty in an effort to help the Forest Service maintain the backcountry of the Wasatch. It was great seeing some old faces as well as some new volunteers who wanted to get involved.

The workday started with a presentation of awards to the volunteer coordinators from Save Our Canyons and the Wasatch Mountain Club. Gayle Parry (SOC) and Chris Biltoft (WMC) were both presented with certificates of achievement recognizing their effort and success in coordinating volunteers and their work on behalf of the Wilderness Preservation System. They both received a Leave-No-Trace t-shirt and a volunteer pin. Together, their coordination efforts along with the hard work of their volunteer recruits provided 389 hours of strength and sweat to maintain trails over the last two summers. The volunteer coordinators and the volunteers themselves are to be commended.

The group then car-pooled to the Mount Olympus trail where they proceeded to work. 11 water bars and 9 check dams were repaired for mitigating erosion. 200 feet of excessive trail wear was rehabilitated and 40 feet of trail were better defined. Additionally, a variety of erosion control measures were taken during a combined 35 hours of work. Everyone who enjoys the Mt O trail this summer will benefit from the effort. A maintained trail is a sustainable trail. With the help of these groups, the Mount Olympus trail is in better shape today and will be better for it tomorrow. At the end of the



workday, volunteers enjoyed ice-cold refreshments and some homemade brownies. →Thanks Gayle!!

One of the trail related problems that we are seeing more of in the National Forest is unauthorized trail building. This is a problem because it can often occur without the collaboration of specialists who are knowledgeable about trails, wildlife, hydrology etc. A haphazardly developed trail system may not be sustainable. Despite this problem, there has been a work in progress over the last couple summers to create an unauthorized mountain bike trail adjacent to Little Cottonwood Creek. This area is largely undeveloped riparian habitat and may serve as a travel corridor for wildlife. The US Forest Service is not at this time considering the extension of the Little Cottonwood trail up canyon and views the creation of this trail as inappropriate.

The US Forest Service will be meeting with SOC and the WMC to restore this area on July 10, 2004. Anyone interested in helping with this project is invited to join us. As always, the day starts at the Big Cottonwood park & ride at 8am where we will get organized and shuttle over to the Little Cottonwood project site. It is required that volunteers wear long pants, a long sleeve shirt, sturdy shoes or boots, sunglasses and bring a bag lunch with plenty of water. Expect to get dirty. Individuals willing to bring a cordless drill for the project would be appreciated.

We look forward to another successful summer doing a variety of projects that will help preserve the Wasatch Mountains. The following dates are pre-arranged so that there is plenty of time to work them into your busy schedules. Volunteer days are always the second Saturday of every month (7/10, 8/14 and 9/11) throughout the summer. There is no need to RSVP, just meet at the Big Cottonwood Park and Ride. See you on the trails. ♦

Save Our Canyons

Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons

www.saveourcanyons.org

Summer, 2004

Save Our Canyons is a quarterly publication of the Citizens' Committee to Save Our Canyons.

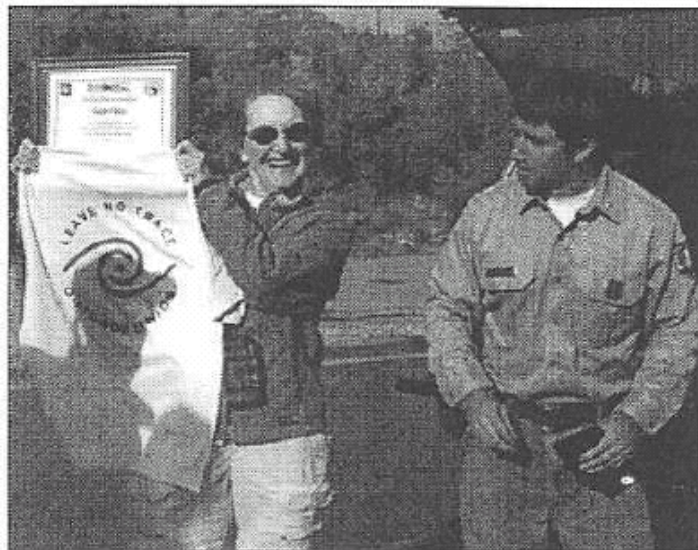
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ALEXIS KELNER, Perennial Editor
GALE DICK, Associate Perennial Editor

SOC ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE
 Tuesdays, 4:30 pm
 KRCL community radio, 90.9 FM

SOC Trustee Gayle Parry Receives Forest Service Award



Wasatch-Cache National Forest Backcountry Ranger Sean Wetterburg presented an award for "Outstanding effort and success coordinating volunteers and their work on behalf of the Wilderness Preservation System 2002 - 2004" to SOC Trustee and Volunteer Coordinator Gayle Parry. Ranger Wetterburg was standing in for Salt Lake District Ranger Loren Kroenke.

APPENDIX 3

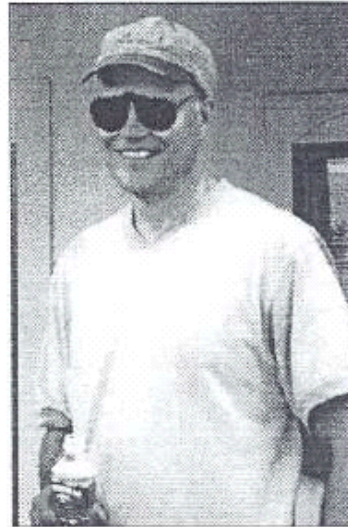
*"It is not correct
to say that nature belongs to us,
for we belong to nature."*

-Dave Andrenyak

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Being A Part of Nature

By GAYLE PARRY,
SOC's Trustee & Volunteer Coordinator



Save Our Canyons' volunteers come from all walks of life. Among our many volunteers, we have roofers, computer gurus, doctors, lawyers, gardeners, writers, scientists, foresters, biologists, students, photographers, businessmen and women, engineers, secretaries, teachers, financial consultants and so on. Although the list of occupations is long and varied, we all seem to have one thing in common, a love of nature. Toxicologist, Dave Andrenyak, is a volunteer who can put into words his feelings about nature and the outdoors that we all feel but sometimes have trouble expressing. He says, "It is not correct to say that nature belongs to us, for we belong to nature. We evolved from nature and it is part of our existence to want to enjoy the peace and scenery of the outdoors because we are a part of it." Every part of the outdoors appeals to Dave. He loves the geology, the flowers, and the animals. He loves all of it. "The whole outdoor experience is an adventure. Everything can change in the course of a day depending on the changing shapes of the clouds, the angle of the sun, and the lighting on the leaves."

Dave feels that coming to the West from Connecticut in 1984 for a post-doctorate in toxicology at the University of Utah provided a wonderful opportunity to experience a variety of outdoor activities he would not have had available on the east coast. He says Connecticut is very developed with too little public land. Here in the Wasatch and Uinta Mountains he can hike and ski into the backcountry and be a part of the natural world. Our mountain country may seem to cover a large area, but Dave was surprised one winter day while breaking trail in

the Uintas to meet a couple of friends breaking trail from the opposite direction.

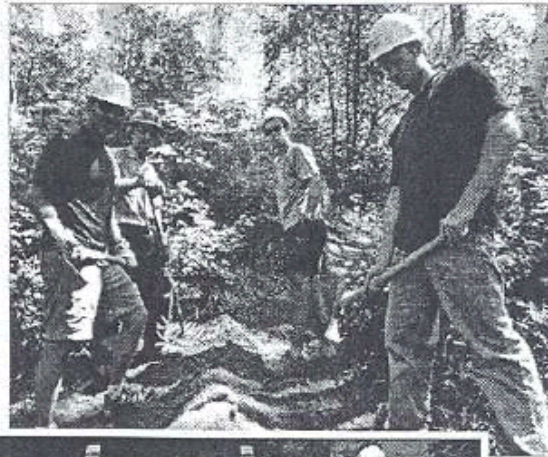
Dave did his undergraduate work in forensic science at the University of New Haven and followed with graduate work at the University of Connecticut Health Center, then post-doctoral training at the U of U. He then worked for a couple of years in the office of the West Virginia Medical Examiner. Yes, he was a real CSI guy, but he says he never solved a case in one hour. He now does analytical work at the University of Utah Center for Human Toxicology, often testifying in court about poisons and working on contracts with the government. His dream is early retirement so that he can enjoy the mountains even more often than he does now.

Save Our Canyons and the Forest Service have the highest respect for this quiet, easy-going Connecticut native. He has not missed one Trail Day in the last two years. He happily and seemingly effortlessly does the hardest labor, lifting huge rocks and dragging large trees, working four to six hours a day. Dave is becoming an expert in the art of rehabilitating a trail, which is not that easy to do. He finds the trail work exciting and meaningful. Dave also participates in Save Our Canyons' Adopt A Highway program that often occurs the day after Trail Day. This unfeatable guy definitely gives back as much as he gets from the canyons of the Wasatch.

And how would Dave protect these wild places he loves so much? "People who enjoy our mountains need to be respectful of others' rights. We need to preserve these places and not be selfish. We need to encourage others to volunteer to help. As a volunteer, I have learned a lot". □



*Silk screening trail volunteers' T-shirts.
Alexis Kelaer, John Worlock, and Gayle Parry.*



***Save Our Canyons –
U.S. Forest Service Volunteers.***

*Under the leadership of
SOC's Volunteer Coordinator
Gayle Parry
Save Our Canyons' volunteers
provided many man-hours'
worth of labor
to the U.S. Forest Service's
trail maintenance program.*

*In the photographs at right
the SOC volunteers
were joined
by members of the
Wasatch Mountain Club
and by
super-human runners
from the Wasatch Front
100-mile
Endurance Run.*

