

Swaner stream restoration seeks volunteers

Submitted by Swaner EcoCenter

The Swaner EcoCenter needs volunteers to help with stream restoration on August 20, 21, and 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. We will be installing old Christmas trees along the streambanks to reduce erosion; this helps to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. Absolutely no experience necessary! Contact Nell Larson at nell@swanerecocenter.org or call (435)649-1767 to sign up or for more information.

Streambank Revetments:
To help stabilize eroding stream banks, approximately 1600 feet of brush revetment have been installed by the Swaner EcoCenter (formerly Swaner Nature Preserve). The revetment structures have been constructed using reused Christmas trees. These are collected from homes in the Park City area by the Park City Lacrosse

Team and then donated to Swaner. Brush revetments help to stabilize streambanks and reduce erosion by reducing the shear stress exhibited on the banks, collecting sediment which will serve as a base for new vegetation, and eventually narrowing the stream channel.

This will improve water quality and habitat for native aquatic species.

Background/Condition of East Canyon Creek:

East Canyon Creek has excess levels of total phosphorous and low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO), as confirmed by its inclusion on the 303(d) list of impaired waters. These water quality impairments have been exacerbated by sediment loading and low flow, primarily during the summer months.

High levels of nutrients have led to excessive algae and macrophyte growth, leading to DO impair-

ments. Insufficient DO can stress or kill fish and benthic invertebrates. As a result of these impairments, East Canyon Creek is not meeting its "beneficial use" as a cold water fishery.

Historically, East Canyon Creek supported a Bonneville Trout population and a spawning population of Kokanee Salmon. These populations are now absent due to these stresses.

A recent study by Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District suggested that macrophytes utilize phosphorous attached to sediment particles instead of phosphorous in the water column, making erosion and sediment loading a primary concern.

Swaner Preserve Background
Swaner Preserve encompasses 1,200 acres of critical habitat, consisting of wetland, lowland, upland, and stream habitat providing homes to numerous wildlife and

plant species. Through restoration projects, including improving stream corridors, planting native flora, and weed management, the Preserve is nurturing the land back to a healthy ecosystem.

Restoration completed by Swaner, developed with public and private partnerships and with local community support, will increase the wetland values of the land, enhance wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and foster biodiversity.

Two miles of East Canyon Creek flow through Swaner Nature Preserve. Upstream of Swaner Nature Preserve pollutant sources include nutrient discharges from fertilizers, storm water runoff from disturbed areas (particularly construction and unpaved roads), active agriculture, and sediment from phosphorous bearing geologic formations in the East Canyon Creek Watershed.

Electric rates to rise 2.4 percent in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Rocky Mountain Power's Utah consumers will see their electric rates rise by more than 2 percent.

The Utah Public Service Commission gave the utility permission to raise its rates 2.4 percent. The increase means that the typical customer's bill will rise by about \$16 a year.

The company wanted higher rates. It asked the commission to approve a \$74 million increase, but was only granted a \$33 million hike. Under Utah law, the commission must allow Rocky Mountain Power to cover its costs.

"The commission recognizes that any increase in customer rates is difficult, especially in these challenging economic times," said Julie Orchard, spokeswoman for the PSC.

Rocky Mountain Power spokesman Jeff Hymas said the company would review the PSC order Tuesday.

The power company has asked the PSC for an 11.3 percent — or \$160 million — increase because it was adding generating facilities and transmission lines to serve its growing customer base. Over time that number dropped to \$74.4 million.

The Committee of Consumer Services, the voice for small business owners and residential utility users, however, used its own experts an analysis to argue the company only deserved an \$8.5 million increase.

Additional input to the PSC came from the Division of Public Utilities, a state agency charged with balancing the interests of the utilities and consumers. The division recommended a \$46.1 million increase.

"I'm pretty happy with the number," said Michele Beck, the director of the committee. "I think we won some of the key issues in the case. At first glance, it appears the PSC may have split the difference

between what the committee was requesting and what the division recommended."

Last month, Rocky Mountain

Power filed another request to raise rates with the PSC. The utility is asking for the OK to raise rates by another \$85 million.

Reduced carbon footprint

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mayor Ralph Becker has released his plan for reducing the city's carbon emissions.

Becker wants to reduce the city's carbon footprint 20 percent by 2020, 50 percent by 2040 and 80 percent by 2050.

The city's reduction goals are based on its 2005 levels, which are estimated at 106,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

The city's goals exceed those set out by the Western Climate Initiative, a plan set forth by governors in the West and Canada. Utah is a member of the initiative and is calling for a 15 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.

The city says it is cutting down on its electric consumption and has stopped employees from idling in city vehicles.

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