

Fund raising letter of March, 2008

Utah Rivers Council

protect • restore • explore

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Dear Jim,

I am delighted to become the new director of Utah Rivers Council. When I was mayor of Salt Lake City, I became unusually interested in water when I had overall responsibility of a water system that serves 1/3 of Salt Lake County. There are seven major streams feeding Salt Lake County's water needs, and I am proud of Salt Lake City's legacy of working to keep those streams free flowing and as pristine as possible in an urban environment.

The Utah Rivers Council has been a favorite of mine ever since Zack Frankel told me he was founding it. It is the best focused environmental group working to avoid unnecessary and harmful water structures and diversions, enhance our riparian zones for beauty and wildlife, and encourage and aid river use such as boating, kayaking, fishing, bird watching, and hiking.

Utah's Rivers are priceless but they are being assaulted with the demands of overdevelopment and population pressure. Las Vegas is threatening to drain our Western Desert. The Bear River, a majestic waterway now largely unspoiled, is in the gun sights of water managers who want to divert it as far as Salt Lake County. Gooseberry Creek, a diamond creek in an amazing valley, is threatened by an 80-year old dam proposal.

If the water lords win, we'll see huge negative impacts to our rivers and creeks. Critical to the integrity of the arid west, these waterways support migratory bird habitat, recreation, and culinary water supplies. New dams and diversions will rapidly erode the natural resources we all love in Utah and leave us wondering why we didn't do more to stop these destructive projects.

These are just some of the threats we face. We need your help NOW!

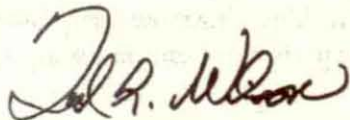
We are initiating urgent campaigns to inform the decisions of water managers and politicians. They must be aware that they don't have to turn to high cost reservoirs, dams, canals, and irrigation systems in order to ensure our communities grow with adequate water supplies.

They need to learn the message Utah Rivers Council will work furiously to spread.

That message is simple: There is so much waste of water now that conservation is the way for the future. We can continue to meet healthy and wise growth and maintain our great Utah lifestyle by conserving water and avoiding expensive and destructive alternatives.

Please be generous! Before it is too late!

Sincerely,



Ted Wilson
Director

