

EMIGRATION CANYON COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



ECC Council Members

Chairman

Joe Smolka
tab5k@yahoo.com

Co-Chair/Newsletter

Jessica Hook
jessmhook82@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Nils Abramson
nilsnlisa@earthlink.net

Secretary

Lynne Gutke
lynne@mailfdt.com

FireWise Chair/Newsletter

Kathy Christensen
kchriste@xmission.com

ECC Logo

Joanne Butler
ejbutler9@yahoo.com

Elections

Rick Raile
ctcinc89@qwest.net

Legal Advisor-HB40

Fred Silvester
fred@underzc.com

Canyon Development

Kris Hohenshelt
jhohenshe@jcenney.com

Trails & Mass Transit

Howard Ingle
howard.ingle.slcc.edu

Health Dept. Liason

Gary Bowen
gbowen@utah.gov

ECC Member

Mae Taylor-Ohlin
maetohlin@msn.com

Message From the Chairman

Currently we have two issues we would like to inform you about.

1. 2006 House Bill 40-There is important information that you will be receiving over the next couple of months that will be followed by a survey. Please read the information carefully and fill out the survey and return it. This could effect the taxes you pay or may decrease the services you receive.
2. The Mayor has appointed a new emergency director for Salt Lake County. We have already met with him and he will be attending one of our meetings on the 2nd Tues. in the near future. As a community council we think it is a good idea to know what resources are available in an emergency. It is very possible that we would be on our own for days or even weeks before we would have help.

Please fill out the form on the last page of the newsletter and return it to a council member or mail it to the community council post office box.
PO BOX 58548
SLC, UT 84158

Thank you,
Joe Smolka
ECC Chairman

HOUSE BILL 40 AND YOU

An important survey is coming the end of March. The survey's results could alter the relationship between Emigration Canyon and Salt Lake County. The results could affect property tax rates in Emigration Canyon. Educational materials will be mailed to each household in early March. Please read the materials carefully. The survey will ask what form of government citizens prefer, Township, annexation to a city, create a new city, be an unincorporated area of Salt Lake County.

The survey's results will provide information to assist the legislature in determining whether the law should continue to limit the ability of cities to annex commercial areas which are part of townships or the unincorporated county. If townships in Salt Lake County do not get strong support from their citizens, the restrictions on annexation will likely be lifted. If cities are again allowed to cherry pick commercial areas from the County the costs for services to the townships will go up.

Annexation of Townships or major unincorporated areas into cities would also result in

higher taxes for remaining Townships, and higher taxes for the annexed Township. In a recent Township Feasibility Study completed by the County, the costs for services to property owners in Salt Lake City, the only annexation alternative for Emigration Canyon, was substantially higher than costs for those services provided by the County. Many who have lived in the Canyon for some time will recall the effort made to resist annexation to Salt Lake City in the 1980's. Annexation of Emigration Canyon to Salt Lake City would substantially increase property taxes.

If you do not receive the educational material for the Survey by the middle of March, please contact any member of the Community Counsel so we can get you a copy. The Community Council is arranging for a Township meeting in order to fully discuss the survey before citizens have to respond.

Become informed, read all the materials, and complete your survey.

**TOWN HALL MEETING
CAMP KOSTOPOLOUS
TUESDAY, MARCH 11
7:45 PM
HB40 DISCUSSED-ALL INVITED**

Water Quality Stewardship Program

In the 1970's, Salt Lake County developed an area-wide Water Quality Management Plan under the authority of the State of Utah and with the assistance of federal monies. Between 1975 and 1978, the Salt Lake County Planning Commission was the acting area-wide Water Quality planning entity.

The primary goals outlined in the 1978 Plan were to provide a continuous planning process directed defines a WaQSP update schedule toward restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of surface waters in Salt Lake County. The Council of Governments (COG), in conjunction with the Salt Lake County Planning Commission, hired staff to conduct water quality planning and subsequently created the Water Quality and Water Pollution Department. The Water Quality and Water Pollution Department functioned as the primary water quality planning authority until 1985, when the Salt Lake County Health Department took over this responsibility.

Responsibility was again shifted in 1992 when water quality planning was placed directly under the Salt Lake County Commission. The County Commission retained this responsibility until 1997 when the Public Works Department of Salt Lake County took o charge of area-wide water quality planning.

The WaQSP was developed over a three (3) year period with the assistance of Salt Lake County staff, Consulting engineers, and the Jordan River Watershed Council (JRWC). The Plan has been reviewed by numerous stakeholders and presented to the public through: meetings with city officials and the JRWC; presentations to the Council of Governments (COG), Conference of Mayors, Township Planning Commissions and Community Councils; public workshops; newsletters development and distribution at approximately 100 locations; outreach at public festivals/ gatherings, and a nation-wide watershed symposium.

For more information, please visit www.waterresources.slco.org/. The SLCo water resources site offers a downloadable PDF of the entire Water Quality Stewardship Plan.



GOAT USE IN EMIGRATION CANYON

Ben Corbin knows fire. He knows goats too. He currently works as the Wildland/ Urban Interface (WUI) Coordinator for the Wasatch Front Area, working for the State of Utah DNR in the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL). He also a wetland ecologist and represents the region as a member of the Bonneville Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). Corbin acts as the grant manager for the FEMA pre-disaster (fire) mitigation grant in Emigration Canyon and set up most of the fuels reduction work in the Canyon, be it by hand crews or by other means. As the manager for FFSL of this project, Corbin wanted to make sure everyone on this ever-growing e-mail list understands the fire mitigation process in Emigration Canyon.

Concerning fuels reduction work along the Wasatch Front, and in

EC in particular, there are a few major things we need to realize:

- 1) We no longer live in a naturally functioning environment
- 2) Historical vegetation distribution and cover has changed dramatically
- 3) 1000's of homes are now nestled in these "natural" areas

The Wasatch Front we now occupy differs in tremendous ways from that here 200 years ago. We no longer have herds of mountain sheep and elk moving through the Valley being tracked by large packs of wolves and coyotes. We no longer have sparse stands of Gambel oak interspersed with native bunch grasses and sage/rabbit brush. We no longer have unoccupied hills and canyons with historically fire-driven ecology. We now have thousands of homes sitting in the midst of heavily overgrown veg-

etation (because we have so effectively suppressed fire). We have dozens of noxious weed species moving into the foothills taking advantage of any disturbed area - be it due to fire, trails construction, house building, or a tree fall. We as land managers need to work with each of these things in mind, looking towards human safety first, with a high priority on maintaining or rehabilitating the ecosystem whenever possible. The toolbox we have is continually updated and supplemented and the use of goats is one of these tools. But, like any tool, they need to be used properly.

The Gambel oak canopy in EC is extremely thick, continuous in many areas, and directly abuts dozens of homes. This is not a natural state according to historical accounts/ photography and an understanding of fire-dominated ecosystems. While these "natural" areas of continuous canopy may be nice to look upon (to some), they do not provide for the wildlife use of more open stands and serve as an incredibly high fire risk when houses are put in them. When groups come from out of state to look at the WUI fire danger in Utah, we take them up Emigration Canyon.

We use hand crews to "limb up" and thin Gambel oak and Snowberry in EC. (Snowberry is recognized as one of the worst spring and autumn plants for wildfire in this ecosystem type, sometimes leading to fire swirls and extreme fire behavior because of their dry fuel characteristics) To "limb up" is to remove all limbs from a tree to a height of 5-6', removing the "ladder" fuels that would carry the fire into the canopy. After limbing up and thinning, the oak typically have a "park-like" appearance and are often more utilized by wildlife that can get through the canopy and forage on forbs that may grow from the greater sunlight provided. These areas are much safer from a fire perspective, and if they burn are more likely to burn as a ground fire which is much easier for crews to handle.

A few years ago Camp Williams started using a herd of goats to develop 300' fuelbreaks around their borders. The goats have since been used by FFSL and homeowners in SLCo for fuels reduction work. Since we don't have 300' areas available for fuelbreaks (though from a fire standpoint a 300' shaded fuelbreak would be great) we typically use them in two ways - 1) as a follow-up to hand crews in years 2 & 3, they eat all new growth and force the oaks' energy into the canopy, eventually reducing the need for further work in these areas - 2) in areas too thick for hand crews to get into (goats remove green vegetation, crews follow and cut) or to steep to provide for crew safety. Areas usually look decimated immediately after the goats are

taken off, but typically recover quickly. The photos Jack sent out show that after a year the native forbs and bunch grasses come back in large numbers - if they were present to begin with. There are already areas in EC that are overrun with cheat grass and other invasives already and these will not recover with natives unless we plant them. So, all of this e-mail traffic has led me to think about getting money to re-seed these areas that are already full of invasives before the goats are put on the site. I actually use goats to reduce cheat grass, thistle, white top, and other invasives elsewhere on the Front and if cheat grass areas in the Canyon can be identified will put the goats up there earlier in the season to deal with both that and oak. Solutions are available, we just need to make the timing of thinning and re-seeding work.

As for goat use and rare plants, a full NEPA was done on EC for this project before FEMA would grant monies. No sensitive species were found in the Canyon. Ironically, the project was dubbed "The Goat Project" by FEMA and inclusion of this novel tool is one of the main reasons EC got the \$250,000 grant in the first place. FEMA put multiple conditions on goat use including feeding the goats on clean hay exclusively for three days before they can be used in EC to assure they do not import invasives (almost a biological impossibility anyway because of the goats' digestive system). Many measures to use the goats properly have been implemented, but they do occasionally remain onsite a little too long. The pictures that started this e-mail chain seem to show this. I have spoken with Jason since that time and he is making sure that the shepherds in the Canyon are following guidelines he has developed over the last few years, which guide things like water placement that directly impact the way goats affect a non-target area.

Anyway, all this to say that we are doing our best to protect lives and homes in EC using whatever tools we have available. We will try to stay 'on top' of the goats and the time they stay onsite and I will look into getting some native seed to aide in habitat recovery and restoration after goat use. Thanks to everyone for their insightful comments and for taking the time to put them down in type. If you have any questions about what we are doing to develop a firewise landscape in Emigration Canyon, please do not hesitate to call me at 801.537.3371. If I don't promptly return your call, I'm probably out on a fire and will get back with you as soon as I can.

Emergency Preparedness

Fires. Floods. Blizzards. Earthquakes. All potential disasters for Emigration Canyon Residents. All are potentially deadly, but preparation for the worst increases our safety for our families and friends. On the final page of this quarter's newsletter is a natural disaster preparation form. This form will help our community assess the tools and skills available in a emergency situation. Please fill out one form for your family. Hand the form to a Community Council Member or mail it to the ECCC mailbox: PO BOX 58548 SLC, UT 84158.

Emigration Canyon Emergency Preparedness Skills and Equipment Survey

Please provide the following information so that we can assess the skills, tools, equipment and supplies that might be available after an earthquake or other disaster.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Family Member Names:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Identify special needs your family may have:

Please check the appropriate box if you have the following items:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguisher | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Generator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winch | <input type="checkbox"/> Chain Saw | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> Strong Rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bolt Cutters | <input type="checkbox"/> Crow Bar | <input type="checkbox"/> Axe | <input type="checkbox"/> Shovel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Jack | <input type="checkbox"/> Power Tools | <input type="checkbox"/> Walkie Talkie | <input type="checkbox"/> Gas Grill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Pumps | <input type="checkbox"/> Space Heaters | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Heavy Machinery | <input type="checkbox"/> Portable Generator |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Truck |

Other: _____

Please indicate if you or other family members have training or skills in the following:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid/CPR | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health, Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture, engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Wiring | <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Management/leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Suppression | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio/communication Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Light Search and Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C.E.R.T. training | | |

Other: _____