

Perch Search Cancelled due to Unsafe Ice

We have to cancel the Perch Search. The rangers at Starvation State Park called to inform us the ice melted in the main channel of the reservoir. Warm winds over the last few days melted holes in the ice by Sunday afternoon so they now have open water near the bridge and out in front of the boat ramp. Even if the ice reforms today, we would not have safe ice conditions, so we are canceling the Perch Search.

“OUR BIRDS ROCK!”

St. George Winter Bird Festival

BIRD PHOTO CONTEST

Enter the 2009 Bird Festival photo contest!
Fun! Prizes! Easy! Contest is open to everyone.



Information & entry form at
www.redcliffsaudubon.org

By Denise Blyn

Bird Southwest Utah at the 6th Annual St. George Winter Bird Festival from January 29 – February 1, 2009. This Community Outreach Program of the Red Cliffs Audubon Society will be an “Educational Experience” for all levels of birders. It is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to attend and learn from the numerous presenters and leaders that volunteer their time. All activities are

free, except for the Banquet.

The festival kicks off at the beginning of the week with Educational Programs for students as Hawkwatch International visits numerous schools. Also, prior to the event, there will be a fun photo-contest again for you to enter. The events for the general public will begin on *Thursday evening* at the *BLM* with presentations; Identifying Western Migrant Buteos, Bird Brained, Wind Turbines & Their Affect on Birds.

Headquarters for the festival are centered at the *Tonaquint Park & Nature Center*. During the day on *Friday & Saturday* there will be Exhibits, Sales, Presentations, and Kid's Workshops. The South West Wildlife Foundation and Hawkwatch International will have live birds for you to see! Outstanding and unique *daytime activities* include: Landscaping for Birds/Native Plants, Introduction to Bird Watching, Bird Photography, Raptors that Winter in SW Utah, Raptor Rapture, Night Flight: The Life of Bats, Binoculars & Scopes, Owls: Masters of the Night, Fantastic Bird Photos, Building Bird Houses & Bird Feeders, Southwest Willow Flycatchers, Birding for Kids, Birds of Prey, Plants/Flowers Tour and Unique Environments of Utah's Dixie.

As in the past, we have had a speaker for a special program on the *Friday evening* at the Dunford Auditorium - *Dixie State College*.

This year we are pleased to present

Ned Hill, avid birder who will share his "Birding adventures in Brazil". For our traditional *Saturday evening* banquet, held at *Best Western Abbey Inn* in St. George, Bill Fenimore, birder, author, educator, naturalist, owner of the Wild Bird Center will present "Birding is a Life Journey". Entertainment with the Jim Sevy Band, fine dining, door prizes and a silent auction. Cost is \$20, and the registration deadline is January 24th. Register through the St. George Recreation Center: 435-634-4560 or go to www.activityreg.com under programs/nature center.



From the *Friday to Sunday* there are field trips featuring: Lytle Ranch, Washington Fields/Springs Park, Quail Creek Reservoir-Hurricane Fields, St. George Local

Ponds, Toquerville/ Grafton/ Springdale, Rio Virgin Estates, Western Reservoirs, Virgin River Trail, Cedar Valley, RC Desert Reserve/Confluence Park, Fort Pearce



Trail, Photography Trip, Find the Vermillion Flycatcher and a Falconry Field

Excursion! During the winter months many waterfowl migrate through and stop over in our lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. All field trips are free and open to the public and will depart from the Tonaquint Park parking lot.

To view and print a brochure, schedule of events, posters and photo contest forms go to www.redcliffsaudubon.org or www.sgcity.org/birdfestival For further information contact the Festival Chairman, Marilyn Davis at 435-673-0996 or e-mail at mkdavis028@msn.com. You don't want to miss this exciting event sponsored by numerous businesses and organizations! Make your plans today to

join us for a wonderful birding event in St. George!

Second Annual SuperFly Open Scheduled for March 13 – 15, 2009

Eden, UT - The Second Annual SuperFly Open sponsored by Best Kiteboarding will be held March 13 – 15, 2009 at Powder Mountain Resort. Powder Mountain is fast becoming the primo destination for snowkite enthusiasts. Last year, it was the first mountain resort in the US to offer identify an exclusive snowkiting area and to offer a snowkite only pass. This year, Best Kiteboarding is establishing the Best Snowkite Center at Powder Mountain to offer lessons and demos at the resort.

Last year's event attracted over 50 of the best snowkiters in the world with competitors travelling from as far away as Norway. After the success of the 2008 SuperFly Open, it is expected that this year's competition will grow substantially. Competitions during the festival include freestyle, kitecross and big air.



For those who want to try their hand at the colorful adventure introductory kite clinics will be offered each day.

All the action takes place just south of the Sunrise Poma lift, in an area known as “The Towers” an elevation of about 9,000 ft. The viewing area is wide and open, so folks can cruise on over and take a break from skiing or riding to watch all the action, grab a bratwurst and enjoy the incredible backdrop of the Wasatch Range and Great Salt Lake. For non-skiers there will be a groomed trail from the Hidden Lake Lodge parking lot.

If you’ve ever watched the colorful beauty of hot air balloons launching, imagine the basket on a pair of skis or snowboard ripping across the horizon, and you’ll

have some inkling of the intrigue of this sport. It’s colorful, it’s dynamic, and it’s COOL! Charge up your cameras and video recorders and head on up to Powder Mountain!



The celebration of snowkiting doesn’t end when the lifts stop running. On Friday night, the Best Bash includes food, drink and music at Ogden’s entertainment district, Historic 25th Street. The popular Best Girls Contest will be returning as part of the evening’s festivities. Saturday evening’s dinner will feature two exciting multi media presentation on snowkiting expeditions. The first presentation on one of his kite assisted expedition is by **Andrew McLean**, photographer and author of the Chuting Gallery (a Utah steep backcountry ski guide book). Andrew’s resume includes:

- 100 first ski descents on all seven continents
- "Greatest Skiers of Our Time" by Powder Magazine
- "North America’s Top 25 Best Skiers" by Ski Magazine
- "25 Best Outdoor Athletes in the World" Outside Magazine

Visit <http://www.superflyopen.com> for registration, travel, and event details. The event is sponsored by Powder Mountain, Best Kiteboarding, Ogden Valley Magazine and Urban Surf Kiteboarding. Community supporters include Alpine Pizza, Ogden Convention & Visitors Bureau and G.O.A.L.

Powder Mountain Resort is located in Eden, Utah 19 miles northeast of Ogden.

PURCHASE A UTAH STATE PARKS ANNUAL PASS

Salt Lake City – Purchase a Utah State Parks Annual Pass and explore Coral Pink Sand Dunes, climb into the kiva at Edge of the Cedars, view wildlife at Antelope Island or visit any of Utah's 43 state parks and museums.

Passes for the 2009 season are available for \$75. Utah residents 62 years and older may purchase a Senior Adventure Pass for \$35, which offers the same benefits as the Annual Pass.

Passes cover day-use fees for the cardholder and up to seven guests in the same vehicle. Annual passes now also provide a \$2 per night discount on camping except on holidays and holiday weekends. Passes are honored at all state parks except This Is The Place Heritage Park, and do not cover the Davis County Causeway fee at Antelope Island State Park.

Passes may be purchased at any state park, region office, online at stateparks.utah.gov and the Department of Natural Resources located at 1594 West North Temple in Salt Lake City. For more information, please call (801) 538-7220 or 877-UT-PARKS.

HYRUM STATE PARK HOSTS POLAR PLUNGE

Hyrum – Hyrum State Park hosts the third annual Polar Plunge Saturday, January 17, which benefits the Utah Special Olympics. Jump into the icy waters of Hyrum Lake or watch those brave enough to take the plunge. A \$20 donation is suggested for each participant. Registration begins at 10 a.m. with plunging at 11 a.m. Visit www.sout.org for registration and more information.



Freezin' For A Reason

UTAH STATE PARKS SNOWMOBILE GROOMING REPORT

Please find below, current grooming conditions as of January 12. Utah State Parks encourages all riders to carry appropriate avalanche gear and get an avalanche advisory at 1-800-OHV-RIDE or utahavalanchecenter.org.

BEAR RIVER SERVICE/ WHITNEY – North Slope Road to Dead Horse

Trailhead,
Whitney to Ruth
Lake



BEAR LAKE/
LOGAN
CANYON–
Sinks, Amazon,
Beaver Creek,
Franklin
Basin, Tony
Grove, Garden
City,
Cottonwood,
Temple, Swan
Flat

HARDWARE
RANCH –

Hardware Ranch, Hodges Canyon, Strawberry, Danish Dugway, Saddle Creek, the Gorge, Hells Canyon, Temple Flat, Mill Hollow to Elk Valley Guard Station, Cottonwood, Saddle Creek

MONTE CRISTO - Ant Flat, Highway 39, Curtis Creek Loop, Millie Springs, Arbs Basin, Wasatch Ridge, Scare Canyon

WASATCH - Mill Flat, Little Deer Creek, Sundance, Narrows, Cummings Parkway, Snake Creek, Pole Line Pass, Cascade Springs, Soldier Hollow

MIRROR LAKE/MILL HOLLOW – Extreme avalanche danger! North Fork Trail, Soapstone Basin Road, Highway 35 from Nobletts to Hanna Trailhead, Wolf Creek Summit, Mill Hollow to Lake Creek Summit, Mirror Lake Highway, Soapstone to Nobletts, Highway 150 to warming hut, Highway 35

STRAWBERRY - Clyde Creek, Mud Creek, Strawberry Marina, Co-op Creek, Lake Creek Trail, Strawberry River, Lew's Cutoff, Indian Creek, Sheep Creek, Trail Hollow, Strawberry Co-op, Tower Mountain NOTE: Sheep Creek is private property; day-use fee required

SCOFIELD COMPLEX – Snowcat under repair

EPHRIAM –
Snowcat under
repair

MT. NEBO –
Snowcat under
repair

FISH LAKE – City
Creek, Kents Lake,
Puffer Lake, Monroe
Mountain to
Koosharem, Cove
Road, Monrovia
Park, Bowery
Haven, Sand Ledges
to Mount Terrill
Guard Station



CEDAR MOUNTAIN - Cedar Breaks, Brian Head, Lava Beds, Strawberry Point

UINTAH BASIN – Red Cloud Loop

Utah State Parks is the state off-highway vehicle authority, providing access, education, and search and rescue on Utah's trails.

Nominations accepted for Board Positions

Utah Solar Energy Association (UtSEA) is accepting nominations to fill open board positions for the 2009-2012 term. Both self nominations and nominations of

others will be reviewed for eligibility and approved by the existing board before being placed on the ballot.

Board member

responsibilities include:



- Attend 6 Board of Directors meetings annually
- Serve on UtSEA Committees
- Represent the association at special events
- Actively promote membership in the association
- Cultivate volunteer leaders and financial support for the association

To nominate, please submit the following information.

1. Name of Nominee
2. Telephone
3. email address
4. Qualifications (limit 30 words)
5. Current member of UtSEA. Join at www.utsea.org .

Deadline for nominations is January 23, 2009.

Email nominations to kate@omegasolarsystem.com and marcomLu@q.com

Questions on nominations, call

Kate Allen, UtSEA Board Secretary, 801 822 5200

Luanne Valentin, Marketing Advisor, 801 292 3352

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

January 17 Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Escalante

Star Party: Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy with an evening of stargazing and star stories. Join the park naturalist as we scan the skies for your favorite celestial sights and learn some new winter constellations. Warm drinks and snacks will be served. Meet at the visitor center at 6:30 p.m. Bring warm clothes, blankets, and folding chairs. (435) 826-4466

January 24 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Junior Ranger Program: Plants go dormant in the winter, but what does that really mean? Join the park naturalist for a closer look into the life of plants during the cold winter months. Meet at the visitor center at 11 a.m. This activity is intended for children ages six to 12, however everyone welcome. (801) 721-9569

January 24 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Hike with a Naturalist: As the seasons change, wildlife and plant life undergo many changes on the island. Join the park naturalist for a discussion on winter adaptations of life on Antelope Island. This is a short half-mile hike lasting about one hour. Meet at Buffalo Point Trailhead at 2 p.m. (801) 721-9569

January 24 Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum - Fairfield

Appraisal Show: Camp Floyd/ Stagecoach Inn staff host an antique appraisal show from noon until 4 p.m. Appraisers from the Utah Antique Dealer's Association, who specialize in old photographs, books, fine art, furniture, silver, glassware, and other antiques, are present to help evaluate your treasures and. Participants are encouraged to bring one or two items. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds benefit Camp Floyd's educational programs. (801) 768-8932

January 24 Bear Lake State Park – Garden City

Annual Cisco Disco: The public is invited to attend the annual Cisco Disco Saturday, January 24 beginning at 6:30 a.m. Visitors may watch as large numbers of fish spawn along the lake's shore. This event is popular for anglers who use minnow nets to scoop fish, often times catching their limit in one or two scoops. Bring a Cisco net, fishing equipment, cooking gear, and warm clothes. Special fishing regulations apply. For more information, visit wildlife.utah.gov or call (435) 946-3343.

January 24 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway

Basic Snowshoe Clinic: Join park staff for a free basic snowshoe clinic from 9 a.m. to noon, to explore the roots of snowshoeing, types of snowshoes, health benefits, and techniques. We begin with an indoor discussion at the Educational Yurt, followed by practical experience in the park to learn the basics of moving on snowshoes. Bring your own snowshoes, or rent some from the park. Registration is required. (435) 654-1791

January 24 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

Star Gazing Party: Join Southern Utah University Astronomer Laura Cotts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for a starry evening in the canyon. Learn winter constellations and hear stories about the night sky. Space is limited and registration is required. (435) 628-2255

Nearly \$27 million for National Park Centennial Challenge projects and programs in 2009

WASHINGTON – A new year brings new opportunities to discover species,



renovate museums, get kids outdoors to learn and to improve transportation in America's national parks. For the second year of its Centennial Challenge, the National Park Service will match federal funds with contributions from park partners to prepare national parks for another century of conservation, preservation and enjoyment. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar, today announced \$27 million in centennial projects, \$10.5 million from the federal government combined with \$16.5 million in philanthropic giving.

"Today, we celebrate the 2008 successes of the National Park Centennial Challenge and announce a new round of centennial projects that will serve as the cornerstones of improvements at our national parks and help to ignite another 100 years of excellence throughout the National Park System," Secretary Kempthorne said of the 2009 projects. "This is truly a remarkable list of projects and programs, made possible only through these historic public/private partnerships."

Director Bomar said, "In these economic times, creative efforts like the Centennial Challenge provide a great return on investment for both the American taxpayer and the philanthropic community. Where else can you be guaranteed to at least double your money?"

President Bush launched the National Park Service Centennial Initiative in 2006 as a 10-year effort to prepare national parks for another century of conservation, preservation and enjoyment in time for the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. The initiative comprises two funding components – the Centennial Challenge and operational enhancement funding – and furthers goals in the areas of stewardship, environmental leadership, recreational experience, education and professional excellence.

For complete information about the initiative, more details on the 2009 Centennial Challenge projects and programs or to download a Centennial Initiative 2008 Progress Report, please visit www.nps.gov/2016.

X-DANCE ACTION SPORTS FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASES WORLD'S BEST IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH JANUARY 16-20, 2009

FREE SCREENINGS FRIDAY AFTERNOON January 16th from Noon to 5p.m.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – The world's premier actions sports film festival is offering FREE FRIDAY AFTERNOON SCREENINGS to invite people to come to X-Dance!

Running side-by-side with the Sundance Film Festival, the 9th annual X-Dance Festival will be held in Salt Lake City on **January 16-20, 2009**. The festival headquarters and screening room are located at the **Off-Broadway Theater** (272 South Main Street).

For four days X-Dance will screen 35 of the finest films in adventure and action sports spotlighting Snowboarding, Skiing, Surfing, Mountain Biking, MotoCross, Skateboarding, Rockclimbing, and Kayaking. Engaging Q&A sessions follow each screening giving the audience the chance to meet the filmmakers and icons from their favorite sports.

As festival director Brian Wimmer explains, "X-Dance moved from Park City to Salt Lake last year and we want to invite the community to experience our festival. The best action sports films from around the globe are being shown here in Salt Lake, and we want to give everyone a chance to see them. It's our way of saying thank you to Salt Lake City for supporting our festival! Hopefully people will come and check out our free screenings on Friday and realize that we've got a really exciting thing going on. You can meet the filmmakers and athletes at the festival as well."

COME CHECK OUT THE FREE FILMS THIS FRIDAY:

12:00 BEEN THERE DONE THAT (short)

12:20 SURFING 50 STATES

In this travel documentary two Australian friends find a wacky way of surfing in all 50 states of the USA, whilst celebrating the diverse American culture. The 7-month, 20,000 mile journey puts the boys in all situations, from surfing icy waves in Alaska to 15-foot piles of potatoes in Idaho.

1:35 THE FOREIGNERS (short)

1:50 FORUM OR AGAINST'EM

A high-definition, full-color snowboarding film starring the influential members of the Forum team including Peter Line, Joni Malmi, Eddie Wall, John Jackson, Travis Kennedy, Pat Moore, Jake Blauvelt, Stevie Bell, Jake Welch and Nic Sauve. The film contains a compelling mixture of video imagery documenting remarkable backcountry adventures, progressive urban exploits and the notable times spent in between.

2:45 ARCHY

Directed by award-winner Bill Ballard, ARCHY is a timeless film that tells the story of three very different generations in surfing through the life of Matt Archbold. Spanning the 80's, 90's, 2000 and beyond, Archy's amazing story is one of survival through surf stardom at an early age, fame, drugs, alcohol, sponsorships and the surf rock star lifestyle. Light will finally be shed on the true-life story of one of the most charismatic and legendary surfers in history.

4:25 SWIFT SILENT DEEP

The first, true historical documentation of hardcore, ski bum culture in North America tells the tale of a secretive, underground crew who call themselves the Jackson Hole Air Force. The film explores the salad days of Benny Wilson, Howard Hendersen, Doug Coombs, and their band of civil disobedients in the unknown realm of Out of Bounds.

Hunter Safety Instructors Needed

Instructor training classes offered soon

Have you ever wanted to pass the passion you have for hunting on to someone else?

You can by serving as a volunteer Hunter Education course instructor. The Division of Wildlife Resources will train new instructors over the next few weeks at locations across Utah.

“You can make an amazing difference in the lives of young people by volunteering to serve,” says Kirk Smith, assistant hunter education coordinator for the DWR.

“And don’t be concerned if you don’t have any experience teaching young people. We’ll teach you everything you need to know to be a good teacher.”



Dates and locations

The instructor training is free. More information about the training—

including dates and locations—is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation/instructors.

After reaching that part of the site, scroll down to the “See schedule” selection at the bottom of the page. Dates and locations are available there.

“If you look at the schedule and you don’t see a training session in your part of the state, please call us,” Smith says. “If there’s enough interest in the area of the state where you live, we’ll put a training session together for you.”

You can reach Smith at 1-800-397-6999.

DEER VALLEY RESORT AND PARK CITY MOUNTAIN RESORT TO HOST VISA FREESTYLE INTERNATIONAL WORLD CUP

JANUARY 29-31, 2009

WHAT: Deer Valley Resort and Park City Mountain Resort will host the 2009 Visa Freestyle International World Cup beginning Thursday, January 29 through Saturday, January 31. More than 300 athletes from approximately two dozen countries will participate in the competitions. This World Cup marks Deer Valley’s 11th Anniversary of hosting freestyle competition, including the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the 2003 FIS Freestyle World Championships, 1999 Chevy Truck U.S. Freestyle Championships and six World Cups (2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008). This year’s joint venue partnership with Park City Mountain Resort, along with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association is in preparation for the 2011 FIS Freestyle World Championships.

WHEN: January 29 – 31, 2009

Thursday, January 29:

Deer Valley Resort will host the women's and men's **moguls event** on Champion ski run. **Women's moguls qualifications** will take place from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., **men's moguls qualifications** will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. **Moguls finals** for both women and men will take place from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., with awards immediately following at approximately 2:30 p.m.



An evening celebration will begin at 7 p.m. on Park City's Historic Main Street, including **live entertainment by Michael Franti and Spearhead** with fireworks ending the evening. Free parking will be available at both Deer Valley and Park City Mountain Resort. Please utilize the free Park City bus transportation to and from Main Street.

Friday, January 30:

The **women's aerial qualifications** take place on Deer Valley's White Owl ski run from 1 to 1:50 p.m., and the **men's aerial qualifications** from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. **Women's aerial finals** will be held from 6:30 to 7 p.m. and the **men's aerial finals** will be held from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Awards for both women and men along with a fireworks display will immediately follow the competition at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, January 31:

The women's and men's **skier halfpipe qualifications** will take place at Park City Mountain Resort's Eagle Superpipe from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The **skier halfpipe finals** for both women and men will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., with awards immediately following at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Deer Valley Resort will host the women's and men's **dual moguls event** on Champion ski run at night under the lights. **Women's dual moguls qualifications** will take place from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m., **men's dual moguls qualifications** will be held from 5:45 to 7 p.m. **Dual**

moguls finals for both women and men will take place from 8 to 9:30 p.m., with awards and a fireworks display immediately following at approximately 9:35 p.m.



COST: All events are **free to the public**. For those guests looking for an enhanced spectator experience, Freestyle Feast tickets are still available for Thursday's moguls competition for \$65. The ticket includes lunch in the VIP tent and a commemorative gift. Freestyle Feast tickets for Thursday may be purchased by calling 435-645-6510 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

WHERE: Champion and White Owl ski runs are located on Deer Valley's lower Bald Eagle Mountain, just up from Snow Park Lodge.

The Eagle Superpipe at Park City Mountain Resort is located in the base area of the resort, next to the First Time learning area and directly above the Three Kings lift.

X-DANCE IS OFFERING DISCOUNTED TICKETS & PASSES FOR STUDENTS FOR ENTIRE FESTIVAL!

Tickets are \$7 per movie (\$5 for students) or \$40 for a 4-day pass (\$25 for students). Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Off-Broadway Box Office. www.theobt.com or call 801-355-4628. The X-Dance **film schedule** is listed on the website: www.x-dance.com

Open forums for question and answer sessions after each screening with filmmakers and featured athletes.

Athletes expected to attend the festival: epic snowboarder Travis Rice, big wave charger Ross Clark Jones, legendary skier Scott Schmidt, moto bad boy Twitch Hoodrich, sassy snowboarder Erin Comstock, mountain biking maniac Chris Van Dyne, big mountain extreme skier Micah Black, and big-wave surfer Dave Kalama.

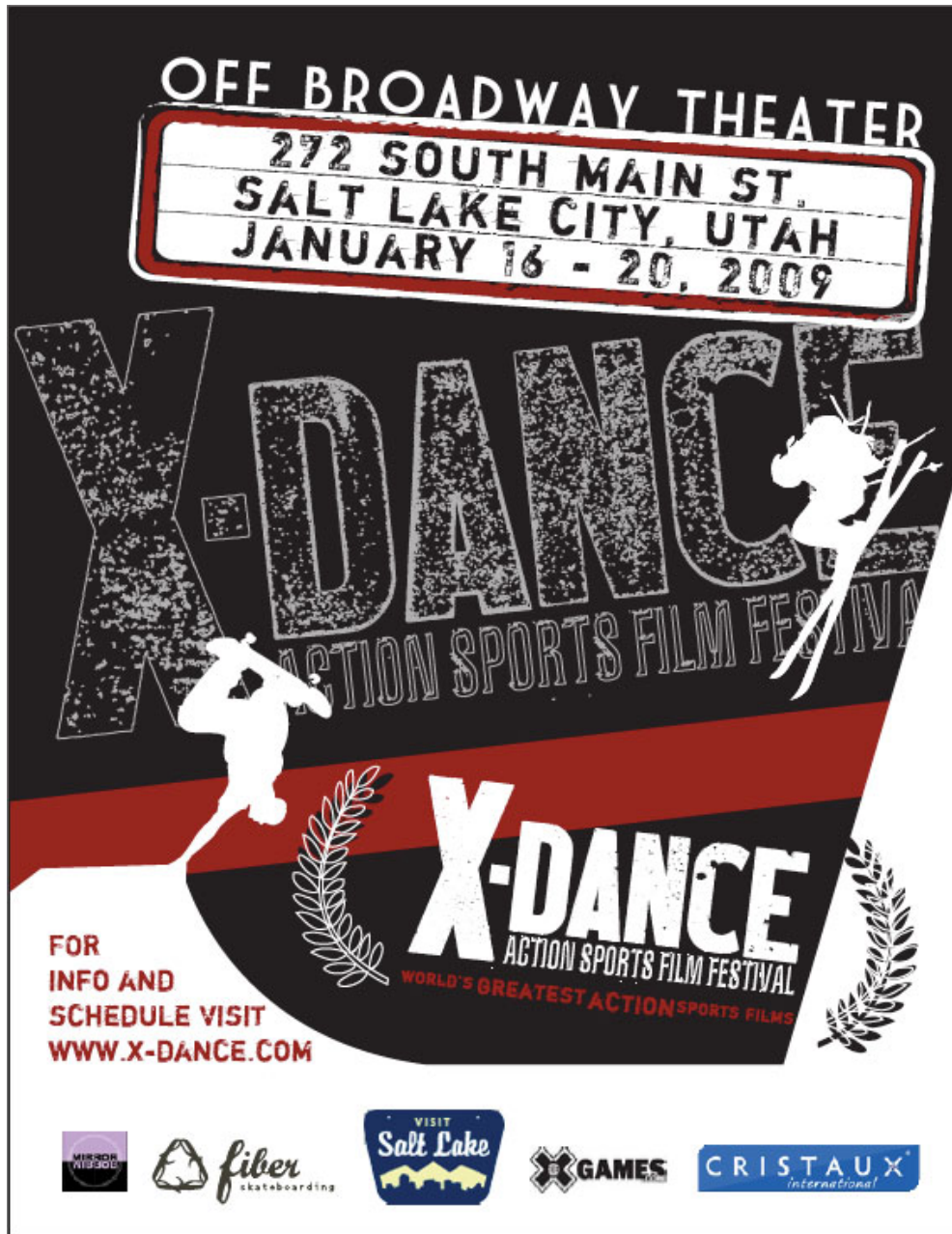
X-Dance Awards Ceremony and Closing Party will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 7p.m. Industry stars and celebrities join bands and DJs to celebrate the best in action sports filmmaking, while the extraordinary VJ, Brien Rullman,

transforms the enormous room into a mesmerizing, wall-to-wall montage of action sports imagery. Hosted by Chris Cote. Open to public. Bouncing Souls will perform along with renowned DJ Sammy Slice from Philly. Tickets \$10. Located at Elevate: 155 West 200 South; www.hotelevate.com. For more details please go to www.x-dance.com.

SPONSORS:

Now in its 9th year, the X-Dance festival has become the focal point for the action sports creative community. We are pleased to announce our 2009 sponsors.

Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau, Transworld, Sailor Jerry's Rum, Utah Sports Commission, Local Have More Fun, ESPN, VAS, Good Vibes For You Water, Cristaux International, Mirror Films, Fiber Skateboarding, SIEGEaudio.com, Numa Tactical, Oakley, and



www.wandermelon.com

For more information please check out the X-Dance website: www.x-dance.com

TRCP Lauds Senate Passage of Public-Lands Bill

Senate vote advances measures beneficial to fish and wildlife populations, supportive of hunting and fishing traditions

WASHINGTON – The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership today expressed support of S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, a package of more than 150 public lands, water and resources bills that includes measures of enormous importance to American hunters and anglers. The Senate voted on Sunday to advance the legislation, which is expected to receive final Senate approval later this week.

“The TRCP is heartened by the Senate’s perseverance in advancing this legislation, which does much to further the cause of promoting robust fish and wildlife populations on our public lands,” said TRCP President and CEO George Cooper. “We urge continued support of the bill by the Senate in the coming days and the speedy passage of S. 22 into law.”

Among the many conservation measures in S. 22, the TRCP strongly supports two – the Wyoming Range Legacy Act and authorization of the National Landscape Conservation System – that facilitate continued access by sportsmen to outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities in the West. The Wyoming Range Legacy Act would prohibit further energy leasing on 1.2 million acres of exceptional big-game range and native trout waters and would allow conservation groups to buy and retire existing energy leases. Codification of the National Landscape Conservation System would safeguard hunting and fishing opportunities on approximately 26 million acres of Bureau of Land Management acreage that already have been identified as some of the most valuable public land fish and wildlife habitat in the West.

The omnibus lands package was developed by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and enjoys strong bipartisan support. If the Senate passes the legislation as anticipated, the bill will move to the U.S. House.

“The American West continues to hold the open spaces and opportunities most prized by many of this country’s sportsmen,” concluded Cooper. “This bill covers some of the best places left in the West, and we look forward to working to

advance similar measures that help guarantee the continuation of public-lands hunting and fishing opportunities.”

BLM Names National Law Enforcement Ranger of the Year

The BLM is pleased to announce the National Law Enforcement Ranger of the Year for 2008. Tyler Fouss, of the BLM, Moab field office, in Utah, has been selected as the Ranger of the year, based on his commitment to the training of fellow officers and protection of visitors, as well as his continued dedication of resources on public land.

In 2008, Ranger Fouss personally trained eight new BLM Law Enforcement Rangers. Fouss passes his knowledge, skill and the Bureau’s mission on to those new Rangers.

“We’re very pleased to see Tyler get this award, he’s not only an outstanding Ranger in Utah, but his service to the Field Training Evaluation Program has been outstanding and commendable,” said Larry Shackelford, Special Agent in Charge, for BLM-Utah.



Ranger Fouss travels to other field offices with Rangers he is training to oversee and complete the field training program. Fouss has assisted the Grand Junction and Montrose field offices in Colorado, and the Taos field office in New Mexico.

Fouss has built a strong working relationship with the local Sherriff’s office in the Moab area, assisting in numerous search and rescue operations over the years.

DWR Captures Bison near Lake Powell

Thirty one bison will soon have a new home

Bullfrog -- Thirty one bison will soon have a new home in Utah.

The Division of Wildlife Resources captured the bison on Jan. 10 and Jan. 11 in the Henry Mountains in southeastern Utah.

Most Utahns don't realize that a free-ranging herd of bison occupies 240 square miles of open country on the northwest side of Lake Powell.

Bison in the Henry Mountains

The Henry Mountains herd began in 1941, when the Utah Department of Fish and Game trucked three bulls and 15 cows from Yellowstone National Park to the Henry Mountains. That small herd of 18 animals has grown to more than 400 bison today. The herd continues to provide Utah's sportsmen with a unique hunting opportunity.

The bison that were captured in the Henry Mountains on Jan. 10 and 11 will join 14 bison that the DWR released into the Book Cliffs in east-central Utah in August 2008.

The 14 bison released into the Book Cliffs in August, and the 31 bison that will be released there in a few days, will be the start of a new herd in Utah.

An aerial rodeo!

Capturing and moving a buffalo that can weigh as much as a ton is extremely risky. To try and minimize the danger, the DWR decided to capture only calves, cows and yearling bulls.

Leading Edge Aviation, a company that specializes in capturing



wildlife, was contracted to accomplish the aerial rodeo work!

Capturing the bison

The DWR developed a capture plan that involved the use of two aircraft—a fixed wing aircraft with DWR spotters in it, and a helicopter capture craft operated by Leading Edge Aviation. The spotters kept track of the bison herd from the air, while the capture craft concentrated entirely on the rodeo show.

Once the spotters spotted the bison, they let the capture crew know where the animals were. The helicopter then closed in and singled out one bison. That animal was cut out from the herd, and a net from a specially designed rifle was fired over it.

Once the net landed on the animal, the net entangled the bison and it dropped to the ground. At that point, crewmen jumped from the chopper, and blind-folded and hobbled the immobilized animal.



Crewmen then rolled the animal into a carry bag. Within seconds of rolling the bison into the bag, the chopper dropped a cable to the crewmen, and they attached the cable to the bag. The helicopter then slung the bison through the air to a crew waiting on the ground.

The ground crew consisted of DWR personnel. The crew was positioned about 10 air miles from the capture location, on one of only a few roads that access the southeast portion of the Henry Mountains. (Known as the Burr Trail, this secondary road connects Bullfrog with Escalante.)

The ground crew's job was to transfer the slung bison into a

waiting horse trailer. Before placing the bison in the trailer, the crew performed health checks and drew blood samples for laboratory testing.

After the horse trailer was fully loaded with bison, the captured animals were driven to Antelope Island State Park. They'll stay in quarantine at the park until blood tests certify that they are free of disease.

After an "all clear!" from the state veterinarian, the bison will finish their trip to the Book Cliffs. The DWR captured 16 bison on Jan. 10 and 15 more on Jan. 11.

Tracer™ Light, an Illumination for Hunters and Dog Trainers

Tucson, AZ (January, 2009) - Tri-Tronics, the industry standard in electronic dog training equipment, is pleased to announce the introduction of the **Tracer™ Light**, the first remotely activated dog collar light. "Whether you're running hounds under the stars, setting up decoys before sunrise, or just exercising your dog, the Tracer will make it easier to track your dog," stated Gary Williams, Sales and Marketing Manager.

The versatile Tracer™ Light is designed to fit any G-series receiver. Hunters are able to turn the light on or off with a simple press of a button on their transmitter. Users can choose between a blinking light or constant mode, which is visible from up to a ½ mile. For hunters who run multiple dogs, the Tracer™ Light is available in three colors: red, white and blue. "Our engineers are continually looking for ways to better meet the needs of our customers. Hunters that take to the woods at night are going to love the Tracer!" said Williams.

The Tracer™ Light is available for purchase as a single accessory (\$49.00 MSRP), already attached to the accessory receiver (\$193.95 MSRP) or pre-installed in a Trashbreaker remote trainer (\$514.00 MSRP).

"The Tracer has the same ruggedness and dependability that Tri-Tronics customers enjoy in their training collars," stated Williams. Tri-Tronics manufactures a full line of electronic dog training equipment. The Tracer™ Light is backed by a 30-day money-back, 1-year warranty. All products are made in the USA.

Conservation Coalition Urges Focus on Clean Water

Partnership welcomes nominations of Administrator Jackson and Chairman Sutley, advocates restored protections for wetlands under Clean Water Act

WASHINGTON – A broad coalition of conservation interests today urged the incoming class of federal policymakers to restore federal protections for our nation's waters.

Recent Supreme Court decisions and subsequent rulemakings have diminished the original scope of the Clean Water Act, leaving many wetlands and intermittent and ephemeral streams beyond the act's protections. As a result, several national sportsmen's organizations have asked members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee – which tomorrow will consider the appointments of Lisa Jackson for Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and Nancy Sutley for Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality – to immediately elevate the issue to a top-tier priority.

The groups write: *We look forward to hearing [the nominees'] views on a host of issues that affect environmental quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Of particular interest to our organizations is the restoration of key federal protections to our nation's waters. Recent Supreme Court decisions (SWANCC, 2001; Rapanos, 2006) have weakened the federal protections for our nation's streams, lakes, and wetlands provided by the Clean Water Act. These decisions have placed in doubt protections for isolated wetlands and intermittent and ephemeral streams respectively. Moreover, EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidance interpreting these decisions have effectively removed protections for many of these waters and placed unnecessarily high hurdles for the protection of other waters. In fact, the EPA estimates that approximately 20 million acres of wetlands and potentially 59% of stream miles are no longer protected as a result of its policies interpreting these Supreme Court decisions.*

The groups continue: *These waters have a tremendous impact on the lives of all Americans and provide numerous societal benefits. In addition to providing essential habitat to numerous plant, fish and wildlife species that benefit sportsmen, they also serve critical flood control functions, recharge groundwater, filter pollutants from drinking water sources and help control erosion.*

The groups conclude: *We seek support in Congress and from the incoming administration for quick passage of strong, bipartisan legislation that will resolve the confusion created by the Supreme Court and restore Clean Water Act protections.*

“Our nation’s waters are too few and too valuable to entrust their vitality to a weakened and confused law,” said TRCP Initiative manager Geoff Mullins. “The Clean Water Act was intended to be a clear statement of the absolute importance of our aquatic resources, and we encourage our incoming leaders to adopt that same vision.”

50,000 People Sign “We Are Wetlands” Petition

Push for stronger new clean water protections enters home stretch

WASHINGTON – The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) today announced that its “We Are Wetlands” petition drive has reached 50,000 signatures, illustrating the deep desire of the American public to see Congress pass strong new clean water protections.

The TRCP initiated the petition drive in April 2008 with a goal of adding 80,000 names – one for each acre of natural wetlands that our country loses each year – to the call for legislation that restores the integrity of the Clean Water Act.



“At a time when a series of Supreme Court decisions and subsequent rulemakings have dramatically weakened the Clean Water Act,” said TRCP Initiative Manager Geoff Mullins, “we need our leaders to take decisive actions to restore its original scope. Nothing short of a critical resource for millions of waterfowl and countless aquatic species hangs in the balance.”

“America’s hunters and anglers know full well the importance of wetlands to the resources they revere,” said TRCP President and CEO George Cooper. “Five to 7 million waterfowl annually use wetlands as feeding and resting areas, and 9 of every 10 fish caught recreationally depend on wetlands at some point in their lives. Put simply, it’s impossible to overstate the value of wetlands to our nation’s fish and wildlife – and the American sportsman.”

“In addition to their importance to sportsmen, it must be understood that wetlands matter to everyone because they are nature’s water filters,” said Tom Franklin,

TRCP senior vice president. “As our population grows, preserving our natural wetlands means preserving clean drinking water supplies for all Americans.”

To sign the “We Are Wetlands” petition, please visit www.wearewetlands.org.

Boone and Crockett Club Confirms New World’s Record Elk

MISSOULA, Mont.—Perhaps the largest elk ever produced in the wild—a Utah bull taken in 2008 by a hunter on public land—has been confirmed as a new World’s Record. The official declaration was made Friday by the Boone and Crockett Club.

A special judges panel determined a final score of 478-5/8 B&C non-typical points, an incredible 93-plus inches above the Boone and Crockett minimum score of 385 for non-typical American elk, and more than 13 inches larger than the previous World’s Record.

It is the only elk on record with a gross score approaching the 500-inch mark, at 499-3/8. Official data dates back to 1830.

The giant bull has 9 points on the left antler and 14 points on the right. The larger antler has a base circumference topping 9 inches.

The Boone and Crockett scoring system, long used to measure the success of wildlife conservation and management programs across North America, rewards antler size and symmetry, but also recognizes nature’s imperfections with non-typical categories for most antlered game. The bull’s final score of 478-5/8 inches includes an amazing 140 inches of abnormal points.



“Along with measurements that honor the quality of the animal, Boone and Crockett Club records also honor fair-chase hunting,” said Eldon Buckner, chairman of the Club’s Records of North American Big Game committee. “Through our entry process, signed affidavits and follow-up interviews with the hunter, his guides, and state and federal

officials, we were satisfied that this bull was indeed a wild, free-ranging trophy and that the tenets of fair chase were used in the harvest.”

The hunter, Denny Austad of Ammon, Idaho, hunted the Monroe Mountain District in south-central Utah. Hunting with a self-designed rifle, Austad killed the bull on Sept. 30, 2008. He hunted for 13 days before connecting with the trophy, dubbed “spider bull” for its unique antler configuration.

On behalf of the Boone and Crockett Club, Buckner congratulated Austad and credited his new World’s Record to the tremendous management of habitat and wildlife by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Fishlake National Forest.

“Utah’s conservation professionals really deserve a pat on the back, as do the citizens of Utah for their support of their state’s wildlife programs,” said Buckner.

Across North America, ever-improving conservation practices have translated to flourishing big game populations, with balanced age-class and mature, trophy animals. Over the past 30 years, qualifying Boone and Crockett records book entries for American elk have increased 193 percent from a total of 14 in 1977 to 41 in 2007.

Across all categories of native North American big game, the overall trend is even higher with 344 qualifiers in 1977 up to 1,151 in 2007—a 234 percent increase.

The previous World’s Record for non-typical American elk was 465-2/8 B&C points. That bull was found dead, frozen in Upper Arrow Lake, B.C., in 1994, and was entered into Boone and Crockett Club records by the provincial Ministry of Environment on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia.

For hunter-taken non-typical American elk, the previous top bull scored 450-6/8 B&C points, taken in 1998 in Apache County, Ariz., by Alan Hamberlin.

The Boone and Crockett Club also keeps records for Roosevelt’s and Tule elk. World’s Records for these categories are substantially smaller than those for American elk.

Wetlands preserve starts to reopen

Half of the preserve went up in smoke in October

In late October, people caused a fire that burned 400 acres at the Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve in Moab.

Now, less than two months later, most of the area was rehabilitated. And part of it has reopened to the public.



In late November, 45 volunteers answered the call to help personnel from The Nature Conservancy and the Division of Wildlife Resources plant more than 1,000 small cottonwood trees at the preserve. They planted the trees in a single day.

The next step in restoring the preserve happened in early December. That's when an aerial seed applicator contracted by the DWR flew over the area and dropped a diverse mixture of grass and plant seeds.

Immediately following the seeding, the DWR hit the ground with revegetation equipment, including bulldozers. DWR employees used the equipment to level burnt tamarisk stumps and roughen the soil. Roughing the soil will help the seeds germinate.

Now that tree planting, aerial seeding and mechanical treatments are over, the



DWR has reopened the north end of the preserve to public visitors. The south end of the preserve, including The Nature Conservancy trails, is still closed for more restoration work. The boardwalk and bird blind that were lost in the fire are also being rebuilt.

Utah's Wild Spanish Descendants Ready for Adoption BLM featuring over 200 Sulphur horses from Utah's own Sulphur Herd

Delta, Utah —January 16, 2009 —The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be hosting a

Sulphur Wild Horse Adoption at the Delta Wild Horse & Burro

Facility, 600 N 350 W, Delta, Utah on Jan. 24, featuring more than 200 wild horses from Utah's own Sulphur Herd. The Sulphur horses have been genetically tested and show strong evidence of Spanish Ancestry. The public is invited to attend and admission is free.

BLM's Wild Horse Specialist, Chad Hunter said, "I've talked with people from all around the nation who are inquiring about horses of Spanish descent. This is an opportunity for the people from Utah to see and adopt these remnants of Spanish ancestry – horses from the Sulphur herd."

According to Hunter the Sulphur horses are believed to have originated from stock brought across the Old Spanish Trail that went through southwestern Utah in the 1600-1700s.



Hunter said the Sulphur Herd exhibits the Spanish characteristics including a high proportion of dun and grulla colors with “tiger-striped” legs, line back cross-over withers, and black rimmed ears. Body sizes tend to be smaller and trim when compared to other wild horses. Sulphur wild horses are approximately 14 hands in size with mares estimated to weigh 750 to 800 pounds, and stallions, 800-900 pounds.

“Our main concern is to find good homes for all the horses,” said Hunter. “Some animals may adopt for more than the base price of \$125.00, but many are expected to be adopted

at or near the base fee.”

Silent bidding will begin on Thurs., Jan. 22 at 8 a.m. and closing on Sat., Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. All bids will begin at \$125.00. Once bidding has closed, then all horses will be available for \$125.00 on a first come, first served basis. All qualified adopters may Adopt-a-Buddy for \$25.00 with the adoption of a full fee horse.

Animals may be previewed at anytime Mon. through Fri. between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. before the announced adoption dates. Walk-ups are welcome the day of the adoption. Additional information on adoption and the adoption application can be found on the web at www.ut.blm.gov. To receive a faxed or mailed copy of the

application, a brochure or other information, call the Delta Wild Horse & Burro Facility (435)864-4068.

Hunter said, "When you consider the stress of adoption day, people, and separation from the herd, the risk of injury can be very high. Therefore, covered stock trailers with side-swinging gates are preferred. A completely enclosed three-horse trailer or larger is recommended.

Two-horse trailers and drop ramps are not acceptable." BLM has taken precautions to ensure the safety of the animals. Newly adopted wild horses are not accustomed to traveling in a horse trailer.

For more information, please contact Chad Hunter at the Bureau of Land Management, 176 East DL Sargent Drive, Cedar City, Utah 84720, (435) 865-3088 or the Delta Wild Horse & Burro Facility, 600 North 350 West, Delta, Utah 84624, (435)864-4068.

Dreams come true — bison released in the Book Cliffs!

Sixteen bison released on Jan. 14—15 more are scheduled for release today

"It was a dream," Dwight Bunnell said of the time about 30 years ago when biologists started talking about putting bison back on the Book Cliffs in eastern Utah.



"When we started, many felt there would never be a chance to return bison to public lands here," he said. "But this is proof dreams can come true."

A retired Wildlife Section chief for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Bunnell was among about 60 people on hand to see the historic reintroduction of 16 bison onto public lands in the Book Cliffs.

Everyone in attendance at the Jan. 14 release seemed to agree.

"This is exciting!" said Bill Christensen, Utah director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. "This is historic. Bison have returned to the Book Cliffs!"



1941 was the last year a new bison herd was started on public land in Utah. "This is why the RMEF got involved in the Book Cliffs Conservation Initiative," Christensen said. "[This is] why we helped purchase two of the three ranches that were for sale from willing sellers [on the Book Cliffs] 18 years ago."

Christensen said the place looks a bit different with all the recent energy development, but the Book Cliffs is still a great place for wildlife.

"I'm really proud to be a part of it," Christensen said. "The Book Cliffs is the second largest project [in terms of acres for wildlife] that the foundation was involved with.

"This introduction is another major achievement for the partnership."

New herd starts with 45 bison

In all, 45 bison will be introduced onto public lands in the Book Cliffs. Another herd, managed by the Ute Tribe, roams to the west on the Hill Creek Extension of the Book Cliffs.

The DWR reintroduced 14 of the 45 animals donated by the Ute Tribe into the rugged, remote, roadless area of the Book Cliffs in August 2008.

Two bison explore their new home on the Book Cliffs. These bison are among the animals biologists fitted with radio collars. Photo by Ron Stewart.

The final 31 bison were captured from another free-ranging herd managed by the DWR on the Henry Mountains in southeastern Utah. The 16 released on Jan. 14, and the 15 scheduled for release on Jan. 15, are being reintroduced on Steer Ridge and Moon Ridge respectively.

Both of these areas are in the part of the Book Cliffs that has roads in it.

"We felt this would be the best area [for the latest release] for several reasons," said Dave Olsen, a biologist with the DWR. - (It)'s open, it's remote and it has good forage. Several habitat projects have helped prepare this area for the release. And a natural burn has helped us even more.

"Also, Bert DeLambert, the landowner on this side [of the Book Cliffs], was an integral part of the Book Cliffs Conservation Initiative, and cooperative grazing and habitat developments [associated with it]. He doesn't run many animals in this area, and he has an interest in bison. He felt this would be good site to release the bison and start the new herd. It's also as close as we could get to the roadless area in the Book Cliffs in the middle of winter."

A busy week!

The Jan. 14 and 15 releases started with a helicopter capture on Jan. 10 and 11 on the high plateaus of the Henry Mountains.

After the bison were captured, they were placed in large bags and



flown to a staging area where blood and other samples were taken to be tested for disease. The bison were then loaded into trailers for transport to a quarantine station on Antelope Island State Park where they stayed for several days. After

passing their disease testing, the bison were loaded up one more time for an eight-hour drive to be released on "the edge of nowhere!"

"All of the bison were given ear tags at the capture site. And before they left Antelope Island, we fitted some of the bison with radio collars," said Dax Mangus, DWR biologist on the Book Cliffs.

"The tags and radios, which can be read from the ground or from the air, will help us monitor the herd and track its movements. We'll also watch to see how well the habitat holds up, and we'll test [the bison] periodically for disease.

"I've been asked when the area will be open for bison hunting," Mangus said. "Yes, eventually hunting of the herd will be allowed, but that's still years away. Most of the animals we released were yearlings and calves, so it will be a couple years before the calves reach maturity."

Mangus said the management plan for the Book Cliffs calls for 450 bison on the public land.

"That is so incredible," Bunnell said as he watched two bulls work their way up a snow-covered slope and then silhouette themselves on a ridge against the blue sky. "They belong here!"

Make a difference – Serve on the Utah Wildlife Board

Applications accepted until March 31

If you care about Utah's wildlife and you want to make a difference, you may want to consider applying to serve on the Utah Wildlife Board.

The board sets policy that guides how wildlife is managed in Utah. Those policies include rules that regulate hunting and fishing in the state.

"A strong interest in wildlife and wildlife management, and a commitment to represent the people of Utah, are among the qualities you need to serve on the board," says Staci Coons, board coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Applications will be accepted until March 31, 2009. For more information, or to apply, visit wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/apply.php on the Web.

Two openings

The Utah Wildlife Board Nominating Committee has two vacancies it needs to fill on the seven-member board this year.

After interviewing candidates, the committee will forward its recommendations to Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. Gov. Huntsman will make the final choice. The members the governor appoints will serve six-year terms.

"Board members attend 10 to 12 wildlife board meetings in Salt Lake City each year," Coons says. "They're also encouraged to attend monthly Wildlife Regional Advisory Council meetings in their regions. Some overnight travel is required."

Kids In Nature: February Winter Program

Cupid is in the air and so are the birds. The National Park Service and the Uinta Wasatch-Cache National Forest invite you to experience Utah's majestic raptors up close. Join us on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. for this free winter kids in nature program. Live wildlife such as eagles, hawks, falcons and owls will be featured. This one hour program will be presented by guest speaker Ben Woodruff of Skymasters Wildlife Foundation at the Timpanogos Cave National Monument Visitor Center. Please be aware that a \$6.00 vehicle entrance fee is required to access American Fork Canyon. For further information call (801) 756-5239.

Location: Timpanogos Cave National Monument Visitor Center

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Date : Saturday, February 14, 2009

Program: "Utah's Majestic Raptors"

Soaring, reeling, surveying the ground from high in the sky. Come learn why these birds are such colorful characters as you spend the afternoon with guest speaker Ben Woodruff of Skymasters Wildlife Foundation and their feisty flock. Live wildlife such as eagles, hawks, falcons and owls will be featured.

Fly Fishing Event Scheduled

The Stonefly Society and Cache Valley Anglers, chapters of Utah Trout Unlimited, are pleased to announce the Third Annual Wasatch Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo. The Expo will be held Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, 2009 at the Karen Gail Miller Conference Center, Salt Lake Community College, 9750 South 300 West,

Sandy, Utah.

This two-day Expo will feature fly tying demos from some of the best fly tiers in Utah, casting clinics, fly tying and fly fishing workshops, casting competition, fly



fishing film festival, prize raffles, exhibitors, and more. Last year's event was a great success and we anticipate this year's Expo to be bigger and better. Saturday evening we will conclude the Expo with a banquet and auction featuring renown author

and fly shop owner Charlie Craven (www.charliesflyboxinc.com) as our keynote speaker. Expo activities on Friday will go from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. The banquet Saturday evening will start at 6:30 p.m. and will include a live and silent auction.

The goals we have are threefold: 1) raise funds for future conservation projects for Utah's streams, rivers, and lakes, 2) celebrate fly tying and fly fishing in the state of Utah, and 3) have some fun.

In addition to the Expo event, we are pleased to announce we are bringing back the Wasatch Fly Fishing Film Festival which will be held on Wednesday, March 18th at 7 p.m. The film festival will feature 5-7 mini fly fishing film segments. It will be held at the Miller Free Enterprise Center in the Auditorium, Salt Lake Community College, 9750 South 300 West, Sandy, Utah. Tickets will be \$8 per person. We will be giving away some great door prizes and holding a few raffles. It should be a great event.

The workshops, classes, and casting clinic schedules can be downloaded from the expo website. Check it often for updates and announcements.

<http://www.wasatchexpo.com/workshops.htm>

You'll find attached a Raffle and Banquet package list along with an RSVP form for the Fly Fishing Film Festival. Please review the different raffle/banquet packages and workshops/classes and fill out your RSVP and send it in. RSVP's for the banquet and workshops/classes are due March 10th.

<http://www.wasatchexpo.com/banquet.htm>



If you would like to be a volunteer fly tyer to exhibit your fly tying skills, please contact Curtis Fry via email at frito1@gmail.com.

Discount lodging is available at the Country Inn & Suites just 3 minutes from the conference center. Call 801-553-1151 and let them know you're attending the fly fishing expo for the \$87.00 per room discount. It is located at 10499 South Jordan Gateway, South Jordan, UT 84095

Thank you for your support.

Southern Region Fishing Report

BAKER RESERVOIR: The reservoir may have open water after the recent warmer weather. Fall and winter are good times to target nice browns at Baker. Try Rapalas or other crankbaits, streamers and frozen minnows. Jigs tipped with cutbait also work well.



BARKER RESERVOIRS, NORTH CREEK LAKES:

You can only access these waters by snowmobile or ATV. All lakes except the Barker and Lower Barker reservoirs are closed to fishing until Apr. 18. Special regulations on many of the Boulder Mountain waters include a trout limit of four, and only two of those fish may be over 14

inches.

BEAVER MOUNTAIN LAKES: You can access the lakes by snowmobile. All of the lakes have ice. Public access at Puffer Lake is restricted to 100 yards of shoreline on the southwest end. Look for the small area that is NOT posted.

BEAVER RIVER, LOWER: The river is covered with ice, which makes fishing difficult. Much of the river is on private property, so please treat the area with

respect. Some of the private land is open to walk-in access, but other properties are closed. Please watch for signs and avoid trespassing.

BEAVER RIVER, UPPER: Anchor ice is making fishing difficult. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease* by cleaning mud from waders and equipment. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

BOULDER MOUNTAIN LAKES: Most Boulder Mountain lakes are closed to fishing until Apr. 18. Check the [2009 Utah Fishing Guidebook](#) to see which lakes are still open. You can only access this area by snowmobile or ATV. Special regulations on many of the Boulder Mountain waters include a trout limit of four, and only two of those fish may be over 14 inches.



CLEAR CREEK:

There is some ice along the banks. Although trout get sluggish

in the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits.

DUCK CREEK

SPRINGS/ASPEN MIRROR LAKE: These waters are closed from Jan. 1 to Apr. 18.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER, KINGSTON CANYON: The river is iced over, making fishing difficult. There is public access on a section of Kingston Canyon (midway through the canyon) that was purchased through the Blue Ribbon Fisheries program. Look for the signs. Most of the canyon is on private property and it's posted, so ask permission first.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER, BLACK CANYON: The river in Black Canyon generally does not freeze over. Although trout get sluggish in the winter, stream

fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits. For the section of river from the BLM property boundary (about four miles south of Antimony) upstream to the confluence with Deer Creek, there are special regulations: you can use artificial flies and lures only, and there's a limit of two trout. Some private land is closed to trespassing, so watch for the signs.

ENTERPRISE RESERVOIR (UPPER AND LOWER): The upper reservoir was not stocked in 2008 due to continued repair work on the dam. It will be stocked in spring 2009. A fish-consumption advisory was issued for rainbow trout in Upper Enterprise Reservoir due to elevated levels of mercury. For details, visit www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.



FISH LAKE: There are 7–8 inches of clear ice and fast fishing for splake. Use jigs or Kastmasters tipped with perch or other cutbait. You can catch smaller splake—along with perch and a few rainbows—just outside the weeds. You'll have success catching larger splake (16–18 inches) at 50–60 feet. For lake trout, try larger white jigs tipped with cutbait in 50–60 feet. **Note:** A few tiger muskies have moved up from Johnson Reservoir. The general statewide limit on tiger muskie applies here: you may keep one fish, and it must be over 40 inches.

FORSYTH RESERVOIR: Access is good, and the ice is about 12 inches thick. Fishing is good one day and then slow the next. Ice fishing is a good way to target splake. Try light-colored jigs or Kastmasters tipped with cutbait. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

FREMONT RIVER: The road above Mill Meadow is not plowed, so access can be difficult. Although trout get sluggish in the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits. The lower sections of the stream can be good at any time of year if the water is not turbid. Much of the lower stream is on private land. Ask for permission before fishing on private land. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease* by cleaning mud from waders and equipment. *Do not transport*



any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

GUNLOCK RESERVOIR: The reservoir was drained in fall 2008 for dam repairs. Bass and bluegill will be stocked in spring 2009, but it will take a few years for populations to re-establish. A fish-consumption advisory was issued for largemouth bass from Gunlock due to elevated levels of mercury. For details, visit www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.



JOHNSON RESERVOIR: Muskie fishing will be slow until spring. The reservoir contains an abundance of suckers, Utah chubs and small yellow perch. Special regulations: Whole fish and amphibians are not allowed as bait. Cut bait must be no longer than one inch in any dimension and only one piece per hook. Limit one tiger muskie over 40 inches; all tiger muskies less than 40 inches must be immediately released.

KOLOB RESERVOIR: You can access the reservoir by snowmobile. There isn't much ice fishing pressure because of access limitations. Special regulations include

artificial flies and lures only, with a limit of one trout, which must be over 18 inches. Scented jigs are not allowed. Tributaries are closed to fishing Jan. 1 to July 11. Please call the poaching hotline (1-800-662-DEER) to report violations.

KOOSHAREM RESERVOIR: There is plenty of ice. It is not certain how many fish survived low water this fall. Ice fishing will likely be slow this year.

LOWER BOWNS RESERVOIR: Access is limited to snowmobiles or ATVs. Ice fishing is usually good if you can get there.

MAMMOTH CREEK: Although trout get sluggish in the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits. Public access is possible on some of Mammoth Creek west of Highway 89. Please watch for and respect private property postings. Special regulations apply to a section of Mammoth Creek; check the [2009 Utah Fishing Guidebook](#) for details. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

MILL MEADOW RESERVOIR: Ice is 10–12 inches thick. You'll find fast fishing for perch in 16–18 feet of water. A few browns are also being picked up. Medium-sized brown trout are abundant. These brown trout are wild fish spawned in the Fremont River. It is very unique to find such a dense



population of wild brown trout in a reservoir. The best techniques for the browns are flashy lures, streamers and natural baits like nightcrawlers and minnows. You can catch good-sized perch, some up to 10 inches long. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR: There is plenty of safe ice, but there have been mixed reports over the last couple of weeks. A few anglers have had fair success, although fish are in poor condition. Try white marabou or tube jigs in 8–10 feet. Special regulations include artificial flies and lures only, with a limit of one trout, which must be over 22 inches. Scented jigs are not allowed. Please call the poaching hotline (1-800-662-DEER) to report violations. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

MONROE MOUNTAIN LAKES: The snow limits access. These lakes typically don't get much ice fishing pressure.

NAVAJO LAKE: There is plenty of ice, but the gate is closed and access is limited to snowmobiles or ATVs. There's not much pressure because of access issues, but ice fishing can be very productive here. Ice fishing is a good way to target splake. Try light-colored jigs or Kastmasters tipped with cutbait.

NEWCASTLE RESERVOIR: You'll need four-wheel drive to access this water, and you still might get stuck. The ice is 10-12 inches thick, and fishing is slow. A few small rainbows are being caught. Please remember that golden shiners are not approved for use as fresh or frozen bait. A fish-consumption advisory was issued

for rainbow trout in Newcastle Reservoir due to elevated levels of mercury. For



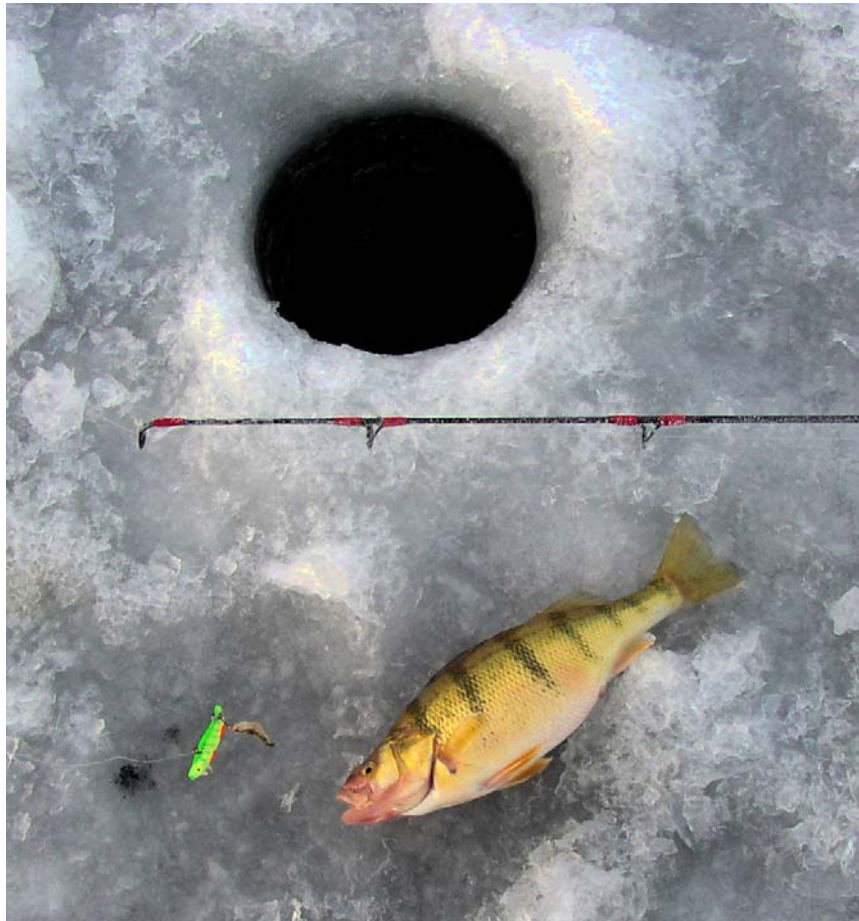
details, visit www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

OTTER CREEK RESERVOIR: The ice is 12–14 inches thick, and the reservoir has moderate to heavy fishing pressure, especially on weekends. Most anglers find slow to fair fishing. Try to get away from the crowds at the most popular spots. Anglers who report the most success are fishing on the bottom in 8–12 feet, or they are suspended at the same depth over 20 feet. Light-colored jigs tipped with mealworms or minnows were producing. The right depth seems to be the key—don't go out too deep. Fish at Otter Creek are often caught in 6–10 feet of water. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

PANGUITCH LAKE: NEW REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT. You may keep a total of four trout. No more than two may be cutthroat or tiger trout under 15 inches, and no more than one may be a cutthroat or tiger trout over 22 inches. All cutthroat and tiger trout 15 to 22 inches must be released. There are no size restrictions on rainbow trout. Trout caught at Panguitch Lake cannot be filleted, nor can you remove the head or tail, until you get home or to a camp. For help with

fish identification, refer to page 40 in the [2009 Utah Fishing Guidebook](#) or go to www.wildlife.utah.gov/trout.pdf. The ice is 16–18 inches. Most anglers have had slow to fair fishing, although a few reported more success. The more successful anglers moved away from the crowds at the popular spots. Try light-colored jigs tipped with mealworms or cutbait in 8–12 feet of water. Your success may slip with PowerBait. Some fish are caught on the bottom, while others are suspended halfway up the water column. **TIPS FOR RELEASING FISH IN THE SLOT** (from 15–22 inches long): If a fish swallows the hook, please cut the line to avoid mortality. A fish can pass a swallowed hook and survive, while digging the hook out will almost certainly kill the fish. Also try fishing with single hooks instead of treble hooks.

PARAGONAH (RED CREEK) RESERVOIR: Access by snowmobiles, trucks and ATVs is not recommended. Ice fishing can be productive, if you can get there.



Tributaries are closed to fishing from Jan. 1 to July 11. Rainbows are very

abundant. Harvest is encouraged to allow fish to stay in balance with the food base.

PINE LAKE: The ice appears to be safe. Remember, the road isn't plowed, so access may be difficult. Ice fishing should be good if you can get there.

PINE VALLEY RESERVOIR: There haven't been any recent reports, but the reservoir should have

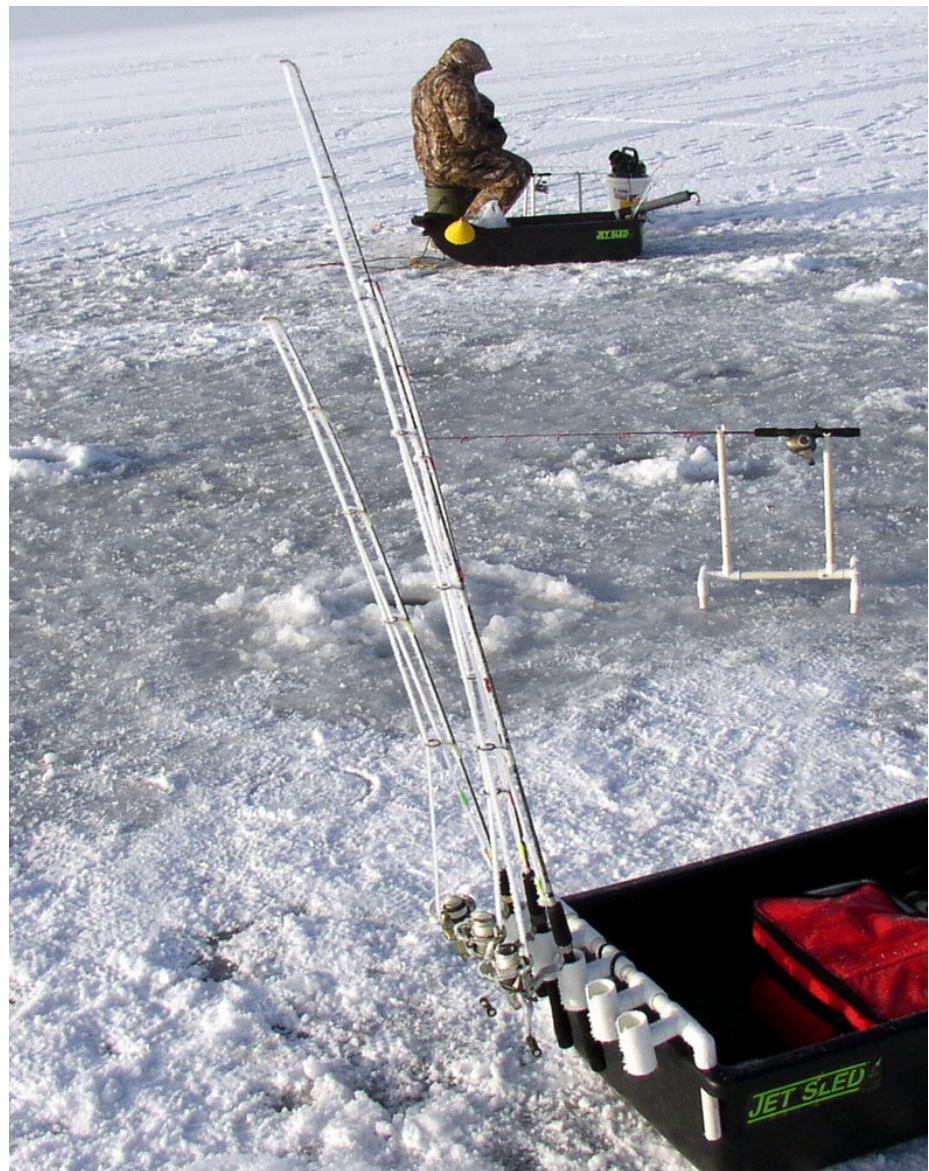
safe ice. There has been a lot of snow in the area, so four-wheel drive is recommended.

PIUTE RESERVOIR: The ice is 10–12 inches thick. Fishing is fair to good. Try to get away from the more heavily fished spots. Try same techniques as Otter Creek. Don't go too deep—most fish are caught in 6–12 feet of water.

QUAIL LAKE: Quail Lake is accepting Christmas trees for use as fish habitat. Just deliver your tree to the park or to the DWR Southern Region office in Cedar City at 1470 N. Airport Road. Please do not place trees in the lake yourself; they must be properly secured to avoid becoming boating hazards. Rainbows have been stocked, and fishing should be good. You'll have the most success fishing from the state park to the inlet. Bass fishing slows down during the colder months, although it is still possible to catch fish. Make sure you fish during the warmest part of the day. A very slow retrieve is key; even "dead-sticking" may help. Many bass anglers prefer drop-shot rigs in the winter. Don't be afraid to use larger plastics or even hardware. Remember the special regulations for bass: you may keep four bass under 10 inches and two over 20 inches.

SAND HOLLOW RESERVOIR:

Sand Hollow State Park is accepting Christmas trees for use as fish habitat. Just deliver your tree to the park or to the DWR Southern Region office in Cedar City at 1470 N. Airport Road. Please do not place



trees in the lake yourself; they must be properly secured to avoid becoming boating hazards. Bass fishing slows down during the colder months, although it is still possible to catch fish. Make sure you fish during the warmest part of the day. A very slow retrieve is key; even "dead-sticking" may help. Many bass anglers prefer drop-shot rigs in the winter. Don't be afraid to use larger plastics or even hardware. Remember the special regulations for bass: you may keep a limit of six, with one over 12 inches. Public access to the reservoir is available only through the state park.

SEVIER RIVER (UPPER), ASAY CREEK: The water generally freezes at night and breaks up during the day. Although trout get sluggish in the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits. Most of the trout water on the upper Sevier is located upstream (south) from the town of Hatch. Intermittent sections of good habitat are present above Hatch and are easily accessible from Highway 89. Asay Creek (west of Highway 89) is on private land, and access is



restricted.

SEVIER RIVER, MARYSVALE CANYON: Fishing is difficult due to ice cover.

THOUSAND LAKES MOUNTAIN: Access is limited by snow. Ice fishing is usually good in Solomon Basin, if you can get there.

TROPIC RESERVOIR: Snow may limit access. Winter is a good time to target brown trout. The local favorite bait is frozen minnows.

URBAN PONDS (WASHINGTON COUNTY): Catchable-sized rainbow trout have been stocked in all the ponds, and fishing is good with any technique. Adults are encouraged to use lures and flies.



WIDE HOLLOW RESERVOIR: There haven't been any recent reports, but it likely has thin ice.

YANKEE MEADOW RESERVOIR: Access is limited to snowmobiles and ATVs. Ice fishing is usually good if you can get there.

BEAR LAKE: Biologist Scott Tolentino reports that Bear Lake is completely ice-

free and, in the mild weather, it's unlikely that Bear Lake will freeze anytime soon. You can launch boats at the Utah State Park marina and Cisco Beach ramps. The ramps have been plowed and are clear, but the dock in the water at Cisco Beach is unusable because of the ice cover by waves. Last week's high winds meant that there was very little pressure on Bear Lake. In anticipation of the start of the cisco run, daily checks will begin on Jan. 15 at Cisco Beach. After Jan. 15, the Bear Lake office will update its answering machine with a full report every day. **Please, call after 5:30pm.** The phone number is: 435-946-8501. The fishing should be good for cutthroat trout and lake trout on the east side of the lake and just south of Gus Rich Point. Try jigging over weedbeds in 20 to 30 feet of water. The pump house on the east side is typically very good fishing this time of year.

CAUSEY RESERVOIR: Conservation Officer Chad Wilson reports slow fishing and light pressure.

EAST CANYON STATE PARK: Park Ranger Josh Gibson reports anglers are catching trout on shrimp, salmon eggs and meal worms. The ice is roughly five to eight inches thick, 100 yards from the shore.

ECHO RESERVOIR: Biologist Ben Nadolski reports slow fishing for perch and fair fishing for trout.

HYRUM STATE PARK: Park Ranger Floyd Powell and Conservation Officer Matt Burgess report slow fishing. The ice conditions are unstable and you should use caution. There are only two inches of clear ice and four inches of white ice. Anglers have been using everything from worms and wax worms to PowerBait. For perch and trout, try fishing off of the boat ramp in 8 to 10 feet of water or off of the bottom.



MANTUA RESERVOIR: Conservation Officer Matt Burgess reports that anglers are having good success catching bluegill, perch and some trout. Try using an ice

fly with meal worms or wax worms in 11 feet of water, and moving toward the middle of the lake and working the east point.

NEWTON RESERVOIR: Conservation Officer Rob Johnson reports slow fishing, although bluegill, crappie, bass, and yellow perch are being taken through the ice. Anglers are mostly catching yellow perch between six to eight inches in length. One angler reports catching a yellow perch with a small, unbaited white and blue jig. Most anglers are having success targeting bass on the south end of the Reservoir near the rocks.

**OGDEN
RIVER:**

Conservation Officer Chad Wilson reports light pressure.

**PINEVIEW
RESERVOIR:**

Biologist Ben Nadolski reports that Division biologists are conducting a creel survey at Pineview Reservoir. This one year survey is designed to determine fishing pressure, and angler success and harvest rates. Biologists are also hoping to survey public opinion of



current and future management strategies for Pineview Reservoir. The Division would greatly appreciate your participation.

As of Jan. 11, the entire reservoir is capped with five to eight inches of ice. However, there is a thin spot near a spring on the far Northeast side of Cemetery Point. Anglers continue to concentrate in the Narrows near the dam, near Wind Surfer Beach and on the north side of Cemetery Point. The Utah Department of Transportation has plowed extensively on the north side of the Narrows to increase parking and safety. Most anglers are parking near the access road across from the



Dam Operators house, but additional parking is available further east.

Anglers were marking a lot of fish with fish finders or underwater cameras, but reported slow fishing. Most anglers were unsuccessful in The Narrows and had mixed success at Cemetery Point. Try using a combination of lures and bait, including assorted jig colors and ice flies tipped with a meal worm, wax worm, perch meat or perch eye ball. Or try a jig or ice fly as a dropper tipped with meal

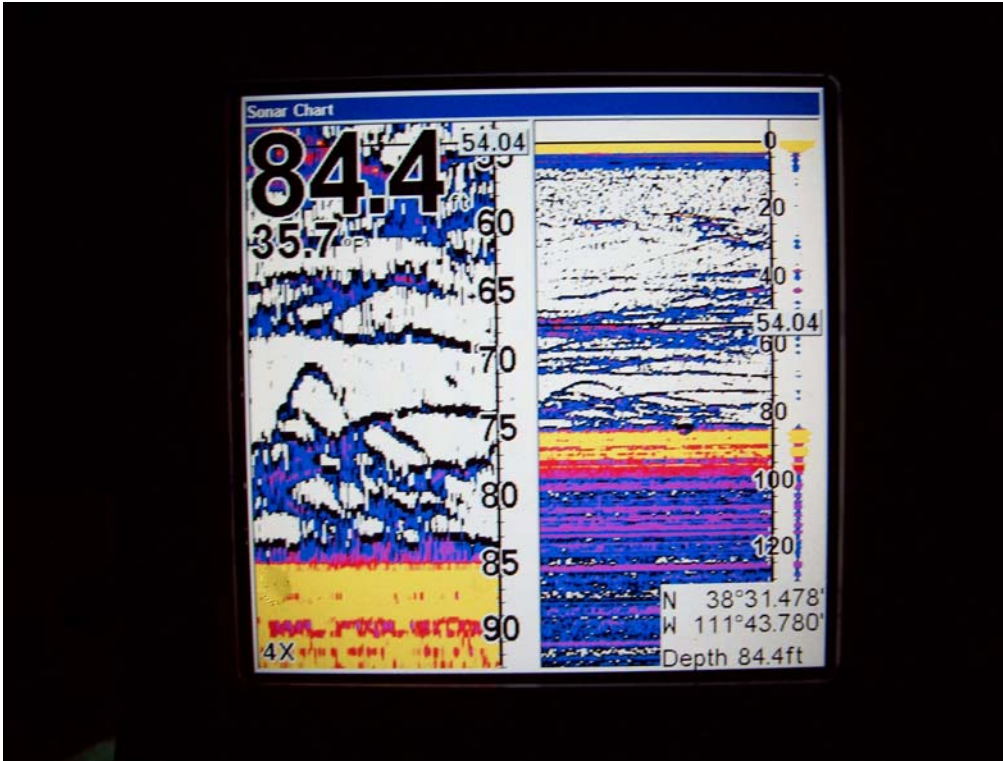
worms or wax worms and a combination of 1/8- to 1/4-ounce Kastmaster blade, Swedish Pimple or similar hardware in water deeper than 40 feet.

From Jan. 9–11, average catch rates were approximately 1.6 fish per angler per day (min=zero, max=9). Anglers harvested 80% of the fish that they caught. Anglers caught 1.3 yellow perch and .31 black crappie per day on average. The average length and weight of all harvested crappie was 9.53 inches (min=4.80, max=12.91)



and .55 pounds (min=.06 inches, max=1.22 inches), respectively. The average length and weight of all harvested perch was 8.43 inches (min=6.06 inches, max=10.71 inches) and .30 pounds (min=.1, max=.61), respectively.

PORCUPINE RESERVOIR: Conservation Officer Rob Johnson reports that the road to Porcupine Reservoir is not passable by vehicle. Anglers will have to park at the parking lot at the bottom of the dam and walk or take a snowmobile to the ice. One angler reports average fishing, although he had some success catching brown trout.



ROCKPORT STATE PARK:

Joseph Donnell reports that Rockport State Park has six to ten inches of ice. Lots of ice fisherman with reports of good fishing. He suggests try fishing for rainbows in the shallower water, less than 25 feet and the perch are down on the

bottom in about 40 feet of water. The boat ramp is plowed which makes for easy access to the ice, especially for those with disabilities.

Public-Lands Bill Receives Final Senate Approval

Hunters and anglers urge continued focus on measures beneficial to fish and wildlife populations, sporting opportunities as bill moves to House

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate today voted its final approval of S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, a package of more than 150 public lands, water and resources bills that includes measures of critical importance to sportsmen and is supported by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. S. 22 now moves on to the U.S. House, where its prompt passage is expected.

“We have cleared a major hurdle in the effort to sustain fish and wildlife populations on our nation’s public lands,” said TRCP Senior Vice President Tom Franklin, “yet significant steps remain to be taken. Sportsmen urge continued vigilance and action by federal policymakers to assure that these precious, finite natural resources are responsibly managed into the future.”

The omnibus lands package was developed by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and enjoyed bipartisan support. The Senate convened a rare

Sunday vote this week to advance the legislation, which supporters argued included crucial measures intended to conserve some of the nation's most valuable public lands.

Conservation measures in S. 22 of particular importance to sportsmen include the Wyoming Range Legacy Act and National Landscape Conservation System, both of which enable continued access by sportsmen to exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities in the American West. Passage of the Wyoming Range Legacy Act would prohibit further energy leasing on 1.2 million acres of prime big-game habitat and native trout waters and permit conservation groups to buy and retire existing energy leases. Codification of the National Landscape Conservation System would conserve hunting and fishing opportunities on millions of acres of Bureau of Land Management lands that already have been pinpointed as comprising some of the nation's most significant extant fish and wildlife habitat.

“The TRCP welcomes Senate passage of this important public-lands legislation,” continued Franklin, “and we offer the House our counsel and assistance as it considers how best to safeguard some of America's most iconic landscapes – and uphold our country's unparalleled hunting and fishing heritage.”

Conservationists Recommend Shift in Public-Lands Energy Policy

Coalition welcomes Salazar nomination for Interior secretary, urges Senate to support fundamental change in approach to public-lands drilling, development

WASHINGTON – A coalition of prominent conservation groups today exhorted policymakers in the 111th Congress to prioritize revision of the federal energy leasing and development process on Western public lands so that fish and wildlife resources and sporting opportunities can be sustained. The coalition also lauded the nomination for Interior secretary of Sen. Ken Salazar, whose appointment is being considered at a Senate hearing today.

In a letter to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, members of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's Fish, Wildlife and Energy Working Group welcomed the opportunity to work with Salazar in developing responsive



administrative policy promoting the responsible management of America's public lands. The letter also urged federal agencies to take immediate action in addressing the effects of development on fish and wildlife resources.

The coalition states: *Striking a balance between energy and wildlife resources is one of the greatest challenges facing the next administration. The first step toward resolving these conflicts is revision of the current BLM paradigm that allows development to proceed without regard to impacts and is based on a promise that those impacts will be studied and mitigated at a later date.*



“Energy development and the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat are not mutually exclusive,” said Gordon C. Robertson, vice president of the American Sportfishing Association and working group member. “Yet the overall pace of public-lands development may be jeopardizing the future of our hunting and fishing traditions. This is the time to work

together to resolve this problem.”

The coalition continues: *The FWEWG supports responsible oil and gas development and understands that cultivating domestic energy resources is vital to the nation. Conflicts with wildlife and our fishing and hunting heritage can be minimized. But this new approach must start in Washington, and it must start now.*

“This nation's remaining wild places and animals are among our most cherished treasures,” said Ralph Rogers, executive director of the North American Grouse Partnership. “Sen. Salazar knows that. Sportsmen look forward to working with him in our shared attempts to conserve these valued resources and, where guided by appropriate science, help address America's need for energy from public lands.”

“As a fifth-generation Westerner, a rancher and a sportsman, Sen. Salazar possesses a keen appreciation of the challenges and opportunities he will face if confirmed as Interior secretary,” concluded TRCP President and CEO George Cooper. “Sportsmen are acutely aware of the importance of the Interior Department when it comes to managing our natural resources and the future of hunting and fishing. We firmly believe that the senator can reestablish the standard

of multiple-use management that includes conservation of fish and wildlife resources as energy resources are developed.”

The TRCP believes that to better balance the concerns of fish and wildlife in the face of accelerating energy development, federal land management agencies must follow the conservation tenets outlined in the [FACTS for Fish and Wildlife](#) .

USDA ANNOUNCES \$477 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS, ROADS

WASHINGTON, January 15, 2009 - Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer today announced that the Forest Service is distributing more than \$477 million to 41 states and Puerto Rico for improvements to public schools, roads and stewardship projects.

This is the first year under the amended and reauthorized Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act, P.L. 110-343. Payments under the Act help fund schools and roads and create employment opportunities through projects that maintain current infrastructure and improve the health of watersheds and ecosystems on national forests.

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues, such as those from timber sales, mineral resources and grazing fees, have been returned to states in which national forest lands are located. In recent decades those revenues have declined significantly. The original Secure Rural Schools Act (P.L. 106-393) aimed at stabilizing the funding and transitioning to lower payments by providing assistance to affected rural counties. Under the original Act, more than \$2.5 billion was paid out over seven years.

A recent report, "Sustaining Forests and Communities" summarizing activities under the previous Act can be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/srs. That Act expired in September of 2007. The reauthorized Act extends the program four more years.

The first of the reauthorized payments are shown in the Summary of 2008 Forest Service payments. Oregon will receive the highest payment of more than \$133 million; California will receive more than \$57 million; Idaho and Washington will receive more than \$37 million.

The Act also provides for an additional \$52 million this year to be used by local resource advisory committees to fund projects to maintain infrastructure, improve

the health of watersheds and ecosystems, protect communities, and strengthen local economies. In past years 55 committees in western states have been active in this program. The Forest Service anticipates the formation of nearly 60 more committees under the newly reauthorized Act, many of them in the Lake States, eastern states and southeastern states where national forests are located.

The Forest Service manages 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. For more information, visit: www.fs.fed.us .

FREESTYLE LAUNCHES BOLD AND TECHNICAL STYLES

Men, Women and Grom Collections Receive Updates

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (January 14, 2009) - Freestyle, the original action sports watch manufacturer, will introduce new styles and updated watch colors at the upcoming winter 2009 trade shows. Freestyle will debut the collection at Surf Expo, booth #847S and Action Sports Retailer, booth # 1643.



A total of six new styles will be on display alongside two best sellers that have been updated with new color options. New styles include the Bliss, Shark X 2.0, Huckfin, Gromatide, Boiler, and Megalodon. Updated colors will be seen in the Shark Classic and Tide 3.0 collections.

The Bliss is a new women's analog fashion watch. The expandable polycarbonate-linked bracelet is available in four colors and is water resistant up to 100 meters; stylish enough to wear on a night out or poolside. The Bliss retails for \$70.00.

The Shark X 2.0 is a new twist on the iconic Shark X watch. The Shark X 2.0 offers the same great technical features as the Shark X, such as a one way turning top ring, analog and digital time and date display, a stopwatch, two alarms, a dual pre-set timer and water resistancy up to 100 meters. The polyurethane straps have been changed and so has the digital display which now has a bigger presence. The watch retails for \$85.00 or \$95.00 depending on color preference.



Created for groms, Freestyle has introduced the Huckfin and Gromatide. The Huckfin is a digital watch configured with unique top pushers, so that no buttons

are accidentally pushed. The watch displays time and date, has a pre-set timer, stopwatch, two alarms, dual time, NightVisionT backlight display and is water resistant up to 100 meters. The Huckfin retails for \$60.00. The Gromatide is a grom-sized version of the men's Tide 3.0. It's stocked with surf information including tide data for 75 beaches worldwide with 180 minute offset application which allows users to store up to nine secret or local breaks. The Gromatide clearly delivers the direction, time and height of the next tide and retails for \$85.00.

The Boiler is Freestyle's first solar-powered watch. The digital watch has a solar cell charged battery with a power indicator and power saving function. It receives 12 months of power on a single charge. The Boiler is complete with a chronograph, alarm, timer, dual time and NightVisionT backlight display. It retails for \$115.00.



The Megalodon is a unisex analog watch with three hand movements. The oversized face with bold graphics and colors make this watch a fashion statement piece. The watch is fastened with durable polyurethane straps and is water resistant up to 100 meters, it retails for \$75.00 or \$85.00 depending on color.

The ever popular Shark Classic collection has received an addition of five new color options. The newly added colors are solid green, solid red and solid blue, white/black/pink and black/orange styles with an anodized aluminum top plate with checkered and striped graphics. The unisex watch features time, day and date display, two alarms, stopwatch with split screen function, countdown heat timer and NightVisionT backlight display. The Shark Classic watches retail between \$50.00 and \$60.00 depending on color and strap options.



The Tide 3.0 collection has been updated with two new colorways which are blue and green with accent colors of yellow and orange. Features on the Tide 3.0 include a preset heat timer at five minute intervals between 15 and 35 minutes, two alarms, digital display with time, day and date, dual time zones, NightVisionT backlight display, chronograph and a durable dual injected polyurethane strap. The Tide 3.0 watches retail between \$90.00 and \$110.00.

All Freestyle watches are water resistant up to at least 100 meters, and are backed with the company's limited lifetime warranty, dubbed "Till Death."

About Freestyle

Founded in 1981, Freestyle is a leading action sports watch manufacturer. The Freestyle watch collection includes a full line of performance and lifestyle choices



for men, women and youth, all styles are water resistant to 100 meters or more and backed by a limited lifetime warranty. With roots firmly planted in surf, Freestyle proudly sponsors a team of highly respected surfers including Shane Dorian, Cory Lopez, Bede Durbidge, and Anthony Walsh as well as junior standouts Nat Young, Andrew Doheny and Sage Erickson. For more information, visit www.freestyleusa.com.

ENERGY CORRIDORS IN THE ELEVEN WESTERN STATES DESIGNATED

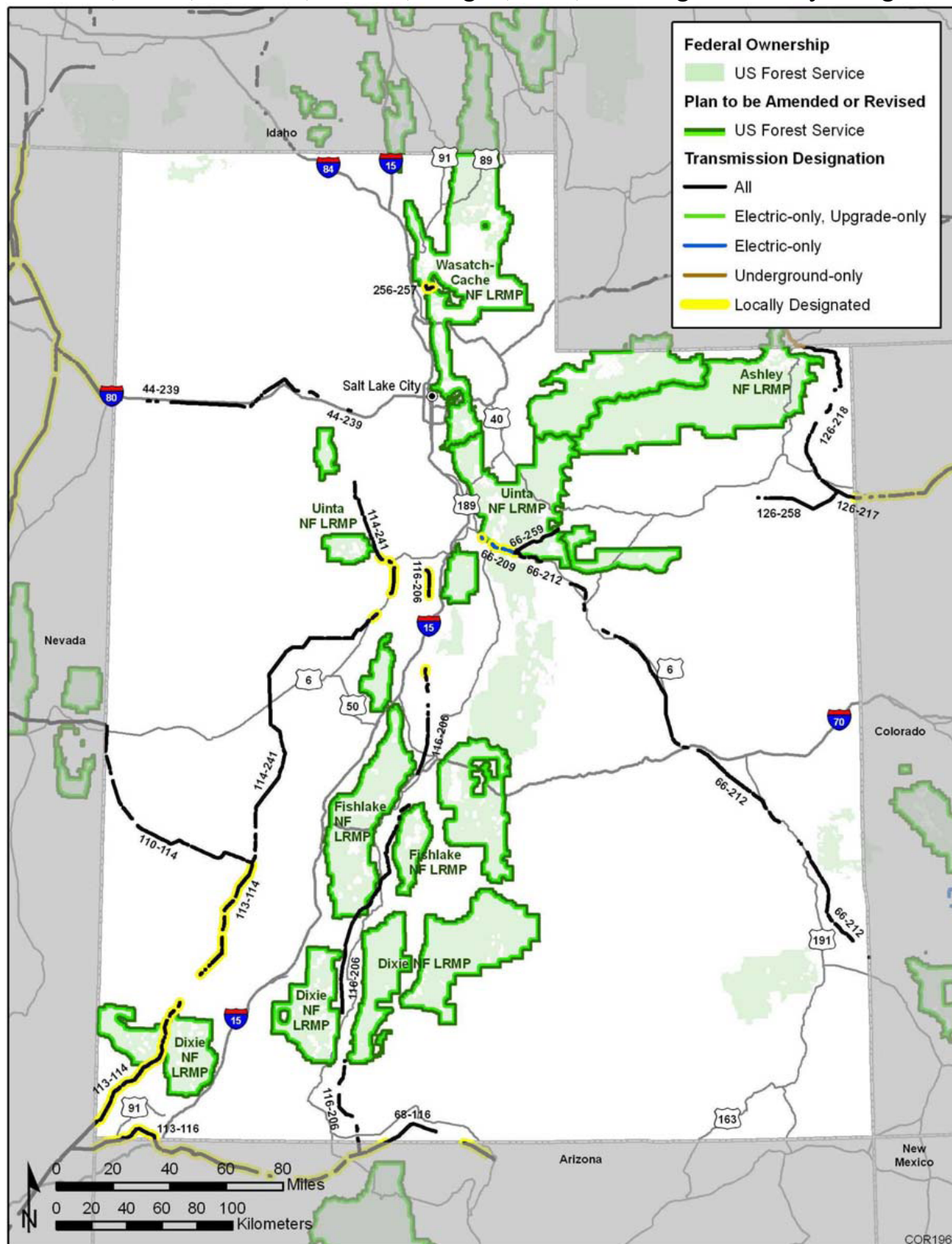
Decision provides for increased protection of natural resources

WASHINGTON, Jan 14, 2009-- USDA Undersecretary Mark Rey has signed a Record of Decision (ROD) amending 38 National Forest Land Management Plans to identify locations of corridors suitable for future energy transmission infrastructure across Forest Service land. The corridors protect or minimize resource impacts to lands and surface resources by identifying preferred locations for corridors that also cross Federal lands managed by other agencies. These corridors offer the American public a way to meet the increasing energy demands while mitigating potential harmful effects to the environment.

"National Forest Systems (NFS) lands play an integral role in supporting America," said Undersecretary Rey, "By identifying these corridors we can minimize haphazard impacts to NFS lands and ensure that the energy future of America is well served by its forests." The Record of Decision includes specific Interagency Operating Procedures designed to ensure that projects are treated consistently by various federal managers and offer the agencies methods to improve efficiency and consistency.

* States Involved. As required by Section 368(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, this decision applies to National Forests located in Arizona, California,

Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



* No Occupancy is Authorized by this Decision; this is a decision identifying the preferred locations of corridors. Future use requires compliance with National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant laws.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directs the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and the Interior to designate energy transport corridors for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands in portions of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The Act further directs that environmental reviews be completed for the designation of such corridors, and that the designated corridors are incorporated into the relevant agency land use and resource management plans or equivalent plans.

The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement supporting this decision was published on November 28, 2008. The PEIS identifies 332,734 acres of NFS lands for Section 368 energy corridors. A separate decision by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Department of Defense, Fish and Wildlife Service or Bureau of Reclamation will be made, as appropriate for their lands.

This ROD does not affect existing pipeline or transmission authorizations.

Furthermore, it does not authorize any ground disturbing activities. This ROD is the final decision of the Department of Agriculture and is not open to appeals under the regulations found at 36 CFR 219.13(a)2.

Copies of the Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement are available upon request from Forest Supervisor's Offices in the eleven western states or the Washington Office of the Forest Service. These documents will also become available on the Forest Service Web site at: <http://corridoreis.anl.gov/>.

The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land and is the largest forestry research organization in the world.

The Leonardo Announces Final Attendance Numbers for *BODY WORLDS 3*

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 14, 2008—The Leonardo today announced that it welcomed over 290,000 visitors to *Gunther von Hagens' BODY WORLDS 3 & The Story of the Heart* in just four months, making it one of the most well-attended traveling exhibition ever to come to Utah.

“As people throughout the region came to The Leonardo to see *BODY WORLDS*, they helped create a more vibrant capital city with positive effects extending beyond the boundaries of Library Square,” said Jason Mathis, executive director of the Downtown Alliance. “The exhibition’s success showed that the larger community is ready and willing to support world-class cultural opportunities, like a science and art center. These past four months, The Leonardo has definitely helped the Downtown Alliance accomplish our goal of creating a more dynamic downtown that is the center of commerce and culture for the Intermountain West.”

The Canyons Resort Runs Killer Pair Pass Promotion

(Park City, Utah) January 14, 2009— Grab a friend, family member, enemy or acquaintance, because The Canyons Resort is bringing back the Pair Pass



Promotion for the 4th year in a row. This means that once again, guests who purchase a Pair Pass receive 2 lift tickets, 2 burgers, and 2 beers for \$109.

The Pair Pass is literally the best deal out there right now; the retail value is \$79 per lift ticket, \$10.50 per burger, and \$5 per beer that is \$94.50. Times that by 2 and you would be paying \$189- that equals a savings of \$80!

Starting on January 7, guests will be able to go to www.pairpass.com, and purchase a Pair Pass. Once they have purchased their Pair Pass, guests will then go to any ticket window at The Canyons to pick up their lift tickets and food and drink vouchers.

The Pair Pass Promotion will run from January 7 through February 12, and again, must be purchased online to be honored at the ticket window.

USGS Unlocks New Discoveries to Help Protect Endangered and At-Risk Species

Scientists are using new and creative ways to help protect endangered and at-risk species and the ecosystems they — and humans — depend on for survival.

This includes the use of new tools such as DNA testing to track grizzly bear movement and habitats; monitoring methods that enabled researchers to discover new freshwater habitats that endangered sea turtles use for survival in Everglades National Park; techniques to restore critically endangered freshwater mussels to



their native habitats by raising them in laboratories and then releasing them into the wild; and innovative research to reduce the threats and restore the habitats of unique, endangered, and threatened plant species found only on California's Channel Islands.

“Conserving species has always been a top priority for USGS and its partners, but is even more important now because climate change alone may put 20 to 30 percent of all U.S. plants and animals at risk of extinction, in about 40 years, according to 2007 report by the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*,” said USGS Imperiled Species Coordinator Rachel Muir. “These striking numbers do not take into account the additional threats of species loss from other sources such as accelerating urban growth, increasing demands for energy and other resources, and effects of contaminants and invasive species.”

Highlights of new ground-breaking USGS research on endangered plants and animals has just been released in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a publication called the *Endangered Species Bulletin*. The web version of *The Bulletin* is available at

http://www.fws.gov/Endangered/bulletin/2008/bulletin_fall2008.pdf. Paper copies will be released in early January and will be available through the USGS Office of Communications.

“Science is the best tool we have for understanding what plants and animals need to survive — and human survival directly depends on the well-being of plants and animals,” added Muir. “Federal science that is conducted across biology, geology, geographic and water sciences, the social sciences and others is essential for the United States and the world to be able to continue to protect our biological heritage.”

Muir noted that conserving species diversity is the cornerstone of protecting global environments. “Once a species is lost, it is lost forever; science cannot restore or replace it. We know that species diversity is essential in making ecosystems work and provide the products that humans and all animals and plants need to survive — clean air and water, food, fiber and medicines. Yet the role species play in ecosystems is still poorly understood.”

Muir emphasizes that just a portion of recent USGS discoveries and research are addressed in this special volume. Every year, the USGS conducts research and monitoring on an average of 150 threatened, endangered or candidate species.



Additional

information on imperiled species research can be found on the USGS imperiled species webpage at <http://biology.usgs.gov/wter/imperiled.html>. To hear more about this new publication and USGS endangered species research, listen to an audio interview with Rachel Muir at http://gallery.usgs.gov/audio/misc/20090108_Muir.mp3.

The USGS provides science for a changing world. For more information, visit www.usgs.gov

REI COMMUNITY CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY

SANDY CITY - The following presentations are offered free of charge to the public at the Sandy City REI store. REI is located at 10600 South & 230 West in the northwest corner of the South Towne Mall property. For more information,

please call (801) 501-0850 or visit our website at www.rei.com and use the store locator feature.

SNOWSHOE 101

Thursday, February 5th, 7pm

The ease of snowshoeing has led it to become one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Simply strap on a pair and go on a winter hike, backpack, or climb. Join REI experts, as they put on another of our famous “how to” clinics on the basics of snowshoeing. This presentation will also focus on the appropriate selection of gear and the initial skills needed to get you outside and on the trails. If you have ever thought about getting into snowshoeing, this is a great introduction to the sport!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP & GPS CLINIC

Thursday, February 19th, 7pm

Jeff Caulfield of National Geographic will show you, step-by-step, how to use your GPS with TOPO! Outdoor Recreation mapping software to plan your next day hike or backcountry adventure. As Jeff takes you through a simple trip-planning exercise, he'll discuss the "on the trail" applications of GPS, and give you a variety of tips on how to use a GPS in the navigation process. You'll be surprised at how easy GPS navigation can be! Everyone who attends will a special “Buy One Get One Free” offer as well as a free CD, Basic Map and GPS Skills, courtesy of National Geographic.

GPS 101

Thursday, February 26th, 7pm

A Global Positioning System is a fun and accurate tool that can help you navigate through backcountry terrain or even down city streets. Join REI navigation expert Nick Faust as he unveils the mysteries of this fun and fascinating piece of technology. This presentation will cover an introduction to the GPS system, types of receivers and their common use, and basic GPS functions. An excellent primer for people looking to get started with GPS use.

SALT LAKE CITY - The following presentations are offered free of charge to the public at the Salt Lake City REI store. REI is located at 3285 East & 3300 South. For more information, please call 486-2100 or visit our website at www.rei.com and use the store locator feature.

CLIMBING EVEREST

Tuesday, February 3rd, 7pm

What does it take to climb Everest, the world's highest mountain? Super powers? Youth? Luck? An iron will? Sponsors with deep pockets? Carol Masheter, AKA the SilverFox, will show pictures and answer questions about the climb of a lifetime. Carol has been climbing big, glaciated peaks since 1972, including Aconcagua in January, 2007, Kilimanjaro in December, 2007, Cho Oyu in 2005 and over a dozen glaciated peaks in Bolivia, Ecuador and East Africa.

BACKCOUNTRY SKIING UTAH & BEYOND

Thursday, February 5th, Noon

Join Backcountry Skiing Utah author and Utah Mountain Adventures senior guide, Tyson Bradley, for an evening of ski touring throughout the great state of Utah and beyond. Tyson will share images and stories from off-piste ski adventures in the Tushars, La Sals, Uintas, Logan Mountains, Stansburys, Deep Creeks, Abajo, Henrys, and more. In addition, the speaker will whet skiers appetites for spring skiing in the Cascade Volcanoes, Colorado, Wheeler Peak, NV, Alaska Range and the Tetons. A Q & A session will follow the talk, for those who want information on particular trips.

ALTA – 70 YEARS AS A SKIING MECCA

Tuesday, February 10th, 7pm at REI SLC

Skiing historian, National Ski Hall of Fame member, author and director of Skiing at Alta, Alan Engen, will recount the significant milestones – and the major players – of the evolution of the sport in Utah. Alan's presentation will discuss the dynamics which drove Alta to change from a mining town to a ski town, the principles involved, and the role Alta has played in contributing to the skiing on the national scene, as well as its contribution to Utah's envied status as a skiing paradise.



COMMUNITY & REI SPONSORED EVENTS:

TUBBS ROMP TO STOMP

Saturday, February 7th, 10am

Since 2003, Tubbs Snowshoe presented the Tubbs Romp to Stomp out Breast Cancer Snowshoe Series - a snowshoe walk series modeled after the highly successful Race for the Cure - to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and its Affiliates. Since then the Romp to Stomp has raised nearly three quarters of a

million dollars for Susan G. Komen and Affiliates and inspired thousands of to get out snowshoeing! The Romp consists of a 3K or 5K benefit snowshoe walk or a 3k fun run. Easy, well marked trails along with free snowshoe demos from Tubbs make this a great event for all sorts of ages and abilities- even if you've never snowshoed before! Mountain Dell Golf Course located just off of I-80 in Parley's Canyon \$25 Early Pre-Registration. Visit www.tubbsromptostomp.com for more information or to register.

BRYCE CANYON WINTERFEST

February 15th, 16th & 17th

Takes place at Bryce Canyon at Ruby's Inn. Activities include cross country ski races, archery clinic, archery biathlon competition. Free snowshoe tours, free clinics in photography, snow sculpture, kids' events, offer entertainment for the entire family. Events may be subject to change due to snow and weather conditions. Call (435) 834-5341 or 1-866-866-6616 for more information.

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL TOUR

February 23rd, 24th & 25th 7pm at Kingsbury Hall

You'll be on the edge of your seat as you watch extreme athletes scale towering peaks, plummet down cliffs, kayak through man-devouring rivers, and travel the world in search of the best stories of outdoor feats and adventures. Presented by National Geographic and New Balance, it's your best route to a virtual adrenaline rush and a personal introduction to remote cultures and the world's last great wild places — all on the big screen. Tickets are available for \$8 at REI Salt Lake City and the University of Utah Outdoor program. Call 581-7100 for more information.

CLASSES: *The following educational opportunities are hosted by REI and available for a fee.*

AMERICAN AVALANCHE INSTITUTE LEVEL I AVALANCHE CLASS

February 13th-15th



This course presents basic information about weather, snowpack, and terrain

factors which contribute to avalanche hazard. Students dig snow pits, identify weak

and strong layers, and practice route finding. The Level I Course begins with an evening session, and then two full days with emphasis on field work. Level I classes involve 24 hours of classroom time and field work. Evening sessions run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuition is \$200. Visit www.avalanchecourse.com for more information or register by calling REI at 801-486-2100.

UTAH MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES LEVEL II AVALANCHE CLASS **February 19th-22nd**

Instruction includes reviewing and expanding upon material learned in Level I. Learning to identify snow crystal types and processes leading to them; how to record and interpret information gained from snow pits, stability tests, weather and other factors contributing to snow strength. Practice complex, multiple-beacon rescues. Description: This 32-hour American Avalanche Association sanctioned course is oriented toward towards those who have taken a Level I, or equivalent course, and have significant backcountry experience under their belt. Ski patrollers, winter search and rescue personnel, mountain guides, and other serious winter mountain travelers often enroll in this intensive class. Classroom session will be held at REI Salt Lake City Thursday and in Alta Friday & over the weekend. Field sessions will be in the backcountry surrounding Alta. Register by calling Utah Mountain Adventures at 801-550-3986 or visit www.exum.ofutah.com Tuition is \$340.



MEETINGS:

The following organizations offer presentations that are free & open to the public and all interested parties are encouraged to attend. Location is REI Salt Lake City's Wasatch Conference Room.

TEAM IN TRAINING

Monday, February 2nd, 6pm

We will help you to accomplish the goal of completing an endurance event! Come learn how you can help save lives while training to complete a Full or Half Marathon, an Olympic Distance Triathlon, a Century Bike Ride or an Adventure Hike on the Grand Canyon. Team In Training is the world's largest endurance training program and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's largest fundraising

campaign. We provide professional coaching, a fantastic team atmosphere, transportation, accommodations and race entry to the team event and the opportunity to make a difference; in your own life and the lives of others. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Mission is to: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, non Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Call 801-519-6600 for more information or visit www.teamintraining.org.

UTAH NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY **Wednesday, February 4th, 7pm**

The Utah Native Plant Society is dedicated to the appreciation, preservation, conservation and responsible use of the native plant and plant communities found in the state of Utah and the Intermountain West. Our goal is to foster public recognition of the spectacularly diverse flora of the state-a natural treasure to be valued, respected and protected. <http://www.unps.org/index.html>



UTAH STATEWIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY **Wednesday, February 11th, 7pm**

The Utah Statewide Archaeological Society (USAS) is an organization conceived for the individual who is curious about or wants to learn more about archaeology and the state's prehistoric cultures. It is dedicated to the study and preservation of Utah's past. <http://utaharchaeology.org/>

PUMA[®] Offers Celebrities a Chance to Give Back At Sundance The Brand Partners with Soles4Souls, the Shoe Charity

Westford, MA & Nashville TN; January 16, 2009 – Sportslifestyle brand PUMA[®] will make a special appearance at this year's Sundance Film Festival at the Film Lounge Media Center, which includes the Getty Images/WireImage Portrait Studio. Celebrities and special guests will have an opportunity to give back by signing PUMA footwear that will be auctioned off to benefit Soles4Souls, an organization that provides footwear to those in need across the globe.

“Park City is buzzing with excitement this time of year,” said Jay Piccola, President of PUMA North America. “We are so thankful to be a part of it and to be able to give back to such a noteworthy cause.”

Soles4Souls aims to change the world one pair at a time, making them the perfect partner for this initiative. In addition to the autographed shoes, PUMA will be donating footwear to the organization on behalf of each of the lounge’s guests.

"We are very excited about working with PUMA at the Sundance Film Festival," said Wayne Elsey, Founder and CEO of Soles4Souls Inc. "This is a tremendous opportunity to enlist Hollywood stars to donate signed footwear that will benefit needy people here in the U.S. and around the world. We are extremely grateful that PUMA thought of Soles4Souls and the people who look to us for help," he said.

Visitors to the PUMA lounge will also have a chance to experience 60 Years of PUMA’s history. The brand just celebrated its 60th anniversary and the lounge will be decked out with iconic imagery, archival footwear, historic ads and other memorabilia from the last 6 decades. This initiative rounds out a string of events and programs thrown by the brand in celebration of its birthday.

This is the second year that PUMA has had a presence at Sundance. In 2008 PUMA hosted a special customization booth with their Mongolian Shoe BBQ program to benefit Clothes off our Backs. The PUMA lounge will be open January 16th through 21st at The Film Lounge Media Center in Park City, Utah.

BLM Proposes Changes to Initial Set of Oil Shale R, D and D Leases

WASHINGTON, D.C. ? The Bureau of Land Management announced today that it has finalized the first round of oil shale research, development and demonstration (R, D, and D) leases, issued in 2006 and 2007 in Colorado and Utah.

The original agreements required that the R, D and D operations be guided by any subsequent oil shale regulations. In order to provide the certainty necessary to effectively manage the R, D and D program, the BLM has finalized the terms of the original six leases to provide the rules necessary to convert them to commercial operations.

The addendum for the six leases provides predictability of relevant procedures and

responsibilities regarding the conversion of the leases to commercial leases and the acquisition of a leasehold interest in any or all portions of the commercial lease area in the event that federal regulations governing those activities are not in effect.

The final regulations promulgated on Nov. 18, 2008 incorporated provisions of the Energy Policy Act and the Mineral Leasing Act relating to: maximum oil shale lease size; maximum acreage limitations; rental; and lease diligence. The rule also established a royalty rate based on a time-adjusted rate, beginning at 5% during the first 5 years of commercial production, and then rising 1% every year thereafter until the rate reaches 12.5%.

The regulations also addressed provisions of the Energy Policy Act that establish work requirements and milestones to ensure diligent development of leases. Standard components of a BLM leasing program — including lease administration and operations — were included, as well as additional NEPA documentation requirements for lease applicants.

The BLM's oil shale program could result in the addition of up to 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from lands in the Western United States. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. holds more than half of the world's oil shale resources. The largest known deposits of oil shale are located in a 16,000-square mile area in the Green River formation in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. Federal lands comprise 72 percent of the total surface of oil shale acreage in the Green River formation.

The R, D and D leases are just one of several steps designed to harness these vast energy resources. In September, the agency also finalized a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement setting aside approximately 1.9 million acres of public lands in the three states for potential commercial oil shale development.

The BLM manages more land - 256 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

BLM Announces Second Round of Oil Shale R, D and D Leases

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In an effort to spur development of technologies that could lead to the production of billions of barrels of domestic oil supply, the Bureau of Land Management announced today that it will solicit nominations for a second round of oil shale research, development and demonstration (R, D, and D) leases.

The BLM published a notice in today's Federal Register soliciting nominations for parcels to be leased for oil shale R, D and D leases in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. This follows a similar solicitation in June 2005 that resulted in the issuance of six oil shale R, D and D leases in Colorado and Utah in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

“Broadening the scope of research into oil shale technologies will help accelerate the development of these vast western resources, and as a result lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy,” said James Caswell, BLM Director.

Oil shale is a fine-grained sedimentary rock containing organic matter from which oil may be produced.

The BLM's oil shale program could result in the addition of up to 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from lands in the Western United States. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. holds more than half of the world's oil shale resources. The largest known deposits of oil shale are located in a 16,000-square mile area in the Green River formation in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. Federal lands comprise 72 percent of the total surface of oil shale acreage in the Green River formation.

R, D and D leases in this round will be issued for 10-year terms and with maximum sizes of 640 acres. The six leases issued in Colorado and Utah were for 160 acres, but they also contained an additional preferential right area of 4,960 acres for conversion to a 20-year commercial lease once commercial production levels had been achieved and all requirements had been met. Since offering the original R, D, and D leases, and completing an analysis of oil shale potential and availability on public lands, the BLM has determined that an R, D and D lease of 640 acres is likely to provide reserves sufficient to support a commercial operation.

To encourage the use of new technologies, the BLM will only consider applications that demonstrate new technologies not currently being tested on the

initial round of R, D, and D leases. Entities that currently hold these leases need not submit additional applications for new leases.

The R, D and D leases are just one of several steps designed to harness these vast energy resources. In November, the BLM finalized regulations governing the commercial leasing of oil shale resources on federal lands, and in September, the agency finalized a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement setting aside approximately 1.9 million acres of public lands in the three states for potential commercial oil shale development.

The Oil Shale Regulation on the electronic desk of the Federal Register today is at http://federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2009-00525_PI.pdf

The BLM manages more land – 256 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

AQUEDUCT PROJECT YIELDS HISTORIC PHOTOS OF THE SALT LAKE VALLEY 1938 AERIAL PHOTOS FROM THE SALT LAKE AQUEDUCT PROJECT NOW AVAILABLE



Salt Lake City, Utah -- The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) has released a new publication that contains aerial photos of parts of Salt Lake, Utah, and Wasatch Counties that were taken in 1938.

The new publication contains 183 scanned aerial photos that were taken as part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Salt Lake Aqueduct Project. "These aerial photographs will be useful for professionals involved with geologic,

geotechnical, and environmental assessment and investigation projects, as well as

for land-use planning and other projects to document land-use, geomorphologic, geologic hazards, and other changes that may have occurred in a particular area,” said Steve

Bowman, UGS Geologic Hazards Program Manager. “In addition, the general public will be able to use the aerial photographs as an historical archive.”

The area covered by these photos starts in Heber City, moves west through Provo Canyon to Orem, and then north along the Wasatch Front to the University of Utah area.

Due to the large file sizes of scanned aerial photography frames, the publication is in DVD format. Open-File Report 537 Historical Aerial Photography, 1938 Salt Lake Aqueduct Project, Salt Lake, Utah, and Wasatch Counties, Utah is available for \$24.95 at the Natural Resources Map & Bookstore, located at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City (801-537-3320 or 1-888-UTAHMAP; geostore@utah.gov).

To preview some of the aerial photos, visit the UGS web page at http://geology.utah.gov/ghp/consultants/aerial_compilations.htm and follow the “Aerial Photo Comparison” links. Four of the photos are shown side-by-side with 2006 aerial photos at the same locations. Land-use and urban density changes are striking at these four locations between Salt Lake City and Alpine, Utah. The UGS added the Wasatch fault trace to several of the comparison photos as an additional interest.

Several other aerial photo publications are planned for release in 2009 that cover parts of the Wasatch Front and Cache Valley.

The Utah Geological Survey provides timely scientific information about Utah’s geologic environment, resources, and hazards.

BLM Names National Law Enforcement Ranger of the Year

The BLM is pleased to announce the National Law Enforcement Ranger of the Year for 2008. Tyler Fouss, of the BLM, Moab field office, in Utah, has been selected as the Ranger of the year, based on his commitment to the training of fellow officers and protection of visitors, as well as his continued dedication of resources on public land.

In 2008, Ranger Fouss personally trained eight new BLM Law Enforcement Rangers. Fouss passes his knowledge, skill and the Bureau’s mission on to those new Rangers.

“We’re very pleased to see Tyler get this award, he’s not only an outstanding Ranger in Utah, but his service to the Field Training Evaluation Program has been outstanding and commendable,” said Larry Shackelford, Special Agent in Charge, for BLM-Utah.

Ranger Fouss travels to other field offices with Rangers he is training to oversee and complete the field training program. Fouss has assisted the Grand Junction and Montrose field offices in Colorado, and the Taos field office in New Mexico.

Fouss has built a strong working relationship with the local Sheriff’s office in the Moab area, assisting in numerous search and rescue operations over the years.

CDC study finds hypothermia a costly condition at emergency departments

Salt Lake City, Utah — The number of cases of hypothermia and other cold-related diseases is higher than estimated, which can be costly because treatment of these conditions at hospital emergency departments is resource-intensive, according to a new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hypothermia occurs when body temperature drops below 95°F and the cardiac, renal, or central nervous systems are affected. Hypothermia can be fatal when the central nervous system is depressed or the heart does not beat properly, according to an article in the most recent issue of *Wilderness and Environmental Medicine*, published by the Wilderness Medical Society.

The study found that most patients treated in US hospital emergency departments for hypothermia or cold-related diagnoses were older males unlikely to have health insurance. Treatment of these conditions often involves costly procedures such as cardiac monitoring, intravenous fluids, and electrocardiograms.

“Hypothermia and other cold-related morbidity is a preventable resource-intensive condition that tends to affect the disadvantaged,” write Eduardo Azziz Baumgartner, MD, Martin Belson, MD, Carol Rubin, CVM, and Manish Patel, MD, of the CDC, who outline their study in the article “Hypothermia and Other Cold-Related Morbidity.”

In the study, the researchers examined the frequency and risk factors of hypothermia and cold-related emergency department visits in the United States from 1995 to 2004 but found little has been published on these topics.

“This information is needed to develop public health strategies and interventions for cold-related morbidity and mortality,” they write.

Frequent reasons for hypothermia-related visits to emergency departments include overexposure to cold weather, adverse effects of drug abuse or alcohol, and endocrine, nutritional, or metabolic disorders, according to the study.

The researchers say ways to decrease the risk of hypothermia include wearing a hat, hand coverings, and waterproof clothes to keep the body warm and dry; avoiding alcohol and mood-altering drugs; and learning to recognize the signs and symptoms of hypothermia.

“We have focused on hypothermia and other cold-related morbidity because these conditions are potentially lethal but preventable,” the study authors write.

To read the entire article, visit http://www.allenpress.com/pdf/WEM_19.4_233.pdf

Ski Utah Successfully Skis All 13 Utah Ski Resorts in One Day on January 13

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH- On Tues., Jan. 13, Ski Utah and a team of nine skiers successfully skied all 13 Utah ski and snowboard resorts in a single day. This is the first time in history that every resort in the state has been skied in one day,



breaking the record of 11 resorts in a day set during the 2003-04 winter season.

The mission began at Brian Head Resort in southern Utah at 4 a.m. The team drove to the Giant Steps run and enjoyed pristine corduroy snow under the light of a large

moon. Mother Nature continued to provide perfect bluebird weather conditions

throughout the day. Spectacular snow conditions were complemented with perfect temperatures, mountain-blue skies, gorgeous sunrises and sunsets. The final stop was at Beaver Mountain, near Logan Utah, over 360 miles north of the mission's starting place. The group arrived at Beaver Mountain just before 8 p.m. and enjoyed three celebratory runs off the Little Beaver Lift.

"With an international airport just minutes from our mountains, Utah is the most accessible winter destination in the world," commented Ski Utah President Nathan Rafferty. "Skiing 13 in a day, using only a van and skis, really underscores this point."

Team members, as pictured in attachment from left to right,

included:

- Ravell Call, Deseret Morning News
- Amy Anderson, Park City Television
- Bill Weidner, Ski Utah Member
- Jessica Kunzer, Ski Utah
- Andy Bauman, Park City Television
- Jake Bogoch, Skiing Magazine
- Kendall Card, Ski Utah
- Brian Schott, Freelance Writer
- Chris Pearson, Ski Utah Mission Driver (not pictured)



The 13 resorts in one day mission was made possible by the support of Utah's 13 ski resorts, Whole Foods Market and Young Chevrolet.

More information and photos posted at www.skiutah.com/blog