

Tundra Swan Day activities scheduled at Bear River Nature Center

Digital Photography Workshop 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Einstein the Pelican - Live

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Did you know that a pelican's beak can hold more than its belly can?

Meet Einstein the American White Pelican and learn more fun and interesting facts about these amazing birds. Einstein will be on hand with DaLyn Erickson and Melissa Robinson from the Ogden Nature Center.

Story Time 1:00 pm

Bonni Crossen, Avocet Corner Bookstore Manager, will read *Whistling Wings* by Laura Goering and *The Wild Swans* by Hans Christian Andersen. Friends of the Bear River Refuge members receive a 10% discount on all bookstore purchases!

Birding 101 with Bill

Fenimore 2:00 - 3:30 pm

It has feathers, so it's a bird - but which one? This workshop will cover the A, B, C's of bird

Identification, so you can find the answer. We'll discuss organization of bird field guides, and how to make sense of them. Bill will also sign his book *Backyard Birds of Utah* for you. Books are available for purchase in our Avocet Corner Bookstore. Cost for the workshop is \$1.00 per person or \$5.00 per family. Pre-registration required at (435) 734- 6436 or email: bearriver@fws.gov.



Note: Swan viewing opportunities on the Refuge are excellent this time of year! Volunteers will be available on our auto tour route loop today, armed with spotting scopes, binoculars and field guides – ready to assist you with viewing and answering questions about tundra swans. Please view birds only from the county road, the auto tour road, or observation decks. All



other areas of the refuge, including dikes, are closed. The auto tour is open during daylight

hours 365 days a year, weather and road conditions permitting.

Tundra Swan Day

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Saturday, March 14, 2009

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location & Directions: The James V. Hansen Wildlife Education Center (Visitor Center) is located at 2155 West Forest Street, Brigham City, Utah. From Interstate 15, take exit #363 (Forest Street) and turn west ONE block. Watch for signs. The Avocet Corner Bookstore, operated by Friends of the Bear River Refuge, is located at the Center.

Wildlife Education Center Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; closed Sundays and federal holidays. (435) 723-5887 - TTY /Voice: 711. Website: <http://bearriver.fws.gov> . Sponsored by Friends of the Bear River Refuge

designed to help you take better digital photos. He'll discuss equipment usage, composition, computer issues, etc. Bring your camera & manual, a list of questions and photographs you have taken for discussion or critique. Cost is \$1.00 per person or \$5.00 per family.

Pre-registration required at (435) 734-6436 or email: bearriver@fws.gov .

NEXT 9 DAYS ARE CRITICAL FOR GUN LAW CHANGES

USSC is respectful of your time and we try not to bother you too often. However, we are getting near the end of the session and we still have several EXCELLENT PRO-GUN BILLS that we need to get passed this year. There is at least one ANTI-GUN BILL that we think we have blasted but need to watch to make sure it does not get passed.

It is time for you, as part of "the powerful gun lobby" to get busy!

You will probably get many Urgent Action Alerts in the next week, and we NEED YOU TO TAKE ACTION EVERY TIME!

Politicians respond to polite contacts from voters, and as you saw with the stopping of the nomination of an anti-gun judge, YOUR emails and phone calls really do make a difference.

If YOU don't take action to defend gun rights, don't complain when we all lose them.

PRO-GUN BILL CLARIFIES LAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS (HB 357)

We need to get this pro-gun bill passed by the House in the next few days, and then we think we have a good chance of getting it passed by the Senate.

Here are some important points about this bill -

1. This bill brings Utah in line with every one of our surrounding states regarding possession of

guns in cars and your home or property. This clarifies that law abiding citizens do not need a permit to carry a gun in their car, or on their property, essentially treating your vehicle as an extension of your "Castle" regarding the rights of firearms possession and self defense.



2. It applies to both loaded or unloaded guns, with the choice being left with the property owner and their individual circumstances.

3. This allows storing the weapon out of reach and inaccessible in a glove box, if desired, which would be appropriate if you have kids with you, or if you want to keep items out of sight in parking lots.

4. Despite the hypothetical scare stores opponents dream up, the fact is that all our neighboring states already have similar laws, and there is no history of problems with otherwise lawfully possessed weapons.

5. Law enforcement is already trained to expect a loaded accessible firearm in every car (Remember the bad guys don't obey any laws, and don't bother with permits or anything!)

6. This bill will not present a danger to officers, only to criminals who may want to attack you in your vehicle. (Google "Utah carjacking" and you will discover this is not a rare event!) Defending yourself against a carjacker may require use of deadly force to stop a person in the

commission of a forcible felony. Our current law requiring everyone but permit holders to have their guns locked up or in the trunk denies you and your family the inherent right of self defense.

7. This also clears up the differences between having a gun in your house, and having it anywhere on your property, something that has created confusion in the past.

GOOD NEWS- HB 357 ("CAR CARRY") PASSES HOUSE!



Thanks to your efforts contacting representatives, HB 357 passed the House today on a strong bipartisan vote of 65-8! We expect prompt and favorable action in the Senate. This was one of USSC's priority bills and clarifies that law abiding citizens can carry guns in their cars or on their property with no need for special permits. (Of course, if you still need a Concealed Weapons Permit to carry a self defense weapon anywhere else.).

The strong vote in favor of HB 357 suggests that our top priority bill, SB 78 ("Parking Lot Bill") will pass in the House, when it gets to the floor for a vote. See the next item and **PLEASE TAKE ACTION!**

Please email, fax or call as soon as possible as they could vote on this as early as Wednesday. Use the following message. (Contact info follows the sample email)
Senate FAX number for all members is (801) 326-1475

SAMPLE EMAIL OR FAX MESSAGE

Subject: Vote FOR HB 357 (1st Substitute) (Firearms Amendments)

Dear Representative _____

I am asking you to vote FOR HB 357 (1st Substitute) (Firearms Amendments), sponsored by Rep. Steve Sandstrom.

This common sense clarification of Utah gun laws brings us in line with all our surrounding states. Their many years of experience have proven that this approach does not increase risk of accidental or intentional shootings, despite what opponents may claim with hypothetical scenarios.

It does not endanger police officers as the bad guys illegally carry guns any time and place they like, and officers are trained to consider every vehicle occupant a potential threat.

This does allow law abiding Utahns better options to have guns in their cars for defense of themselves and their families. There are far too many carjackings in Utah, and isolated areas where a stranded motorist is now made helpless.



Please vote FOR this bill.
Sincerely.
[insert your name]

END OF SAMPLE EMAIL
OR FAX

Contact YOUR
REPRESENTATIVE and
as many others as you can.

Use this map tool to
identify your Utah
Representative District -

<http://www.le.state.ut.us/house/DistrictInfo/newMaps/State.htm>

Then use the Email addresses for all Utah Representatives
<http://www.le.state.ut.us/house/members2005/membertable1add.asp>

Hunters, Target Shooters and Industry Provide \$336 Million for Wildlife and Education

NEWTOWN, Conn. -- When a target shooter purchases a box of ammunition or a hunter a new deer rifle, wildlife in America benefits.

Every sportsman and woman contributes to a system that has been responsible for supporting healthy wildlife populations of both game and non-game species for the last 70 years.

The contributions, in the form excise taxes paid on sporting firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, benefit every state and have generated approximately \$5.6 billion for wildlife conservation since 1939. The contribution for 2009 is a record -- nearly \$336 million, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which recently announced the Wildlife Restoration apportionment.

“We want all Americans to know about and value the support that hunters, recreational shooters and the firearms and ammunition industry make to wildlife conservation,” said Steve Sanetti, president of the National Shooting



Sports Foundation, trade association for the firearms and shooting sports industry. "With wildlife populations professionally managed and thriving, we can safely say that this is one investment guaranteed to not lose value."

Species such as the white-tailed deer, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn, wild turkey and black bears have made significant population gains due to research and improved habitat funded by the Wildlife Restoration program.

In making the announcement, Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said, "These investments, which help create jobs while protecting our nation's natural treasures, are particularly important in these tough economic times."

Of the \$336 million total, some \$64.7 million benefits hunter education and firearms and archery range programs.

These contributions are the result of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, passed in 1937, which directs funds to states based on land area and paid hunting license holders, among other criteria. And while there is always a temptation for governments to redirect funds, legislative safeguards prevent these Wildlife Restoration monies from being diverted away from state wildlife agencies.

Both game and non-game species benefit as agencies use the money to manage wildlife populations, conduct research, acquire wildlife lands and public access and carry out surveys, among other uses. According to U.S. Fish & Wildlife, more than 62 percent of Wildlife Restoration funds are used to buy, maintain and operate wildlife management areas.

"The firearms and ammunition industry is proud to play a role in collecting, managing and contributing to these funds," said Sanetti.



Sanetti hopes, however, that Congress will correct an inequity in the way the excise taxes are currently paid by industry, with the result that even more funds marked for conservation would be collected.

Legislation introduced earlier this year by Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin) will allow the industry to pay the firearms and ammunition excise tax (FAET) on a quarterly basis, the way other industries that support conservation do. Currently firearms and ammunition

manufacturers must pay the FAET bi-weekly, a schedule that forces many manufacturers to borrow money to ensure on-time payment. Industry members spend thousands of man-hours administering the necessary paperwork to successfully complete the bi-weekly payments -- monies that are due long before manufacturers are paid by their customers.

This legislation will not lower the amount of conservation dollars collected by the tax.

"Shifting to quarterly payments would allow manufacturers to invest in new equipment and product designs and enhance their marketing efforts," said Sanetti. "This in turn could lead to greater participation in hunting and the shooting sports, providing even more funding for wildlife conservation and hunter education."

BLM SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR UTAH'S RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Utah residents interested in the management and conservation of public lands have an opportunity to become directly involved through participation on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Council members provide advice and recommendations to the BLM concerning the use and management of 22 million acres of public land in Utah.

"The RAC has been an excellent way to keep citizens engaged in the resource issues facing the public lands in Utah," said BLM Utah state director Selma Sierra. "BLM managers look forward to having more Utahans become involved in this collaborative process, bringing fresh ideas to the table."

Nominations are being accepted for five positions on the RAC. The Secretary of the Interior makes all of the three-year appointments to the broad-based, citizen council. BLM consults with Utah Governor Huntsman before forwarding its recommendations to the Secretary for the final decision.

The Utah RAC consists of 15 members. The RAC charter provides for members to serve 3-year terms, on a staggered basis, with one-third of the council subject to appointment or reappointment each year. The following positions are open on the RAC this year:

- One position in Category One (Commodity), which includes holders of federal grazing permits, energy and mineral development, timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, off-highway vehicle use and commercial recreation interests.
- Three positions in Category Two (Non-Commodity), which includes nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, archaeological and historic interests, dispersed recreation and wild horse and burro groups.
- One position in Category Three (Local Area Interest) which includes holders of State, county or local elected office, Native American Tribes, employees of a State agency responsible for management of natural resources, academicians involved in natural sciences and the public-at-large.



Nominees will be evaluated on their education, training, and experience with issues involving

public lands in Utah. They should have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making. RAC members serve without monetary compensation, but are reimbursed for travel and meal expenses.

All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference (a minimum of two) from the interests or organizations to be represented, a completed nomination form, as well as, any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications. Nomination forms are available from BLM offices and from BLM's website at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html>. The deadline for sending nominations and letters of support to the BLM is Monday, April 13, 2009.

All nominations and letters of reference should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84101, Attn: Sherry Foot. For additional information, contact Special Programs Coordinator, Sherry Foot at (801) 539-4195.

The BLM manages more land – 256 million surface 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, and cultural resources on the public lands.

Catch Fish, Shoot Arrows

Sandy -- Kids can catch fish, shoot arrows and learn how to ride their ATVs safely at this year's DNR Youth Outdoor Sports Fair.

The sports fair is part of this year's International Sportsmen's Exposition.

The expo will be held March 12 – 15 at the South Towne Exposition Center, 9575 S. State in Sandy. The cost to attend the exposition, which



includes the youth fair, is \$10 for those 13 years of age and older. Children 12 years of age and younger are free.

The Youth Outdoor Sports Fair will be held on the south side of the exposition center. Six DNR divisions—Forestry, Fire and State Lands; Oil, Gas and Mining; Parks and Recreation; the Utah Geological Survey; Water Resources; and Wildlife Resources—will conduct the fair.

More than 20 activities

More than 20 activities await children who attend the fair. Among the things kids can do:

- Catch trout in a fishing pond.
- Shoot arrows at targets.
- Make a survival kit and a petroglyph.



- Tie fishing flies.
- See how big they are compared to a deer, an elk or a moose!
- Learn how to stay safe in black bear country.
- Learn about dinosaurs.
- Learn how to conserve energy.
- Learn how to boat safely.
- Learn how to conserve water.
- Learn about a future career with the DNR.

“Our goal at the fair is to get children excited about the outdoors,” says Mike

Styler, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources.

“We also want to teach them things that will make their next trip into the outdoors even more safe and enjoyable.”

Ask questions

In addition to helping kids at the youth fair, Division of Wildlife Resources biologists will be available to answer your fishing and hunting questions at an Eastman’s Adventure Theater presentation on March 14. The presentation runs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

More information about the International Sportsmen's Exposition is available at www.sportsexpos.com.

Fishing Report

BEAR LAKE: (February 26) Park Ranger Josh Gibson reported that while some of the ice is around 13 inches thick, the shore is soft and starting to melt. Anglers are still catching medium to small fish, usually around midday. Conservation Officer Keith Fullenkamp reported that anglers were catching 10- to 14-inch rainbows. White Powerbait fished at various depths seemed to be working best. The upper end of the lake was producing the most fish. However, the point between the boat ramp and Dixie Hollow was particularly hot. Officer Fullenkamp reported that those rainbows averaged 10–16 inches. Anglers who fished worms near the bottom saw the best results. The area off of the state park boat ramp in the center of the lake was producing the most fish.

Conservation Officer Jonathan Moser recommended using a Rat Finky tipped with a chartreuse Gizzy Bug, a mealworm or a shrimp. You will find the fish at about 15 feet down, along the shore or near a point. If one area isn't producing the action you want, try moving in or out from shore. Try different

depths if things slow down. The south end of the lake had a lot of slush on the ice. Bring some waterproof boots. Snowmobiles and four-wheelers can access the ice only from the boat ramp in the state park. The day-use fee at the state park is \$5.



CAUSEY RESERVOIR: (March 03) Conservation Office Dave Beveridge reports that the ice is getting soft two- to three-feet from the edges. Anglers are catching some smaller rainbow trout and splake, and should see some water open up at the mouth of Wheatgrass with the warmer weather.

EAST CANYON RESERVOIR & STATE PARK: (March 03) Park Ranger Josh Gibson reports that fishing is slow. Anglers are not catching many fish. Dixie Hollow and Taylor Hollow are the hot spots, but the ice edges are really soft. Please use caution.

ECHO RESERVOIR: (February 26) Park Ranger Floyd Powell reports that although fishing is still slow, an angler reeled in a large rainbow trout down by the inlet. Anglers caught 20 or more yellow perch down by the cars. The ice is about 10 inches thick. It's still considered safe, but you should always use caution when venturing out.

HYRUM RESERVOIR & STATE PARK: (March 03) Jim Morkin reports that fishing is very slow, although some anglers caught perch up to 12 inches in 42 to 46 feet of water over the weekend. Fish are very tentative, try to watch your indicator or bobber so you won't miss a bunch of nibbles. (The most successful angler over the weekend used a rod balancing system that would nod at the lightest touch.) There are more than 13 inches of solid ice with good edges.

Try using a 1/64th ounce chartreuse and white jig dressed with a small piece of night crawler 12 inches below a small split shot, or a porcupine quill bobber. You may also have success fishing in depths of forty feet or so.

LOST CREEK RESERVOIR: (February 26) Dedicated Hunter Jennifer Houston reported that anglers had some success catching 12- to 14-inch rainbows using cutter bugs and mealworms. The ice was thick enough for a four-wheeler to be out on the reservoir. There was some slush near the shore.

OGDEN RIVER: (March 03) Conservation Officer Dave Beveridge reports the fishing is slow to fair, and that water flows are increasing.

PINEVIEW RESERVOIR: (March 03) Mike Bolinski reports 10–12 inches of ice as of March 1. The recent, cooler temperatures have frozen the slush layer that was beginning to form, which makes traveling around the reservoir easier. Please be cautious, however. The weather forecast is for rain and warmer temperatures, so ice depth may change rapidly.



Anglers have been focusing on Browning Point and the Narrows. Fishing has improved, but success is still somewhat limited. Yellow perch are staying at the bottom, so try keeping your jig less than a foot off the bottom. Black crappie action is best before sunrise. If you are not having any luck finding fish, try drilling multiple holes and moving around often. You should have more success than waiting for the fish to come to them.

Most anglers are 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. Try a combination of 1/8 or 1/4 ounce Kastmaster blade, a Swedish Pimple (or similar hardware), and a jig or ice fly tipped with meal or wax worms as a dropper. Anglers had the most success fishing in water 28 feet or deeper.

From Feb. 24 to March 1, the average catch rate was approximately 6.58 fish per angler per day, with a 95.5 percent harvest rate. On average, anglers caught 6.58 yellow perch and no black crappie per day. The average harvested yellow perch was 8.5 inches.

ROCKPORT RESERVOIR: (March 03) Conservation Officer Bruce Johnson reports slow to good success. The ice is about 12 inches thick in the middle of the reservoir, but deteriorating around the edges. Use caution when you are crossing the shoreline, the ice around the edges is thin or non-existent.

ROY POND: (March 03) Conservation Officer Dave Beveridge reports that anglers are catching some of the larger, brood fish that were stocked last week. Anglers are also having success catching catfish.

WEBER RIVER: (March 03) Conservation Officer Bruce Johnson reports that the Weber River is experiencing a lot of pressure and that anglers are having good success. There are some insects on the surface, but wet fly fishing is still producing best.



WILLARD BAY RESERVOIR: (March 03) Conservation Officer Dave Beveridge reports fair success for stripers at the mouth of the inlet. Remember the inlet itself is closed to fishing.

DUCK FORK RESERVOIR:

(March 03) This reservoir is inaccessible except by snow machine.

ELECTRIC LAKE: (March 03) Slow and good fishing have both been reported. Beware of open water pockets and softening ice. Try a rainbow-colored Lil' Tuff Guy jig, tipped with minnow meat.

FERRON RESERVOIR: (March 03) The reservoir is inaccessible, except by snow machine.

HUNTINGTON NORTH RESERVOIR: (March 03) The ice has melted around the edges. The ice fishing season is over.

HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR: (March 03) Fishing has been slow. Access is difficult due to limited parking, deep snow and excessive ice thickness.

JOES VALLEY RESERVOIR: (March 03) Reports have been variable—ranging from slow to good. Try a pearl tube jig, tipped with chub meat. Be cautious around Seeley Bay where underwater springs have thinned the ice pack.

LOWER FISH CREEK: (March 03) The creek has been dewatered due to an outflow shutdown from Scofield Reservoir. The remaining trout have been isolated in deep pools that continue to hold water.

MILLSITE STATE PARK: (March 03) Further ice fishing is not recommended. Please wait for the shoreline to open.

RIGHT FORK OF HUNTINGTON CREEK: (March 03) Fly fishermen will have good success with a size-12 beadhead Montana nymph on floating line and with a small split sinker clamped about 12 inches above the fly.



SCOFIELD RESERVOIR: (March 03) A small number of anglers send in positive reports, although the majority of anglers rate fishing as slow.

STRAIGHT CANYON CREEK: (March 03) Please be cautious around slippery boulders and muddy slopes. Use fly fishing

tackle, floating line, a small sinker clamped to the leader about 12 inches above the fly and a no. 12 beadhead Montana nymph.

WILLOW LAKE: (March 03) Access is uncertain, due to melting snow and muddy roads.

WRIGLEY SPRINGS RESERVOIR: (March 03) Access will be limited to an OHV, due to mud and snow.

Lake Powell Fish Report

By: Wayne Gustaveson March 3, 2009

Lake Elevation: 3611

Water Temperature 49-51 F

Welcome back! Spring is right around the corner and that will be followed closely by good fishing. Water temperature finally climbed out of the 40's. Fishing success improves

dramatically when morning temperature hits 54 degrees. Fishing blasts off when morning water temperature is 57 because afternoon temperature on that day will usually exceed 60. Warm water fish love 60 degree water.

Right now the first fish to stir are largemouth bass and walleye. Walleye are close to spawning with warming water being the trigger. That is not so good for catching because walleye don't eat when actively spawning. BUT, the larger females will eat just prior to spawning. The largest walleye population is in the upper lake near Hite. Look there for the best chance of

catching early spring walleye.

The same warming trigger gets largemouth bass moving. Smallmouth bass pull the covers over their head and continue to sleep until the 57 degree temperature plateau is reached. Expect largemouth to come into shallow water in the afternoon to bask in slightly warmer water near a south facing rock wall that collects solar heat and transmits it to surrounding water. Fishing is not fast by any stretch, but some of the largest bass of the year are caught during March.

Striped bass are always prowling looking for food. They come up to 25 feet to look and then drop back down to the 60-90 foot depths to wait. They can be caught at either location. The best springtime chance is with shallow fish. This spring expect stripers to be near the back of the canyon where shad have spent the

winter. They will not venture out into the main channel until much later than usual. Follow the bottom contour until the average depth is 25 feet. Then use slow moving stump jumpers, road



runners or hard baits like shad raps and pointers. I often troll in the spring top cover lots of water trying to intercept an active school. Keep an eye trained on the graph. Stationary schools can be activated with spoons or anchovy bait. If the school stays in one spot then multiple fish may be caught until they decide to move on. When they exit, return to search mode to find more willing fish.

The best fishing location by far is Hite. The far south primitive ramp is still useable with about 5 feet of depth. Be careful heading toward the main channel. It may be best to use the electric motor until in deeper water. Then head downstream to the confluence of White/Farley/Trachyte. Start there for a good fishing trip.

It's good to be back. I will see you on the lake.

BAKER RESERVOIR: (March 04) Fishing has been very slow, but catchable-sized rainbows will be stocked within the next couple of weeks.

BARKER RESERVOIRS (NORTH CREEK LAKES): (March 04) All of the lakes, except Barker and Lower Barker Reservoirs, are closed to fishing until April 18. You can access the reservoirs by snowmobile or ATV.

BEAVER MOUNTAIN LAKES:
(March 04) All of the lakes are iced-over, and access is by snowmobile.

BEAVER RIVER, LOWER: (March 04) Flows are low and fishing should be fair to good. Water releases from Minersville will begin in mid-April.

BEAVER RIVER, UPPER: (March 04) The anchor ice is making fishing difficult.

BOULDER MOUNTAIN: (March 04) Most of the Boulder Mountain lakes are closed to fishing until April 18. Check the [Utah Fishing Guidebook](#) for information about which lakes are still open. Access is limited to snowmobile or ATV.



CLEAR CREEK: (February 26) Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits.

CORN CREEK: (February 26) Access may be difficult. Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits.

DUCK CREEK POND / ASPEN MIRROR LAKE: (March 04) Closed Jan. 1 to April 18.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER IN KINGSTON CANYON: (March 04) The river is ice-free and the water is fairly turbid. Fishing is slow to fair.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER, BLACK CANYON: (March 04) No recent reports, but fishing can be good as long as there is no runoff from higher elevations.

ENTERPRISE RESERVOIR, UPPER: (March 04) Catchable rainbows will be stocked in both reservoirs at the end of March. The upper reservoir was not stocked in 2008 because of the repair work on the dam.

FISH LAKE: (March 04) The ice is solid and there is a fair amount of pressure. Fishing is fair to good for splake with fast action for perch in 15 to 20 feet, just outside the weeds. Try jigs or Kastmasters tipped with perch, sucker or chub. You may find a few rainbows 20 feet down in deep water too. For lake trout, try larger white jigs tipped with sucker or chub in 50 to 60 feet of water.

FORSYTH RESERVOIR: (March 04) The ice is weakening and should be unsafe by the weekend. However, there should be enough open water for fishing in a week or two.



FREMONT RIVER: (March 04) The road above Mill Meadow is not plowed, so access can be difficult.

GUNLOCK RESERVOIR: (March 04) The reservoir was drained in fall 2008 for dam repairs. Bass and bluegill will be stocked this spring, but it will take a few years for populations to re-establish.

JOHNSON RESERVOIR: (March 04) Muskie fishing will be slow until late spring.

KOLOB RESERVOIR: (March 04) There is not much ice fishing pressure due to poor access. Access is by snowmobile.

KOOSHAREM RESERVOIR: (March 04) The ice may weaken within the next two weeks.

LOWER BOWNS RESERVOIR: (February 26) Access is limited to snowmobile or ATV. Ice fishing is usually good if you can get there.

MAMMOTH CREEK: (February 26) Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Successful winter tackle includes nymphs, spinners and natural baits.

MILL MEADOW RESERVOIR: (March 04) The ice is very weak, but there should be enough open water to fish within a week.

MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR: (March 04) The mild temperatures and the wind are quickly melting the ice. Based on last year, fishing picks up a week or two after the ice is completely gone, but it isn't as good while the ice is receding.

MONROE MOUNTAIN LAKES: (March 04) These lakes typically don't get much ice fishing pressure because the snow limits access.

NAVAJO LAKE: (March 04) There is plenty of ice, but the gate is closed and access is limited to snowmobile or ATV. There is not much pressure because of the access issues, but ice fishing can be very productive and it is a good way to target splake. Try light-colored jigs or Kastmasters tipped with cutbait.

NEWCASTLE RESERVOIR: (March 04) The mild temperature and lots of wind mean that the ice is quickly disappearing. Ice should be gone within a week. Catchable rainbows will be



stocked within two weeks.

OTTER CREEK RESERVOIR & STATE PARK: (March 04) The mild temperatures and the wind are quickly melting the ice. As of March 4, half of the ice had melted. Open water fishing is already very good. For up-to-date information on ice, visit the Utah State Parks Web site at stateparks.utah.gov.

PANGUITCH LAKE: (March 04) There are new fishing regulations, please see the [Utah Fishing Guidebook](#) for more details. The ice should be safe for a few more weeks. One angler reports good success in 15 feet of water using white jigs tipped with sucker meat. You will have the most success if you get away from the crowds.

PARAGONAH RESERVOIR: (March 04) Access is by snowmobile. You may be able to reach to the reservoir in a truck or on an ATV, but use caution. There are no reports on the ice conditions.

PINE LAKE: (March 04) There are no reports on the ice conditions, but it usually melts by the end of March.

PIUTE RESERVOIR: (March 04) All of the ice is gone. Anglers report that fishing from both the shore and from tubes or boats is fair to good. Fly anglers are catching fish with streamers or midge patterns. Expect fair success with jigs from shore. For up to date info on ice, visit the Utah State Parks Web site at stateparks.utah.gov.

QUAIL LAKE: (March 04) Shore anglers report fair to good success for rainbows near the inlet and the dam. PowerBait is producing best in shallow water. Trollers should expect slower action. Bass fishing slows down during the colder months, though 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.

SAND HOLLOW RESERVOIR: (March 04) Bass fishing slows down during the colder months though 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-

s
hot rigs in the winter. Don't be afraid to use larger plastics or even hardware.

SEVIER

RIVER IN MARYSVALE CANYON: (March 04) The river is ice-free and a little turbid. Anglers report fair fishing.

THOUSAND LAKE MOUNTAIN: (March 04) Snow limits access, but ice fishing is usually good in Solomon Basin if you can get there.

TROPIC RESERVOIR: (March 04) Snow may limit access. Winter is a good time to target brown trout. Frozen minnow is the favorite bait locally.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY FISHERIES: (March 04) Catchable-sized rainbow trout, including albinos, 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: (March 04) The ice is gone and the reservoir is filling. Catchable rainbows will be stocked by the end of March.

YANKEE MEADOW RESERVOIR: (March 04) A few ATVs have reached Yankee Meadow, but snowmobiles are still

recommended. The ice has some slush in the upper layers. One angler reports good fishing with green PowerBait.

THE 12th ANNUAL SUBARU U.S. FREESKIING NATIONALS SET TO HOST THE WORLD'S BEST FREESKIERS MARCH 10-15, 2009 AT SNOWBIRD SKI AND SUMMER RESORT, UTAH

Watch the Subaru U.S. Freeskiing Nationals LIVE from Snowbird, Utah, Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14, on www.freeskiingworldtour.com

Salt Lake City, UT. March 13, 2008—Utah-based event production company, Mountain Sports International (MSI), announces the second stop on the 2009 Freeskiing World Tour (FWT) at Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, March 10-15, 2009. Registration filled up in mere hours, proving that the 12th Annual Subaru U.S. Freeskiing Nationals is one of the most sought-after events in freeskiing.

With approximately 200 athletes competing, the reigning Subaru U.S. Freeskiing Nationals Champions, Dylan Crossman and Jaclyn Passo, will have their work cut out for them as they try

to hold onto their titles. Also in attendance will be the 2009 FWT points leaders Clif Bennett and Michelle Manning. Other contenders to watch include Josh Daiek, David Wintzer, Crystal-Rose Lee, Mark Welgos, Todd Ligare, Ryan Hawks, Chuck Mumford, Chopo Diaz, and Ariana Stufano.

“The terrain at Snowbird is some of the most diverse in North America which makes for a great freeskiing mountain venue,” said Snowbird President Bob Bonar.

“With almost 30 feet of snow accumulation this season and more in the forecast, this should be a great event for competitors

and spectators alike.”



The world’s toughest skiers will push their limits on Snowbird’s unparalleled terrain during the Subaru U.S. Freeskiing Nationals. Proposed venues include Snowbird's Peruvian Gulch, Mt. Baldy and weather/conditions permitting, a heli-accessed super final on the fabled Mt. Superior.

Located 29 miles from Salt Lake City International Airport, Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort is North America’s most accessible year-round resort. Snowbird offers 15 restaurants and eateries, 2,500 acres of skiable terrain, North America’s only skier tunnel and averages 500 inches of snow per year.

Subaru US Freeskiing Nationals

Athlete/Media Schedule: March 10-15 2009

Tuesday, March 10 Registration

9:00am-3:00pm Registration open, Alpine room

4:00pm-4:30 Athlete meeting, Tram club

Wednesday, March 11, Day 1 FWT Qualifier

8:00am-3:00pm World Tour Registration, Alpine room

9:00am-3:00pm Media check in, Alpine room

9:00am Day 1 Qualifier run begins

4:00pm-4:30pm Athlete meeting, Tram club

Thursday, March 12, Day 2 FWT Qualifier

8:00am-3:00pm World Tour Registration, Alpine room

9:00am-3:00pm Media check in, Alpine room

9:00am Day 2 Qualifier begins

3:30pm-4:00pm Athlete meeting, Tram club



Friday, March 13, FWT Day 1

9:00am-3:00pm Media check in, Alpine room

9:00am FWT Day 1 Run 1 begins

4:00pm-4:30pm Athlete meeting, Tram Club

Saturday, March 14, FWT Day 2/Super Final

8:00am-8:30am Athlete meeting, Tram

9:00am-11:00am Media check in, Alpine room

9:00am FWT Day 2 Run 2 begins

2:00pm Super Final run begins

3:45pm-4:15pm Awards, Tram plaza

Sunday, March 15th, Weather Day

More Deer and Elk Permits

DWR proposes big game permit numbers for this fall's hunts

You might have a better chance at drawing a permit to hunt big game in Utah this fall.

Division of Wildlife Resources biologists are recommending an increase in the number of permits available for most species.

Now the biologists want your ideas about their recommendations.

Learn more, share your ideas

All of the DWR's big game proposals are available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings. Once you've read the proposals, you can share your thoughts and ideas one of two ways:

RAC meetings

Five Regional Advisory Council meetings will be held across Utah. Citizens representing the RACs will take the input received at the meetings to the Utah Wildlife Board. Board members will use the input when they meet in Salt Lake City on April 2 to approve permit numbers for Utah's 2009 big game hunts.

You can participate and provide your input at any of the following meetings:

Southern Region

March 17
7 p.m.

Central Region

March 24
6:30 p.m.

Richfield High School
510 W. 100 S.
Richfield

Springville Junior High School
165 S. 700 E.
Springville

Southeastern Region

March 18
6:30 p.m.
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St.
Green River

Northern Region

March 25
6 p.m.
Brigham City Community Center
24 N. 300 W.
Brigham City

Northeastern Region

March 19
6:30 p.m.
Western Park, Room #1
302 E. 200 S.
Vernal
E-mail

You can also provide your comments to your RAC via e-mail. E-mail addresses for your RAC members are available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings.



The group each RAC member represents (sportsman, non-consumptive, etc.) is listed under each person's e-mail address. You should direct your e-mail to the people on the RAC who represent your interest.

Proposals

“Most of Utah's big game animals are doing well,” says Anis Aoude, big game coordinator for the DWR. “And that's great news for sportsmen. It means more permits can be offered this fall.”

The following are among the DWR's recommendations:

Buck deer

The number of permits the state can offer for Utah's general buck deer hunts each fall is decided by two factors.

One is the state's permit cap. The cap does not allow more than 97,000 general buck deer permits to be offered each year.

The other is a requirement that deer herds have at least 15 bucks per 100 does.

A few years ago, the Utah Wildlife Board decreased buck deer permits by 1,000 permits each in both the Central and Northeastern regions. The board lowered the number of permits because the three-year buck-to-doe average in each region fell below the minimum of 15 bucks per 100 does.

Since then, the number of bucks has improved. Over the past three years, biologists have found an average of 16 bucks per 100 does in the Central Region. In the Northeastern Region, the herds have averaged 16 bucks per 100 does.

“Both regions have good numbers of bucks,” Aoude says. “We’d like to give more hunters a chance to hunt these bucks by returning 1,000 permits to each of the two regions.”

One region biologists do not want to add permits back to is the Northern Region.

“A lot of deer died in the Northern Region during the winter of 2007 – 2008,” Aoude says. “Even though the three-year buck-to-doe average across the region is good, the average on two of the units—the Cache and Ogden units—is down to about 10 bucks per 100 does.

“We’d like to maintain the current number of permits to help the deer in those two units rebound faster.”

Bull elk

On 26 of Utah’s 28 limited entry bull elk units, hunters are taking bull elk that are older than the age objective for the units. Because the units have plenty of big bulls, biologists are proposing that the number of limited entry bull elk permits be raised this year.

The biologists are proposing 2,760 limited entry bull elk permits for 2009. That’s up 13 percent from the 2,447 offered in 2008.

“There are plenty of big bulls on these units,” Aoude says. “We want to give a few more hunters a chance to enjoy hunting them.”

Permit recommendations

The following chart shows the number of permits that were available in 2008 and the number the DWR is recommending for 2009:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
General season buck deer	94,000	96,000
Premium limited entry deer	191	188
Limited entry deer	891	1,021
Limited entry bull elk	2,447	2,760
Pronghorn antelope	945	1,026

Moose	184	147
Bison	172	121 or 152
Rocky Mountain goat	91	104
Desert bighorn sheep	36	37
Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep	23	24

For more information, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

Get a jump on spring at Cabela's Great Outdoor Days offer a cure for cabin fever

Lehi – Cabela's invites you to celebrate spring at during Great Outdoor Days, the retailer's biggest in-store event of the season, starting 03/07/09 at the Cabela's retail store in Lehi. With seminars, product demonstrations, giveaways and activities for the kids, this free-to-the-public, multi-day event offers families a great way to get a jump on everything great about the great outdoors.



During Spring Great Outdoor Days, Cabela's will help you maximize your budget by getting you started on an outdoor adventure close to home or even in your own backyard. Whether you're a hardcore end-user, casual enthusiast or planning your very first outdoor experience, Cabela's is the place to start your year off right.

- Pro staff and representatives from top manufacturers will

be on hand to answer questions and give advice to maximize your next outdoor adventure.

- Learn the newest tips and tactics through hands-on demonstrations and try before you buy on select items, including the newest in fishing, camping and outdoor gear.
 - Cabela's largest sale of the year, with great prices on hunting, fishing and outdoor gear.
1. Meat Smoking Demonstrations
 2. Casting Seminar's by Lance Egan
 3. The Utah State Division Of Wildlife "Help Stop Poaching Trailer"
 4. The National Wild Turkey Federation will give Turkey Calling Classes.
 5. The World Famous Spider Bull taken in Utah in 2008. This is the World's Largest Non-typical Elk.
 6. Shooting Trailer provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

For more information about Cabela's Great Outdoor Days or to shop the most comprehensive selection of outdoor gear available on the Web, visit www.cabelas.com.

Travel Tips



In an effort to gather the most effective travel tips and help assist skiers and snowboarders in their quests to ride The Greatest Snow on Earth®, Ski Utah, in partnership with Southwest Airlines Vacations, has launched an online Travel Tips page and contest.

Smart travelers are invited to contribute tips and tactics for creating affordable winter vacations and will earn the chance to win incredible prizes. One clever contestant, who submits the "ultimate" travel tip, will be selected to receive the Grand Prize: A 2009-10 Ski Utah Vacation Package, complete with roundtrip airfare to Salt Lake City provided by Southwest Airlines Vacations.

Contestants simply visit **www.SkiUtah.com**, click on the "Travel Tips" icon, fill out a short form and enter a tip. Each week, one travel tip will be selected as the "Tip of the Week," and the customer who submitted it will receive a Ski Utah prize and be placed in the running for the Grand Prize.



National Wildlife Week scheduled March 16-20

Spring is almost here and if you're like us, you're already thinking about your next chance to be outside. Make time for the outdoors during **[National Wildlife Week, March 16-20, 2009](#)**. It's the perfect chance to do what you love and celebrate a good cause.

You can participate in three ways:

- **With your family and friends** - Check out recommended outdoor activities (there's even stuff for kids), Ranger Rick's tips for helping wildlife, ways to share photos of your outdoor adventures, Wildlife Watch lists of animals in your area, and much more.
- **In your community** - Participate in a wildlife habitat project. Download a free guide of service project ideas that you can complete with kids and teens.
- **Spread the word** - Forward this email to your friends and family, so they can get involved during National Wildlife Week.



Since 1938, National Wildlife Week has increased awareness about wildlife conservation and the benefits of spending time outdoors.

Research shows that a daily **Green Hour®** (unstructured time outdoors) improves one's physical, mental and emotional well-being. **Be Out There™**. <http://www.nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek/>

BlueRibbon Coalition Applauds Idaho Congressman for Requesting Hearings on Children's OHV Ban

Pocatello, Idaho (March 4) -- The BlueRibbon Coalition applauded Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson for requesting hearings on the ban of children's off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles.

Today, Congressman Simpson sent a letter to House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman requesting an oversight hearing to explore the affects of certain mandates of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) of 2008. Simpson is specifically concerned that the implementation of the bill has now banned the sales of children's off-highway vehicles (OHVs).

"This is welcome news, and we sincerely hope Chairman Waxman will grant Congressman Simpson's request," said Don Amador, BRC's Western Representative. Millions of off-highway vehicle enthusiasts and thousands of powersports businesses have been requesting a withdrawal of the ban for weeks. BRC praised Congressman Simpson for the letter and also called on their members to continue to press for a removal of the ban.

Congressman Simpson's Letter to Chairman Waxman

http://www.sharetrails.org/uploads/Letter_to_Chairman_Waxman_re_CPSIA.pdf

New National Trail Projects Funded in Parks

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Grant awards in a National Park Service program are headed to five projects where national historic and scenic trails intersect with national park units.

“Connect Trails to Parks” will soon distribute \$333,000 to these projects, said Dan Wenk, acting director of the National Park Service. The grant program was established during the 40th



anniversary of the National Trails System in 2008.

Wenk said, “This grant program will enable our visitors to better appreciate both the national parks and the national trails that touch or cross the parks through new

connections, better information systems, and upgraded facilities. It is wonderful way to commemorate the anniversary of the National Trails System.”

In addition to operating park areas across the U.S. and territories, the National Park Service plays a vital role in operating the 50,000-mile National Trails System. This trails system dates from legislation in 1968 that created the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails. Today, the National Trails System is comprised of eight national scenic trails (NSTs), 18 national historic trails (NHTs), and more than 1,000 national recreation trails (NRTs).

The five selected projects restore or improve existing trails and trailhead connections, provide better wayside and interpretive services, or provide planning services for important trail gateways. Wenk said nine more project grants will be awarded later this year.

Connect Trails to Parks Grants

Project Title	Trail(s)	Park	Location	Award Amount
Marsh-Billings Rockefeller Connector Trail to Appalachian NST	Appalachian NST	Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park	Woodstock, VT	\$60,000
Rehabilitate Historic Jesup Path	Dorr Mountain NRT	Acadia National Park	Bar Harbor, ME	\$99,000
Provide Planning and Coordination for Lions Park Trail and Transportation Hub	Old Spanish NHT Slickrock NRT	Arches National Park	Moab, UT	\$100,000

Monument Valley Historical Trails, Waysides, and Kiosks	Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express NHTs	Scotts Bluff Nat. Monument	Gering, NE	\$20,000
Rehabilitate White Rock Falls Trailhead and Visitor Parking Area	Appalachian NST	Blue Ridge Parkway (milepost 18)	Waynesboro, VA	\$54,000

In addition to 391 park units across the United States and its territories, the National Park Service plays a vital role in protecting, developing, and operating the 50,000-mile National Trails System. The Trails System dates from legislation in 1968 that created both the Appalachian and Pacific Crest national scenic trails.



Today, the National Trails System includes eight national scenic trails, 18 national historic trails, and more than 1,050 national recreation trails. The decade 2008 to 2018 has been declared "A Decade for the National Trails," building to the trails system's 50th anniversary.

Many of these projects will help individual trails and their constituent National Park sites to achieve goals associated with this commemorative decade.

For more information about the National Park Service please visit www.nps.gov.

For more information about the National Trails System please visit www.nps.gov/nts.

Jimmie Heuga's Snow Express for MS - Solitude, March 8



A unique day of family fun at Solitude Mountain Resort. The event raises funds for The Heuga Center, which supports research and wellness programs for people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Teams of three tackle the mountain in a scavenger hunt, then race gates at the Solitude Race Course. Great fun for a great cause!

Learn more about this event and how to enter a team at: www.heuga.org.

Cecil Huff of Ava, Missouri, won the Ultimate Equestrian Challenge™ at the 2009 Horse Celebration

Ava, Mo. - Cecil Huff won the Ultimate Equestrian Challenge produced by Missouri Equine Council, Inc., <http://www.mo-equine.org/Celebration/UEC.htm> and sponsored by MFA, Inc., at the Boone County Fairgrounds Jan. 23-24.

In The Ultimate Equestrian Challenge, trainers draw for a horse and round pen location in the arena. Horses are led to the pen and turned loose. The time begins when the trainers step inside the pen. Trainers have only 2 hours and 15 minutes training time before the show.

On the first night of competition, each trainer competed in a separate round pen in the main arena where the crowd watched as the horses were caught, bridled, saddled and ridden for the very first time. Trainers use various approaches and natural horsemanship techniques to start their untrained colt. Huff was the first trainer to saddle and ride his colt.

On the second night, trainers were given another 45-minute round pen session with colts

. Then the round pens came down and trainers were given three minutes to introduce colts to the obstacle course. The course consisted of a 12-inch high rectangular mounting block which the colts were required to step upon and cross. The horses drug a ground pole and stepped over ground poles. The final challenge included riding the horses in a freestyle movement designed

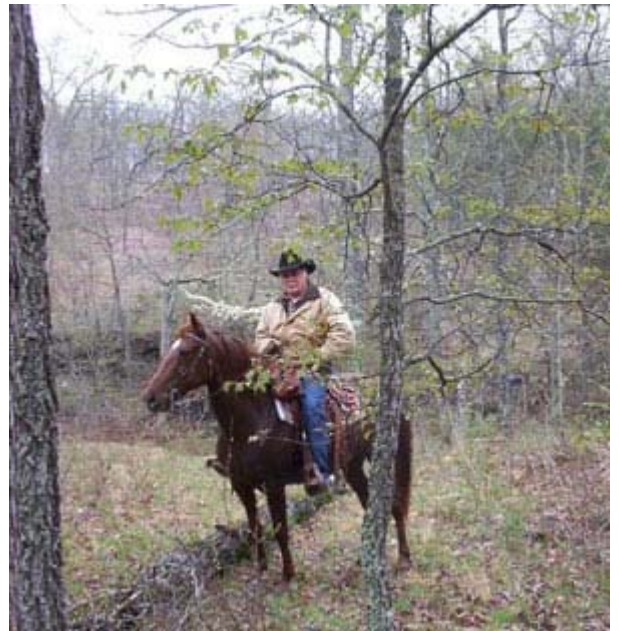
by the trainer. Walk, trot, lope and back on command was expected.

Huff chose for his free style to walk, trot and lope both directions. He continued with a serpentine between the ground poles and figures eights at the walk and at a trot in the middle of arena. Huff also chose to ride the colt in a rope mecate. Due to the previous time spent in bonding and communication, all this was accomplished with leg yields and light rein cues, no bit or spurs!

The relationship with the colt paid off. Huff had truly developed a soft and willing partner from an established connection of mutual trust and respect. This demonstrated dance between minds showed us all how rewarding the end result can be.

“This was the most challenging event I have ever done,” Huff says. “Wow! It’s more of a challenge than “Road to the Horse” (<http://www.roadtothehorse.com/>). We had 55 minutes less time to get the colt ready. “Road to the Horse” had used 3 hours and 10 minutes in their 2008 contest.

After our first session, my horse was willing to do what I asked – after he bucked like a rodeo bronco with his first saddle! When I saw the course requirements and time limits, I knew I must get the colt’s complete trust so I made it my top priority to build that trust and two hours later I had it.



When I think back on it, I am pleased it went so well. God blessed and used me in a special way.”

Huff’s congratulations on a challenge well done, were met with his shy smile and humble gratitude for all those in attendance and support. See this link for slide show. <http://www.bucksandspurs.com/Ultimate-Road-to-the-Equestrian-Challenge.htm>



Who is Cecil Huff?

He is married to Sonny (Sonya) Huff and has two children, Dustin and Kim, and three grandsons.

Huff has trained horses for novice riders visiting Bucks and Spurs Guest

Ranch www.bucksandspurs.com and trained interns in natural horsemanship from USA, France, Italy, Austria, Luxemburg, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, England for the last 14 years

(http://www.bucksandspurs.com/dude_ranch_internship.htm)

Huff uses natural horsemanship techniques and emphasizes nonverbal communication during the training process and all through his horse handling.

He is a member of the Board of Directors for the MFTHBA <http://www.mfthba.com/> and President of the DCFTHBA <http://dcfthba.com/> The Douglas County group has more 60 trail rides each year. <http://dcfthba.com/whatsnew.htm>.

Huff also serves a deacon for Walnut Grove Baptist Church.

Bucks and Spurs Guest Ranch is home to World Champion Missouri Fox Trotting horses and superior registered Angus cattle. Huff’s choice for ranch work and pleasure is a Missouri Fox Trotter. See his accomplishments here.

http://bucksandspurs.com/World_Champion_Titles.htm.

For more information about Bucks and Spurs Guest Ranch, go to www.BucksandSpurs.com or call 417-683-2381.

Taking the Pulse of our Planet: Volunteers Needed to Track Seasonal Signs of Climate Change

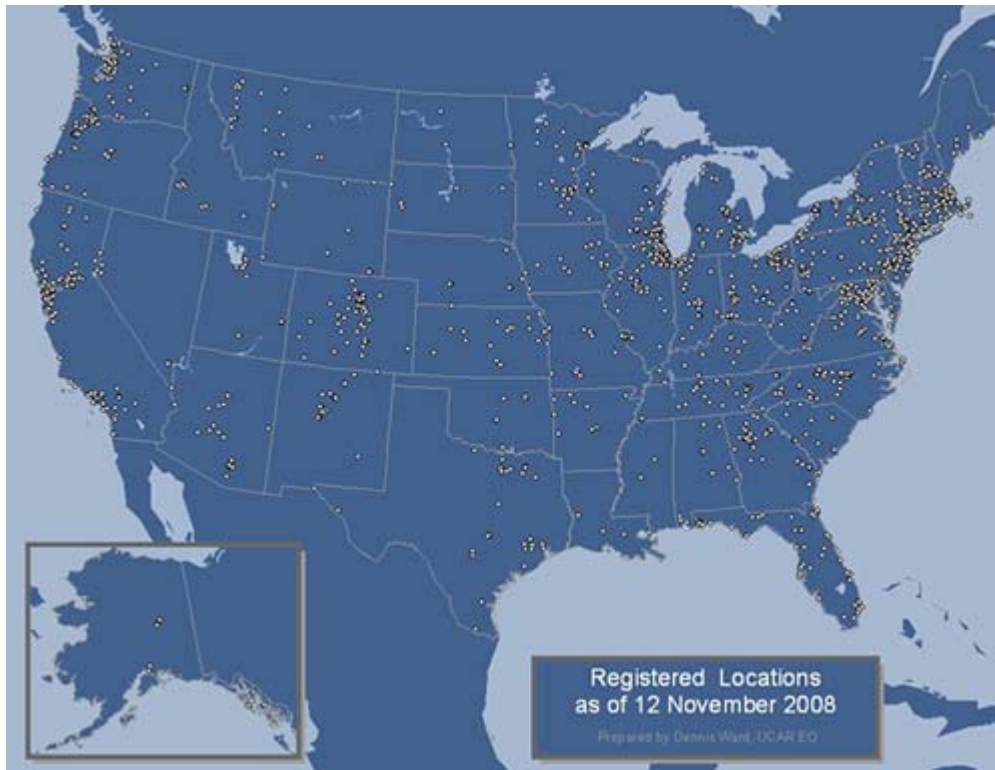
See Related Podcast, "Help Us Keep an Eye on Climate Change," at
<http://www.usgs.gov/corecast/>

Volunteers across the nation are being recruited to get outdoors and help track the effects of climate on seasonal changes in plant and animal behavior.

The USA-National Phenology Network (USA-NPN), a consortium of government, academic and citizen-scientists, is launching a new national program built on volunteer observations of

flowering, fruiting and other seasonal events. Scientists and resource managers will use these observations to track effects of climate change on the Earth's life-support systems.

"This program is designed for people interested in participating in climate change science, not just reading about it," said USA-NPN Executive Director and U.S. Geological Survey scientist



Jake Weltzin. "We encourage everyone to visit the [USA National Phenology Network Web site](#) and then go outside and observe the marvelous cycles of plant and animal life."

Phenology is the study of the seasonal cycles of plant and animals, such as plants sprouting, flowering and fruiting, and animals reproducing, migrating and hibernating. Changes in these patterns, caused by climate change or other factors, can significantly

affect human economies and health. In some areas, such changes have

already imperiled species, such as in the disappearance of some wildflowers from near Walden Pond, home of the famed 19th-century naturalist Henry David Thoreau.

The USA-NPN monitoring program harnesses the power of people and the Internet to vastly increase the data available to scientists and the public alike, Weltzin said. The program provides easy-to-use methods to track the life cycles of nearly 200 species of plants, and will begin monitoring animals next year.

Mark D. Schwartz, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and chair of the USA-NPN board of directors, said monitoring changes in seasonal events across large areas helps researchers forecast the effects of global climate change on plants, animals, and ecosystems.

Among other uses, data collected by USA-NPN will help resource managers predict wildfires and pollen production, detect and control invasive species, monitor droughts, and assess the vulnerability of various plant and animal species to climate change.

The USA-NPN, based at The University of Arizona in Tucson, is built upon partnerships among citizen scientists, government agencies, nongovernment organizations, academic researchers, educators and the public. The rapidly expanding network includes collaborations among the

U.S. Geological Survey, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, The University of Arizona, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and The Wildlife Society. [Project BudBurst](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst), a major partner of the USA-NPN, is launching its second season of plant phenology monitoring.
http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst

Wasatch Powder Keg Race - Alta, March 14 & 15

The 6th annual Wasatch Powderkeg Backcountry Ski Race will have both recreational and race divisions with Men's, Women's, AT, and Tele groups in each division, prizes for the winners, and a post-race raffle and BBQ.



Registration forms, race details, and race contact information are available at: www.wasatchpowderkeg.com.

MOST KILLED IN TEEN CRASHES ARE NOT TEENS

AAA Study Also Shows a 10-Year Drop in Fatal Crashes

SALT LAKE CITY, February 27, 2009 – Teaching teens driving safety may save not only their lives, but could also save the lives of thousands of others on the road, according to new analysis by AAA. The study finds that in car crashes involving teen drivers, other people are killed far more often than the teen drivers.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety analysis covers crash data from 1998 to 2008. It shows nearly two-thirds of people killed in crashes involving drivers aged 15 to 17 were those in other vehicles, the teen drivers' passengers, pedestrians, cyclists, or others using the road. Only one-third of those killed were teen drivers.

“In the majority of car crashes involving teen drivers, it was other people who were killed, not the teen drivers. This really underscores the link between teen driver safety and the safety of everyone on the road,” said Matt Skryja, AAA spokesperson. “Parents and teens need to understand the serious responsibility of driving and the risks and consequences involved.”

AAA Analysis Results: 1998 to 2008

Nationwide

- 28,138 people were killed in crashes involving 15 to 17-year-old drivers
- 10,388 (36.9 percent) killed were teen drivers
- 17,750 (63.1 percent) deaths included 8,829 passengers of the teen drivers, 6,858 occupants of other vehicles driven by adults, and 2,063 non-motorists and others

Utah

- 278 people were killed in crashes involving 15 to 17-year-old drivers
- 93 (33.5 percent killed) were teen drivers
- 185 (66.5 percent) included 104 passengers of the 15 to 17-year-old drivers, 61 occupants of other vehicles driven by adults, and 20 non-motorists

Previous nationwide analysis in 2006 found that between 1995 and 2005, crashes involving 15 to 17-year-old drivers claimed the lives of 30,917 people, of whom 36.2 percent were teen drivers themselves and 63.6 percent were other crash victims.

AAA points to the drop in both teen driver deaths and the larger drop in deaths of others during the last decade as evidence that improving teen driver safety benefits everyone using the roads. AAA believes this illustrates the need for comprehensive graduated driver licensing (GDL) systems that let new teen drivers gain experience under less-risky conditions. GDL systems ease teens into driving through a combination of mandatory practice and by

limiting driving at night and with passengers.



States with comprehensive GDL systems have shown a reduction in deaths among 16-year-old drivers by 38 percent. Forty-nine states have GDL systems that fall short of AAA guidelines. AAA would ideally like teen drivers nationwide to be restricted from driving between 10 pm and 5 am. Currently, Utah's law only restricts teens from driving between midnight and

5 am. Although Utah misses this requirement by two hours, it does meet four out of five of AAA's GDL guidelines.

AAA also encourages parents to play the leading role in developing their teen driver through regular dialogue, selecting a quality driving school, using a parent-teen driving agreement, extensive practice driving, and choosing a safe vehicle for their teen.

AAA Utah offers a wide variety of tools to help prevent teen crashes:

- Driver-ZED (Zero Errors Driving), an interactive computer DVD-ROM that allows teen drivers to gain experience at recognizing dangerous driving situations in a safe virtual environment

- TeenSMART, a program which helps teens to drive more safely and rewards drivers ages 16 to 18 who successfully complete home study coursework with a discount of up to 20 percent on AAA auto insurance
- Advice on teaching teens to drive, parent-teen driving agreements, party and prom safety, and more

More information about AAA teen safety programs is available online at www.aaa.com/teensdrive.

AAA Utah offers a wide array of automotive, travel, insurance, DMV, financial services and consumer discounts to more than 180,000 members. AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers since it was founded more than 100 years ago.

Powder Mountain & Ogden Rescue Mission Food Drive

Powder Mountain will be hosting a food drive on April 1st along with The Ogden Rescue Mission. Each person that donates five (5) non-perishable food items will have their choice of a discounted all area adult lift pass for that day (a \$16 discount) or a free single-ride Lightning Ridge Snowcat Pass (\$12 value).



According to Powder Mountain CEO Gregg Greer “Powder Mountain has enjoyed the support of the local community for years and has always tried to provide a good value for families to enjoy this beautiful area. An inexpensive day on the mountain is wonderful, but if you don’t have enough to eat, more direct help is needed. With the help of our guests and loyal season pass holders, we hope this small contribution assists many.” The idea for a food drive arose shortly after the resort’s successful Stoked on Socks event, where 550 pairs of socks were donated to give to the homeless.

All donations will be given directly to the Ogden Rescue Mission. The Ogden Rescue Mission prepares more than 100,000 meals each year for those in need. It also distributes over 1,500 food boxes for local families during the holidays.

For more information, please call 801-745-3772 or visit the resort’s website at www.powdermountain.com.

Prescribed Burns Planned near Scipio provides opportunities for fuels management

Fillmore, Utah—The Bureau of Land Management Utah Fillmore Field Office is preparing for two separate prescribed burns. The Low Hills project is located approximately six miles north of Scipio, Utah, in both Juab and Millard Counties.

The Low Hills Vegetation Treatment is in a project area of 650 acres, and is part of the North Scipio Grazing Allotment. The Grabalt project is located two miles southwest of Scipio and is a joint prescribed burn between the BLM and Fishlake National Forest that consists of 2,100 acres. In the fall of 2008, BLM and U.S.

Forest Service successfully completed 700 acres of the project.

BLM Utah fire managers are planning to burn juniper and pinyon trees as well as sagebrush and blue bunch wheatgrass. Weather permitting, ignition of these projects will be on Mon., March 9. In addition to reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, these projects will re-seed the areas to improve conditions for wildlife and livestock.



Generally, there are only two “windows of opportunity” each year—spring and fall—when the fuels, vegetation, and weather conditions are acceptable and safe for use of prescribed fire. Although every effort is made to

conduct prescribed fires in a manner that minimizes smoke, some nearby communities and residents may be affected for short periods of time while these projects are completed.

These prescribed fires will only be started if temperature, humidity, wind speed, fuel moisture, and other requirements set by the Department of Air Quality are met.

For further information about these project or other BLM Utah or USFS fuel management projects, please visit www.utahfireinfo.gov.

Upcoming Concerts

Friday, April 3, 2009-- The Intermountain Acoustic Music Association Local Concert Series presents, Gene Sartain and Friends (Diverse Acoustic); Hillbilly Voodoo (Earthy Hillbilly Stomp)-South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society- 6876 South Highland Drive. Time-7:30. \$5 at the door. Info-sharoniama@aol.com. COOLERS WELCOME

Thursday, April 9, 2009- The Red Desert Ramblers Bluegrass band will be performing at Sugarhouse BBQ Company. 2207 South 700 East. Info-463-4800. 6:30-8:30. Free with dinner. Get there early as seats fill up fast!

April 23 (Thursday)-- The IAMA Mainstream Concert Series Presents: "BLUEGRASS, ETC." Featuring Byron Berline (Fiddle), John Moore (guitar, mandolin), Dennis Caplinger (banjo, fiddle), and Bill Bryson Bass. And of course plenty of traditional bluegrass harmony. Thursday, April 23. 7:30. 6876 S. Highland Drive at the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. \$20. Coolers are welcome and tables will be set out for those who bring dinner. Tickets, reservations and information available by e mailing sharoniama@aol.com.

Sat. April 25, 2009-- Old Time Square and Contra Dance with Loose Shoes. Live caller and live band. First Unitarian Church. 1300 East and 600 South. 7:30 for teaching. 8:00 for the dance. \$5 donation. Musicians welcome to sit in. Info- sharoniama@aol.com.

More Fishing Reports

BURRASTON PONDS: (March 05) Light pressure and only an occasional fish is caught.

CANYON VIEW PARK POND: (March 05) Slow fishing at best

DEER CREEK RESERVOIR: (March 05)
The ice is unsafe. There is open water along the edges and a pocket or two of open water in the body. Wait until more open water exists.

JORDANELLE RESERVOIR: (March 05)
There is open water on much of the reservoir near Hailstone. Ice spans the majority of the shoreline so shore fishing is not possible on most areas. The ice covering the rest of the reservoir is unsafe.

PAYSON LAKE: (February 24) Closed for



the season

PROVO RIVER, LOWER: (March 05) Anglers are doing well with small, dark nymphs. Lures are still producing some nice browns as well. This is especially true in the deeper pools.

PROVO RIVER, MIDDLE: (March 05) Anglers are doing well by fishing standard small nymphs in the feeding zones. Light to moderate pressure.

SALEM POND: (March 05) Light pressure but an occasional trout is being caught. Worms and Powerbait are your best bet.

SETTLEMENT CANYON RESERVOIR: (March 05) A little open water with a lot of unsafe ice. Fishing is slow in the open water.

SPANISH OAKS RESERVOIR: (March 05) Gate to reservoir is open but it has not been stocked this year. Still some hold-over fish to be caught.



SPRING LAKE: (March 05) Few anglers and mild success.

STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR: (March 05) Anglers report fairly thick ice (20 inches or so with snow and slush on top) in many areas, but the Narrows area is not safe. Slush will increase over the next few weeks with the warmer temps. Access has been good. Most anglers report good success by using bait-tipped jigs. Try dropping a jig at about 30 feet deep.

This seems to be a good depth to find trout. If success is slow, drill a different hole in a different location. There are special species and size regulations here so read the proclamation. Please know the difference between rainbow trout and Bear Lake cutthroat trout.

TIBBLE FORK RESERVOIR: (February 24) Unsafe ice!

UTAH LAKE: (March 05) The southern and western portion of Utah Lake is ice-free. The remaining portion consists of unsafe ice. No reports yet, but expect mediocre success.

VIVIAN PARK POND: (February 24) Unsafe ice on this pond

WILLOW POND: (March 05) Don't go on the ice. Please fish the open water only.

YUBA STATE PARK: (March 05) The west side, nearer to the I-15, is completely ice free. The ramp is open and ready

BIG SANDWASH RESERVOIR: (March 05) No new reports. Check the ice carefully before venturing out. The reservoir is being filled.

BROUGH RESERVOIR: (March 05) Anglers report slow fishing, but the fish they caught were fairly large. Brough is being filled so be careful on the ice along the edges. Note: A recent news article reported that Brough is a good bass fishery, but it is not. Brough is stocked and managed as a trophy trout fishery.

BROWNE LAKE: (March 05) Anglers report fair to good ice fishing. Check the ice carefully before venturing out. The road gates are closed.

CALDER RESERVOIR: (March 05) The reservoir has good ice, and anglers have been using snowmobiles to access the area. Reports indicate slow to fair ice fishing for nice-sized fish.

Check the ice before venturing out.

CROUSE RESERVOIR: (March 05) No new reports. Check the ice before venturing out. The reservoir is being filled, so expect new ice around the edges and good ice just offshore. You may need a snowmobile to access the area.

CURRENT CREEK RESERVOIR: (March 05) Anglers report that the reservoir still has fishable ice. Fishing has been spotty. You'll have to travel through mud, snow and ice to access the dam. The road to the dam is maintained regularly, but at this time of year, a storm can quickly make roads treacherous and impassable.



FLAMING GORGE: (March 05) As of March 4, only the Lucerne, Antelope Flat, Mustang and Cedar Springs boat ramps remain open. Sheep Creek and all Wyoming ramps are frozen. Sheep Creek Bay ice is thinning, and most consider it unsafe. Watch for free-floating ice sheets in the Utah portion. Ice is also questionable in Wyoming. Check the ice carefully as anglers report a wide range of ice thicknesses. Anglers have fallen through the ice as far north as Firehole, and others have been stranded on the ice when it cracked or pulled away from the bank. In general, ice has formed from the river arms down past Marsh Creek, but there are expanding areas of open water. All of the ice is irregular, so anglers need to take precautions and be aware of where they are standing. Ice thickness can go from 10 or more inches to three or less in only a few steps. Water temperatures remain in the mid to upper 30s in the lower end of the reservoir. Note the regulation changes for ice fishing and spearfishing for the Utah portion of the reservoir as of Jan. 1. See the [Utah Fishing Guidebook](#) for details.

Lake trout: Anglers report fair fishing for 12- to 24-inch lake trout in the Canyon, Antelope and Lucerne areas. Ice fishermen report spotty catches; fish up to six pounds seem to be moving

through in schools. Try points next to deep water in Red Canyon, the Skull Creeks, Jarvies Canyon and in the Antelope Flat/Lucerne area. Fish are scattered from 50 to 120 feet, with most in the 80- to 100-foot range. Smaller fish are suspending off the bottom while feeding on zooplankton. If you are jigging, try tube jigs in white, chartreuse, glow or brown. Tipping your jig with a small chunk of sucker or chub meat may increase interest. Airplane jigs and jigging spoons are also working well. Using no-stretch line will help you feel strikes and set the hook better. Use a graph to see where fish are located and place the jig at the same depth. When trolling, check your graphs and use downriggers to get lures like needlefish, other spoons and Rapalas down near the bottom. Long lining near the surface with small or large fish-imitating lures may help you catch larger fish that are trying to fatten up on prey. Let out a couple hundred feet of line behind the boat or use planer boards to get lures out to the side of the boat.

Kokanee salmon: Fishing for kokanee is typically slow this time of year. A graph may help you locate fish. You can find fish throughout the water column, so try a range of depths. Downriggers, long lining, lead weights and planer boards can get the small spoons (like needlefish, triple teasers or other erratic-moving lures) down to the right depths. Try trolling at speeds from 1.5 to 2.5 miles per hour. If you are ice fishing, watch for schools of fish on the

graph and try to put jigging spoons like Crocodiles and Kastmasters in front of them.



Rainbow trout: Shore and boat fishing has been good to excellent in Utah, and ice fishing is good in Wyoming. There have been reports of larger fish (in the four-pound range) being taken as well as fish in the 12- to 18-inch range. If you are ice fishing, look for fish from 10 to 30

feet deep and use typical rainbow gear. If you are fishing from a boat or shore, try casting lures or baits like a worm/marshmallow combination or PowerBait. Fish can be deep or shallow, so try different depths. Don't be afraid of harvesting some rainbows. They are really tasty from the cold waters of the Gorge.

Burbot: Anglers report good fishing with jigs in 10 to 40 feet of water over areas with a rocky and shale bottom. Try fishing at night or early in the morning off the points in areas like Antelope Flat, Linwood Bay in Utah (with boats) and Firehole, Lost Dog, Sage Creek, Confluence, Buckboard, Holmes Crossing, Anvil Draw, Skunk Cliffs and Marsh Creek in Wyoming (ice fishing). Use glow tube or curly tail jigs that are two to three inches in size and about 1/8 to 1/4 ounce in weight. Lures that glow, like jigging spoons and jigging Rapalas, also work well. Tipping your lures with sucker or crayfish meat and using smelly jelly or similar scents in crayfish also seems to help. Make sure you recharge your glow lures often. During the

day, these fish will move deep (70–100 feet), so jigging in deep water may produce better daytime success. Anglers can now use up to six lines to fish through the ice on the Utah portion of the reservoir. Anglers will not need a two-pole permit to fish with more than one line. Please see the [Utah Fishing Guidebook](#) for more details.

Smallmouth bass: Smallmouth fishing is typically slow during the winter months. Try fishing the rocky areas where crayfish will be and adjust depth until you find the fish, likely 20 or more feet down. Crayfish-colored grubs on leadhead jigs or small plastic worms, senkos, twitch and crankbaits may work if you can get the lure right in front of the fish. If you're fishing in the canyon, keep a limit of 10 fish smaller than 10 inches to help thin out the population and increase growth on the remaining fish.

GREEN RIVER BELOW FLAMING GORGE DAM: (March 05) Starting March 1, average daily flows will probably be at a constant 800 cfs until high spring flows in May or June. Try fishing scuds, egg patterns and attractor nymphs during periods when no hatches are occurring. Watch for midge hatches to occur during the warmer parts of the day. Streamer fishing is a good technique to use during the winter months. Spin fishermen should try Rapalas (floating, countdown and husky jerk); spinners; spoons; black, brown or olive marabou jigs; and plastic jigs.

MATT WARNER: (March 05) The reservoir is ice covered, and anglers have been getting in on snow machines. The last report was of fair fishing.

MOOSE POND: (March 05) The Moose Pond is now being refilled, and the surface is frozen. It was drained to make some needed enhancements. If everything goes as planned, the pond should be ready and stocked by early summer.

PELICAN LAKE: (March 05) Pelican Lake is frozen. The ice is more than a foot thick, except for the edges. Anglers will need to cross several feet of water or too-thin ice and then climb up onto the thicker ice. Anglers report mostly fast fishing for bluegill, although it seems the fish are moving around. Try some new areas if you don't locate fish under your first hole. Anglers are still catching largemouth bass near the good bluegill areas. Check the ice conditions carefully, especially around the edges, as the reservoir is being filled. You may want to wear waders, as boards and waterproof boots might not be long/tall enough to access the ice.



RED FLEET RESERVOIR: (March 05) Anglers report fair success rates. Most fish are in the 12-inch range, but some anglers have caught a few larger rainbows. Fish seem to be either near the bottom or about 10 to 15 feet down. The ice is generally over a foot thick, except for the

edges. The reservoir is filling, so check the edges carefully before venturing out. You may want to bring a board, waders or tall waterproof boots to access the ice.

STARVATION RESERVOIR: (March 05) The main channel has frozen and thawed multiple times this winter. Consider all of the ice unsafe. The ice color is turning dark blue, and areas of open water will likely occur within the next few days.



STEINAKER RESERVOIR: (March 05) Anglers report slow to fair ice fishing for rainbows. The reservoir is being filled, so there is new ice near the shore and thicker, safer ice a few feet further out. A board, waders or tall waterproof boots will make it safer and easier to cross the shallows. Check the ice carefully before venturing out.

Park City Mountain Resort Hosts The Intelligent Design on Saturday, March 7, 2009

WHAT: Park City Mountain Resort is taking the next step in snowboard competition evolution by hosting The Intelligent Design (IDPC) on Saturday, March 7, 2009. The best snowboarders in the world, including Shaun White, Mark Frank Montoya and Louie Vito, compete on a uniquely designed course that includes big air, half-pipe and jibbing for a piece of the \$50,000 prize purse.

The course begins with a 60-foot step-up jump and is followed by a large 'hip' jump. The riders will transition into a jib section of the course before entering the 22-foot superpipe where they will have the option of taking traditional pipe hits or use 'jib' features that will be placed on the deck walls of the pipe. After exiting the pipe the course will end with a 22-foot quarter pipe that will also have a jib feature on the deck. **The event is free to the public.**

WHERE: Park City Mountain Resort's Pick 'N Shovel Terrain Park and Eagle Superpipe.

WHEN: Saturday, March 7, 2009

Schedule as follows:

9:00 - 10:30 am: Practice

10:30 - 11:30 am: Qualifications, best of 2 runs

12:15 - 1:00 pm: Practice

1:00 - 2:00 pm: FINALS - best of 3 runs, awards immediately follow FINALS

Elk Foundation Board Approves New Position on Wolves

MISSOULA, Mont.—Gray wolf populations in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming need to be managed through state-regulated hunting—now.

That's the upshot of a new Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation policy statement approved by its board of directors on March 4, 2009. The official action headlined a regular board meeting held in conjunction with the RMEF annual convention in Fort Worth, Texas.

“Wolf populations are well above recovery goals and federal protection is no longer justified. It's clear to us that wolves now can be sustainably managed like bears, cougars and other restored predators,” said David Allen, Elk Foundation president and CEO.

Allen said wolves are an organizational concern because of their impacts to local elk herds, elk hunting success and participation, livestock and landowners, rural economies and the Elk Foundation's own ability to facilitate collaborative conservation successes in the future.

To date, RMEF has helped protect or enhance over 5.5 million acres of habitat for elk and other wildlife.

Here's the new policy statement in its entirety:



Elk Foundation Official Policy Statement on Gray Wolf Restoration

Background

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) decision to remove gray wolves from protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). In the case of the subject of

gray wolf populations, ESA protection is no longer legally required or necessary. The recovery plan biological goals for wolves in the Rocky Mountains were attained in 2002. Both population size and breeding pair estimates now exceed recovery goals by 500 percent and 333 percent, respectively. The western Great Lakes population has also exceeded its population goals for several years.

The RMEF supports sound, science-based wildlife management that maintains a sustainable balance between predator and big-game species. We encourage the use of the best available science to finalize this delisting. Biologists, hunters, land managers, private landowners, and other citizens across the nation have worked hard and made sacrifices to achieve recovery for wolves.

Policy

RMEF and its primary support base, hunters and anglers, have always supported the legal protection of fish and wildlife species that require protection to survive and flourish.

We believe the following:

When wolf populations meet scientific viability criteria for recovery, they no longer require federal protection under ESA. They should be de-listed if recovery plan goals are met and where regulatory mechanisms are in place to adequately manage the species.

After the wolf is de-listed, scientifically sound wolf management programs administered by state wildlife agencies should maintain sustainable wolf populations to preclude the need to re-list under the ESA.

Reflecting the success of other historic hunter/conservationist-led species recovery programs based on the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation, the management of wolves as game animals should occur in areas designated for wolf occupancy, and wolf seasons should be regulated by the states.

Where and when hunting is deemed appropriate under state regulations, methods used by hunters must conform to Fair Chase principles.

When classified as game animals, wolf populations should be maintained in accordance with the biological and cultural carrying capacities of the habitats they occupy.

Also, management of individual wolves and wolf populations should recognize the need to balance management objectives with respect for private property and human safety.



About the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation:

Snowy peaks, dark timber basins and grassy meadows. RMEF is leading an elk country initiative that has conserved or enhanced habitat on over 5.5 million acres—a land area equivalent to a swath three miles wide and stretching along the entire Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico. RMEF also works to open, secure and improve public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation. Get involved at www.rmef.org or 800-CALL ELK.

Kids In Nature: March Winter Program

Tips and tricks of understanding animal tracks can be yours to take home! The National Park Service and the Uinta-Wasatch- Cache National Forest invite you to discover how to recognize animal crossings and sharpen your skills at interpreting animal tracks . Join us on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. for this free winter kids in nature program. Learn to read the stories told by animals who have made a mark. This one-hour program will be presented by park rangers Karissa DeCarlo and Roberta Jacobsmeyer 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: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Date : Saturday, March 28, 2009

Program: "T.R.A.C.K.S.- Time to Recognize Animal Crossings Karissa & Roberta Show You How!"

Join rangers Karissa DeCarlo and Roberta Jacobsmeyer as they reveal the fascinating facts about tracks. Learn to read the stories told by animals who have made a mark. Be prepared to spend 10-15 minutes outside.

NEXT GUN SHOW- OGDEN March 7-8, 2009

This Weekend- March 7-8, the Utah Gun Collectors Association will be at the Weber County



Fairgrounds (I-15 Exit 346) with their great show. Dealer spaces are expected to be sold out (again!), so this show will be packed! This is the great show with loads of old and new guns for sale and lots of interesting exhibits. Bring the whole family! Bring those old guns you want to sell or trade, or just want more information about.

Admission for adults is only \$5.00. Print out a "Dollar off" discount coupon from <http://ugca.org/ugcamembapp.htm> Kids under 12 get in free. Open to the public 9-5 Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday.

Remember, admission is free to UGCA members and their families and uniformed military and law enforcement personnel.

SIGN UP FOR CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMIT CLASS AT THE OGDEN GUN SHOW

Classes will be available at the UGCA Gun Show in Ogden March 7-8. The instructor, Clark Aposhian, is one of the best in the state, and taught the classes for many of the Legislators who have gotten permits, and he is the head of the Utah Self-Defense Instructors Network.

The class will be offered at 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon and 2:00 PM on Saturday, and 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Sunday. The class takes about three hours. Cost per person is \$60.00, including the required photos, fingerprinting, notary service and free hand delivery to BCI! Save \$5.00 off the "walk in" rate by pre-registering by email to FairWarningTraining@msn.com with the name(s) of the student(s), and which class you want. Or, you can call Clark at (801) 560-4836 but email is preferred.

We recommend that anyone even considering applying for a permit take a course like this, to find out the full story on the limits, obligations, advantages and disadvantages of legally carrying a self defense weapon.

Remember, permit holders do not have to pay the \$7.50 fee for background checks when buying a gun, and the process goes a lot faster.

QUICK UPDATE ON GUN BILLS IN LEGISLATURE

HB 25- Gun Dealer penalty amendments- PASSED House and Senate

HB 204- CWP Instructor oversight- PASSED House- awaiting action in Senate

HB 357- Firearms Amendments (possession in vehicles and your property)- Awaiting passage by House before going to Senate. May need another round of contacts to move this one.

SB 78- Parking lot restrictions- Passed Senate for the 4th time in as many years. Awaiting action in House. Will need major input to get this priority bill passed this year.

OKLAHOMA PARKING LOT LAW UPHELD

Last week, the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in support of an

Oklahoma law allowing employees to store legally owned firearms in locked, private motor vehicles while parked in employer parking lots. This decision upholds NRA-backed legislation passed in 2004, and would certainly support the Parking Lot bill (SB 78) that USSC is trying to get passed in Utah right now. "This is a victory for the millions of American workers who have been denied the right to protect themselves while



commuting between their homes and their workplace," said NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre. "This ruling is a slap at the corporate elitists who have no regard for the constitutional rights of law abiding American workers."

OPERATION MAGAZINE DROP

An idea from Tom Gresham (Gun Talk radio- KSL 570 AM Sunday afternoons)

"We all have gun magazines around the house . . .the kind you read, not the kind you load with ammunition. What to do with them?

Action Item -- Give them away. Think of it as "house clearing," and it's a form of "missionary" work. Waiting rooms are perfect. Doctor offices, hair dressers, barber shops, or anywhere there are stacks of magazines for people to read. I suggest crossing out or cutting off your name and address from the cover. Don't ask for permission. Just add a couple (or more) to the pile.

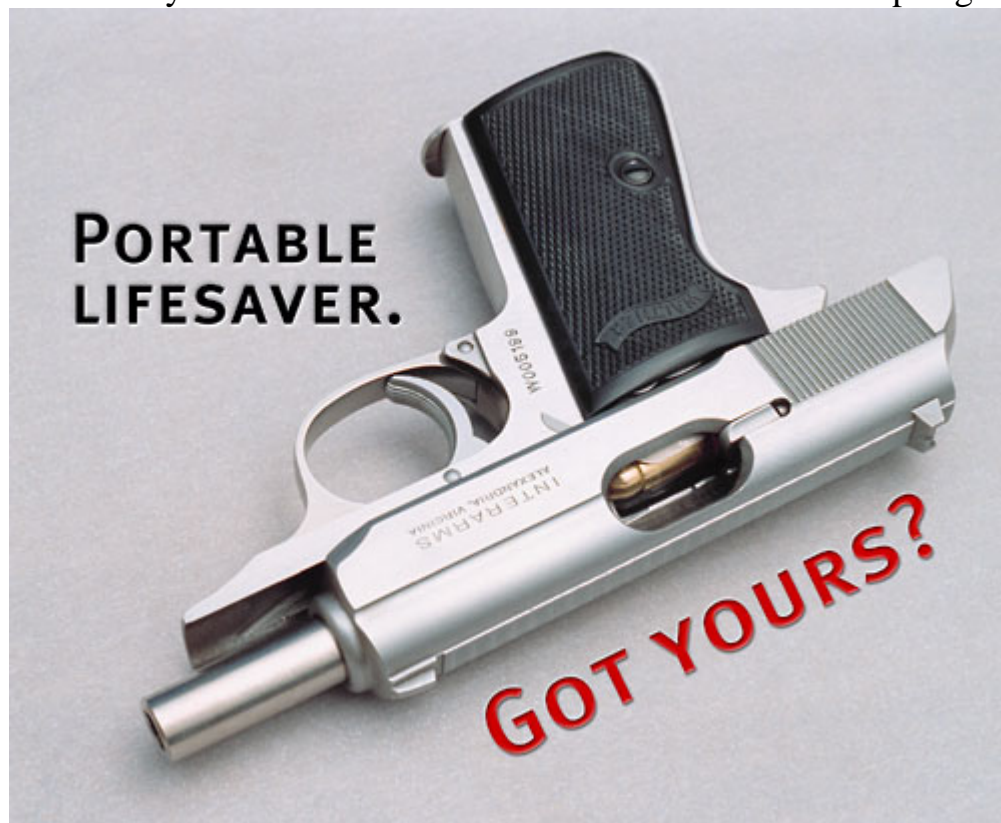
What's the point? To show that shooting is fun. To offset the anti-gun hysteria in the media. Maybe to even bring some new shooters to the range. To get rid of the clutter at your house?? Gun owners always ask what they can do to help gun rights. Taking someone shooting is a good start. Spreading the word can't hurt. That's what Operation Mag Drop is about.

OBAMA's ANTI-GUN ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER CALLS FOR GUN BANS

Last week, Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the Obama Administration will seek to reinstate the expired federal "assault weapon" ban and impose additional restrictions.

"As President Obama indicated during the campaign, there are just a few gun-related changes that we would like to make, and among them would be to reinstitute the ban on the sale of assault weapons," Holder said. Based on Holder's testimony during his confirmation hearings before the Senate, those other "changes" presumably include prohibiting private transfers of firearms and banning most center-fire rifle ammunition as "armor-piercing."

Is there anyone who still believes Obama's claim that he is pro-gun. Suckers!



MATHESON WILL PROBABLY OPPOSE OBAMA GUN BAN

Jim Matheson wrote a letter to a USSC member explaining that he was "deeply troubled" by AG Holder's gun ban statements, and that he would support gun rights. Matheson has been pretty good on gun issues, but he sometimes caves in to pressure from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, so we will need to keep the pressure on him to oppose EVERY gun ban scheme and support EVERY pro-gun

proposal.

Representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz are solidly on our side, but Matheson bears close watching.

NRA ELECTION VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR NORTHERN UTAH
NRA-ILA's Election Volunteer Coordinators (EVCs) act as the liaison between pro-gun

candidates and NRA members and gun owners in their districts. EVCs work to spearhead ILA's volunteer activities to ensure that pro-freedom candidates have sufficient volunteers for campaign-related activities.

This is a chance for someone with a lot of initiative and organizational talent to start building up a solid group of gun rights supporters who will help get pro-gun delegates elected to the state party conventions in 2010 to select pro-gun candidates, and then work to support their campaign efforts. The U.S. Senate seat of Bob Bennett is up then, and several strong pro-gun candidates are rumored to be considering challenging him. All Utah House seats will be up for reelection, and this is another chance to kick out politicians hostile to gun rights. To be effective we need people to start getting organized NOW< not a week before the caucuses in March 2010.

Currently there is a vacancy for the EVC job in Utah's 1st Congressional District. To learn more about the program and consider serving in that role, call NRA-ILA's Grassroots Division at (800) 392-VOTE (8683), and ask to speak to the Utah Grassroots Coordinator.

ON-LINE RESOURCE TO CHECK OUT

Here is a site we recommend you check out.

Oleg Volk is a talented young photographer, and passionate about guns and freedom. (We often have a samples of some of his work at the USSC table).



He has done hundreds (or maybe thousands) of different posters with pro-gun, pro-self defense themes.

Check them out at <http://www.a-human-right.com/introduction.html> by clicking on just about any of the links on the page. Each will open a series of pages with posters and you can pick the ones you like. Links to high-resolution images are there

so you can make big copies that are sharp and clear. Great for a "guerilla marketing" campaign to promote gun ownership and self defense on bulletin boards, a web site, or as email attachments.

Artist Alan Derrick to Create Sculpture for Wildlife Conservation

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama (February 19, 2009) – Fine art sculptor, Alan Derrick has teamed with the Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation to raise money for wild bird

conservation. A one-of-a-kind sculpture depicting a Chukar Partridge's signature barred breast feather is being created to be auctioned with proceeds benefiting Chukar and Wildlife conservation. The Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) is a beautiful gallinaceous gamebird,



related to pheasants, grouse, and quail.

The UCWF is a non-profit organization focused on improving chukar and other upland game populations, habitat, and hunting on Utah's public lands. One of the main goals of the UCWF is to support solid scientific wildlife management. Through continued education, study, and legislation they strive to enhance upland game management practices. "Teaming with sculptor, Alan Derrick, is an outstanding opportunity for us to generate increased funds that will directly benefit Utah's public wildlife," said Travis Proctor, UCWF President. "Our current water development projects and guzzler research in conjunction with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Brigham Young University, and Utah State University are providing invaluable wildlife management data involving over 47 species of wildlife." Visit www.utahchukars.org for more conservation details.

"After a recent trip to Brazil, I came home with a renewed desire to support a few of the many organizations who are responsible for the preservation of the birding population," commented Alan Derrick. "Without the efforts of organizations like the Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation, many of our bird populations would soon be extinct." "My work is a commemorative testimony to these great causes that insure the natural beauty of the common bird feather".

The auction will be held online on eBay, listed under "Art, Direct from Artist, Sculptures" ending on April 12th at 9:00pm EST. Organizations dedicated to the preservation of birding are encouraged to contact the Alan Derrick Studio for fund raising consideration.

About Alan Derrick

Sculptor, Alan Derrick specializes in one-of-a-kind fine art metal sculptures inspired by the common bird feather. His unique three-dimensional creations range in sizes from tabletop pieces to large corporate lobby installations. For more information, visit www.derrick.com.



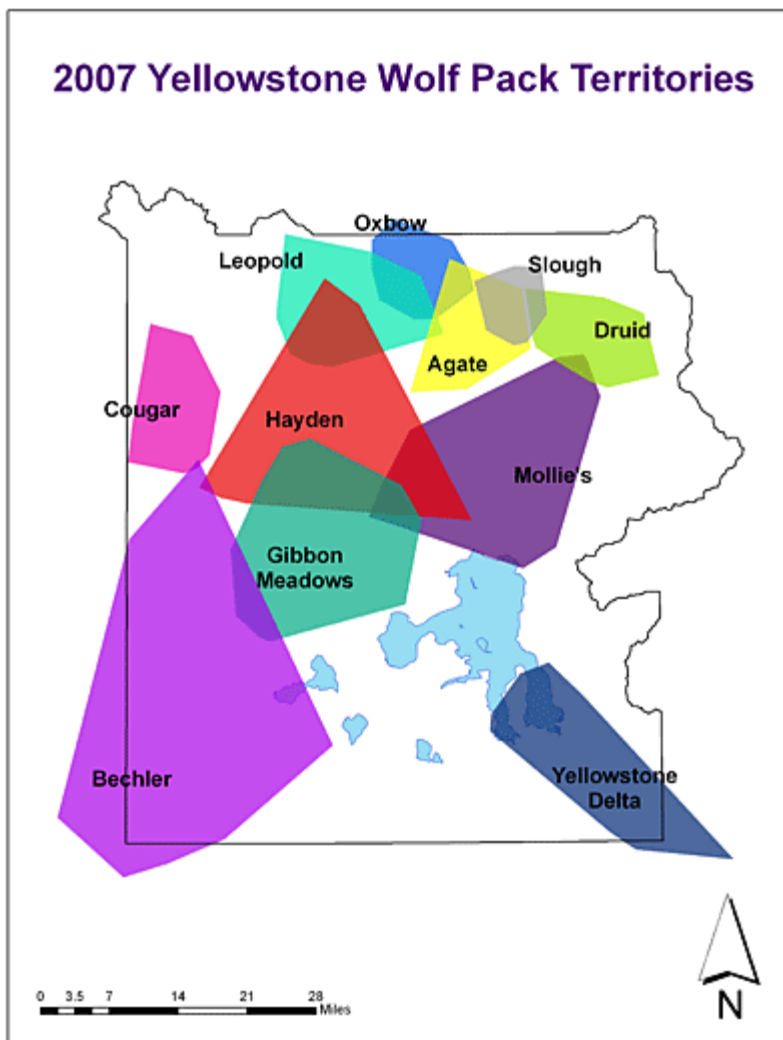
About Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation

The Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving upland game populations, habitat, and wildlife on Utah's public lands. The UCWF generates funds, provides volunteers, and secures matching funds for quality wildlife habitat projects and research on public lands. Visit www.utahchukars.org for more information.

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation: Right Call on Wolf Delisting

(Columbus) – The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation is pleased with today's decision by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to continue with the removal of the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

"Secretary Salazar made the right call on delisting the gray wolf," stated Rob Sexton, Vice President for Government Affairs at the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation (USSAF). "This decision is based on sound science, not politics."



As Salazar indicated in his announcement statement, "The recovery of the gray wolf throughout significant portions of its historic range is one of the great success stories of the Endangered Species Act."

According to all scientific evidence, the gray wolf populations in the Northern Rockies and the western Great Lakes region have grown dramatically since their initial listing in 1974. Today, there are more than 5,500 wolves. 1,600 reside in the Rockies.

Previously, a coalition of environmental and animal rights groups filed lawsuits in 2008 to block the Bush administration's then proposed delisting of 1,500 wolves in the Northern Rockies. The USSAF Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association and a series of other conservation groups intervened in that case.

“Given the population growth, there were no valid reasons that states cannot resume management of the wolves,” said Scott Meyer, of Gleason Wisconsin, who joined USSAF as an intervener in the case.

The decision from Secretary Salazar comes in the face of intense lobbying by leading anti-hunting groups including the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

The U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation protects and defends America’s wildlife conservation programs and the pursuits – hunting, fishing and trapping – that generate the money to pay for them. The U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation is responsible for public education, legal defense and research. Its mission is accomplished through several distinct programs coordinated to provide the most complete defense capability possible. For more information about the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation and its work, call (614) 888-4868 or visit its website, www.ussafoundation.org.

BE READY FOR THE BUGS!

NEW AFTERBITE® COMBO PACKS ALLOW OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS TO TAME STINGS AND BITES IN THE BACKYARD AND THE BACKCOUNTRY

Littleton, NH – (SPRING 2009) – With the warmer weather just around the corner, thoughts will soon turn to enjoying the outdoors once again. But along with the warmer temps, bugs – and bug bites – are sure to follow. That’s why outdoor enthusiasts need to be ready with the #1 selling insect bite treatment, AfterBite® -- The Itch Eraser™.



New for this Spring, Tender Corp. is unveiling two more trusted solutions to help consumers take the Ouch Out of the Outdoors: AfterBite® Backyard and AfterBite® Outdoor. Offering a double shot of bite relief, the Backyard Combo Pack includes a .5 Oz tube of the original, ammonia-based Itch Eraser and a .7 Oz tube of AfterBite® Kids, a cream formula consisting of baking soda, tea tree oil and vitamin A. AfterBite® Kids provides children with gentle relief from the pain and swelling that accompanies the scariest of insect bites and stings that can occur in the backyard.



Likewise, families and outdoor enthusiasts need to be equally ready for the bug bites that can happen while on hikes, camping trips and on the beach, where they could also sustain stings from jelly fish and other marine life. For such occasions, Tender offers the AfterBite® Outdoor Combo Pack, featuring Kids and NEW AfterBite® Outdoor. Containing a powerful yet soothing, gel formula of baking soda, ammonia and tea tree oil, Outdoor is the go-to choice for the most aggressive bites and stings.

“More so than ever, outdoor enthusiasts need to be mindful of insects bites earlier in the season,” says Tender president Jennifer Cusick.

Indeed, due to global warming, an increasing number of mosquitoes, black flies and other biting insects are appearing earlier in the spring and summer and sticking around longer. *

“Nothing sinks quality time in the outdoors quite like a painful insect bite or sting,” said Cusick, adding, “with the new After Bite® dual packs, we’re giving consumers of all ages the tools they need to tackle any insect bite or sting and allow them to get on with enjoying their favorite outdoor activities.”

After Bite® Backyard and After Bite® Outdoor Combo Packs retail for \$5.99 each. Single packs of After Bite® (\$3.49), After Bite® Outdoor (\$3.99) and After Bite® Kids (\$3.99) can also be purchased separately.



Layton, Wild Bird Center Bird Walks

Join the Wild Bird Center on a free bird walk. We caravan from the Layton, Wild Bird Center. The walks are designed for birders at all levels, especially families. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. The Wild Bird Center is located at the Layton Market Center, 1860 North 1000 West, across from Barnes & Noble. Call 801-525-8400 with questions.

March 14th USU Botanical Gardens, Kaysville ponds, departing at 10 a.m.

March 21st Kayscreek, departing at 10 a.m.

March 28th Sage Grouse dancing on the lek departing at 5 a.m.