

## December's Full Cold Moon

During December, the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest, giving this month's full moon the name "Cold Moon." December's full moon is also sometimes referred to as the Moon Before Yule. Yet another term



, "Long Night Moon" is doubly appropriate because the midwinter night is indeed long, and because the moon is above the horizon for a long time. The midwinter full moon has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite a low sun.

Watch December Full Moon video.



<http://www.farmersalmanac.com/video/astronomy/december-full-moon>

Get all 12 months of full moon names here.

<http://www.farmersalmanac.com/full-moon-names>

## Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Cut Down Your Own Christmas Tree

By Mark Dlugozima

How many times have you bundled up the family and ventured out to cut down your very own Christmas tree? For some it's every year, for others never. If you've ever heard the old saw about how fun it is to choose a live tree, here are 10 more reasons to go out on a limb and try it:

10. Going to a Christmas tree farm gets the kids out of the house and into an open field where they can't get into too much trouble. At least it's safer than a parking lot populated with absent-minded drivers and open barrel fires.

9. Christmas trees typically cost less if you cut them yourself. Remember, if you get a pre-cut tree at a temporary lot, you're also paying for transportation costs and parking lot rental.

8. An outing to a Christmas tree farm will make you a hero in your family's eyes. They will love you for the fun it brings, and it will make you feel like a good parent, something you may need a shot of after a year of saying, "No, you can't."



7. Most farms also sell fresh wreaths and garland, so you can knock out all decoration errands in one trip.

6. The trip to the farm is part of the experience. You can drive through the country at an unhurried pace, pointing out old **barns** and fields of cows.

5. Just think of the holiday smells – pine, earth, apple cider and gingerbread cookies.

4. Your tree should last longer since it was living up to the moment you cut it, and didn't sit on a truck or warehouse. When you get it home, cut off about an inch of the base, making a



diagonal cut. Pass around the cut piece for everyone to smell. Keep the tree away from heat vents and fireplaces.

3. Cutting your own tree helps the environment. Pre-cut trees in parking lots mean chainsaws, fuel to get the tree to your neighborhood, and electricity to run the festive lights in the parking lot.

2. A trip to a tree farm takes longer and thus you can spend more time with your family. Enough said.

1. Your kids will tuck away this memory in their heads, and tell their kids about it one day.

Here are a few tips to help preserve your tree:

1. Store your tree outside in a sheltered area in a bucket of water (a cold garage is ideal - wind will dry out the tree) until you are ready to trim it. If it is going to be a week or more before you decorate, make a fresh straight cut across the trunk about an inch up from the original cut. This opens the tree stem so it can take up water. Then plunge the trunk end immediately into fresh water. Keep water above the fresh cut or a new cut will be necessary.

2. If possible, bring the tree into a partially heated area (basement) the night before **decorating**. This will help it adjust gradually to the warmer temperature.
3. Locate the tree well away from sources of heat, such as fireplaces, heater vents, space heaters and stoves.
4. Keep it hydrated - during the first few days after it's been cut, it's pretty thirsty, so water it more regularly.
5. Mix a tree preservative with the water as instructed on the package and water the tree daily. Keep water in the **container** at all times. Proper use of preservatives and water will definitely prolong the needle retention of your tree.

## Statewide Fishing Report

**ABAJO MOUNTAINS:** No recent reports.

**CLEVELAND RESERVOIR:** This waterbody is partly frozen with some open water.

**ELECTRIC LAKE:** This lake is only partly frozen.

**HUNTINGTON NORTH RESERVOIR:** This reservoir remains open. The catch rate is sporadic.

**JOES VALLEY RESERVOIR:** The reservoir opens to fishing on Saturday, Dec. 13. It remains ice-free.

**LA SAL MOUNTAINS:** No recent reports.

**LOWER FISH CREEK:** The creek is partially covered in ice, but remains available for bank fishing. Try a size 12 bead head Montana or size 14 bead head hares ear tied to sinking line.

**MILLSITE RESERVOIR:** On Dec. 4, Tom Ogden fished from a tube along the face of the dam with a size 8 bead head olive leech on medium sinking line. He caught several trout species, ranging from 12 to 16 inches, from throughout the water column. Tom caught most of his fish within casting distance from shore, and recommends lures or jigs for those who don't fly fish.

**SCOFIELD RESERVOIR:** The reservoir froze last weekend. Presently, ice conditions are unsafe for fishing. Anglers are encouraged to wait a week or two for the ice to build.

New Book Encourages Children to Discover National Parks



## New Book Encourages Children to Discover National Parks

Students Cheer *Kids Passport to Your National Parks Companion*

**Washington, DC-** National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar today unveiled a new book designed to make national parks more meaningful to young visitors. More than 100 enthusiastic students from John Eaton Elementary School in Washington, DC joined Bomar, U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and other dignitaries at the launch party for *Kids Passport to Your National Parks Companion*.

“*Kids Passport to Your National Parks Companion* is an owner’s manual to national parks for children between the ages of six and 12, a crucial time for children to develop a connection to history and the natural world,” said Bomar. “This new book will make their park visits more engaging and fun.”

The book provides background information on the country’s 391 National Park Service sites and encourages children to use all of their senses to explore parks. There is plenty of space to record observations, sketch plants and animals, list accomplishments, track visits, and even collect park ranger autographs.

“There is a growing concern that children are becoming increasingly disconnected from the natural world and I applaud Senator Burr for conceiving of this book as a way to improve the quality and quantity of park visits for children,” said Bomar.

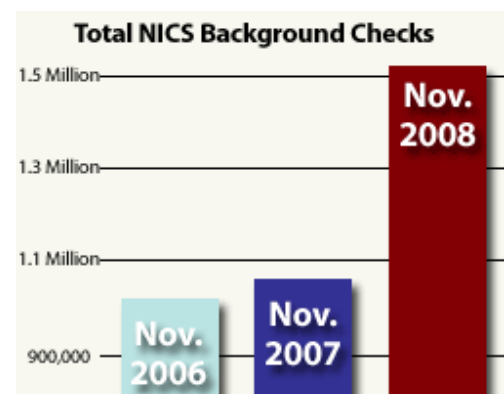
Bomar also praised National Park Service employees Lindi Harvey, Wendy Davis, and Diane Chalfont for working collaboratively with Eastern National to develop the book. Eastern National is a National Park Service cooperating association that operates 245 bookstores and museum shops at 150 national parks and public sites.

The book is meant to supplement, not replace, the extremely popular *Passport to Your National Parks* which allows visitors to collect cancellation stamps at most National Park Service sites. The new book will go on sale next week for \$5.95.

## A Month for the Record Books

### **BACKGROUND CHECKS ON GUN SALES MOST EVER IN NOVEMBER** . . .

Background checks on the sale of firearms reached record levels during the month of November, pointing to a spike in sales for the month. Data from the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) show a 42 percent increase in November firearm purchaser background checks. A total of 1,529,635 checks -- the highest monthly total ever -- were reported for the month, up from 1,079,923 in November 2007. Federal law requires FBI background checks on individuals



purchasing firearms from federally licensed retailers. The NICS increase coincides with an increase in federal excise taxes reported by firearms and ammunition manufacturers, another key economic indicator for the firearms industry. Trends such as excise taxes and NICS data are strong indicators of sales patterns; however, they are not actual sales. There is no data source that captures firearms sales by month.

## **SNOW SPORTS BARGAIN HUNTERS DRIVE AUGUST TO OCTOBER SALES INCREASES**

*Snow Sports Market Among the More Resilient During Recession*

**McLean, VA** (December 9, 2008) - Snow sports shoppers are willing to spend their money on snow sports equipment, apparel and accessories even when the overall economy is significantly down. August to October snow sports sales of \$507 million were up 9% overall bolstered by very strong sales of carryover equipment and gear for juniors. "Snow sports shoppers went out looking for bargains and they were willing to buy when they found them," said Kelly Davis, Director of Research for SnowSports Industries America (SIA), the not-for-profit industry trade group represents manufacturers and distributors of snow sports products.

The market data presented in this report comes from the SIA Retail Audit conducted by the Leisure Trends Group. Each season, Leisure Trends gathers data between August 1 and March 31 from a representative panel of more than 1,200 snow sports retailers who provide sales data directly from their Point of Sale systems. The panel and the method for extrapolating the results out to the entire industry is based on a triennial census of snow sports retailers designed to accurately define the size and structure of the snow sports retail marketplace.

Note: The August to October retail data does not include resort retail shops.

August to October 2008 retail sales in the snow sports industry were driven by pre-season clearance sales. Sales of carryover gear accounted for a significant portion of the observed increases in snow sports equipment sales. Sales like the "SkiBonkers" sale in Seattle, which are dominated by leftover inventory from the past season, help consumers find bargains on carryover items. Carryover is officially defined as any item that sells for less than the average retail cost for that item. Carryover accounted for 28% of skis, 23% of snowboards, 24% of ski boots, and 26% of snowboard boots sold August to October 2008. Compare that to last season's August to October results when carryover sales accounted for just 16% of skis and 19% of snowboards sold and millions fewer dollars spent.

Parents did not slow their spending on equipment and apparel for the kids. Junior ski sales were up 34% in dollars, junior snowboard sales increased 17% in dollars, juniors parka sales were up 16% in dollars and sales of junior snow suits increased more than 40% in units and in dollars. Mom and Dad may be planning to forgo new skis and boards this season, but they are making sure their kids have the right gear.

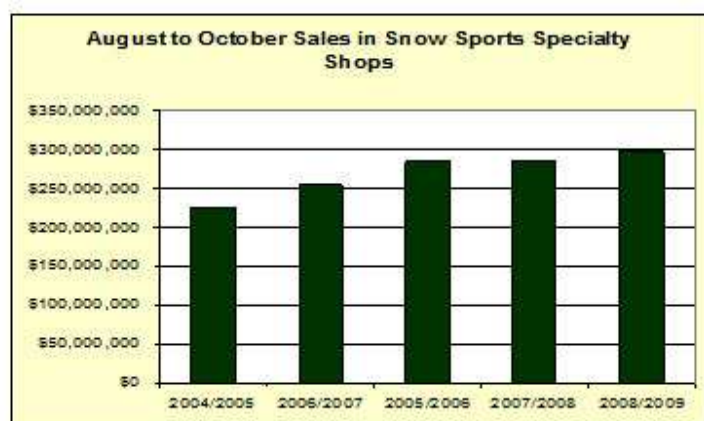
SIA has monitored the snow sports retail market for more than 30 years and historically, economic conditions have far less impact on the market than snowfall. When the snow is good, the snow sports market does well even if the economic outlook is bleak. The current recession

has demonstrated clearly that the world is inextricably connected economically as the impact of the U.S. foreclosure crisis spread across the globe. Even in a global economic downturn the snow sports demographic continued to buy snow sports gear and history tells us that if it snows, then they will use what they purchased on the slopes.

During a recession, the snow sports market is among the more resilient retail markets. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, overall October retail sales increased 1.6% compared with October 2007, and the sporting goods retail market increased 2.2%. The snow sports market was up 9% compared to August to

October 2007. Keep in mind that these data are measures of sales from August through October and that the global economy was under significantly more pressure in November. “We observed other retail market segments move downward significantly last month and we plan to keep a close watch on the market. We anticipate reporting November sales during the first week of January 2009,” said David Ingemie, President of SIA.

Equipment sales were healthy August to October with a 2% increase in alpine ski and 11% increase in snowboard equipment. Apparel sales were up 14% in units and 9% in dollars indicating strong sales on discounted prices. Accessories such as helmets and goggles were particularly strong while auto racks and snowshoe sales declined.



Source: SIA Retail Audit, Specialty Shops Sales August-October 2004 to 2008

The Internet channel continued to grow at an astounding pace gaining 27% in dollars and 36% in units compared to August to October 2007. Overall, consumers spent \$131 million on snow sports equipment, apparel and accessories online. Internet sales comprised 26% of all the dollars consumers spent on snow sports products in the U.S. between August 1 and October 31, 2008.

Specialty shops brought in the lion's share of snow sports dollars, consumers spent \$297 million in snow sports specialty shops August to October compared with \$286 million over the same time period in 2007. Alpine ski sales were flat in specialty shops, snowboard sales increased about 7% in dollars and 2% in units sold, and apparel sales, which accounted for almost 40% of all dollars spent in specialty shops, increased by just 3%.

Chain stores are selling far less snow sports equipment this season. Ski sales decreased 21% in dollars, snowboard sales slid 17% in dollars, and equipment accessories sales dropped 8%. One bright sport in chain store sales was Nordic ski equipment that increased 48% in units and 67% in dollars. At \$78 million, chain store sales accounted for 15% of all dollars spent on snow sports goods in the U.S. market August to October. Apparel sales accounted for 56% of all

chain store snow sports sales and enjoyed a 13% increase in units and 10% increase in dollars spent August to October 2008.

## **Elk Foundation Helps Open, Protect 2,800 Acres in Wyoming**

MISSOULA, Mont.—Opened for hunters, protected from developers—permanently. An extraordinary new conservation easement has accomplished exactly that on the 2,800-acre Flying A Ranch in the Big Horn Mountains 50 miles northwest of Casper, Wyo.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation helped make it happen by teaming with two other funding partners led by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

“This was a special project because the written agreement with the landowner ensures public hunting access from September through December each year. This, in turn, enhances public access to several thousand more acres of BLM lands that adjoin the Flying A Ranch,” said David Allen, Elk Foundation president and CEO.

The ranch is year-round elk habitat. Biologists estimate 300 head consistently use the property and about 100 calves are born there each year. Approximately half of the ranch is considered crucial winter range.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department will work with the landowner to manage public hunting access. Basically, the easement allows vehicular access on existing ranch roads, and foot or horseback access elsewhere, from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31.

Other funding partners included the NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Account Board.

A conservation easement is an agreement that restricts development and subdivision while retaining agricultural, historic and wildlife values of land. Easements remain in place even if the land changes hands in the future, and provisions are monitored annually.

## **It's 'Fly Away Home' ... For Real!**

Operation Migration, along with members from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, are leading a flock of 14 young Whooping Crane chicks to Florida. This is the 8th year they have guided juvenile (captive-raised) Whooping Cranes south behind ultralight aircraft. But their journey is more perilous and a bit longer than in the Columbia-Tri-Star movie.

Weather delays from wind and rain have already grounded the team more days than they wish to acknowledge. The migration generally takes about two months and ends with the arrival of the birds at Chassahowitzka NWR. This year they are taking a different migration route, flying through Alabama. Half the flock will winter at a new site, St. Marks NWR, south of Tallahassee, with





the other half at Chassahowitzka in Florida.

The Whooper chicks will remember this route and return on their own next spring to their training grounds at Necedah NWR in Wisconsin.

The varied educational aspects of Operation Migration include bird

navigation and orientation, geography, weather, and the physics of flight.

For more information and daily updates visit [www.OperationMigration.org](http://www.OperationMigration.org).

### **Free Telemark and AT Demos at Alta This Sunday**

Don't take a chance on purchasing a ski or boot without a bit of research. To get exactly what you want, you can't beat a free demo.

On December 14th, Salt Lake City's Wasatch Touring hosts their annual Tele and AT Demo, which features a large array of skis, boots and bindings to try for free for one day at Alta Ski Area. Manufacturers set up large tents at the base of Alta's Collins chairlift, and guests register on the spot with a valid photo ID. They're then free to wander from tent to tent, trying different telemark and alpine touring skis, boots and bindings to their heart's content for no charge other than a valid lift ticket or season pass.

### **STATE PARK OF THE WEEK: WASATCH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

**Midway** -- Wasatch Mountain State Park, located in Midway, is a great winter destination and centrally located to access many of the wonderful opportunities in Heber Valley.

Snowshoe, cross-country ski, snowmobile or speed downhill on a tube. The park's northern end offers a groomed 7.2-mile Nordic ski track with diagonal stride and skating lanes. Rent skis at the Wasatch Mountain Clubhouse or snowshoes from the visitor center.

At the southern end, Soldier Hollow offers a tubing park with two lifts and several lanes up to 1,200 feet long. Enjoy the 31-kilometer trail system for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. In addition to trails, a state-of-the-art biathlon range is available. Nordic ski and snowshoe

rentals are offered through the Soldier Hollow Day Lodge. Call (435) 654-2002 or visit [soldierhollow.com](http://soldierhollow.com) for pricing and rental information.

Explore Pine Creek, Snake Creek and American Fork canyons on snowmobile. Facilities include designated play areas, approximately 90 miles of maintained snowmobile trails, parking and restrooms. Warming stations are available at the golf course clubhouse and visitor center. Snowmobile rentals, equipment and tours are available through Lofty Peaks. For information on rentals and tours call (866) 477-8981 or visit [www.loftypepeaksadventures.com](http://www.loftypepeaksadventures.com).

For more information, please call (435) 654-1791 or visit [www.stateparks.utah.gov](http://www.stateparks.utah.gov).

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

**Syracuse** – Antelope Island State Park hosts a variety of holiday events. Visit the visitor center Friday, December 26 at 2 p.m. for the Friends of Great Salt Lake's film, *Lake Affect*. This video presents a comprehensive look at Great Salt Lake's ecosystem.



At 11 a.m. Saturday, December 27, join the park naturalist in the visitor center and discover adaptations, techniques and behaviors that heighten animal senses. At 3 p.m. that same day, meet in the visitor center to learn more about the life and behavior of coyotes.

Meet at the Lakeside Trailhead in White Rock Bay at 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 28 for an easy four-mile hike with the naturalist and learn about the Great Salt Lake's unique ecology. For more information on all events, please call (801) 721-9569.

## JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

*Count for Fun, Count for the Future*

New York, NY and Ithaca, NY—Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), **February 13-16, 2009**.

A joint project of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.cornell.edu/ornithology) and the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org), this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

“The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It’s a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity,” said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. “Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future.”



Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards—whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to [help identify birds](http://www.birdcount.org/help-identify-birds), a [photo gallery](http://www.birdcount.org/photo-gallery), and special materials for educators.

The data these “citizen scientists” collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what



would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

“The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide bird-monitoring projects,” said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John Fitzpatrick. “With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over the past decade.”

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009

count are also invited to upload their bird videos to [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com); some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) to learn more.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org) or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited <http://www.wbu.com>

## **BLM Conducting Wild Horse Gather in Tooele County**

Tooele, Utah – December 5, 2008 -The Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is scheduled to begin gathering and removing wild horses from the Cedar Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA) in early December. The Cedar Mountain HMA is located on approximately 212,000 acres, north of Dugway, Utah.

Approximately 630 wild horses currently roam the Cedar Mountain HMA (2008 census). The

Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the Cedar Mountain HMA has been established at 190-300 wild horses. This means that 440 horses will need to be removed during the gather to achieve low end of the AML. AML is determined through land-use planning efforts that involve public participation; the BLM determines the appropriate number of wild horses and burros that each Herd Management Area can support. Planning efforts include an inventory and the monitoring of all uses of the public rangelands.



Approximately eighty of the mares gathered will be administered a pelleted contraceptive vaccine and returned back to the range. Since 1992, the Humane Society of the United States has collaborated with the BLM to develop a contraceptive agent that meets the BLM's requirements for practical and cost-effective wild horse population control. Fertility control is not intended to totally replace the removal and adoption of wild horses.

The Cedar Mountain gather is being conducted to achieve the "thriving natural ecological balance," mandated by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. Specific objectives include managing the horse population to preserve and enhance the historic physical and biological characteristics of the herd and preserving and maintaining a healthy viable wild horse population within the HMA.

The gathered horses will be transported to the Salt Lake Wild Horse and Burro Center in Herriman, Utah, to be prepared for adoption. The first opportunity to adopt these Cedar Mountain horses will be on Saturday, February 21st through BLM's Adopt-a-Horse-or-Burro

Program. The public is invited to visit the Salt Lake Wild Horse & Burro Center, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To learn more about the program or to obtain an application visit the BLM National Wild Horse and Burro website at [www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov).



Potential adopters can also call the Salt Lake Wild Horse and Burro Center in Herriman at 877-224-3956.

## UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

**December 27** Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway  
Christmas Bird Count: Join staff from Wasatch and Jordanelle state parks for the Audubon's 109th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Heber Valley. The CBC is one of the largest citizen science efforts in the world. Beginner, intermediate, and expert birders are welcome. (435) 654-1791 or visit [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc)



**December 27**  
Scofield State Park - Scofield  
Scofield Fishing Tournament: Don't miss the Third Annual Scofield Fishing Tournament. Prizes awarded for the five largest tiger trout and five largest rainbow/cutthroat trout. This event has filled each year. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$13 per entrant. To register or get more information, please call

(435) 687-2491.

## Historic Opportunity for Refuges

Refuges have an opportunity of a lifetime to create almost 800,000 new green jobs in local communities. NWRA and our partners in the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) need your help to secure an investment of nearly \$5 billion for infrastructure and habitat restoration on national wildlife refuges across the country. These shovel-ready jobs will put people to work today and lay the foundation for tomorrow's greener and more efficient economy - but it won't happen unless Congress hears from YOU!



We need your help today to ensure refuges are included in this massive stimulus bill - advocates for National Parks and other infrastructure projects are already contacting decision makers so your help is needed right now!

Please consider one or all of the following actions:

.... Call your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and urge them to include \$5 Billion for "Green Jobs for Refuges" in the upcoming stimulus package. You can reach your lawmakers instantly by calling the Capitol

Switchboard at 202-456-4300;

2. Encourage every member of your Friends group to place these same three calls - the more your lawmakers hear from their constituents the better chance they will include refuges in a final package;

3. Write a Letter to the Editor about what this would mean for your refuge. If you need a draft please contact me directly or check our website where we will post updates and draft materials ([dgroves@refugeassociation.org](mailto:dgroves@refugeassociation.org));

4. Write an instant letter to your lawmakers via our Take Action site" you are encouraged to personalize the message with specifics about projects that could be undertaken at YOUR refuge. (<http://refugenet.e-actionmax.com/showalert.asp?aaid=3643>)

Refuges can immediately put people to work in local communities and the work they do will benefit wildlife and future generations of Americans. Like the projects undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, refuges can be a strong part of rebuilding our economy. Please help us strengthen our National Wildlife Refuges and our economy at the same time!

Talking Points:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has a plan that would put more than 800,000 people

to work throughout the country on shovel-ready projects for habitat restoration in as few as 9 days.

- Green Jobs on Refuges will keep local construction" electrical" landscaping and other companies working throughout '09.

- New construction projects will be models of energy efficiency and will prepare the next generation of American workers with the skills they need to lead a green revolution in our economy.

- Economic stimulus projects for FWS fall in two broad categories" Greening Facilities" and Restoring Habitat.

#### GREENING FACILITIES:

Improving Energy Efficiency: 5"..."3 jobs/\$`43 million investment

Examples: installing solar and geothermal power systems" upgrading insulation" windows and doors" and retrofitting lighting.



New Green Construction: 5""5 jobs/\$'... million investment

Examples: visitor centers" education and equipment storage facilities and office space.

Renewable Energy: ..."6' jobs/\$6' million investment

Examples: Installation of photovoltaic and solar thermal systems" small wind turbines and geothermal heat pumps.

#### RESTORING HABITAT:

Combating Invasive Species: `94' jobs/\$...4' million investment

Examples: Local workers employed to eradicate invasives.

Restoring Native Habitat: `7'4 jobs/\$`63 million investment

Examples: Local workers cultivate and plant native trees" grasses and other plants as part of comprehensive efforts to restore and improve up to 5"""" acres of habitat.

Upgrading Water Management Systems: ..."" jobs/\$4' million investment

Examples: Local companies and workers hired to repair" construct and restore aging and deteriorating structures (levees" dikes" pumps" valves).

#### **Visitor spending in national parks means green to local economies**

**WASHINGTON** – Whether stunning landscapes or the historic and cultural sites that trace man's impact on the land and each other – America's national parks mean many things to many people. For those living in the hundreds of nearby communities, national parks also represent healthy contributions to local economies.

“Every tax dollar spent on national parks resulted in more than \$4 in visitor spending in communities within 50 miles of a national park site,” said National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar. “Our total budget, including taxpayer financing through Congressional appropriations, park entry and camping fees, and donations, came to \$2.65 billion in 2007.

Visitors that same year spent \$11.79 billion – mostly in travel, food, lodging and souvenirs – in national parks and nearby communities.” According to Bomar, 275.6 million people visited national parks in 2007. “Most of them needed a place to stay overnight. They all needed meals each day and most of them bought something to take home and remind them of their experience. When you add that up you get a sense of the economic impact national parks have across the country – and it’s significant,” she said.

The analysis of visitor spending habits in 2007 was completed by the National Park Service’s Social Science Division. Michigan State University economist Daniel Stynes, who worked on the study, said it’s too early to tell what visitor spending will look like for the just-completed 2008 travel and vacation season. Bomar said preliminary 2008 visitation numbers make her optimistic that visitor spending for 2008 will be equal to or slightly higher than 2007. In spite of \$4 per gallon prices for gasoline during the peak summer travel period, national park visitation was only off by about one-half of one percent for the first 11 months of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007.



### **A look at visitor spending**

Two-thirds of all overnight stays by park visitors were in motels, lodges, or B&B’s outside the park, another 19 percent are in campgrounds outside the park, and 12 percent are inside the park in National Park Service campgrounds, lodges, or backcountry sites.

Visitors staying outside the park in motels, hotels, cabins and bed and breakfast accommodations accounted for 55 percent of total visitor spending. More than half of the spending was for lodging and meals, 16 percent for gas and local transportation, and 14 percent for souvenirs. Local economic impacts were estimated after excluding spending by visitors from the local area (9.5% of the total).

Combining local impacts across all parks yielded a total impact, including direct and secondary effects, of 209,000 jobs, \$4.5 billion in labor income, and \$7 billion value added. The four economic sectors most directly affected by visitor spending were lodging, restaurants, retail trade, and amusements. Visitor spending supported roughly 56,000 jobs in each of the hotel and restaurant sectors, and over 22,000 jobs each in the retail trade and the amusements sectors.

Direct effects of visitor spending cover businesses selling goods and services directly to park visitors. Secondary effects include indirect and induced effects resulting from sales to local

businesses for resale to visitors, and household spending of income earned directly or indirectly from visitor spending.

Direct effects of visitor spending in 2007 were \$9.6 billion in sales, \$3.7 billion in labor income, \$5.4 billion in value added, and 188,000 jobs.

Stynes said the combined effects of visitor spending meant 244,400 jobs in gateway communities, including 23,583 National Park Service jobs. The economic impact of just the \$1.44 billion National Park Service payroll was \$1.8 billion in labor income and 35,000 total

<b>National Park Visitor Spending by Segment, 2007.</b>		
Segment	Total Spending \$Millions	Pct of Spending
Local day trip	1,124	9.5%
Non-local day trip	2,600	22.1%
Lodge–In park	408	3.5%
Camp–In park	254	2.2%
Backcountry campers	42	0.4%
Motel–Outside park	6,470	54.9%
Camp–Outside park	798	6.8%
<u>Other overnight visitors</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>0.8%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,786</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

jobs including the National Park Service jobs. For every two National Park Service jobs, Stynes said another job is supported through the induced effects of employee spending in the local region.

There are additional local economic effects from National Park Service purchases of goods and services from local suppliers and from construction activity but those impacts were not estimated for this report.

The full report, *National Park Spending and Payroll Impacts for CY 2007* is available in PDF at: [http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/pdf/MGM2\\_CY07.pdf](http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/pdf/MGM2_CY07.pdf)

## **More spike bull elk hunting permits**

*The Wildlife Board also approved a major archery deer hunting change.*

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah's elk herds will get some much-needed help in 2009.

On Dec. 4, the Utah Wildlife Board approved spike elk hunting changes for next season. The changes should open room in the herds for more cow elk. The calves these cows will produce are vital to the future of Utah's elk herds.

The board also lengthened the general rifle buck deer hunt in southern Utah, approved a major change to Utah's statewide archery buck deer hunt and started a management buck deer hunt on Utah's two best deer hunting units.

In the 2009 Utah Big Game Guidebook, you can see all of the changes the board approved. The guidebook should be available at [www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks) during the week of Dec. 15.

## **Changes**

### **BULL ELK**

Spike bull elk hunters can now hunt spike bulls on 26 of Utah's 29 limited entry bull elk hunting units.

The only limited entry elk units where spike bull hunting will not be allowed are the North Slope, Three Corners and South Slope, Diamond Mountain units in northeastern Utah, and the Pilot Mountain unit in western Utah.

And a few more hunters will be hunting spike bulls in 2009 after board members raised the number of spike bull rifle hunting permits to 12,500. In 2008, a total of 11,000 spike bull permits were available.



Anis Aoude, big game coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources, says the changes the board approved are important to the future of Utah's elk herds.

"On many of these units, the number of bull elk and the number of cow elk is the same," Aoude says. "The only way to make room for that many bull elk is to keep reducing the number of cow elk. And that could spell disaster for the herds. Because the herds have fewer cow elk in them, fewer and fewer calves are being born.

"If the situation doesn't change, eventually the elk populations will crash and the fantastic elk hunting hunters are enjoying in Utah now will be gone."

Aoude says opening all but three of the state's limited entry units to spike bull hunting will allow more spike bulls to be taken while still protecting the larger bulls in the herds.

DWR biologists recommended 17,000 spike bull permits at public meetings a few weeks ago. They changed their proposal after hunters said some of the units would be inundated with hunters if 17,000 permits were offered.

"We survey hunters after every hunting season," Aoude says. "The survey we conduct after the 2009 hunts will give us a good picture of what the hunting pressure was like on each unit."

### **BUCK DEER**

**Archery changes:** If you like to hunt during Utah's general archery buck deer hunt, you'll have to wait until Sept. 2 to hunt statewide.

Utah's general season archery buck deer hunt runs Aug. 15 to Sept. 11 on most of the units in the state.

You can hunt in a single region until Sept. 1. Starting Sept. 2, you can hunt in any region in the state.

"Hunters in southern Utah are concerned that too many archery hunters are hunting in the Southern Region at the start of the season," Aoude says.

"Depending on which region you choose to hunt in, this change could prevent you from hunting in the Southern Region at the start of the archery season. But you can still hunt in the region halfway through the season."

General archery permits are capped at 16,000. But within that cap, there's no limit on the number of permits that can be sold for each region.

When you buy your permit, just indicate which region you want to hunt in. You can hunt in that region until Sept. 1.

Starting Sept. 2, you can hunt in any region in the state.

**Nine-day rifle deer hunt:** Utah's general rifle buck deer hunt will be a nine-day hunt in each of the DWR's five regions. The hunt will run Oct. 17 to 25.

The only exception is five subunits where buck-to-doe ratios aren't meeting goals in the state's management plan. The hunt on the five subunits runs Oct. 21 to 25.

The five subunits that have the shorter hunts are the Nebo and Oquirrh-Stansbury subunits in central Utah; the South Slope, Vernal subunit in northeastern Utah; the LaSal Mountains subunit in southeastern Utah; and the Monroe subunit in south-central Utah.

**Management buck deer hunt:** More hunters can hunt on the Paunsaugunt and Henry Mountains premium limited entry units after board members approved a management buck deer hunt for the units.

The management hunt runs Nov. 2–6 on the Henry Mountains unit and Nov. 7–11 on the Paunsaugunt unit. If you draw a permit for the hunt, one of the antlers on the deer you take may not have more than three points on it. There's no restriction on the number of points the other antler can have. You can hunt with a rifle, a muzzleloader, or a bow and arrow.

"This change will give more hunters a chance to hunt on these premiere units while still protecting the larger bucks on the units," Aoude says.

**Mule deer management plan committee:** The deer hunting ideas the board approved came from Utah's Mule Deer Management Plan Committee. The 17-person committee included representatives from the Mule Deer Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Utah Bowman's Association, the Utah Wildlife Federation, the Utah Farm Bureau, the Bureau of Land Management, Utah's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit Association, all five of Utah's Regional Advisory Councils and the Utah Wildlife Board.

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

### **Want to join the Dedicated Hunter Program?**

*Applications start Dec. 29 and must be received no later than Jan. 12.*

SALT LAKE CITY — If you want to join Utah's [Dedicated Hunter Program](#), Dec. 29 is an important day. Dec. 29 is the first day you can submit your application to join the program in 2009.



Applications to joining the 2009 Dedicated Hunter Program begin soon.

But before you submit your application, you must learn more about the program by completing a free online course. The course should be available at [wildlife.utah.gov](http://wildlife.utah.gov) starting the week of Dec. 15.

### **Dec. 15**

If your three-year membership in the program will end in 2008, Dec. 15 is another important date to keep in mind.

If this is your third year in the program — and you've completed all of the program's current requirements by Dec. 15 — you'll receive a preference point. If you want to rejoin the program in 2009, this point will ensure your application is among the first drawn to join.

Holding a drawing to join the program, and requiring hunters to become more familiar with the program before they join, are among several Dedicated Hunter changes the Utah Wildlife Board approved at its Dec. 4 meeting in Salt Lake City.

### **Background**

Dedicated Hunters are guaranteed a chance to obtain a deer permit for the region they want to hunt in during the three years they're in the program. They can also hunt all three general seasons in that region each fall. They may take only two deer during the three years they're in the program.

In return, they must participate in conservation projects that benefit Utah's wildlife. They must also pay a fee to join the program.

### **Becoming more popular**

Since it started in 1995, the Dedicated Hunter program has grown in popularity with Utah's hunters. The program is capped at 10,000 hunters. That cap was reached in 2008.

Now that the program has reached its cap, members of the Utah Wildlife Board have approved several changes. These changes are designed to give everyone an easy way to join the program:

- The first-come, first-served enrollment process has been changed to a drawing.

Applications for the drawing will be accepted from Dec. 29, 2008 to Jan. 12, 2009. Results of the drawing will be available by Jan. 16.

A \$10 application fee is the only fee you have to pay to apply. If your application is drawn, you don't have to buy a hunting license until it's time to get your hunting permit each year.

If your application isn't drawn to join the program, you'll still have time to apply for a general season buck deer permit. Applications for general season buck deer permits will be accepted from Jan. 22 to Feb. 26.

Also, if your application isn't drawn to join the program, you'll receive a preference point. The preference point will ensure your application is among the first drawn to join the program in 2010.

- Before you can apply to join the Dedicated Hunter program, you must learn more about the program by completing a free online orientation course. The course should be available during the week of Dec. 15 at [www.wildlife.utah.gov](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov).
- Once you've joined the program, you must complete another course — the program's online wildlife conservation and ethics course — before you receive your first hunting permit. Starting in 2009, this course will provide even more information about Utah's wildlife. It will also take the place of attending a Regional Advisory Council meeting.

Dedicated Hunters are strongly encouraged to attend their local RAC meetings, but attendance at a RAC meeting is no longer required.

"We think the program's online wildlife conservation and ethics course is a great idea," says Rhianna Christopher, volunteer services coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources. "The course teaches Dedicated Hunters about wildlife management and conservation in Utah, why it's important to be an ethical hunter and how they can provide input to us through our RAC process."

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

## **Deer, elk and moose get some help**

*A free course is now required before gathering shed antlers in Utah*

**SALT LAKE CITY** — If you want to gather shed antlers in Utah between Feb. 1 and April 15, you must complete a free shed antler gathering course.

The course will be available on this Web site by mid-January.

The course takes about 10 minutes to complete. Once you've completed it, make sure you print and carry your course completion certificate with you while you're gathering shed antlers this winter and spring.

## **Helping deer, elk and moose**

The antlers of deer, elk and moose drop off their heads each winter. The animals then grow a new set of antlers in the summer.

"Gathering these shed antlers is a fun activity that's very popular in states across the country, including Utah," says Mike Fowlks, Law Enforcement Section chief for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

"The challenge with shed antler gathering is that it happens during the worst time of the year for the animals and the places the animals live in the winter. The animals are stressed after a long winter, and their winter habitat is wet and can be easily damaged.

"Fortunately, you can have fun gathering shed antlers without stressing the animals and damaging their habitat. This new online course will show you how."

## **Feb. 1 to April 15 across Utah**

Fowlks says people can gather antlers across Utah between Feb. 1 and April 15 as long as they complete the course first. This includes in northern Utah, where shed antler gathering has been closed for much of the winter and spring.

"Make sure you carry your certificate with you that shows you've completed the course," Fowlks says. "By law, you must have your certificate with you while you're gathering shed antlers."

If you wait until April 15 or later to start gathering antlers, you don't need to complete the course.

The Utah Wildlife Board Shed approved shed antler gathering rules for 2009 at their Dec. 4 meeting in Salt Lake City.

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

### **Bonus point and preference point changes**

*The Wildlife Board approved four changes for 2009.*

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah has two systems that are designed to give everyone a chance to hunt big game animals in Utah.

Changes are coming to both of those systems — Utah's bonus point and preference point systems — in 2009.

One of the changes will reward those who apply regularly for some of the most difficult permits to obtain in Utah. Two other changes will make it easier for various hunters to get a deer hunting permit. A fourth change will help stop an unethical practice that's picking up steam in the state.

The changes were approved Dec. 4 by members of the Utah Wildlife Board.

### **Changes**

The changes, and the challenges they address, are listed below:

**Change for 2009:** If you don't apply for a limited entry or once-in-a-lifetime permit at least once every three years, you'll lose all of the bonus points you've accumulated up to that time.

**Challenge in the past:** Some of Utah's big game permits are limited in number. They're tough to draw. "This change will reward those who apply for a permit regularly by removing bonus points from those who don't," says Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section chief for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

"If you apply for a permit regularly, we want to give you the best chance possible to get one."

**Change for 2009:** If you list several choices on your general season buck deer permit application, and you draw a permit for your second, third, fourth or even your fifth choice, you'll still get a preference point because you didn't draw your first choice.

**Challenge in the past:** In the past, preference points were awarded to hunters who didn't draw ANY of the choices they listed on their general buck deer permit application. Because most hunters want a preference point if they don't draw the first choice on their application, many hunters were listing just one hunt.

This change will allow hunters to get a preference point for the first choice they listed (if they don't draw a permit for their first choice) and still have a chance to hunt deer by drawing a permit for one of their other choices.

**Change for 2009:** The percent of general season buck deer permits set aside for hunters 15 years of age and younger has been increased.

Twenty percent of the total number of permits available in 2009 will be set aside for young hunters. In the past, 15 percent of the permits were set aside.

**Challenge in the past:** The number of young people who hunt in Utah has been declining for years. "We're hoping to slow or even reverse that trend by giving young hunters a better chance to get a permit," Sheehan says.

**Change for 2009:** If hunters apply together as a group, and then one or more of the group wants to surrender their permit, ALL of the members of the group must surrender their permits if they want to receive a bonus point or a preference point.

If all of the members of the group don't surrender their permits, those who do surrender their permits won't receive a bonus point or preference point for that year.



**Challenge in the past:** A hunter with a high number of bonus or preference points would agree to apply in a group with a hunter who had a low number of points. The only reason he did this was to increase the odds that the hunter with a low number of points would draw a permit.

If both of the hunters drew a permit, the hunter with a high number of points would surrender his permit to the DWR.

In the past, in addition to getting his points back for surrendering his permit, he also got a bonus point or a preference point for that year.

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

## **TRCP Praises Decision to Extend Roadless Rule Review**

*Sportsmen had called for extra time to revise Colorado management plan; new timetable allows state to address concerns of sportsmen, industry*

WASHINGTON – The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership today commended a decision by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to extend the timetable for finalization of the Colorado roadless rule, a plan for management of the state’s national forest roadless areas. The federal announcement responded to a state request to prolong the rule-making process so that stakeholder concerns could be addressed in the final plan. A range of diverse interests has charged that the draft rule fails to responsibly administer Colorado’s more than 4 million acres of backcountry.

“All along, the TRCP has maintained that the Colorado roadless rule can be significantly improved if adequate time and attention are dedicated to its revision,” said TRCP Roadless Initiative Manager Joel Webster. “That this fact has been recognized by state and federal decision makers gives us hope that conscientious management of Colorado’s backcountry – and the important habitat it provides fish and wildlife populations – can be attained through careful refinement of problematic language in the draft rule.”

Hunters and anglers affirm that the Colorado roadless rule can uphold healthy habitat, fish and wildlife populations and sporting traditions if common-sense revisions are made to the draft plan. Problems they highlight in the draft rule include the following:

- loose language allowing road building for power-line corridors and water projects in all of Colorado’s 4.4 million acres of backcountry;
- 70,000 acres of “gap” oil and gas leases where road building would be permitted in backcountry areas;
- removal of more than a half-million acres from Colorado’s roadless inventory – a transfer that also is questioned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife;
- the need for establishment of an “upper category” of roadless lands – setting a higher level of protective guidelines for about 1.26 million acres – in the final plan.



“Sportsmen applaud the state’s request and its approval by the federal government,” Webster continued, “but we must remain focused on the task at hand: fixing the errors in the draft Colorado rule. Governor Ritter and the U.S. Forest Service must use this extra time to rectify the plan’s problems – for the good of Colorado’s backcountry and the citizens who use and enjoy these irreplaceable landscapes.”

Colorado and Idaho both elected to develop state-specific plans for administration of roadless areas within their boundaries, with Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter calling his state’s roadless rule an insurance policy in case the federal roadless rule was overturned. A recent decision by a federal judge in San Francisco limited the applicability of the 2001 federal roadless rule and effectively eliminated the state of Colorado from the rule’s oversight.

“Sportsmen gave their support to the final Idaho roadless rule, which was achieved through collaboration by the U.S. Forest Service, state authorities and other advisors,” stated Webster. “We believe that decision-makers can create a similarly strong rule for Colorado, but problems in the draft plan must be fixed first. We urge the Forest Service and state to use this extended timetable to create an improved management plan that guarantees the long-term conservation of Colorado’s backcountry.”

Visit the TRCP Web site to learn more about the proposed Colorado rule.

<http://www.trcp.org/issues/roadless.html>

## **Contractor Knife-- It's The Tool Man's Tool**

*Lynnwood Washington, December 3, 2008-* SOG Knives announces their latest theme knife, the Contractor 2x4.

Early in 2007 SOG Knives created an entirely new category of knives called theme knives. These are knives inspired by a distinct, recurring, and unifying quality or idea. The Contractor is a new fully-functional folding knife influenced by the construction industry and packed with features never before put into a knife.

Spencer Frazer, founder and owner of SOG Knives says "The Contractor 2x4 is a fun and unique knife.

But don't mistake that this is a serious working knife that knows its way around a job site."



### **Patented**

- Patented handle holes are designed to strip various sizes of electrical wire insulation.
- The handle has a bubble level allowing it to function as a handy tool for the home owner hanging a picture for example.
- The clip which securely retains the knife in a pocket is designed to resemble a putty knife.
- The handle is ultra-tough glass fiber reinforced filled Zytel and features two finger grooves and a surface texture that mimics wood framing blueprints.

- At the end of the handle is a handy and efficient pencil sharpener.
- Maintaining the contractor theme the blade's pivot end is a circular saw and guard. It rotates like the real thing when the blade is rotated and can even be used to one hand open the knife as well.
- One fun touch is that the handle houses your last lucky nail. What's a lucky nail you ask? Well, it's the one you need when you have no other. It can also be used as a scribe in a pinch.
- The bead blasted 3-inch locking blade is made of high-chrome content stainless steel. The downward rolled point and straight edge design makes for serious worksite cutting as it allows great pressure to be exerted on the blade and tip when cutting tough materials such as cement bags, strapping and cord.
- The blade's lock release resembles the head of a claw hammer while the pocket clip looks like a putty knife.

### **Specifications:**

Overall Length (open): 7 1/2 inches

Blade Finish: Glass beaded to a satin finish

Blade Material: 440-stainless steel at a Rockwell hardness of 54-56

Blade length: 3 inches

Blade Thickness: 0.125 (1/8") inch

Handle Material: Zytel

Weight: 4.3 oz.

MSRP Sticker Price: \$40.00

Availability: Sporting goods and knife stores nationally or direct.

**Consumers may** check all SOG products at: [www.sogknives.com](http://www.sogknives.com)

### **New Water Appropriations Available Near Escalante, Utah**

Salt Lake City, Utah -- An evaluation has turned up the potential of unappropriated water in the underground aquifers near Escalante, Utah and the State Engineer has made that water available for new appropriations. "This could be good news for folks who need water for limited domestic use," said Matt Lindon, Assistant State Engineer.

The previous policy that governed new appropriations of water in the Escalante River drainage area was adopted in April 2002. The only restriction was the exclusion of land around the Town of Escalante, described originally by the State Engineer, as "...the developed agricultural areas where applications are being held". On January 25, 1996, the Division of Water Rights Cedar City Regional Office placed an official boundary to this "closed" area surrounding the Town of Escalante.

After the recent review of this policy by the Division of Water Rights, at the request of local water users, consideration was given to removing the moratorium on appropriations of water in

this area. In June, a public meeting was held to seek public comment regarding the current policy. All public comments were in favor of removing the restriction from the area for additional appropriation of water. Based on the investigation and the results of the public meeting, the policy boundary closing the agricultural area surrounding the Town of Escalante to new appropriations have been eliminated.

Go to: [www.waterrights.utah.gov/wrinfo/policy/wrareas/area97.html](http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/wrinfo/policy/wrareas/area97.html) for further information. If you have any questions or comments please contact Kurt Vest, Regional Engineer, in the Southwest Regional Office at 585 North Main Street, PO Box 506, Cedar City UT 84721-0506, or by phone at (435)-586-4231.

## DWR Wants Your Fishing Photos

*Photos will be featured in new community fishing booklet*

If you fish with your kids, you probably have at least one photo that touches your heart every time you see it.

How about sharing that photo with anglers across Utah?

The Division of Wildlife Resource's newest community fishing booklet might be the way.

The DWR is looking for five to six photos for the booklet. To be considered, your photo must be a vertical shot, taken with a digital camera at one of Utah's 37 community fishing waters.

The photo can show just your children (including teenagers) or both you and your children.

If you're unsure which waters in Utah are community waters—or you just want to see last year's community fishing booklet—the booklet is available at

[www.wildlife.utah.gov/cf/2008\\_book.pdf](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/cf/2008_book.pdf)

The DWR needs your photos no later than Dec. 31. Please e-mail them to [CommunityFisheries@utah.gov](mailto:CommunityFisheries@utah.gov).

“We print 17,000 copies of this booklet every year, and they always go fast,” says Chris Penne, community fisheries leader for the DWR. “Here's your chance to be a star!”



## Rapala Launches Anglers' Legacy Holiday Pledge Drive; Encourages Giving the Gift of Fishing

*Those who "Take the Pledge" and promise to introduce newcomers to boating & fishing are eligible to win prize packages donated by Rapala & other partners*



**ALEXANDRIA, VA (December 10, 2008)** – [Rapala®](http://Rapala.com), the company recognized for its famous fishing lures, is kicking off a holiday-inspired Anglers' Legacy Pledge drive today, the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation ([RBFF](http://RBFF.org)) announced. Rapala is asking anglers to take the Anglers' Legacy Pledge and give the gift of fishing this holiday season by introducing someone new to the sport. Those who take the Pledge at [Rapala.com/Pledge](http://Rapala.com/Pledge) are eligible to win one of several fishing tackle items donated by Rapala and other partners, including Sufix, Shimano, Plano, Minn Kota/Humminbird and Costa Del Mar. The contest will be promoted through e-mails and online at [Rapala.com/Pledge](http://Rapala.com/Pledge) through December 22, 2008 with a goal of recruiting 5,000 new Anglers' Legacy Ambassadors.

"We are happy to be working with Rapala to encourage boaters and anglers to introduce newcomers to the sport," said RBFF President & CEO Frank Peterson. "I hope people are inspired this holiday to take the Anglers' Legacy Pledge and get new people out on the water. Boating and fishing enhance our natural resources and if we can mobilize avids to teach

newcomers, we can make a big impact on future participation and conservation efforts."



"The holiday season is a perfect time of year to encourage people to share the sport of fishing with others," said Rapala Marketing Manager Kelly Brockpahler. "Rapala is excited to be partnering with RBFF and other industry leaders on this holiday promotion."

[Anglers' Legacy](#), a program aimed at

increasing first-time boating and fishing experiences, has signed on more than 75,000 Ambassadors nationwide since its inception in May 2006. Based on [a recent RBFF survey](#), Ambassadors purchase approximately \$140 in fishing tackle and equipment, \$153 in boating supplies and accessories, and more than three fishing licenses which support critical fish and wildlife management efforts through the [Sport Fish Restoration Program](#).

## About Rapala

[Rapala](#) is a leading fishing tackle company and the global market leader in the fishing lures, treble hooks and fishing related knives and tools. The Group also has a strong global position in other fishing categories. The Group has its own distribution companies in all the main markets and the largest distribution network in the industry. The main manufacturing facilities are located in Finland, France, Estonia, Russia and China. The Group brand portfolio includes the leading brands in the industry, Rapala, and other global brands like VMC, Storm, Blue Fox, Luhr Jensen, Williamson, Terminator, Trigger X, Sufix and Marttiini. The Group, with net sales of EUR 242 million in 2007, employs more than 4,000 people in 30 countries.

## About RBFF

[RBFF](#) is a nonprofit organization established in 1998 to increase public awareness and appreciation of the need to protect, conserve and restore the nation's aquatic natural resources. RBFF helps to increase participation in recreational angling and boating through national outreach programs including the [Take Me Fishing](#)<sup>TM</sup> campaign and [Anglers' Legacy](#)<sup>TM</sup>.

## USSA Denounces Minnesota Hysteria over Lead in Venison

### *State Overreacting to Test Results*

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA) denounces a recent decision by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to expand X-ray testing to all venison donated to food shelters through the state's *Harvested Venison Donation Program*.

Expanding the x-ray requirement will increase program costs by thirty cents a pound and might lead to the program's elimination. The program currently donates between 20,000 and 25,000 pounds of meat to food pantries.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's decision came after state studies indicated that 5.3 percent of venison that had been sampled and used in the program contained lead.

Besides helping the needy, the *Harvested Venison Donation Program* encouraged hunters to help control deer numbers.

"Hunters have been feeding their families with deer taken by lead bullets since firearms were invented," said Rick Story, senior vice president of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. "People have simply not contracted lead poisoning from wild game."

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) undercut the hysteria surrounding the issue of lead in venison, issuing a report about neighboring North Dakota hunters that consumed significant quantities of game taken with lead ammunition. It showed that none of the 700 individuals tested had levels that concern the health agency. While appropriate processing of meat was suggested by the North Dakota Department of Health in response to the report, it failed to suggest food pantries stop accepting venison.

“Knee jerk reactions make poor public policy. The USSA hopes that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will reassess their decision as quickly as possible,” Story said.

## Free Checklist of Birds of the World



Now, for free, you can download the entire Clements Checklist of

Birds of the World, the most widely used, up-to-date compendium of more than 9,930 bird species.



<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/Copy%20of%20Clements%20Checklist%206.3%20November%202008.xls/view>

## Grassroots Battle Over Next Secretary of the Interior

*Anti's Back U.S Representative Grijalva*

There continues to be speculation as to who will become President-elect Barack Obama's Secretary of the Interior. However, two names have moved to the head of the pack: U.S. Representatives Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ) and Mike Thompson (D- CA).

Rep. Grijalva received a 100 percent rating from the HSUS in each of the last six years. In Defense of Animals, a large anti-hunting organization, issued an [action alert](#) to its followers asking that they contact the President-elect's transition team and urge Rep. Grijalva's appointment. Additionally, the HSUS' legislative arm has come out [in support](#) of Rep. Grijalva.

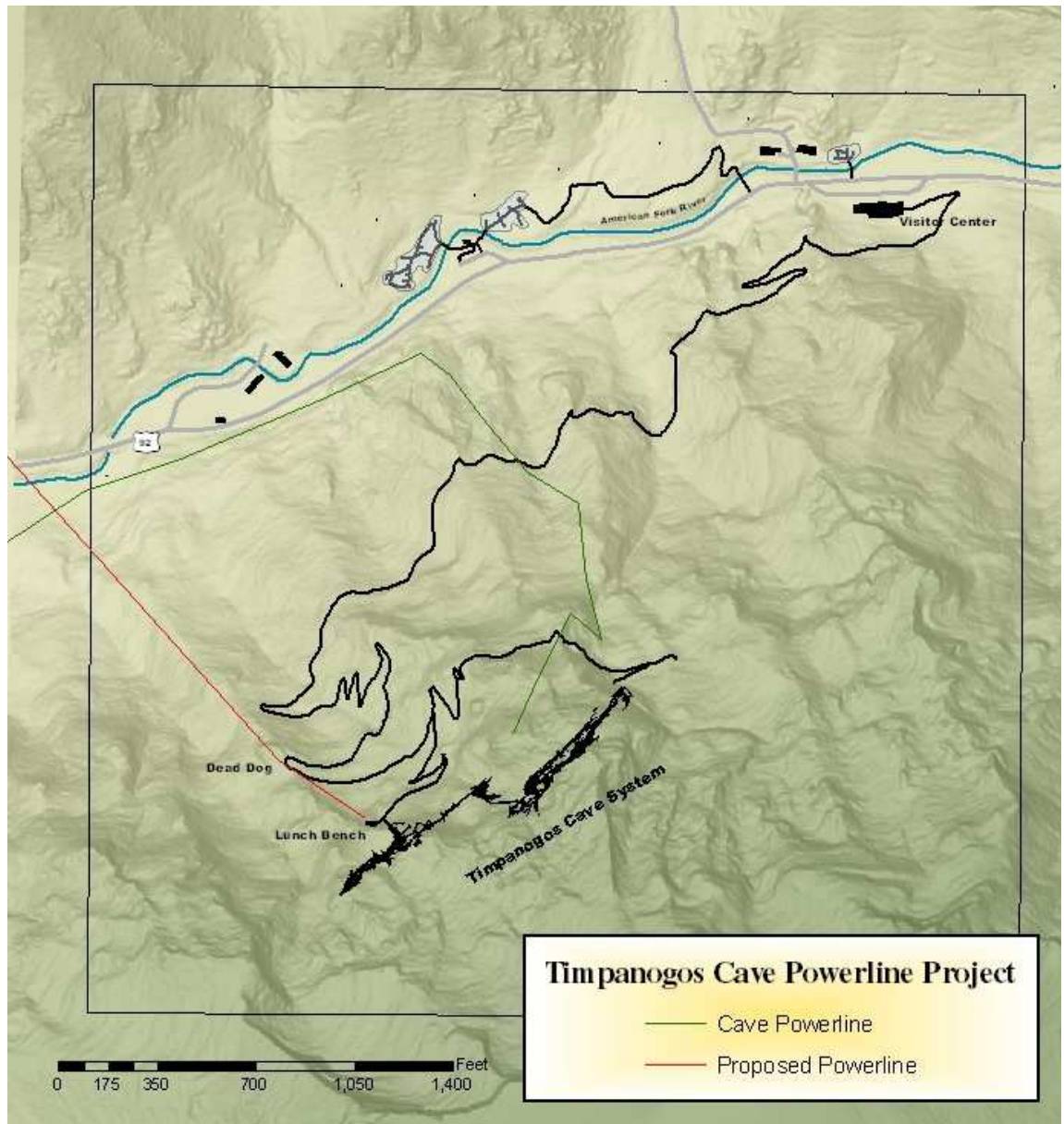
Rep. Thompson's HSUS approval rating last year was a meager 58 percent. The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance signed [a letter](#), along with other conservation organizations, encouraging his consideration by the new administration.

While many of the daily issues that confront sportsmen are dealt with at the state government level, the Secretary of the Interior wields much influence, overseeing key conservation agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Interested sportsmen are encouraged to contact the Obama transition team and let them know their thoughts on this nomination. You can contact the head of the team, John Podesta, by faxing 202-682-1867 or e-mailing [John.Podesta@ptt.gov](mailto:John.Podesta@ptt.gov). You can also Click Here and send your comments directly to the transition team website. <http://change.gov/page/s/yourstory>

### Proposed New Electrical Line for Timpanogos Cave

The National Park Service is proposing to install a new electrical line at the Timpanogos Cave National Monument that would supply more dependable electrical power to the caves. The current condition of the existing electrical lines/poles is so poor that PacifiCorp (doing business as Rocky Mountain Power) can no longer safely maintain them, thereby



increasing the potential for more frequent and severe power outages and possibly a failure to the system that could

cause the caves in the Monument to lose electrical power altogether. In addition, the caves have only radio communication which is less dependable than a hard land line telephone. The

proposed new electrical line would be constructed with a conductor (wire) manufactured with internal fiber optic strands that are intended to be used for telephone/communication service. The telephone line would be used to upgrade the security system for the cave. Therefore, this project is needed to 1) maintain consistent and dependable electrical power to the caves, 2) improve safety and accessibility of the power line, and 3) provide a dependable telephone system at the caves.

Electrical power to the caves is currently supplied by a power line that runs through the Monument. This line consists of eight pole/anchor locations. The proposed action would reduce the total number of pole/anchor locations from eight to three and would install a new fiber optic cable to provide telephone capability to the caves in addition to electrical power. As part of this project, the eight existing poles and power lines would be removed and those areas would be rehabilitated, as needed. The proposed line would begin at a disturbed quarry site in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and then enter the National Monument for the remainder of its run up to the caves. In the Monument there would be poles at Dead Dog Point and an anchor on a cliff face several hundred feet west of the entrance to the caves. Numerous alternate routes were examined in the early planning process, including a partially buried line or in conduit and numerous aerial routes.

NPS is working in cooperation with USFS on this project and will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This environmental document will provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates potential issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

NPS encourages public participation throughout the NEPA process during which the public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project; once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. We are currently in the scoping phase of this project, and invite you to submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/tica>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments to me at the address on the letterhead, or make an appointment to discuss this project in person with Superintendent Denis Davis (801-756-5239). Please provide all comments by January 12, 2009. These comments will be considered during preparation of the EA. We look forward to hearing from you.



### **E-mail An Invitation to Hunt and Shoot This Holiday Season**

NEWTOWN, Conn. -- When it comes to gift giving, there's hardly a gift that can compare to enjoying an outdoors experience with a family member or a friend. Now you can deliver that gift in the form of an

invitation to go hunting or target shooting by sending an e-mail postcard through <http://stepoutside.org/invite/index.cfm>

Visitors to [www.stepoutside.org](http://www.stepoutside.org) can choose from nine photo-illustrated cards that showcase various types of hunting and target shooting. After choosing a card, you simply fill in a personalized message and enter the recipient's name and e-mail address. The postcard is then automatically sent to your hunting or shooting partner's inbox.



"Every one of us -- every target shooter and hunter -- and anyone that carries a passion in their hearts for the great outdoors was once asked to STEP OUTSIDE," said Dave Miles, marketing director for the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), which developed the STEP OUTSIDE program. "We all remember that first hunt or day at the range and the many more memories of days in the field we've enjoyed.



For every potential new hunter and shooter out there, it all begins with an invitation. Our Web site was designed with one goal in mind: to help and encourage all of us to extend that all- important invitation."

NSSF's STEP OUTSIDE program is based on the premise that men and women who are passionate about hunting and shooting owe it to the future of these activities to introduce them to newcomers. To date, the program has been a key element in exposing hundreds of thousands of newcomers to the outdoors.

Visitors to the STEP OUTSIDE Web site can also enter a sweepstakes for a chance to win one of five \$1,000 gift cards to Bass Pro Shops.

## HOW LOW CAN THEY GO?

### *AAA Utah Reports Another Huge Drop in Gas Prices*

SALT LAKE CITY, December 9, 2008 – Gasoline prices in Utah have dropped again. They declined a whopping 74 cents per gallon in the past month as the worldwide economic slowdown continues its grip, reports AAA, which tracks gasoline prices as a service to consumers.

Utah's average price for regular, self-serve gasoline is \$1.61, a 74-cent drop from last month's report. This is \$1.46 lower than a year ago and \$2.61 lower than the highest recorded Utah price of \$4.22. Today, there are only 11 states with lower average prices than Utah.

"It was only five months ago that oil was selling for more than three times today's price, and economists speculated what its peak price would be," said Rolayne Fairclough, AAA Utah spokesperson. "Today, the decreased the demand for oil has created a glut on the world market and OPEC has difficulties controlling the price. Even though there are calls to reduce

production levels, these cuts in the short term would further reduce members' revenues while inviting non-OPEC countries to step in to supply the market."

The national average price is \$1.70, a 52-cent drop from last month's report. This is \$1.30 lower than a year ago and \$2.41 lower than the highest recorded price, \$4.11, last July. There are only three states, Alaska, Hawaii and New York, reporting average prices over \$2 a gallon. Alaska has the highest average price at \$2.71. New York's price, \$2.05, is the highest in the lower 48. The lowest average price can be found in Missouri at \$1.48.

Of the Utah cities surveyed by AAA, Moab has the highest average price, \$1.89, a 70-cent drop from last month. Ogden's average, \$1.52, is 76 cents lower than last month's report and is the lowest average price. Vernal's price dropped 83 cents this past month. The current price in Vernal is \$1.80. The current average price in St. George is \$1.65, an 84-cent decrease from last month. \$1.55 is the average price in Salt Lake City, Provo and Logan. This price represents a 69-cent decrease in Salt Lake City, a 72 cent drop in Provo and a 77-cent decrease in Logan this past month.

Surrounding states also report substantial decreases in the cost of gasoline. Idaho's average price decreased 70 cents to the current average, \$1.65. Montana's price dropped 56 cents to \$1.67. Wyoming's average price, \$1.60 is 58 cents lower than last month's report. Colorado motorists saw prices drop 53 cents to the current average, \$1.66. Arizona's average price, \$1.74 is 70 cents lower than a month ago. Nevada's price dropped 60 cents to \$1.84. California's average price, \$1.80 is 72 cents lower than November's report.

These lower prices may encourage motorists to consider driving vacations during the holidays. Current prices in close destination cities are: Las Vegas, \$1.82; San Francisco, \$1.87; Denver, \$1.58; Los Angeles, \$1.80; and Phoenix, \$1.69.

"Gasoline and oil prices at these levels may help spark demand and perhaps become a factor for economic growth," said Fairclough. "Unfortunately, these prices are extremely harmful to those who made investments in alternative energy and new sources of oil. These efforts were economical when barrel prices were \$90 to \$100 but do not make economic sense at prices at or lower than current levels."

Shopping aggressively for gasoline can still help families save precious dollars. AAA's Gas Price Finder has real time information on gas prices at more than 85,000 self-serve gasoline stations throughout the county. Using this tool is easy, simply enter a zip code on [www.aaa.com/gasprices](http://www.aaa.com/gasprices) to find the lowest price in the area.

AAA's Fuel Gauge Report is the most comprehensive retail gasoline survey available, with over 85,000 self-serve stations surveyed everyday nationally. Data is provided in cooperation with OPIS Energy Group and Wright Express, LLC.

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.

## Travel Tips Contest

Submit a travel tip today! Simply click here [http://www.skiutah.com/trip\\_planning/travel\\_tips](http://www.skiutah.com/trip_planning/travel_tips) to fill out the entry form and enter a tip in this week's contest. Each week, one travel tip will be selected as the "Tip of the Week." The person submitting the tip will receive a Ski Utah T-shirt and entered into the Grand Prize drawing for a 2009-10 Ski Utah Vacation Package, complete with roundtrip airfare to Salt Lake City provided by Southwest Vacations Southwest Vacations.



## Powder Perks Save Skiers Money At Snowbird

In an effort to make skiing more affordable this season, Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort is introducing Powder Perks, a wide-ranging discount program for winter guests of the Utah resort. All winter 2008-09 lodging guests will receive discounts on lift tickets, restaurants, the Cliff Spa, shopping, Mountain School, ski and snowboard rentals and more.

"Unlike ever before, our guests are looking for and expecting value when booking their vacation," said Snowbird President Bob Bonar. "We feel Powder Perks is a comprehensive way to offer our guests savings in every aspect of our operations."

Powder Perks include discounts on a variety of items at Snowbird retailers, including:

- Buy one entrée, get one appetizer free at The Steak Pit
- Buy one lunch buffet, get one lunch buffet free at The Atrium
- 20% off non-sale logo items at Wings, Kühl Haus, Center Sundries and Creekside Sports
- 20% off an early bird spa treatment at the Cliff Spa
- 20% off any single day ski or snowboard demo package at Snowbird Sports
- Save \$37 on a six-day Snowbird lift ticket.

Skiers can also save on lodging at Snowbird this winter. The resort recently announced a ski free promo for January and early February where vacationers will receive complimentary lift tickets and Powder Perks for each night of their stay. Special early season lodging packages for December are also available starting from \$99 per night.

Coming off the second earliest opening in the resort's 38-year history, Snowbird is currently offering skiing via the Aerial Tram, Gadzoom, Mid-Gad and Gad 2 lifts.

## Interconnect Gift Certificates Available Online

For the skier who has everything - give the gift of skiing six resorts in one day. The Ski Utah Interconnect Gift Certificate [http://www.skiutah.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?cPath=30&products\\_id=68](http://www.skiutah.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=30&products_id=68) now available online at the Ski Utah Store. The perfect stocking stuffer - buy one today for \$250 and use it anytime this season.

### Dear UFOP Members, Friends, and Associates,

I just want to remind everybody that our annual Christmas Party is tomorrow night, Friday, December 12th. Details are attached. Also, we have scheduled the following alternative locations for our Great Basin Chapter meetings over the next few months, since our regular meeting room will be unavailable:

Tuesday, January 6th - DNR Room 112 (Soldier Hollow Meeting Room)

Thursday, February 12th - BYU Earth Science Museum, Provo, Utah

Thursday, March 12th - Utah Museum of Natural History, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, April 9th - Ogden's George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park, Ogden, Utah

There will be no May meeting, since the UFOP Annual Meeting will be held May 22nd - 24th in St. George, Utah in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference on Fossil Resources - Partners in Paleontology, and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Cretaceous Conference. Details will be sent out and posted on the web site ([www.utahpaleo.org](http://www.utahpaleo.org)) as they become available. We will have a summer party, hopefully in June, and should be back in our regular meeting room in September, 2009, after our summer break.

### Women's Cup Comes to Park City

PARK CITY, UT (Dec. 11) – A lot is on the line at the Olympic ski jumps in Park City this weekend as the top women's international ski jumping circuit resumes after a two-month break with the Visa International Continental Cup. The U.S. Ski Jumping Team hopes to bring its home jump advantage to the events after a strong start this past summer and fall.

The Visa International will be the first winter Continental Cup on the Olympic hill since the



tour's inception in the 2004-05 season. And it takes on even greater significance coming in the year of the women's first World Championships, set for Feb. 20 in Liberec, Czech Republic.

Park City's own Alissa Johnson, now sixth in



the Continental Cup standings after 10 summer events, will be looking to make up ground on Cup leader Ulrike Graessler of Germany. Johnson is off to a great start with two podiums, including a win on the Olympic hill in Lillehammer, Norway. She was third on the same hill that will be used for the women's debut at the FIS Nordic Ski World Championships in Liberec.

Johnson pointed to both training and a change in philosophy for her newfound success. "My training ethics have changed," she said. "And I really don't care as much about personal results as much as I care about having good jumps for myself - that was the most important thing. I used to go into competitions thinking I wasn't going to be happy if I wasn't in the top 15. But you can have two of the best jumps you've had all month in competition and not even be in the top 20. It's important to take away what you get from the actual ski jumping not the results."

One of the big differences in the opening 10 events has been the diversity of Continental Cup leaders. Norway's Anette Sagen, who has won all four of the season-long titles, is fourth and nearly 200 points behind Graessler (100 points for a win). The 10 events have also seen six different winners, including Johnson.

"Anette has been good for many years," said U.S. Ski Team Coach Kjell Ivar Magnussen. "But the rest of the girls want to beat her and have worked very hard. That's just the difference."

"I just think World Championships has a little to do with it and every year the girls are getting better and better – not just my teammates," said the U.S. Ski Team's Jessica Jerome, who is 13th in the Cup with two podiums after missing the opening four events. "But girls from other countries - girls we've never seen before and girls who have been on the tour for years – are starting to ski well. It's so cool to see a different person on the podium and winning every competition. Everyone is getting more motivated and really a lot more serious about everything."

While the women already have 10 Continental Cups down, plus a U.S. Championships, it's still a long season ahead. The schedule includes 20 on-snow competitions, starting with this weekend's Visa International Cup. The U.S. women are looking to kick it off in high gear on their home hill.

"We're just excited to be on our own hill," said the U.S. Ski Team's Abby Hughes. "The Europeans never come over here so it's exciting for them to come here and see what it's like."

"It's exciting, but I wouldn't say the home hill advantage is that noticeable," added Johnson.

"But I can definitely say I feel more confident on this hill. And it's always fun to jump in front of your friends and family."

While the points will be scored on the Continental Cup, the focus remains on Liberec and the historic date of Feb. 20 when the women jump for the first time in the World Championships.

"It was amazing with so many people supportive of us," said the U.S. Ski Team's Avery Ardovalo of the Continental Cup events in Liberec in early October. "The men were amazed and proud of the way the women were jumping. Knowing that we were going to be able to jump that hill and have our world champs is just amazing."

The women come into the Park City event on the heels of a two-month break since Lindsey Van (Park City, UT) won the U.S. Ski Jumping Championships on plastic on the Olympic jump in Lake Placid, NY. Much of that was spent in the Team's Park City training center doing physical conditioning.

"The break was good," said Johnson. "It's different for us than other sports – we've already had 10 events plus our nationals. It's nice to get a break and recharge our batteries. It was a long summer – but a good one. I needed those days to collect myself but now I'm ready."

Around 50 athletes from nine nations are expected for the two night jumps at the Utah Olympic Park. There's a lot on the line with the best athletes in the world vying for the Continental Cup title and to medal at the debut Worlds in February.

"Some of the U.S. girls are strong enough to go to the podium," said Magnussen. "But they have to do a really good job and maybe have a little luck with that wind. But they have to have a really good jump."

Admission to the Visa International at the Utah Olympic Park is free. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday night. There will be free hot chocolate for all, plus a visit by Santa Claus on Saturday.

## **Visa International Continental Cup**

### **Thurs. Dec. 11**

6:00 pm – Official training

### **Fri. Dec. 12**

5:30 pm – Doors open at Utah Olympic Park (free admission)

6:00 pm – Trial round jump

7:00 pm – Competition jumps (two)

8:00 pm – Awards ceremony

### **Sat. Dec. 12**

5:30 pm – Doors open at Utah Olympic Park (free admission)  
6:00 pm – Trial round jump  
7:00 pm – Competition jumps (two)  
8:00 pm – Awards ceremony

## Top 5 Signs that Your Elk Hunting Area Needs Habitat Help

MISSOULA, Mont.—Elk season is over, leaving you with another autumn's worth of memories. While you're reminiscing, the Rocky



Mountain Elk Foundation asks you to think about the country where you hunted, how it's changed through the years and how it's likely to change in the future.

Here are the Elk Foundation's Top 5 signs that your elk hunting area may need serious habitat stewardship:

- 1. Habitat Fragmentation**—New subdivisions and ranchettes are eliminating and cutting off key habitat, particularly in winter range and migration corridors. Increased human activity and vehicular traffic compound impacts to elk.
- 2. Weeds Amok**—Knapweed, yellow starthistle, leafy spurge and other invasive weeds are consuming the West. These noxious exotics kill or displace native forage that elk and other species depend on for grazing.
- 3. Sick Forests**—Years of suppressing wildfire has led to dense, choked timber piled high with deadfall. These conditions lead to massive beetle infestations, threaten catastrophic wildfire and offer little benefit, other than escape cover, for elk. Yet overgrown forests are becoming more rule than exception.
- 4. Vanishing Meadows & Aspen Stands**—Fire suppression has also allowed pinion, juniper, fir and other evergreens to overtake meadows and aspen stands. The resulting shade shrivels understory plants, cutting available forage for elk by up to 90 percent.
- 5. Lack of Water**—Many traditional watering holes are drying up earlier and earlier in the

year. Elk are forced to abandon historic ranges and follow the water to survive.

Since launching nearly 25 years ago, the Elk Foundation has helped address these and other habitat issues on over 5.4 million acres. Rallying a legion of partners, RMEF's annual projects include weed treatments, prescribed burns, forest thinning, construction of guzzlers, riparian restorations, land acquisitions, conservation easements and more.

Sample projects for your state are listed at the Elk Foundation Web site: [www.rmef.org](http://www.rmef.org). Click on "Conservation" and then "Where We Conserve."

"Members, volunteers and supporters of the Elk Foundation are making a difference but there is still much work to do," said David Allen, RMEF president and CEO. "We invite everyone who cares about elk, elk country and elk hunting to join us."

For membership information, visit [www.rmef.org](http://www.rmef.org) or call 800-CALL-ELK.

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#### **Gilbert Grosvenor Receives Honorary Park Ranger Award**

**WASHINGTON** – National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar today presented Gilbert M. Grosvenor with an Honorary National Park Ranger Award. Grosvenor is the past editor and president, and current Chairman of the National Geographic Society. Bomar surprised Grosvenor with the award in front of his colleagues and friends at National Geographic Society Headquarters.

"Gilbert Grosvenor has made a lifetime commitment – instilled in him by his family – to preserving and protecting resources for future generations," said Bomar. "Today, I proudly present this award to him with the congratulations and admiration of the 20,000 men and women of the National Park Service family."

"I wish that my father and grandfather were here to see this," said Grosvenor. "My only regret is that I couldn't do more for national parks."

"It's hard to imagine Grosvenor being able to do more," Bomar commented later. During Mr. Grosvenor's 55-year tenure at National Geographic, approximately 80 books and over 100 National Geographic Magazine feature stories and map supplements were published on America's National Parks, including a book published in 2001 called *An American Idea: The Making of the National Parks* with a forward by former President Jimmy Carter.

In 1985, Mr. Grosvenor was asked by President Reagan to serve on the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. As Vice-Chairman of the Commission, he participated in hearings

from coast to coast listening to the concerns of the American public regarding the future of America's outdoors. Mr. Grosvenor consistently advocated for increased funding to conserve greenways and buffer lands to expand our National Park System.

More recently Mr. Grosvenor teamed with Pat Noonan and Will Baker to form the Friends of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. By building grass-roots support from businesses to watermen and garden clubs to recreationists, the group was able to generate enthusiasm across the Bay watershed for the Trail. With broad support, the Trail was signed into law by President Bush on December 19, 2006, 400 years to the day John Smith began his historic Jamestown voyages. The John Smith Trail is the first national water trail in the United States and will be administered by the National Park Service.

“Park Ranger” is a title normally earned by a career of patrolling the back country, conducting interpretive tours for visitors, or maintaining the trails, campgrounds, and historic buildings within national parks. The title of Honorary Ranger is bestowed on special friends and partners who demonstrate by virtue the same spirit of hard work and absolute dedication to the national parks.