



Wasatch Mountain State Park Full Moon Snow Shoe Hike

The Friends of Wasatch Mountain State Park is again hosting the popular Full Moon Snowshoe Hike on Friday, January 9, 2009. The tour begins at the State Park's Visitors Center, 1281 Warm Springs Road, in Midway at 7 pm. Participants are to meet at the Visitor Center for registration, snowshoe check out, and to meet the trail guides. No experience is required.

There are three experience levels. Beginner tours last about 90 minutes, while intermediate and advanced tours may run 2 to 2 ½ hours. Snowshoers must be 12 years or older and can bring their own equipment, or can rent snowshoes for the evening. Boots are

not available. Be sure your foot is warm and water proof. Bring a flashlight, water, and dress warmly. Pets are not permitted. Refreshments will be served after the tour's end. Cost is \$5 for snowshoe rental and \$5 event participation fee. Reservations are required no later than January 8th. Call Lucille Tuttle at 435-654-5150 to register. Additional snowshoe hikes are scheduled for February 6th and March 13th at the Visitors Center.

Brighton Resort Quad Wednesdays

Brighton, UT (December 15, 2008) - Brighton Resort announces their 6th annual Quad Wednesdays. For this Wednesday, December 17, skiers and snowboarders can purchase an area day pass for just \$15.00 when they bring one full grocery bag of non-perishable food for donation to the Utah Food Bank.

Help Brighton make a difference in the lives of those in need this holiday season.

See Hundreds of Wild Elk

Hyrum -- You can take a sleigh ride that will get you up close and personal to as many as 600 wild elk.

The rides are available four days a week at the Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

On Dec. 15, about 100 elk were at the ranch. Now that winter weather has arrived, more elk should be visiting the ranch soon.



Hardware Ranch is 17 miles east of Hyrum. Its winter elk viewing season begins Dec. 19. The WMA offers the following during its winter season:

Sleigh rides

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Utah's state mammal by taking a sleigh ride through a herd of up to 600 Rocky Mountain elk.

The sleigh rides last 20 to 30 minutes. They wind through the center of the elk herd and make occasional stops so you can get a perfect photograph.



During the rides, the sleigh drivers share the history of the ranch and explain why the elk behave like they do. They're also happy to answer questions you might have.

The sleighs are pulled by a team of large breed draft horses. If snow conditions get poor, the sleighs can be converted into wagons.

Visitor center

In addition to the sleigh rides, the Hardware Ranch WMA also operates a visitor center. The center has interactive wildlife displays and staff who can answer your questions.

When it's open

The WMA's winter season should run until March 16. The ranch is open during the following days and times:

Friday - noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday - noon to 5 p.m.

If you want to take a ride through the elk herd, you must buy a ticket at the visitor center before 4:30 p.m. The last sleigh ride leaves at 4:30 p.m.

The sleigh rides cost \$5 for those nine years of age and older, and \$3 for those four to eight years old. Children three years of age and younger can ride for free.

How to get there

The Hardware Ranch WMA is located at mile marker 22 on SR-101 in Blacksmith Fork Canyon. The ranch is about 115 miles north of Salt Lake City (about a two-hour drive). It's about 17 miles east of Hyrum and 22 miles southeast of Logan.

Good lodging, food and entertainment are readily available in Cache



Valley, within 45 minutes of the ranch. The roads up Blacksmith Fork Canyon are usually plowed and sanded by noon each day.

For more information about the Hardware Ranch WMA, call (435) 753-6206 or visit hardwareranch.com on the Web.

Hardware Ranch is a wildlife management area owned and operated by the Division of Wildlife Resources. It provides

important big game winter range for elk, deer and moose.

BLM Announces New Guidance Enhancing the Protection and Recovery of Rare Species on 258 Million Acres of Federal Lands

Washington, D.C. - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced new guidance for its management of federally threatened, endangered, or otherwise rare species and the ecosystems upon which they depend on BLM-administered lands.

After a two-year process, the BLM has completed a revision to its 6840 Manual for Management of Special Status Species, providing further policy and guidance for the conservation of BLM special status species and their habitats. Last updated in 2001, the Manual supports the BLM's broad conservation authorities and duties pertaining to fish, wildlife and plant conservation pursuant to multiple statutes including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Sikes Act, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Special status species include those species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA, as well as those designated by the BLM as "Bureau sensitive." Bureau sensitive species are designated by BLM State Directors in accordance with newly refined criteria provided in the Manual. By standardizing the criteria for designating a species as Bureau sensitive, the revised policies will assist the agency in focusing its efforts on those rare

species where BLM actions can most effectively contribute to successful conservation. In addition to those species designated by the BLM as Bureau sensitive, the BLM will treat as Bureau sensitive all federally designated candidate species, as well as delisted species in the five years following their delisting.

The BLM's special status species policies set forth the procedures by which these species will be managed to ensure their recovery or promote their conservation so that protections afforded under the ESA or BLM policy are no longer warranted. The BLM is actively engaged in the conservation of many of the more than 300 listed species found on lands administered by the agency. In 2007, BLM reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expenditures of \$33.4 million pertaining to the conservation of listed species on its lands.

The Manual is intended for use by BLM managers, field staff, and other personnel to guide agency compliance with ESA and to ensure provisions for conservation of special status species are fully integrated into BLM land use decisions.

The Manual may be accessed through the BLM's website, www.blm.gov.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

BLM Defers Utah Lands from Drilling Following TRCP Protest

100,000-plus acres withdrawn from energy lease sale in the wake of strenuous objections by sportsmen

WASHINGTON – A decision late Friday by the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw more than 100,000 acres of controversial energy leases from its Dec. 19 sale in Utah removes valuable fish and wildlife habitat from drilling for oil and gas and closely follows a protest filed by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. While commending the BLM decision, the TRCP remains critical of agency plans to lease other important federal public lands in Utah for energy development.



More than 163,000 acres of public lands still are available for lease in the Utah sale, which has elicited disapproval from a range of diverse interests. Friday's eleventh-hour deferrals came after

more than 84,000 acres were withdrawn due to objections by the National Park Service and other stakeholders. Filed on Dec. 4, the TRCP protest comprised approximately 188,000 acres of big-game habitat, crucial mule deer winter range, vital sage grouse habitat and native trout streams. Inadequate upfront planning by the federal government could enable energy development that damages this habitat and harms fish and wildlife populations.

The public lands protested by the TRCP and subsequently deferred by the BLM include thousands of acres located in and around the Deep Creek Mountains near the Nevada border; the agency cited the need to finalize environmental plans for the region as the reason for their withdrawal. The TRCP successfully petitioned the BLM to defer many of these same areas from energy development in August 2007 because environmental planning had not been completed then, either.



“The Deeps provide invaluable big-game habitat, plus elk and mule deer hunting that sportsmen can’t afford to lose,” said Joel Webster, a TRCP field representative. “The TRCP protested the sale of these parcels in 2007 because the BLM based its

decision to lease them on a land-use plan that’s 20 years out of date. We’re pleased that the agency once again has deferred leasing in this area, providing the opportunity to develop a comprehensive strategy for their management. The TRCP supports public-lands energy development where upfront planning helps ensure that fish and wildlife habitat is conserved.”

The sportsmen’s protest also resulted in energy development being deferred on Birch Creek, likewise located in the Deep Creek Mountains. Bonneville cutthroat trout were “rediscovered” in Birch Creek in 1974, long after the species was thought to be extirpated in Utah. A number of other parcels situated on key big-game range in the Book Cliffs, in eastern Utah near Price and Vernal, remain available for lease.

“While the TRCP appreciates the BLM’s acknowledgement of its oversight, we remain concerned about other areas – specifically, parcels on the East and West Tavaputs – that the agency is moving forward to lease,” continued Webster. “The Book Cliffs provide some of the finest mule deer and elk hunting in the world, and energy development must be pursued carefully there if sportsmen hope to continue enjoying these traditions.”

“Sportsmen support the responsible development of America’s public-lands energy resources,” said TRCP Senior Vice President Tom Franklin. “We do not support thoughtless development that fails to secure the future of important fish and wildlife populations and our hunting and angling heritage.

“If the high quality of our shared natural resources is to be maintained,” concluded Franklin, “we must commit to a wholesale revision of the BLM approach to their management. Energy development must proceed only in consideration of fish and wildlife resources values, and unnecessary conflicts with these values must be avoided. Development of domestic energy reserves is important to our nation, but poorly planned and potentially damaging leases such as these in Utah do little to achieve this goal.”



The TRCP believes that to better balance the concerns of fish and wildlife in the face of accelerating energy development, federal land management agencies must follow the conservation tenets outlined in the [FACTS for Fish and Wildlife](http://www.trcp.org/issues/energy/246.html) <http://www.trcp.org/issues/energy/246.html> .

Valentine Couples Snowmobile Event at Strawberry Bay Lodge February 6-7, 2009

Hosted by Annie Oaks Outdoor Adventures and Strawberry Bay Lodge (located at Strawberry Reservoir)

Price includes; Friday night lodging, Friday dinner and the “not-so-newlywed game” social, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and a full day of unguided snowmobiling on Saturday (snowmobile(s) rental based on selection below).

\$500 per couple includes 2 single snowmobiles, or

\$350 per couple includes 1 double-seated snowmobile, or

\$200 per couple if you are bringing your own snowmobile(s)

***Meals provided by the Strawberry Bay Café.**

***Lodging provided by Strawberry Bay Lodge.** *There are 7 individual rooms & 13 suites with a queen bed upstairs (loft-like) and queen bed downstairs. These rooms will be assigned on a first to register-first serve basis.*

***Snowmobile rentals have been reserved as “unguided”.** *The trails are well marked and we usually ride in groups.*

***Snowmobile gas and food gratuities are not included.** *You will be responsible for these at the time of service.*



A non-refundable deposit of at least \$100 is required by January 15, 2009, due to the entire facility being reserved for our group. Please write the check payable to Strawberry Bay Lodge, but send it me. I will send the checks to SBL on January 16th to confirm attendees. The unpaid balance may be paid upon arrival to SBL.

Send fee and registration below to:

Annie Oaks c/o Tracy Jarvis

325 E 400 S

Santaquin, Utah 84655

Powder Mountain Hosts the Second Annual Grom Fest on January 10

Powder Mountain will host the 2nd Annual Grom Fest for youth aged 12 and younger on January 10, 2009. Young up and coming skiers and boarders, nicknamed Groms, can really show off their skills on courses specially set up for their age group.



Events include mini-downhill races and a mini-slopestyle competition. A separate age class will be set up for competitors 6 years old and younger. Registration is free with a valid lift pass.

Lift passes for children 6 and younger are free anytime with a paying adult. A daytime lift pass for the Sundown Lift is \$20 for those 7 – 12 years of age. Registration will begin at the Sundown Lodge at 10:00 AM.

“This is more of an opportunity for the whole family to come and have a good time on the snow. Of course, all of the attention will be centered on the kids” said Dave Jessup, Terrain Parks Manager and Events Coordinator.

Grom Fest is just one of the programs offered at Powder Mountain to encourage youth to try out winter sports. Powder Mountain offers affordable lessons for youth starting as young as 3 ½ years old.

Scrapbook weekend and the famous Hardware Ranch near Logan, Utah

January 9th – 11th, 2009 - Hosted by Women in the Outdoors and Annie Oaks Outdoor Adventures

We will set up our “stuff” and sleep in the Hardware Ranch Visitors Center. There is electricity, heat, and bathrooms. A shower is available, in another location though.

Arrive anytime after 3 p.m. on Friday

While there, the Hardware Ranch Team will take us out on a private wagon ride through the elk pastures to feed the elk each morning. The rest of the weekend we'll spend scrappin', creating, and visiting with friends, old and new. Depart by 11 a.m. Sunday

Each participant will receive food assignments via email once participant list is confirmed.

Bring: your scrappin' supplies, your sleeping bag/bed roll (we are sleeping on the floor), personal items, and your food assignment (to be announced a week prior to weekend).

Registration and fees due by January 2, 2009. Please confirm via email if you plan on attending so I can get an idea of how many would like to attend.

Send fee of \$10 (if you are WITO member) or \$40 (if you are not a current WITO member) to:

Tracy Jarvis (if paying \$10)

WITO (if paying \$40)

325 E 400 S

Santaquin, Utah 84655

Registration Form/Hardware Ranch Scrap Weekend

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Any preferred food assignment:

JORDAN RIVER OHV CENTER CLOSED FOR SEASON

Salt Lake City – The Jordan River Off-Highway Vehicle Center is closed for the season. The center may open periodically throughout winter as the weather permits. For updated OHV Center information, please call (801) 533-5425.

UTAH AGGRESSIVE ON BOATING SAFETY, PREPARING TO DO MORE

Salt Lake City – According to a recent report by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), modest gains have been made over the past year on several of its most important safety improvements, including recreational boating safety.

Utah State Parks and Recreation, which administers the State Boating Act, reports Utah has and continues to be a leader in promoting boating safety. It was one of the first states to tie a boating

under the influence (BUI) conviction to a person's driver's license and make it illegal for boat operators to be in possession of open containers.

Nearly 15 years ago, Utah also implemented one of the first mandatory boater education laws for youth operating personal watercraft (PWC), which dramatically reduced the number of boating accidents for youth ages 12 through 17.

"Utah has strong boating laws protecting the public," stated Utah State Parks Boating Coordinator Dave Harris. "However, what we lack is a law requiring all boaters to learn state boating safety laws and rules. With the support of the marine industry, the boating public, and our legislators, we hope to implement future laws improving safety on Utah's waterways."

Many studies have shown that boater education reduces accidents. National organizations, including the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the NTSB, recommend each boat operator take a basic boating education course.

The USCG is currently seeking rulemaking authority to require all boat operators on *federal waters* to take a boater education course. Boaters in states that already require boater education would not need to take the federal course. If implemented, Utah boaters using Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge and Bear Lake would be required by federal law to take a boater education course. Utah State Parks boating managers want a Utah-specific boater education course required before the USCG implements a law affecting all boaters on three of Utah's most popular boating waters.

For more information on Utah's boating laws, please visit www.stateparks.utah.gov or call (801) 538-BOAT. Wear it Utah!

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

January 1 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Christmas Bird Count: Join members of the Wasatch Audubon Society in their annual bird count and survey of bird species on Antelope Island. Group meets at the park entrance station at 8 a.m. Bring binoculars, scopes and weather appropriate clothing. (801) 721-9569

January – March Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway

Guided Snowshoe Hikes: Join the park naturalist Wednesday through Saturday for guided snowshoe hikes in the park. Beginners are welcome and will receive basic snowshoeing instructions, as well as a little taste of winter ecology. Contact the visitor center to arrange date and time. (435) 654-1791

January 3 Territorial Statehouse State Park - Fillmore



Statehood Day Dance: Join park staff for the second annual statehood celebration at 7:30 p.m. with pioneer dance with instruction for the entire family. At 8:30 p.m. a formal dance for those 14 and older begins with a Grand March. This is a formal event and best dress attire is recommended. (435) 743-5316

January 3 Jordanelle State Park - Heber

Beavers - Changing the Landscape: Join the park naturalist from 10 a.m. to noon to learn about nature's engineers and how they are changing the landscape. Bring snowshoes or borrow a pair from the park. Pre-registration is required. Day-use fee is \$7 per vehicle with up to eight people or free to Utah State Parks Pass holders. (435) 782-3030 or (435) 649-9540

Not Just for Kissing: Mistletoe and Birds, Bees, and Other Beasts

Perhaps some of you have already experienced a sweet holiday smooch or two under the Christmas mistletoe, enjoying this fairly old kissing ritual for people. But mistletoe is important in other vital ways: it provides essential food, cover, and nesting sites for an amazing number of critters in the United States and elsewhere. In fact, says Rob Bennetts, a USGS research scientist, some animals couldn't even survive without mistletoe, including some birds, butterflies, and insects. But first, a little bit about the plant. The white-berried Christmas mistletoe we hang so hopefully in places where our sweethearts will find us lingering, is just one of more than 1,300 species of mistletoe worldwide. Globally, more than 20 mistletoe species are endangered. Two kinds of mistletoes are native to the United States: the American mistletoe (the one commonly associated with our kissing customs) and the dwarf mistletoe. American mistletoe is found from New Jersey to Florida and west through Texas. The dwarf mistletoe, much smaller than its *kissing* cousin, is found from central Canada and southeastern Alaska to Honduras and Hispaniola, but most species are found in western United States and Mexico. Mistletoe is no newcomer to this country: excavations of packrat middens reveal that dwarf mistletoes have been part of our forests for more than 20,000 years. Some fossil pollen grains even indicate that the plant has been here for millions of years. Says Bennetts: "Mistletoes

should be viewed as a natural component of healthy forest ecosystems, of which they have been a part for thousands, if not millions of years."



Thief of the Tree

The thing that all mistletoes have in common is this: all grow as parasites on the branches of trees and shrubs. In fact, the American mistletoe's scientific name, *Phoradendron*, means "thief of the tree" in Greek. The plant is aptly named: it begins its life as a handily sticky seed that often hitchhikes to a new host tree on a bird beak or feather or on mammal fur. In addition to hitchhiking, the dwarf mistletoe also has another dandy way of traveling to a new host tree: the seeds of this mistletoe will, like tiny holiday poppers, explode from ripe berries, shooting a distance as far as 50 feet. One researcher said that if you

put ripe berries in a paper bag and shake it, it sounds just like popping popcorn. For the most part, the mistletoe is pretty darn cavalier about what host tree it finds — dwarf mistletoes like most kinds of conifers; American mistletoes are found on an incredible variety of trees. Once on a host tree, the mistletoe sends out roots that penetrate the tree and eventually starts pirating some of the host tree's nutrients and minerals. In actuality, though, mistletoes are not true parasites; instead they are what scientists call "hemi-parasites" because most of them have the green leaves necessary for photosynthesis. Still, it seems like a pretty lazy life for most mistletoes: a little photosynthesis here and there and a lot of food and water stolen from their unsuspecting benefactor trees. Eventually, mistletoes grow into thick masses of branching, misshapen stems, giving rise to a popular name of witches' brooms, or the apt Navajo name of "basket on high."

Birds and the Mistletoe Trees

The plant's common name — mistletoe — is derived from early observations that mistletoe would often appear in places where birds had left their droppings. "Mistel" in the Anglo-Saxon word for "dung," and "tan" is the word for "Twig." Thus, mistletoe means "dung-on-a-twig." Yet even though bird droppings cannot spontaneously generate mistletoe plants, birds are an important part of mistletoe life history — and vice versa. A surprising variety of birds use or rely on mistletoe. In Bennetts' and other studies, a high abundance of dwarf mistletoe in a forest means that more kinds and numbers of birds inhabit that forest. Also, since the lifespan of mistletoe-laden trees is considerably shorter than trees where the plant is absent, a higher number of tree snags occupy mistletoe-laden woods. Not surprisingly, this means that more — one study documented at least three times as many -- cavity-nesting birds live in forests with abundant mistletoes. The phainopeplas, a silky flycatcher, are beautiful birds that live in the desert areas of the Southwest and West and are especially dependent on mistletoe. Diane Larson, a USGS researcher, studied mistletoes and birds in Arizona. "I found that phainopeplas, which rely on mistletoe almost exclusively for food during the winter, were also the species most likely to disperse the mistletoe seeds to sites suitable for germination and establishment. Both the bird and the plant benefited from this relationship," says Larson. This year, USGS is beginning a study on phainopeplas and mistletoes that live on acacia and mesquite trees in the desert. Todd Esque, a USGS researcher, said that his goal is to understand the distribution of the host trees in relation to mistletoe patterns and bird behavior. "We know the relationship is mutually beneficial for both species," said Esque. Some research indicates that if mistletoe-berry production is poor, these birds may not breed the following spring. But the phainopepla is just one of many birds that eat mistletoe berries; others include grouse, mourning doves, bluebirds, evening grosbeaks, robins, and pigeons. Naturalist and writer John Muir noted American robins eating mistletoe in the mountains of California in the late 1890's. Wrote Muir: "I found most of the robins cowering on the lee side of the larger branches of the trees, where the snow could not fall on them, while two or three of the more venturesome were making desperate efforts to get at the mistletoe berries by clinging to the underside of the snow-covered masses, back downward, something like woodpeckers." Birds also find mistletoe a great place for nesting, especially the dense witches' brooms. In fact, northern and Mexican spotted owls and other raptors show a marked preference for witches' brooms as nesting sites. In one study, 43 percent of spotted owl nests

were associated with witches' brooms. Similarly, a USGS researcher found that 64 percent of all Cooper's hawk nests in northeastern Oregon were in mistletoe. Other raptors that use witches' brooms as nesting sites include great gray owls, long-eared owls, goshawks, and sharp-shinned hawks. Likewise, some migratory birds also nest in witches' broom — gray jay, northern beardless-tyrannulet, red crossbills, house wrens, mourning doves, pygmy nuthatches, chickadees, Western tanagers, chipping sparrows, hermit thrushes, Cassin's finches, and pine siskins. "A well-disguised nest provides protection against predators such as the great horned owls," Bennetts said.



Bees, Butterflies, and Others

According to butterfly expert and Colorado State University professor Paul Opler, three kinds of butterflies in the United States are entirely dependent on mistletoes for their survival: the great purple hairstreak, the thicket haristreak, and the Johnson's hairstreak. The great purple hairstreak, says Opler, is the only butterfly in the United States that feeds on American mistletoe, the Christmas mistletoe. This beautiful butterfly lays its eggs on the mistletoe, where the resulting caterpillars thrive on a mistletoe diet. The caterpillars of the other two butterflies feed on dwarf mistletoes. The Johnson's hairstreak, restricted to just the Pacific states, is usually found in association with old-growth conifer forests, the same places spotted owls prefer. The caterpillars of these butterflies closely mimic the appearance of the mistletoe with their mottled green and olive shades. Like people, the butterflies of these species use mistletoe for courtship rituals. After courting and mating in the mistletoe high in the canopy, the adults leave their eggs behind in the mistletoe. The adults of all three species drink nectar from the mistletoe flowers. Mistletoe is also important nectar and pollen plant for honeybees and other native bees, says Erik Erikson, a bee researcher at the USDA Bee Research Lab. Mistletoe flowers, says Erikson, often provides the first pollen available in the spring for the hungry bees. "We look upon it as an important starter food source for the bees," said Erikson. Wind and insects are important mistletoe pollinators. Although hundreds of kinds of insects carry mistletoe pollen, only a few dozen are important pollinators; these include a variety of flies, ants, and beetles. Yet other insects eat the shoots, fruits, and seeds of the mistletoe, including some that feed exclusively on the plant. Exclusive mistletoe-eaters include a twig beetle, several thrip species, and a plant bug whose coloration mimics dwarf mistletoe fruits. In addition, at least four mite species seem to be exclusively associated with dwarf mistletoe.

And Then There's the Mammals

Don't try it at home, kids and grown-ups — mistletoe is toxic to people, but the berries and leaves of mistletoe provide high-protein fodder for many mammals, especially in autumn and winter when other foods are scarce. Researchers have documented that animals such as elk, cattle and deer eat mistletoe during winter when fresh foliage is rare. In Texas, some ranchers even consider mistletoe on mesquite as an insurance forage crop, which the ranchers remove from the trees for cattle food when other forage is scarce. Other mammals that eat mistletoe include squirrels, chipmunks, and even porcupines, some of which are deliriously fond of the

plant. A variety of squirrels, including red squirrels, Abert squirrels and flying squirrels often use witches brooms for cover and nesting sites.

A Blessing or a Bane?

Not everyone likes mistletoe. Many commercial foresters consider the dwarf mistletoe as a disease that reduces the growth rates of commercially important conifer species, such as the ponderosa pine. Ecologists, though, point out that mistletoes are not a disease; instead, they are a native group of plants that have been around thousands, or even millions, of years. Blessing or bane, it is certain that mistletoe is not spreading like wildfire -- in fact, mistletoe spreads only about 2 feet per year. One study indicated that a 1.5-acre patch of mistletoe took about 60 to 70 years to form. Likewise, the death of an individual tree from dwarf mistletoe may take several decades, and widespread infestation of a forest stand may take centuries. Bennetts believes that the conflict with forest management and the perspective of mistletoes being a forest disease really only comes into play when the management objectives are to maximize timber harvest. Otherwise, he says, mistletoes have many positive attributes, including tremendous benefits for native wildlife. Thus, he says, when not in conflict with commercial timber management objectives, mistletoes should be viewed as a natural component of healthy forest ecosystems. Says Bennetts: "I had the privilege of working with a biologist who had spent more than 50 years working on mistletoes. He began his work with the intent of finding a way to control this 'forest pest,' but in his later years, he even introduced dwarf mistletoe to some of the trees in his yard because he had grown to love this plant for what it is . . . a fascinating and natural part of forest ecosystem."

Bear River Refuge Art Exhibit

I wanted to share with everyone the wonderful art exhibit being displayed at Bear River Refuge. Students from Venture Academy, Ogden, studied birds as an interdisciplinary expedition through the fall semester and celebrated with a Fowl Ball displaying their talents and artwork at the Refuge. Bird Calls, Short Bird Movies, Artwork, and everything avian punctuated the event. The student's art is being displayed through December 19, 2008.



Deck the Halls with Boughs of...Minerals?

Are cobalt oxide, sulfur, and cadmium sulfide used to make the traditional holiday hues in your seasonal decorations? Of course they are! According to U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists who collect worldwide data on almost all mineral resources, holiday lights are made with these and other minerals from around the world. The world's supply of minerals — such as salt, manganese and lime — lights up the holiday season, helping many nations and cultures to celebrate their long-time traditions.

“Every light bulb is made from materials extracted from the Earth,” said USGS Mineral Resources Program Coordinator Kathleen Johnson. “Minerals are an important part of our everyday lives — even if we don't think about them.”

The Earth's industrial minerals and metals make up the intricate parts of each bulb and modify the colors they project. Aluminum, copper, feldspar, lime, manganese, nickel, nitrogen, quartz, salt, soda ash and tungsten are some of the mineral materials used in the construction of a light bulb. Materials used to color or coat the glass can include cadmium sulfide or the combination of cerium oxide and titanium dioxide for yellow; cuprous oxide or gold chloride for ruby red; cobalt oxide for blue-violet; manganese dioxide for amethyst-purple; neodymium oxide or nickel oxide for violet; sulfur for yellow-amber; uranium for fluorescent green; or chromic oxide for yellow-green or emerald-green.



The minerals in holiday lights come from countries around the world, including those in North and South America, Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe. Today the United States is the world's leading user of mineral commodities. Every year about 25,000 pounds of new, non-fuel mineral materials are extracted from the Earth for every person in the United

States. In 2005, the mineral materials processed domestically accounted for more than \$478 billion in the U.S. economy.

USGS scientists provide information on where mineral commodities are known and suspected to be in the Earth. They also describe current production and consumption of about 100 mineral commodities for approximately 180 countries. The USGS is the sole Federal agency providing objective information, resource assessments, and unbiased research results on mineral resources, production, consumption and environmental effects. For more information about this and other mineral related topics, visit the USGS Mineral Resources Program Web site at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/>.

Fishing Report

BIG SANDWASH RESERVOIR: There haven't been any recent reports. The ice condition is unknown, but several other waters at a similar elevation are beginning to freeze.

BULLOCK / COTTONWOOD RESERVOIRS: There haven't been any recent reports. Remember the special regulation on tiger muskie: you may keep one fish that's 40 inches or over; anything smaller than 40 inches must be released. The reservoirs are located approximately



five miles north of the town of Gusher.

BROUGH RESERVOIR: There haven't been any recent reports. The reservoir is being filled and may be murky. To get to Brough, take State Route 88 south from US Route 40 (Ouray Road). Turn west at the second dirt road past the high power lines; it should be signed. Follow this

road approximately two miles and pay attention to the signs. The road can be quite rutted.

BROWNE LAKE: A couple of anglers reported braving an inch or two of ice on "Brownie" to catch brook trout. Check ice thickness carefully. **Warning:** whirling disease was found in this area. Please make sure you clean, dry and sterilize waders, livewells and other fishing gear before venturing to another water. Do not move fish or fish parts from one water or area to another. **Cleaning fish:** Biologists now believe the disposal of fish parts, especially the head and skeleton, is one of the primary reasons whirling disease has spread to new waters. To avoid moving whirling disease and other undesired organisms, you should clean fish at home and send the parts to a landfill. If that isn't possible, please clean the fish and bury the parts at least 100 yards away from the water where the fish were caught.

CALDER / CROUSE RESERVOIRS: Ice is forming in the shallows and along the edges. The area received several inches of snow on Dec. 4 and again on Dec. 8. Most of the snow melted, so expect muddy roads. There haven't been any recent reports from anglers. Calder special regulations: flies and lures only, no baits; all fish smaller than 22 inches must be released immediately. The bag limit is one fish over 22 inches. Under the new regulation, Calder is managed with fewer fish, so they will grow faster and larger. Crouse is stocked with catchable rainbows to provide a faster-fishing, family-friendly experience.

CURRENT CREEK RESERVOIR: There haven't been any recent reports. Reservoirs at a similar elevation are beginning to freeze. The area received several inches of snow on Dec. 4 and again on Dec. 8. At best, access will be on muddy roads, and there will be some areas with snow.

At this time of year, rain and snow can quickly change road conditions and make many area roads impassable.

EAST PARK / OAKS PARK: East Park and Oaks Park reservoirs are beginning to freeze. The area also received snow on Dec. 4 and again on Dec. 8. There haven't been any reports on ice thickness yet, but ice around the edges has made it impossible to fish open water. Access will be muddy or snow-covered.

FLAMING GORGE: Currently, all boat ramps in Utah and Wyoming remain open for boat launching. The backs of bays in the Firehole area have begun to freeze, but water temperatures are still fairly warm in the main areas of the reservoir. Water temperatures range from around 35°F in the upper end of the reservoir to roughly 45°F in the lower end.

Lake trout: Fishing continues to be fair to good, due to cooler water temperatures and the end of spawning activities. Note: Linwood Bay is closed from official sunset to sunrise between Oct. 15 through Dec. 15.

Anglers continue to report good fishing for 12- to 24-inch lake trout in the Canyon, Antelope and Lucerne areas. Try points next to deep water in Sheep Creek, Red Canyon, the Skull Creeks and Jarvies Canyon. You might also try the Antelope Flat /Lucerne area. Because of the cooler weather, fish are moving throughout the water column. Try fishing different depths or use a fish finder.



If jigging, try tube jigs in white, chartreuse, glow or brown. Tipping your jig with a small chunk of sucker or chub meat may increase success. Airplane jigs and jigging spoons are also working well. No-stretch line will help you feel strikes and set the hook better. When trolling, check your graphs, and use downriggers to get lures like needlefish, other spoons and Rapalas down near the bottom. Long-lining near the surface—with small and large fish-imitating lures—may produce large fish that have spawned and are trying to fatten up before cold temperatures arrive. Let out a

couple hundred feet of line behind the boat or use planer boards to get lures out to the side of the boat.

Unlike their larger relatives, the smaller lake trout are excellent table fare when grilled. There's an overabundance of lake trout smaller than 28 inches in the Gorge, so do your part to help the fishery and keep a limit of eight fish. Larger lake trout fishing has been fair to good this fall at traditional structure spots (from Big Bend south to Sheep Creek Bay). Big lake trout eat big food, so try larger lures and jigs. Remember, you may keep only one fish over 28 inches.

Kokanee salmon: Kokanee may be harvested again. Fishing for kokanee is typically slow this time of year. Try the areas around Buckboard, Big Bend, Pipeline, Sheep Creek and Jarvies Canyon. Fish can be found throughout the water column, so try different depths or anywhere you see fish on the graph. Downriggers, long-lining, lead weights and planer boards can get the small spoons (like needlefish, triple teasers or other erratic-moving lures) down to the right depths. Troll at speeds from 1.5 to 2.5 miles per hour.

Rainbow trout: Fishing has remained good. There are reports of success on most areas of the reservoir. Some anglers reported catching large fish (in the four-pound range) on the Wyoming side. Try casting lures—or baits like worm/marshmallow combinations or PowerBait—from shore. You might also find success by trolling spoons, popgear, Rapalas and spinners. Fish can be in deep or shallow water, so try different depths. Don't be afraid of harvesting some



rainbows—they are really tasty from the cold waters of the Gorge!

Burbot (Ling): Anglers report catching burbot by jigging in 20–30 feet of water over rocky and shale bottom. Try fishing at night or early in the morning, and fish waters from 20–40

feet. In Utah, try fishing off the points in areas like Antelope Flat, Linwood Bay (note the nighttime closure) or Sheep Creek. In Wyoming, try fishing at Firehole, Lost Dog, Sage Creek, Confluence, Buckboard, Holmes Crossing, Anvil Draw, Skunk Cliffs and Marsh Creek. Use glow-tube or curly-tail jigs that are two to three inches in size and about 1/8 to 1/4 ounce in

weight. Glow-jigging spoons and jigging Rapalas also work well. Tipping with sucker or crayfish meat and using smelly jelly or similar scents in crayfish also seems to help. Make sure to recharge the glow on lures often. During the day, these fish will move deep (70–100 feet), so jigging in deep water may produce some fish during the day. Once ice sets up, fish these same locations with similar lures. Beginning Jan. 1, anglers will be able to use up to six lines to fish through the ice on the Utah side of the reservoir. Anglers will not need a two-pole permit to fish with more than one line. Please see the [2009 fishing guidebook](#) for details about this regulation change.

Netting in the reservoir has shown a large increase in the number of burbot present. Larger fish are more than 30 inches long and weigh between four and five pounds. If caught in Utah, these fish must be harvested. They were illegally introduced to the upper Green River drainage and could have a major impact on other fish species. There is no limit on burbot. You cannot waste the burbot in the Wyoming end of the reservoir, and they can be released there. However, please don't release any of these fish. They have been eating large amounts of crayfish and are also consuming kokanee salmon, smallmouth bass and critical food sources for other fish species.



They could have an extreme impact on the reservoir fishery and should be removed by anglers whenever possible.

Burbot are delicious. They have

white, flaky flesh that is similar to a perch. They can be breaded and fried, or boiled and dipped in melted butter.

Smallmouth bass: Smallmouth fishing is typically slow during the winter months. Try fishing the rocky areas (where the crayfish are) and adjust your depth until you find the fish, likely more than 20 feet down. Crayfish-colored grubs on lead-head jigs or small plastic worms, sinkos, twitch and crankbaits may work if you can get the lure right in front of the fish. If you're fishing

in the canyon, keep a limit of 10 fish smaller than 10 inches to help thin out the population and increase growth on remaining fish.

GREEN RIVER (UPPER): Double-peaking flows requested by Western Power Administration will continue at least until the end of December (and probably through February), depending on water availability. Visit the [Bureau of Reclamation Web site](#) for the latest information on flows.

The peak of the afternoon fluctuation will reach approximately 1900 cfs, with a base flow of about 800 cfs. The

brown trout are spawning, so please try to avoid spawning redds. Try fishing scuds, eggs patterns and attractor nymphs during periods when no hatches are occurring. Watch for baetis hatches to occur during the warmer parts of the day. Streamer fishing should be picking up soon.



Spin fishermen should try Rapalas (floating, countdown and husky

jerk); spinners; spoons; black, brown or olive marabou jigs; and plastic jigs. Please check to see that your tube jigs do not contain fish-attracting scents—they are illegal to use in the river.

New Zealand mudsnails have been documented in most areas of the river. Please thoroughly clean mud and vegetation from waders, boats and fishing gear. If possible, completely dry equipment before leaving the area. A hot water bath (120°F) will kill mudsnails, and spraying equipment with 409 or a similar soap solution before drying will increase effectiveness.

GREEN RIVER (LOWER): The water level remains low with a few peaks due to rain or snow. There haven't been any recent reports from anglers. Try the Jensen and Ouray areas for catfish. There was an unconfirmed report of a 10-pound channel cat taken earlier this fall.

MATT WARNER RESERVOIR: Ice is forming around the dam and extending out to the boat ramp. Several ice sheets are floating freely in the open water, and ice is forming in the shallow bays and along some of the more protected edges. One angler reported fair to good fishing. Access is becoming difficult because the area received snow last week. More snow is expected this weekend.

MOON LAKE: There haven't been any recent reports. The area recently received snow, and other waters at similar elevations are beginning to freeze.

MOOSE POND: Moose Pond is now being refilled, and the surface is frozen. It was drained to make some needed enhancements. The goal is to create a walking/fishing structure along the north end. The structure will provide safe access and places to fish, so visitors don't have to use the highway as a path. Part of this new walkway will be accessible to disabled visitors. As part of the enhancement, the inlet and outlet structures will be rebuilt. And to create better fish habitat, the pond will be dredged so that it's deeper in some areas.



The work crew will stabilize a crack in the bottom and create a nature/access trail to the south. If everything goes as planned, the new access structure should be ready, the pond filled and the fish stocked again by early next summer.

PELICAN LAKE: The number of anglers has dwindled, so most of the lake's recreational activities are now related to waterfowl. Ice is beginning to form in the shallows, but high winds are keeping most of the lake ice-free. That won't last long, though, because one cold, still night could change everything. Pelican is one of several lakes in northeastern Utah that might be infected with quagga and/or zebra mussels. To contain the possible infection, anglers, boaters and other users are being asked to clean and dry their boats and equipment after leaving the water. Pay special attention to areas that can trap and hold water, including live wells, bilges and engine cooling systems.

RED FLEET RESERVOIR: Anglers report good to excellent fishing for trout, which have moved up in the water column and now spend more time near the surface. Try fishing off rocky points, moss beds and other structures. Red Fleet is one of several lakes in northeastern Utah that might be infected with quagga and/or zebra mussels. To contain the possible infection, anglers,

boaters and other users are being asked to clean and dry their boats and equipment after leaving the water. Pay special attention to areas that can trap and hold water, including live wells, bilges and engine cooling systems.

STARVATION RESERVOIR: There haven't been any recent reports. Old reports noted spotty fishing. No ice was visible or forming, probably due to high winds.

STEINAKER RESERVOIR: Anglers continue to report fair to good fishing for rainbows. Bass and bluegill catch rates have slowed. There isn't any ice yet, and the boat ramp remains open. Several lakes in northeastern Utah may be infected with quagga and/or zebra mussels. To contain the possible infection, anglers, boaters and other users are being asked to clean and dry their boats and equipment after leaving the water. Pay special attention to areas that can trap and

hold water, including live wells, bilges and engine cooling systems.

UINTA MOUNTAIN LAKES AND STREAMS:

Fishing has been good for browns, rainbows and mountain whitefish on the lower-elevation streams. Lower-elevation and larger streams are open, but higher-elevation lakes and streams have ice. Check ice conditions carefully, as ice is recently formed and may not be thick enough yet. Most of the mountain trails are nearly inaccessible. The Uintas had snow on Dec. 4 and Dec. 8 and will receive more this upcoming weekend. Always go prepared for serious weather, as the Uinta Mountains are well known for frequent, unexpected storms and high winds. The Uinta Mountains have a four-trout limit with a

bonus of four more brook trout—see the [2008 Fishing](#)



[Guidebook for details.](#)

BLACKSMITH FORK RIVER: Jodie Anderson reports anglers are having some success catching brown trout using a blue-wing olive pattern.

HYRUM STATE PARK: Park Ranger Floyd Powell interviewed a couple of anglers who were fishing from boats, and both caught their limits. One angler reported fishing with a worm-and-marshmallow combination on the south side of the lake (in 15 to 17 feet of water) and finding trout on the bottom. Another gentleman and his son said they were trolling in 30 feet of water and finding trout at about 15 feet down. They both caught a couple of fish.

LOCOMOTIVE SPRINGS: Scott Davis and Mitch Lane report that the Division recently stocked this water. Water levels are low. The moss is thick, but anglers are still having great success catching 7- to 10-inch rainbows using a fly, bobber and traditional baits. They recommend that you set your line if it starts to move away from you.

PINEVIEW RESERVOIR: Biologist Kent Sorenson reports that the water continues to cool, and angling pressure is still very low. The ramp may become slippery with recent precipitation.

ROCKPORT STATE PARK: Joseph Donnell reports that fishing conditions are still good. Rockport has not started to ice over yet.



TONY GROVE: Biologist Clint Brunson observed two anglers catching rainbow trout through the ice on Dec. 3. He indicated that the road was drivable right to the lake AT THAT TIME. Future snow storms will restrict travel to Tony Grove.

WEBER RIVER: Biologist Paul Thompson reports that stream flows haven't changed. Fishing for whitefish is really good right now.

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

JANUARY 29 – 31, 2009

PARK CITY, UTAH (December 4, 2008) – Deer Valley Resort and Park City Mountain Resort welcome the world's top freestyle athletes to Deer Valley's® renowned moguls and aerial courses and Park City Mountain Resort's halfpipe for the Visa Freestyle International, a stop on

the annual FIS Freestyle World Cup circuit, scheduled to take place January 29-31, 2009. The joint venue partnership for the World Cup, along with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, is in preparation for the 2011 FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships.

The best skiers in the world are expected to compete including moguls Olympic silver medalist, Shannon Bahrke (Tahoe, CA), world record holder for highest aerials score received, Jeret 'Speedy' Peterson (Boise, ID), and two-time skier halfpipe X Games medalist, Jen Hudak (Park City, UT).

“With hosting of the prestigious 2011 FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships just around the corner now, it’s important to continue honing our event management skills to their very best,” says Bob Wheaton, president and general manager of Deer Valley Resort. “Our goal each year with our World Cup is to put on the finest possible event, both for the athletes as well as spectators, whether they’re here in person, or watching our event on television. With 2011 in our sights, we really want to shine. And I know we will. We consider the crew who works on our World Cup events the best in the world – from the volunteers, to the coaches, judges, technicians and staff. And of course, the gifted athletes who compete on our mountain are too impressive for words. We’re honored to have them here.”



Deer Valley is known as a Mecca for freestyle skiing events, having successfully hosted seven World Cups (2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008) and the 2002 Olympic Winter Games freestyle events, the 2003 FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships, the Chevy Truck U.S. Freestyle Championships in 1999 and Sprint U.S. Freestyle Championships in 2008. Deer Valley Resort has also won the honor of hosting the FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships in 2011, marking the first time ever that an American resort has hosted freestyle World Championships twice.

Park City Mountain Resort’s renowned halfpipe is the perfect location to host the skier halfpipe competition, in preparation for the 2011 World Championships. The Eagle superpipe was the site of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games snowboarding halfpipe event and the site of the World Superpipe Championships for the last six years.

“Park City Mountain Resort’s Eagle Superpipe continually ranks as the top pipe in the world, making it the perfect venue to host America’s first World Cup skier halfpipe competition,” said Peter Curtis, president and general manager of Park City Mountain Resort. “This year’s World Cup will truly unite the Park City community with events at two of SKI magazine’s top-five resorts and a celebration on Park City’s historic Main Street.”

This year’s Visa Freestyle International will include aerial, moguls and dual moguls events at Deer Valley and the ski halfpipe event at Park City Mountain Resort. Approximately 300 elite athletes from around the world are expected to compete.

The three days of competition and festivities will begin with an evening celebration on Park City's historic Main Street, including live entertainment by Michael Franti and Spearhead with fireworks to follow. The aerials and dual moguls events will be held at night under the lights in Deer Valley's spectacular arena (the same used during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games). As always, the night events will close with a fireworks display. The moguls and ski halfpipe events will be held during the day. General admission to all events is free. For those who want to enjoy an enhanced experience at the Deer Valley events, Freestyle Feast tickets will be available for purchase and include lunch/dinner in Deer Valley's VIP tent, and a commemorative gift. A detailed schedule of events is available online at www.deervalley.com.

Service Projects for OHV Enthusiasts

January 2009

Saturday, January 17, 2009 - Factory Butte Service Project

Installation of fencing and signs around north east rim of Swingarm City.

Time: 10 AM - 3 PM

Location: Factory Bench Road. The road is 1/4 mile north of Highway 24 (The Factory Bench Road is located approximately 10 minutes West of Hanksville, UT on Highway 24. The fence begins next to the Factory Bench Road and continues on in a north west direction along the upper rim of the open riding area Swingarm City.

Call Mike at 801-830-9112 to let him know you are coming so we can coordinate our numbers with BLM. The Factory Butte area is about a 3 hour drive south from Provo taking the Green River route. There are hotels in Hanksville if needed.

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 - USA-ALL Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 PM, Orem UT

We welcome friendly visitors. If you would like to attend please give us a call and we will give you the exact location.

Monday January 26, 2009 -2009 General Session of the 58th Utah State Legislature convenes ANYTIME

December 2008-March 2009 - Factory Butte Service, If you would like to contribute some help but can't make one of our scheduled work days you can call Sue Fivecoats with the BLM Hanksville office. Sue can arrange to have your family or other organized groups help out with smaller projects such as carsonite placement, sign installation, etc. This would make a great work & play day for a club or family outing. Call Sue for details and to make arrangements at (435)-542-3261.

February 2009

Friday February 6, 2009- USA-ALL Rally, This is the day for our annual rally at Utah's Capitol building. You better believe this rally makes a difference in how well we can protect



access in our state. A good showing like 2 years ago does wonders, a sparse showing like last year doesn't bode well. We will send more detailed info as the date draws near.

Geothermal and Oil and Gas Parcels Finalized

SALT LAKE CITY—On Dec. 19, BLM Utah will offer 142,333 acres for geothermal leasing. While 191,000 acres of BLM-administered land were initially considered for renewable energy development, close to 50,000 acres were deferred for a variety of reasons. BLM Utah deferred two parcels to provide the U.S. Forest Service with additional time to conduct analysis on lands near the existing geothermal plant at Cove Fort. An additional eight parcels were deferred to provide time for further consultation and analysis regarding potential impacts to cultural



resources and historical settings and to address tribal concerns regarding Traditional Cultural Properties. In consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and Native American Tribes, BLM determined that the important visual nature associated with some parcels may be affected by geothermal exploration and development. Further consultation is needed on a site-specific basis to protect the Pony Express National Historic Trail corridor.

The final list for the Dec. 19 sale includes 44 geothermal parcels totaling 142,333 acres and 132 oil and gas parcels totaling 163,935 acres in seven Utah counties—Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Grand, San Juan and Uintah. Also included are three geothermal parcels totaling 8,676 acres in Idaho and 11 geothermal parcels totaling 41,363 acres in Oregon and Washington.

The deferral of parcels reduced the initial list of 241 proposed oil and gas parcels totaling 359,450 acres. Specifically, discussions with the National Park Service resulted in deferring all or part of 23 parcels totaling 37,731 acres near national parks. Additional parcels were deferred in the vicinity of Nine Mile and Desolation Canyons and others were removed for split estate concerns, wildlife issues or conflicts with existing coal mining operations. This final list also includes 80,015 acres deferred in Fillmore until BLM completes the Fillmore Field Office Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Assessment.

The sale will take place in Salt Lake City at the BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500 in the Monument Conference Room. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 requires that the BLM conduct quarterly lease sales for each state where eligible lands are available and there is interest in leasing. Proposed lease parcels are reviewed for conformance with governing land use plans and compliance with applicable laws such as National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act. BLM Utah provided notice of proposed parcels and the proposed lease sale 45 days prior to the sale. Release of the sale notice began a 30-day public review period, during which protests were filed.

Auction rules call for a \$2 per acre minimum bonus bids on any parcel. This means a buyer will pay the bid price for the right to obtain the federal lease, in addition to a standard \$1.50 per acre rental on oil and gas parcels and \$2 on geothermal parcels. BLM will also charge winning bidders \$140 per parcel to help cover administrative costs. Leases are issued for a primary term of ten years and will continue as long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. The holder of a federal lease must obtain specific permits prior to any surface disturbing activities. If exploration does occur and the lease begins producing, the federal government will collect a 12½ percent royalty on production. In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act, collected revenues will be split between the BLM and the state.

Interior Secretary Formally Designates BLM Lands the National System of Public Lands

(Washington, DC) – Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne today signed a Secretarial Order to officially designate the 258 million acres of lands managed for multiple-use by the Department's Bureau of Land Management as the National System of Public Lands.

"These lands constitute an invaluable recreational, cultural, economic, and environmental legacy for the nation," Kempthorne said. "And yet, those who own these lands – the American people – remain largely unaware of their critical importance to our quality of life, their value to present and future generations, or even the purpose for which these lands are preserved in public ownership."

As the principal steward of the public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is directed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to manage the public lands for multiple use including recreation, conservation, wildlife habitat, and economic activities such as development of timber and forest products, livestock grazing, and energy and mineral production.

"It's time these great lands and resources, whose historical roots date back to the earliest days of our nation, are given their due by recognizing them officially," BLM Director James Caswell said. "This official designation will ultimately make it easier for the public to identify these lands and more readily understand the multiple-use mission that Congress has given to the BLM."

While providing BLM-managed lands an official designation confers no change in land status, Caswell said that it will underscore several principles that are important to the stewardship of these lands.

"Calling these lands the National System of Public Lands implies that all of our lands and resources are linked in some capacity," Caswell said. "This linkage is at the heart of our landscape approach to land management."

He also said that the designation will emphasize the interconnectedness and interdependence of the public lands and all who benefit from them; better convey the diversity of interests and values associated with the public lands and how these are served through balanced, comprehensive, management; and increase the critical importance of enlightened citizen

stewardship to the preservation of these lands and to the success of BLM's work on behalf of the American people.

Caswell said that the BLM will minimize any costs associated with the designation by institutionalizing it over time and incorporating the identity in publications, signage and other materials in the normal course of renewing and updating such materials.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

SHELBY FREE WINS WORLD TITLE

Mossy Oak Pro Staff member Shelby Free recently won the 2008 Women's World Duck Calling Championship in Stuttgart Arkansas. Shelby is a 2-time Women's Champion having also one the event in 2006. This year's win gives Shelby her third World title, she also previously one the Jr. Women's World title.

"Shelby is a terrific young lady in addition to being the best duck caller in the world said Bill Sugg, president of Mossy Oak. " We are delighted to have her as part of the Mossy Oak team."



Shown with Shelby in the photo from left to right are Bill Sugg, Bill Free, Shelby's dad and Robert Watson, Regional Waterfowl Pro Staff Manager for Mossy Oak.

WADE WALLING WINS WORLD GOOSE CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mossy Oak Pro Staff member Wade Walling recently won the 2008 World Goose Calling contest held in Easton, Maryland. This years contest featured the top 33 goose callers in the world. After making it to the finals, Wade topped the final five contestants to win this years title as the World Goose Calling Champion.

"Wade has worked very hard to refine his skills as a competitive Goose Caller," Said Tim Anderson, Pro Staff Manager for Mossy Oak. "It takes a lot of dedication and hours of practice

to win this prestigious title."



In addition to Wade, Mossy Oak Pro Staff members Kyle Tipton and Craig Roenau also participated in this years World Goose Calling contest.

Haas Outdoors Inc. is headquartered in West Point, Miss., was established in 1986 and is home of Mossy Oak (www.mossyoak.com). Mossy Oak specializes in developing and marketing modern camouflage designs for hunters and outdoorsmen. Mossy Oak patterns can be found on a multitude of products worldwide. Haas Outdoors Inc. is the

outdoor industry leader in modern camouflage design, international licensing and marketing. Haas Outdoors Inc. markets its services and products under widely recognized brands including: Mossy Oak, BioLogic, Mossy Oak Productions, Mossy Oak Interactive, LLC, Nativ Nursery and Mossy Oak Properties.

Richard Martin Receives Yount Award for Lifetime Achievement

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, retired National Park Service (NPS) employee Richard H. “Dick” Martin accepted the Harry Yount Award for Lifetime Achievement in the art and science of “rangering.” NPS Deputy Director Dan Wenk and Associate Director Karen Taylor-Goodrich presented the award at Ranger Rendezvous XXXI, a meeting of the Association of National Park Rangers in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

“Dick Martin is truly the quintessential ranger,” said Mary A. Bomar, Director of the National Park Service. “His selfless service over four decades to the profession of rangering continues to inspire the people who are following in his footsteps as 21st century rangers.”

Martin started his 43-year NPS career as a ranger at Olympic National Park in 1962. Aside from a few years spent in the NPS Washington office, Dick enjoyed patrolling, protecting, and managing some of the most spectacular resources owned by the American people. Among his many duty stations were Yosemite National Park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Death Valley National Park, and two tours at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks – first as a backcountry ranger and, decades later, as superintendent. He retired from this position in 2005.

Martin was known by his supervisors and peers for his willingness to tackle tough jobs with style, grace, appreciation, and humor. He was a leader, a mentor, and a skilled field ranger. With years of experience, he made innovations to the incident command system, which is used to

manage emergency and large-scale events ranging from wildfires to Presidential inaugurations.

Throughout his career, Martin was dedicated to maintaining the traditions and values of the NPS. He worked well with interagency partners forming cooperative teams, like the California Desert Managers Group, to address common land management issues. He also represented the Department of the Interior in negotiating the implementation of the Timbisha Homeland Lands Act.

During the award ceremony, Martin was also commended for his ongoing concern for the profession of rangers. Although retired, Martin continues to play a role in the Association of National Park Rangers. He helped found this organization and served as its president in 1983 and 1984. “It was especially fitting that this award was presented during the Ranger Rendezvous among Dick’s peers in an organization dedicated to identifying, promoting, and enhancing the ranger profession,” said Associate Director Karen Taylor-Goodrich.

In addition to affecting NPS employees, Martin served as an example for rangers in other countries, too. Australian Park Ranger Sean Willmore, who made the worldwide documentary film about rangers called *The Thin Green Line*, remembers interviewing Martin for his film. “His wealth of experience, understanding, and passion for the role of the ranger stood out to me. All those years of experience and he still had a twinkle in his eye when talking about the life and role of the ranger.”

Named after the 19th century outdoorsman generally credited as the first park ranger, the prestigious Yount Award is the hallmark of recognition for rangers. An annual award recognizes a ranger in each of the Service’s seven administrative regions and, from them, one Servicewide honoree. The Lifetime Achievement Award, which Martin received yesterday, is “bestowed rarely” on someone who has served as a role model throughout his or her entire career, providing consistent leadership to the Service and the ranger profession, and who, in the eyes of their peers, represents the quintessential ranger.

The National Park Foundation, through a generous gift from Unilever, makes the Yount Award program possible. Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation is the official national charitable partner of the National Park Service with the mission of strengthening the connection between the American people and their national parks by raising private funds, making strategic grants, creating innovative partnerships and increasing public awareness. Unilever, is the longest-standing corporate partner of the National Park Foundation and a Proud Partner of America’s National Parks. Unilever’s commitment to preserve and protect America’s National Parks in partnership with the National Park Foundation spans 15 years and more than \$50 million in cash donations and in-kind support.

New Features Offer Interactivity, Enhanced User Experience

December 16, 2008 (Nashville) - The changes never stop at MyOutdoorTV.com, as the online TV powerhouse announces its latest site redesign, offering a revamped user experience, greater

interactivity, and even more hunting, fishing, and shooting shows. New features abound on the homepage and throughout the site.

"We're pleased to launch the redesigned site in conjunction with a major Ford F-150 advertising campaign," said [Chris Moise](#), CEO. "We've made the

information and shows more accessible and the entire site more interactive. And, of course, there's new content every day. These are just a few of the reasons our viewership has grown to over 300,000 unique visitors per month."



Viewers will instantly notice the redesigned [MyOutdoorTV.com](#) homepage, where there is more content than before and new links that make it quicker to access pages you want to view. The many new features include:

- **MapIt**, a powerful [mapping page](#) that allows viewers to choose a species or activity and map its video coverage, or conversely, to see what's offered for a particular locale;
- **Marketplace**, the new home for [outdoor products](#), which includes reviews by Mike Faw and JJ Reich, Editor's Picks, a Top 10 Product Video list, and the largest collection of hunting, fishing, and boating product videos on the internet;
- **Weekly Polls**, allowing viewers to respond and instantly see results to questions on a variety of outdoors topics;
- **Expanded Show Descriptions**, so viewers can learn more about their favorite shows or evaluate shows they might want to watch;
- **Tipmasters Section**, which has been redesigned, expanded, and more video added, and now includes Product Tips, [Just Added Tips](#), Top 10 Tips, searching for tips by topic, and much more;
- **Original Programming**, including exclusive new videos by [Wade Bourne](#) and other outdoor producers;
- **Cooking Blog** by "the Sporting Chef" Scott Leysath, as well as a [redesigned section](#) that includes Most Viewed Recipes, Latest Recipes, and search by category.

"These are just the first of many changes and additions to be launched over the next several weeks," commented Moise. "Viewers should watch for some major interactive features to launch soon on MyOutdoorTV.com."

Use of [MyOutdoorTV.com](#) is always FREE to viewers, 24/7, with no registration required or

software to download. The site streams shows featuring some of the leading names in the outdoors, including Bill Dance, Todd Jarrett, Hank Parker, Roland Martin, Bill Miller, Jerry Miculek, Jackie Bushman, and many others.

MyOutdoorTV.com is the world's largest internet network for outdoor TV programming, currently streaming over 270 show titles on the shooting sports, fishing, boating, and conservation. In addition, it hosts radio shows, outdoor videos, the Explore the U.S. section, Marketplace product video section, links to outdoor blogs, and sections for cooking, outdoor news, and much more. Visit our website at www.myoutdoortv.com.

REI COMMUNITY CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JANUARY

DATE: December 15th 2008

CONTACT: Eric Spreng

EMAIL: espreng@rei.com

PHONE: (801) 486-2100 ext. 207

SANDY CITY - The following presentations are offered free of charge to the public at the Sandy City REI store. REI is located at 10600 South & 230 West in the northwest corner of the South Towne Mall property. For more information, please call (801) 501-0850 or visit our website at www.rei.com and use the store locator feature.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: AVALANCHE AWARENESS FOR YOUTH

Thursday, January 22nd, 7pm



Just like students in Hawaii learn about the dangers of rip tides and shore breaks at an early age, students in Utah need to learn about avalanches. Join the experts from the Utah avalanche center as they address this critical need for basic avalanche education. This evening will include a narrated video showing avalanches, people triggering avalanches and the destructive power of avalanches. Then a local avalanche professional will tell their story about close calls or accidents they have had as they learned about avalanches. This will be followed

by a PowerPoint presentation about the basics of how to recognize avalanche terrain, recognize obvious signs of instability, safe travel practices, the basics of avalanche rescue equipment and self-rescue procedures, and where to obtain information about current avalanche conditions. This program is tailored for younger outdoor enthusiasts between middle school and college, though all ages & families are encouraged to attend.

SKI/SNOWBOARD TUNE & WAX

Thursday, January 29th, 7pm

Come join the ranks of do-it-yourselfers who are discovering that tuning your skis at home can not only be a great way to save your hard earned money, but one of the most gratifying hobbies you will ever undertake. Join REI shop technicians this evening for some expert instruction on minor base repair, P-tex, edge sharpening and waxing. By learning to tune your own skis and snowboards, you can ensure that your equipment will perform at its peak.



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

SKI/SNOWBOARD TUNE & WAX

Thursday, January 8th, 7pm

Come join the ranks of do-it-yourselfers who are discovering that tuning your skis at home can not only be a great way to save your hard earned money, but one of the most gratifying hobbies you will ever undertake. Join REI shop master tech Jonathon Hulse this evening for some expert instruction on minor base repair, P-tex, edge sharpening and waxing. By learning to tune your own skis and snowboards, you can ensure that your equipment will perform at its peak.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST

Tuesday, January 13th, Noon

Join Utah Society for Environmental Education and local sustainability experts to talk about sustainable living in mountain environments from theory to practice. Advance registration is required for this event. Please RSVP by Jan 12th by contacting Andree' at andree@usee.org. Cost is \$5 for USEE members, \$10 for non members and includes lunch. About USEE: The Utah Society for Environmental Education vision is to cultivate ecological knowledge to build environmental consciousness that ensures economic, social, and environmental sustainability for Utah. See www.usee.org for more information.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: AVALANCHE AWARENESS FOR YOUTH

Tuesday, January 13th, 7pm

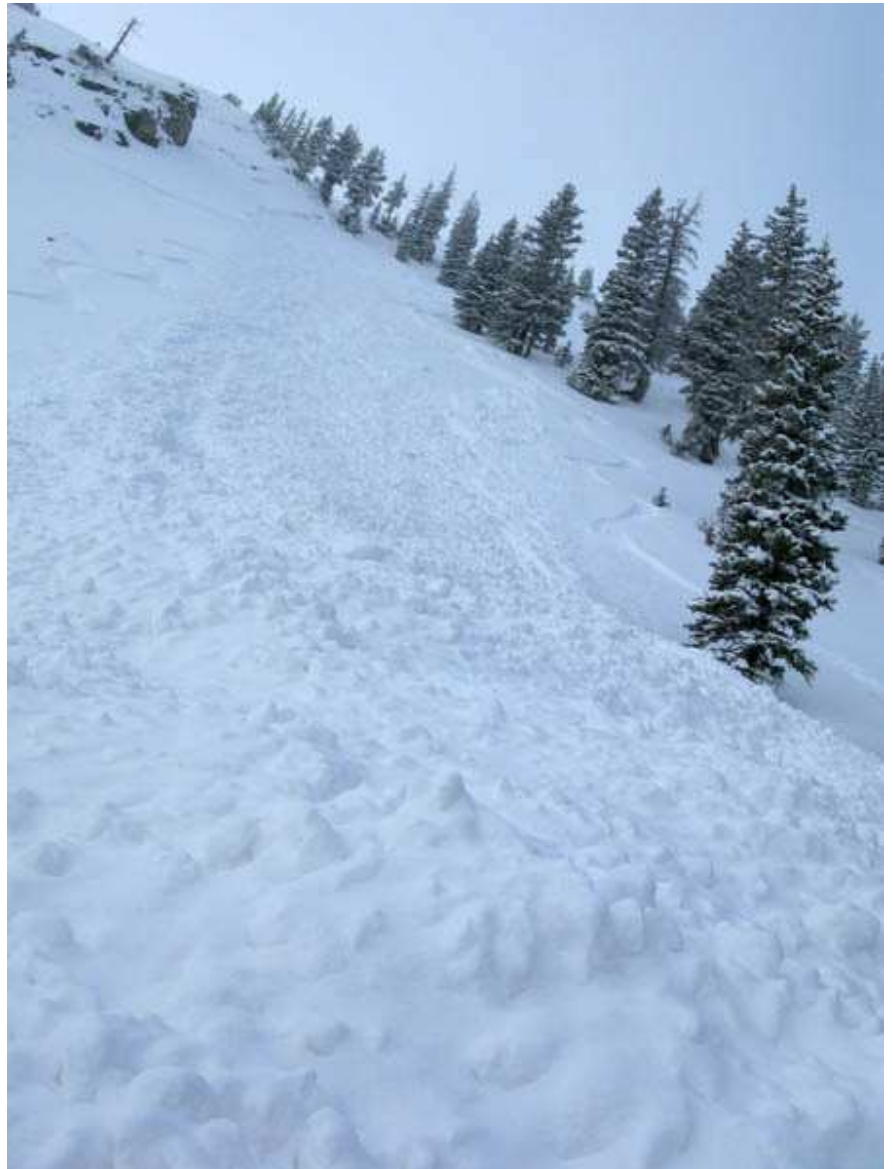
Just like students in Hawaii learn about the dangers of rip tides and shore breaks at an early age, students in Utah need to learn about avalanches. Join the experts from the Utah avalanche center as they address this critical need for basic avalanche education. This evening will include a narrated video showing avalanches, people triggering avalanches and the destructive power of avalanches. Then a local avalanche professional will tell their story about close calls or accidents they have had as they learned about avalanches. This will be followed by a PowerPoint presentation about the basics of how to recognize avalanche terrain, recognize obvious signs of instability, safe travel practices, the basics of avalanche rescue equipment and self-rescue procedures, and where to obtain information about current avalanche conditions. This program

is tailored for younger outdoor enthusiasts between middle school and college, though all ages & families are encouraged to attend.

THE SCIENCE OF AVALANCHES

Thursday, January 15th, 7pm

Bruce Tremper, Director of the Utah Avalanche Center, will give a talk titled *Science of Avalanches* and will do a signing of his book, *Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain, 2nd Edition*. This is the next step beyond an avalanche awareness talk where Bruce will discuss precisely how avalanches work and the science behind them explained in simple terms. He will use a number of his famous models involving cardboard boxes, Dixie cups, silly putty, rubber bands, and foam rubber. He will also show exciting films of avalanches in motion in addition to slides & graphs. It's always a popular talk, so come early for a good seat.



GREEN LIVING PROJECT – AFRICA 2008

Thursday, January 22nd, 7pm

This is a must-see multi-media event for any adventure traveler, Africa enthusiast, or sustainability advocate. Experience this unique expedition that documented sustainability projects across Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania in 2008. Plus, learn about responsible adventure travel including the latest new eco-lodges, wildlife conservation, alternative energy, community projects, and volunteer opportunities throughout East Africa. Don't miss this special event! In addition, the lecture will also feature a FREE "Gear Raffle" from leading outdoor travel companies, such as National Geographic Adventure, Gregory Packs, Chaco, Ex Officio, Keen Footwear, Lonely Planet, and La Sportiva! See www.greenlivingproject.com for more information.

SKI/SNOWBOARD TUNE & WAX

Tuesday, January 27th, 7pm

Come join the ranks of do-it-yourselfers who are discovering that tuning your skis at home can not only be a great way to save your hard earned money, but one of the most gratifying hobbies

you will ever undertake. Join REI shop master tech Jonathon Hulse this evening for some expert instruction on minor base repair, P-tex, edge sharpening and waxing. By learning to tune your own skis and snowboards, you can ensure that your equipment will perform at its peak.

“THE ALTA EXPERIENCE” KUED DOCUMENTARY

Thursday, January 29th, 7pm at REI SLC

This free screening of the recently released documentary will be hosted by KUED producer Joe Prokop and sponsored by the Alta Historical Society & Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation. The fast-paced glide down memory’s slope features interviews of those who recall the first chairlift in Utah, which began transporting skiers to powder during the season of 1938-39. The Collins Chair was built using equipment salvaged from the silver mines by a group of investors who formed the Salt Lake Winter Sports Association. These investors, led by S.J. Quinney, would develop the resort to serve local residents through the generations. The program highlights the intrepid personalities who helped create Alta. Viewers meet Norwegian immigrant and ski jump champion Alf Engen, who recommended Alta as an ideal site for a ski resort to the U.S. Forest Service, and George Watson, one of the last remaining silver miners, who helped bring about the development of the resort. The program explores early avalanche control innovations at Alta, and features “big air” competitions at the annual Gelande jumps during the 1960s and ‘70s.

COMMUNITY & REI SPONSORED EVENTS:

WINTER TRAILS DAY AT MOUNTAIN DELL

Saturday, January 10th, 10am-2pm

Looking to try out snowshoes for the first time? Want some instruction on how to kick and glide on Nordic skis? Fascinated by winter ecology? Winter Trails Day at Mountain Dell is your chance to get out there with some help from the experts! If you are a beginner or first timer on snow, come join the staff of REI, the cross country ski experts from the Utah Nordic Alliance and the knowledgeable guides from Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. This day of guided snowshoeing, cross country & skate ski instruction and outdoor interpretation is not to be missed! Already know how to ski or snowshoe? Come try out the latest and greatest gear. Demo equipment will be provided at no charge by local retailer Wild Rose, plus the top brands in the snow sports industry. Activities include hour long snowshoe interpretive tours, 40 minute introductory classes to cross country skiing and beginning skate ski lessons. Best of all, it’s FREE! Activities include snowshoe interpretive tours, beginning classic cross country skiing lessons, beginning skate skiing lessons, and a gear demo. Presented by REI, The Utah Nordic Alliance, The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation & Wild Rose. Please visit

http://www.rei.com/stores/store_events.jsp?store=19

CLASSES:

WINTER WILDLIFE TRACKING CLASS

Friday, January 23rd 6pm-9pm & Saturday January 24th 9am-2pm

The vast and ever-present array of wild "signatures" scattered about our local landscapes offer us an underused encyclopedia of behavioral, ecological, and evolutionary information. Through the mind of an animal tracker, we can make discoveries about animal behavior, adaptation, and inter-species

relationships. Learn about animals' feet and how they move, when and where they rest, what they eat, and how animals in the wild make a living in their own specific way. Indoor and field sessions focus upon wildlife adaptations, diversity, and sign types complemented by firsthand explorations of the animals' habitats on or off-trail in various uneven terrain. Field session will be done



on snowshoes (provided by REI at no extra charge). The class begins in REI's Wasatch room at 6:00pm on Friday, then goes out into the field Saturday morning through afternoon. The field portion will be taught in Big or Little Cottonwood Canyon, exact location(s) will depend on conditions and will be announced during the evening portion of the class. Appropriate footwear, warm clothing, a day pack, lunch, and a filled water bottle will be needed for field sessions. Field guides and cameras welcome. Tuition is \$60 for REI Members, \$65 for non-members per participant. Proceeds benefit the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. To register, please call REI at 486-2100 and ask to speak to our Customer Service department.

BlackHillsVacations.com Travel Packages

Primal Quest, the Rapid City Convention & Visitors Bureau, and BlackHillsVacations.com have teamed up to deliver plenty of adventure next summer as the iconic expedition length adventure race comes to the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota.

In the summer of 2009, Primal Quest Badlands presented by SPOT descends on South Dakota. Over the course of ten days, beginning on August 15th, coed teams of four will run, mountain bike, paddle, climb, and navigate their way across 600 miles of backcountry in the Badlands and Black Hills. The ten-day, non-stop race has been dubbed "The World's Most Challenging Human Endurance Competition".

BlackHillsVacation.com has put together travel packages that include airline tickets, car rentals,



accommodations, and more for both pre- and post race adventures. Friends and family of competitors, as well as PQ fans and volunteers can experience the Badlands and Black Hills for themselves with a variety of outdoor activities, including mountain biking, trekking, rock climbing, and kayaking.

To find out more about these exciting travel packages, call toll free to 800-400-6194 or visit

BlackHillsVacations.com. For more information about

Rapid City and the surrounding area, go to VisitRapidCity.com. You can learn more about Primal Quest at EcoPrimalQuest.com.

Lodwick Sweeps at Soldier Hollow

SOLDIER HOLLOW, UT (Dec. 14) - Four-time Olympian Todd Lodwick (Steamboat Springs, CO) made it two wins in a row to open the FIS Nordic Combined Continental Cup season Sunday at Soldier Hollow. Lodwick won over countryman Brett Camerota (Park City, UT). Defending Continental Cup champion Marco Pichlmayer of Austria was third.

An 87.0 meter jump put Lodwick further back at the start than the opening competition on Saturday, starting a minute behind jump leader Dominik Dier of Austria, and 30 seconds behind Pichlmayer. But it took only one lap around the 1.3K Soldier Hollow circuit before he was in contention for the lead, making his pass on the second lap and never looking back.

It was a much tougher battle behind Lodwick than a day earlier. Camerota and U.S. Ski Team teammates Bryan Fletcher and Alex Miller (both Steamboat Springs, CO) fought with Pichlmayer most of the race before Camerota settled into second and the Austrian champion into third. Fletcher, third on Saturday, finished fifth with Miller having a sensational day in sixth.

"Four in the top six, not a bad day," said U.S. Ski Team Head Coach Dave Jarrett. "Alex Miller had a great race today. He's been a strong jumper and we've been working on his cross country. This should give him a lot of confidence."

Lodwick felt tested on Sunday and was pleased with the outcome. "Today was a cross country race for me, yesterday was a warm-up," he said in the finish. "Today I had to earn it."

Lodwick was also thankful for the support and the fact that both events took place despite challenging weather. "I really have to give credit to the hill crews for getting this event in this weekend," said Lodwick. "And I'm especially thankful for the support I had from the Team, just coming into the group. We have a new wax technician from Italy, Paulo, and Dave who had to do skis for eight guys. I really have to thank them for their help."

Austria's Pichlmayer came away pleased with the weekend's results, finishing third Sunday after

a fourth place spot a day earlier. "A week ago I was in Trondheim [Norway, with the World Cup] at sea level, and now I'm up here almost 2,000 meters higher. So it was tough but I'm happy with this weekend.

"I'm the defending champion and I know it's not so easy to continue but I had a good chance today. Todd was really fast so it was hard to follow him."

Tricky winds forced the FIS to restart Sunday's morning jump after 14 athletes had gone. "You have to stay focused and not let it get to you," said Camerota. "For sure, Todd, Fletcher and I have been jumping well this week and we're skiing fast. It's a great start for all.

"We're one of the fastest guys out there [in cross country] but still we want every meter to make it easier in the cross country."

"It's a jumping competition, an outdoor sport, so everyone needs to be prepared for their best," said Lodwick, following the morning jump. "I think some people were a little bit unlucky today. I'm not going to say I was one of them but I didn't perform on the jump hill the way I'd like to but that's kind of where I've been throughout the summer. Just now it's starting to get back to normal. There is a lot to do, lot to learn to get back into things. I feel pretty confident the way things have gone and we will see throughout the year."

"This is my first international competition back. Park City is great. It's the home of the [U.S.] Ski Team and the support here. I know the place and it's kind of like a second home. The family is here and that's a good thing."

The Team now heads to Whistler, BC for a pair of midweek events on the 2010 Olympic venue.

OFFICIAL RESULTS

FIS NORDIC COMBINED CONTINENTAL CUP

Soldier Hollow, UT

Sun. Dec. 14, 2008

(jump/XC rank, distance back)

1. Todd Lodwick, Steamboat Springs, CO, (18/2) 29:59.3
2. Brett Camerota, Park City, UT, (13/3) 00:18.6 back
3. Marco Pichlmayer, Austria, (4/7) 00:31.0
4. Matthias Menz, Germany, (10/6) 00:46.6
5. Bryan Fletcher, Steamboat Springs, CO, (13/8) 00:56.8
-
6. Alex Miller, Steamboat Springs, CO, (7/11) 01:17.1
26. Willy Graves, Putney, VT, (26/24) 03:06.3
28. Brett Denney, Steamboat Springs, CO, (38/9) 03:23.3
32. Nick Hendrickson, Park City, UT, (40/16) 04:33.6
36. Davis Miller, Steamboat Springs, CO, (31/35) 05:01.0

Lodwick Leads USA Cup Sweep

SOLDIER HOLLOW, UT (Dec. 13) - Veteran Todd Lodwick (Steamboat Springs, CO), returning after a two year absence, led a podium sweep of U.S. nordic combined skiers in the opening FIS Continental Cup event Saturday at the Olympic venue in Soldier Hollow. Lodwick ran away with the win, followed by the U.S. Ski Team's Brett Camerota (Park City, UT) and Bryan Fletcher (Steamboat Springs, CO). Defending series champion Marco Pichlmayer of Austria was fourth.

Wind and blowing snow Saturday morning forced officials to scrub the jump and use a provisional jump from Friday. New snowfall at Soldier Hollow dropped 8-10 inches, but snow subsided as the eight-lap race went on.

It was the first time the USA has swept a Continental Cup (formerly known as World Cup B), a series featuring all of the top budding stars in the world.

"The top three guys as a Team - that was impressive," said Lodwick. "Hopefully I've had a hand in letting them know they have the talent and can do even better. It was an absolute positive today!"

Lodwick, a two-time Olympian, retired after the 2006 Olympic season to settle down with his family in Steamboat Springs. But he felt he had unfinished business and made a decision last spring to come back. He has trained together with the U.S. Ski Team since summer. Saturday's competition marked his first major international event.

"One of the things I wanted to do today was to build confidence in how I feel in the race," said Lodwick. "And I definitely felt I had some reserves."

Lodwick went out fourth, 18 seconds behind jump leader Robert Hauser of Austria. He had the lead at the end of the first 1.3K lap and controlled the pace the rest of the way, allowing Camerota and Taylor to make their way to the front. Camerota moved up to second from his start in ninth, with Taylor making the big jump from 18th to third.

"When you're out in front you can control the pace," said Lodwick. "Brett and Bryan proved today that the training we've been doing together all summer is paying off."

"We thought going in that maybe we had a chance to get three in the top five," said Camerota. "But when Fletcher caught me, I knew we had a chance to get us all into the top three. Fletcher really helped me out!"

"This is what you dream about," said U.S. Ski Team Nordic Combined Head Coach Dave Jarrett. "We knew we had to beat Pichlmayer, but Todd had 10 seconds on him at the start and made him work. Then Brett and Bryan caught him and finished it off."

Lodwick, Camerota and Fletcher ended up with the second, third and fourth fastest cross country times of the day behind leader Steffen Tepel of Germany, who finished eighth overall. U.S. juniors Brett Denney (Steamboat Springs, CO) and Nick Hendrickson (Park City, UT) were impressive at Soldier Hollow with the eighth and ninth fastest times.

The race was run with eight laps on a 1.3K course of manmade and natural snow with about 40 meters of climb on each lap. Heavy snow fell most of the day leading up to the event.

What made it even more special for Jarrett was that the event almost didn't happen. "When I got back from the World Cup last week and people still had their golf clubs out, I was worried," he said. "My hats really off to Soldier Hollow and also [Chief of Competition] Keith Jenson for helping us with a backup plan at Snowbird in case we couldn't run here. It all worked out and we had a great comp here today."

Lodwick's plan is to compete in the opening four Continental Cups, two in Utah and two this coming week on the Olympic venue in Whistler, BC. After the holidays, he'll head to the World Cup for events in Oberhof and Schonach, Germany. His primary focus of the season is the World Championships in late February in Liberec, Czech Republic.

"This is an important step for Todd in his goals," said Jarrett. "If he wants to win a medal, he has to win or at least be on the podium here."

The final competition in Utah is scheduled Sunday, with the jump at 9:30 a.m. at the Utah Olympic Park in Park City and cross country back at Soldier Hollow at 2:30 p.m.

OFFICIAL RESULTS
FIS NORDIC COMBINED CONTINENTAL CUP
Soldier Hollow, UT
Sat. Dec. 13, 2008
(jump/XC rank, distance back)

1. Todd Lodwick, Steamboat Springs, CO, (4/2) 30:30.5
2. Brett Camerota, Park City, UT, (9/3) 00:22.0 back
3. Bryan Fletcher, Steamboat Springs, CO, (18/4) 00:47.9
4. Marco Pichlmayer, Austria, (5/11) 00:59.2
5. Matthias Menz, Germany, (6/12) 01:05.7
-
12. Willy Graves, Putney, VT, (16/17) 01:45.7
16. Alex Miller, Steamboat Springs, CO, (19/18) 01:57.0
21. Brett Denney, Steamboat Springs, CO, (38/8) 02:33.3
23. Nick Hendrickson, Park City, UT, (40/9) 02:36.7
28. Taylor Fletcher, Steamboat Springs, CO, (35/34) 03:44.6

BowTech ‘Admiral’ Draws Archers to Elk Foundation Events

MISSOULA, Mont.—BowTech’s new top-of-the-line compound bow, the “Admiral,” headlines a bowhunter’s wish list of prizes to be won at select 2009 fundraising events for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The fundraisers support the Elk Foundation’s conservation work. The organization now has topped 5.4 million acres of habitat protected or enhanced for elk and other wildlife.

“Our banquets, auctions, raffles and games always offer great prizes like guns, art, outfitted hunts, trips, jewelry and hunting gear. More and more, we’re also offering top archery equipment,” said Steve Decker, director of field programs for RMEF.

He added, “For 2009 we’re featuring BowTech’s hot new ‘Admiral’ as part of a flagship progressive raffle. Hundreds of these bows will be won, and everyone who wins will be entered into a drawing for an awesome Montana elk hunt for two.”

For information about RMEF fundraisers in your area, visit the “Attend an Event” section at www.rmef.org.

The “Admiral” is a high-tech, center-pivot bow with 320 fps speed and 65-80 percent letoff. An RMEF logo is laser-etched into the wood grip. The elk hunt, provided by Dome Mountain



Outfitters near Yellowstone, is an archery hunt for two hunters.

Other bowhunting gear to be featured nationally in 2009 includes the Hunter’s Specialties’ Scent-A-Way Scent Elimination System and Carlton’s Calls Elk Calling Kit, a decoy set from Montana Decoy and an archery package from TruGlo containing a Brite-Site Xtreme 5-Pin bowsite, Tru-Block stabilizer, Centra Peep and Tru-Quiver.

RMEF committees often add additional archery gear to local fundraiser lineups.

TRAVEL BUDGET TIGHT? TAKE KIDS ON VIRTUAL TOURS

MeetMeAtTheCorner.org Sends Kids on Virtual Educational and Informational Field Trips
Without Leaving the Comfort of Home



NEW YORK, NY (December 16, 2008) -- As talks of a pending recession loom, resources for general living expenses supersede those for travel. Now families can visit a variety of interesting places without incurring expense or leaving home with MeetMeAtTheCorner.org, the Web site that sends kids on virtual field trips.

MeetMeAtTheCorner.org, known by many as the "educational You Tube (R)," is geared to children ages 7-12. The site provides 3-4 minute educational and informational tours from a child's point of view via video pod cast technology. Each episode provides suggested readings and curriculum-based follow-up activities that meet national standards. The site is free of charge.

Current "trips" or episodes include a visit to New York City's Broadway, the Forbes Museum and bird watching in Central Park, and interviews with children's illustrator Jeff Hopkins and author Dan Gutman.

Developed by award-winning children's author Donna Guthrie, MeetMeAtTheCorner.org provides an interactive forum for children to share their journeys with peers via the Internet.



"I

developed MeetMeAtTheCorner.org to encourage individual expression and participation through video submissions from children worldwide. Through these video pod casts, the site creates a community of children who learn the art of self-expression and storytelling through video," said Guthrie.

For more information, visit www.MeetMeAtTheCorner.org .

Dec. 29 is the First Day to Apply for Dedicated Hunter Program

Applications must be received no later than Jan. 12

If you join Utah's Dedicated Hunter program, you'll have a chance to participate in all three general buck deer hunts next fall. And you can hunt in the region of your choice.

If that sounds good to you, Dec. 29 is an important day. Dec. 29 is the first day you can submit your application to join the program in 2009.

But before you submit your application, you must learn more about the program by completing a free online course. The course is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/dh. It takes at least 30 minutes to complete, so make sure you give yourself enough time to complete the course before your application is due.



After completing the course, you must submit your application at www.wildlife.utah.gov no later than 11 p.m. on Jan. 12. You'll know by the week of Jan. 19 whether your application was drawn to join the program.

"A \$10 application fee is the only fee you have to pay when you apply," says Rhianna Christopher, volunteer services coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources. "If your application is drawn, you don't have to buy a hunting license until it's time to get your deer hunting permit."

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 2009 general season buck deer permits will be accepted from Jan. 22 to Feb. 26.

More information about the Dedicated Hunter program is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/dh. You can also listen to an interview about the program at

www.wildlife.utah.gov/radio .

PRICE MEN CONVICTED OF DEER POACHING

PRICE, UTAH—Levi Scott Bradford and Ethan P. Johnson of Price received suspended prison sentences of 0-5 years and a month or more in the Carbon County jail for their recent convictions of Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife. In addition to suspended prison terms and actual jail time, both men have been placed on 36 months probation and were ordered to pay \$925 in fines and \$4,400 in restitution. Both men will likely receive suspension of hunting and fishing license privileges.

Convictions stemmed from a two day shooting spree in October of 2007, when the men shot and abandoned at least 11 deer in the Gordon Creek area west of Price. Because all animals were shot with .22 caliber or smaller bullets, an unknown number of deer could have been mortally wounded, but were never found by investigating officers. All animals were wasted.

This case was made after a sportsman left his vehicle to see what had attracted the attention of huge numbers of ravens and magpies. The birds had been feeding on several deer carcasses. He called the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and helped them find a total of 11 animals that had been shot. Investigating officers collected evidence at the scene, which led to the arrest of

the guilty parties. This case was successfully prosecuted because of the vigilance of a concerned citizen who did the right thing. Please support the state's wildlife resource by helping to bring law breakers to justice. Poachers steal from us all. If you see suspicious or illegal activity, please call the Help Stop Poaching hotline at: 1-800-662-DEER or notify your local DWR office or conservation officer. Rewards are available for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of wildlife criminals.

Wetlands Preserve Starts to Reopen

Half of the preserve went up in smoke in October

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

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

In late November, 45 volunteers answered the



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

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

mixture of grass and plant seeds.

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

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

For more information, call the DWR's Southeastern Region office at (435) 613-3700.



Six Ways to Get the Ski Utah Snow Report

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH- Weather forecasts are calling for major snowstorms in Utah's Wasatch Mountains this week. Don't be the last one in the lift line on powder days. The key to catching some fresh turns this winter is getting dialed into the Ski Utah Snow Report. The Report is updated each morning by 6:30 a.m. with the latest snow totals, average base depths, open runs and lifts, and resort activities. Users can select to receive information from their favorite resorts enabling snowriders to analyze resort conditions on a daily basis. Whether snowriders are tech-savvy or prefer more traditional methods, Ski Utah has the perfect method to get the snow report.

1.) New this year, Ski Utah and Canyon Sports have developed a free iPhone application for iPhone and iPod Touch users. Available on the Apple Application Store, users can download the free application which provides the snow report for all of Utah's 13 resorts. Go to www.CanyonSports.com for more detailed information.

2.) Snow Phone- Call the Ski Utah Snow Report line at 801.521.8102.

3.) Check the Snow Report online at www.SkiUtah.com/snow_report.

4.) Sign-up for mobile alerts at www.SkiUtah.com/snow_report.

5.) Get the snow report via RSS feeds by visiting www.SkiUtah.com/RSS.

6.) Download the Utah Office of Tourism's new snow widget at www.Utah.Travel/Snowflake.

Ski Utah Snow Report users are also eligible to win a case of Monster beverage each time Utah receives a "Monster" dump (12 inches of snow or more in 24 hours). Users simply log on to www.SkiUtah.com and click on the green Monster Dump banner to enter. With so many ways to get the Ski Utah Snow Report, there is no excuse to be the last person calling in with the

powder-flu. For more information on Ski Utah and the state's 13 incredible resorts visit www.SkiUtah.com or call 801.534.1779



SUMMIT MEADOWS ADVENTURES OPERATED BY DEER VALLEY RESORT NOW OPEN FOR THE 2008/2009 WINTER SEASON

Deer Valley owned and operated Summit Meadows Adventures guided snowmobile tours take place on the Garff Ranch, a five-mile, ten-minute drive from Park City's Main Street, located on Brown's Canyon Road off Highway 248. Summit Meadows Adventures has access to 7,000 acres of pristine open lands on which to snowmobile. Beautiful scenic views of the Wasatch mountain range make this an adventure you won't want to miss. Complimentary transportation from Park City is available. For more information or reservations please call 888-896-7669 or 435-645-7669. Guided tours use single or double capacity machines.

WHEN:

One, two or three hour guided tours are available daily, conditions permitting.



COST:

A one-hour guided tour costs \$99 per person, with a passenger rate of \$20. One-hour tours leave daily at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. A two-hour guided tour costs \$124 per person, with a passenger rate of \$25. Two-hour tours depart daily at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. A three-hour guided tour including lunch costs \$149 per person, with a passenger rate of \$35. Lunch tours depart Monday-Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Located on the beautiful Garff Ranch, a five-mile, ten-minute drive from Park City's Historic Main Street.

SKIERS, RIDERS ALL ABOARD

The Front Runner commuter light rail service from Salt Lake City to Ogden that could get you the best day of skiing/riding you've ever had at Snowbasin Resort.

Departs Salt Lake City at the end of the Trax transportation for the hour trip to Ogden. Snowbasin will offer express van service to the mountain twice in the morning (~8:30 am & ~9:30 am) from the Ogden Depot... The roundtrip fare requires an upgradeable lift ticket purchase to include \$10 per person. (Does not include train fare) The return trip to Salt Lake City will depart Snowbasin @ 4:30 pm to board the Front Runner @ 5:08 pm. Sorry, there is no



Front Runner service to Snowbasin on Sunday.

The concept of a "snow train" to Snowbasin is unique, but seems well suited as Snowbasin is the closest resort to the Front Runner depots. We anticipate service to begin December 20th through Saturday April 11th.

For further information please contact Snowbasin at 801-620-1000.

Elk Foundation Brings Brucellosis Stakeholders to the Table

MISSOULA, Mont.—Leaders from both the wildlife and livestock camps see two main obstacles to solving the brucellosis problem in the Yellowstone area. The first is simply getting everyone to the table to work collaboratively. Second, no one agency or person is in charge.

Overcoming these barriers was the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's primary goal in hosting and facilitating the recent Greater Yellowstone Area Brucellosis Workshop.

The educational workshop, held in Billings, Mont., Dec. 8-9, brought together representatives from state and federal wildlife and agricultural agencies, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Cattlemen's Association, Idaho Cattle Association, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Yellowstone National Park, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and others.

"I would like to commend the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for putting all of this together. The gathering of stakeholders we have here is monumental in terms of geography and the

constituencies represented,” said Errol Rice, executive vice president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Presenters at the workshop offered their latest data on brucellosis, or Bang’s disease, which originally found its way to the greater Yellowstone ecosystem via infected livestock. Today, the area’s elk and bison are the nation’s last known reservoirs of the contagious disease. Transmission is possible wherever these species share space or co-mingle with cattle. Infected animals commonly abort fetuses and display arthritic symptoms. When livestock tests positive for brucellosis, a litany of regulations, restrictions and mandated control measures prove costly for beef producers within the affected state.

Solving this difficult problem has broad economic and social implications across the three states within the greater Yellowstone region. Most workshop participants agreed overarching policy and direction is needed at both state and federal levels.

“The Elk Foundation wants, and we believe healthy habitat can support, a coexistence of wildlife and livestock. There’s no easy way to achieve that, but we’re hopeful that the workshop will revitalize the spirit of cooperation needed to reach solutions,” said Jack Blackwell, vice president of lands and conservation for RMEF.

Minutes from the workshop are being formally drafted for approval by attendees. Next steps will include identifying an entity to take the lead. Most workshop participants favored reviving

strong leadership within the dormant Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee.

More Fishing Reports

BEAR LAKE: Biologist Scott Tolentino reports the Bonneville whitefish spawn is still on, but it should be winding down by Christmas. This past weekend, limit catches were still possible off rocky shorelines on the east side of Bear Lake. The average size of the whitefish was up this year. Fish have averaged

between 1.5 and 2 pounds. You should use light equipment — a light rod with four- to six-pound test line and 1/8-ounce or smaller jigs tipped with either worms or wax worms — and fish along the bottom by the rocky shorelines in depths less than 10 feet deep. Small spinners (#0 and #1) or small silver spoons fished close to the bottom in these same areas should also work well.



Whitefish are good fried, smoked, baked or boiled. The daily limit and possession limit is 10 fish. Cutthroat and lake trout feed on the whitefish and their eggs, so you have a chance to catch all three species. The cutthroat trout fishing was good at 2nd Point using tube jigs tipped with cisco in 60 to 70 feet. Trollers are also catching cutthroat at the Cisco Beach area using both flat lines and downriggers with rattling crankbaits.

EAST CANYON RESERVOIR: The recorded information line for East Canyon State Park indicates excellent fishing conditions. Since conditions change rapidly, call the State Park at 801-829-6866 for updated information.

HYRUM RESERVOIR: The recorded information line for the State Park indicates fishing success is picking up. Since conditions change rapidly, call the State Park at 435-245-6866 for updated information.

MANTUA RESERVOIR: DWR Biologists report that the reservoir is covered with ice, but that there are still a number of gray, soft spots. No safe access was reported yet. The reservoir underwent a herbicide treatment in November to remove some overgrowth of aquatic weeds. Check out a video of the project on the DWRs new photo and video gallery at dwr.smugmug.com.



OGDEN RIVER: Dedicated Hunter Jim Hunter reports that there are few anglers fishing. Be careful when you're bank fishing with the snowy and icy conditions. The USGS Web site indicates the current flow for the river below Pineview Reservoir is 7.7 CFS. This Web site is an excellent resource for current flow information for Utah's streams and rivers. Check it out at waterdata.usgs.gov/ut/nwis/current/?type=flow

PINEVIEW RESERVOIR: Biologist Kent Sorenson reports that there is no ice on Pineview. The water temperature was 40.5°F on Thursday, Nov. 11, so the ice should appear soon. At least one muskie was interested in a trolled crankbait. Snow on the ramp may make launching and retrieving boats tricky.

ROCKPORT RESERVOIR: State Park rangers report that most of the reservoir is ice-free. The boat ramp is snow-packed, so they recommended using a four-wheel drive vehicle to launch boats. The small amount of ice on the south end is unsafe. Rainbow trout fishing should be decent, with boat anglers having the best success.

WEBER RIVER: Conservation Officer and Biologist Paul Thompson report light fishing pressure along the Weber River in Summit County. Fishing success was good for Brown Trout. Please watch out for unsafe ice.

WILLARD BAY RESERVOIR: Dedicated Hunter Jim Hunter reports that few anglers are fishing because of the weather. The reservoir is still open water. Since conditions change rapidly, call the State Park at 435-734-9494 for updated information.

ABAJO MOUNTAINS: There are no recent reports.

CLEVELAND RESERVOIR: The reservoir is frozen and snow-covered.

ELECTRIC LAKE: There is a small amount of open water on the north end, and there may be other pockets of open water. Please use extreme caution.

HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR (MAMMOTH): The ice pack is thick, solid and covered with snow.

HUNTINGTON NORTH RESERVOIR: Park Manager Dan Richards reports freezing conditions with a few open water pockets.



JOES VALLEY RESERVOIR: Freezing is imminent.

LAKE POWELL: Please visit [the Lake Powell section](#) for more information.

LA SAL MOUNTAINS: There are no reports on the mountain lakes, although Conservation Officer TJ Robertson reports good fishing at Kens Lake with Jakes lures or traditional baits.

MILLSITE RESERVOIR: The reservoir is partly frozen. Tom Ogden fly-fished on Dec. 11 and had the most success with a size 8 bead head Canada blood leech with a gold rib. Tom's catch ranged from 12 to 15 inches and included a variety of trout. The success of other anglers varied from poor to good.

SCOFIELD RESERVOIR: The reservoir froze more than a week ago. On Dec. 14, the ice was four to five inches and has thickened since then. Fishing is generally good with a variety of baits and jigs, and with lures in a variety of colors. Many anglers have been fishing a foot off the bottom in water that's 10 to 15 feet deep.

BAKER RESERVOIR: There are no recent reports, but there is a good chance there is thin ice after the recent storms. The ice on Baker is usually not safe, so it's best to wait until it melts. Fall and winter are good times to target nice browns at Baker. Try Rapalas or other crankbaits, streamers, frozen minnows or jigs tipped with cutbait.

BARKER RESERVOIRS, NORTH CREEK LAKES: Much of Boulder Mountain is now snowed in, so access is limited to 4x4 vehicles or ATVs. All lakes except Barker and Lower Barker Reservoirs are now closed to fishing until April 2009. Special regulations on many of the Boulder Mountain waters include a trout limit of four, of which only two may be over 14 inches.

BEAVER MOUNTAIN LAKES: All lakes are iced-over and should be safe by the weekend. Access is difficult, however, so bring your snowmobile. Public access at Puffer Lake is restricted to 100 yards of shoreline on the southwest end. Look for the small area that is NOT posted.

BEAVER RIVER, LOWER: The river may ice up soon. Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits. Much of the river is on private property, so please treat the area with respect. Some of the private land is open to walk-in access, but there are also areas closed to the public. Pay attention to property signs and avoid trespassing.

BEAVER RIVER, UPPER: Anchor ice may soon be a problem. Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease* by cleaning mud from waders and equipment. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

BOULDER MTN LAKES: Most lakes are now closed to fishing until April 2009. Check the [Utah Fishing guidebook](#) to see which lakes are still open. The open lakes should have safe ice. Access is limited to snowmobile or ATV. Special regulations on many of the Boulder Mountain waters include a trout limit of four, of which only two may be over 14 inches.



CHALK CREEK: Wild rainbows are abundant. Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits.

CLEAR CREEK: There is some ice along the banks of the creek. Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive

throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits.

CORN CREEK: Wild brown trout are abundant. Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits.

DUCK CREEK SPRINGS/ASPEN MIRROR LAKE: Most of the pond is covered with thin ice.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER, KINGSTON CANYON: Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits. There is public access on a section of Kingston Canyon (midway through the canyon) that was purchased through the Blue Ribbon Fisheries program. Look for the signs. Most of the remainder of the canyon is private and posted, so ask permission first.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER, BLACK CANYON: The river in Black Canyon generally does not freeze. Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits. For the section of river from the BLM property boundary (about four miles south of Antimony) upstream to the confluence with Deer Creek, there are special regulations. You can use artificial flies and lures only and keep a limit of two trout. Some private land is closed to trespassing, so watch for the signs.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER ABOVE TROPIC RESERVOIR: There is little winter fishing pressure due to ice cover and poor access.



ENTERPRISE RESERVOIR (Upper & Lower): The upper reservoir has not been stocked this year due to continued repair work on the dam. A fish consumption advisory was issued for rainbow trout in Upper Enterprise Reservoir due to elevated levels of mercury. For details, visit www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

FISH LAKE: The marinas are iced-in, and the south end has some thin ice. Fish Lake usually has safe ice by New Year's Day.

Note: A few tiger muskies have moved up from Johnson Reservoir. The general statewide limit on tiger muskie applies here: you can keep one fish, which must be over 40 inches.

FORSYTH RESERVOIR: The ice is safe for fishing. One angler reports good success for 16- to 18-inch tigers. Ice fishing is a good way to target splake. Try light-colored jigs tipped with cutbait. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease* by cleaning mud from waders and equipment. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

FREMONT RIVER: Though trout get sluggish during the winter, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits. The lower sections of the stream can be good at any time of year if the water is not turbid. Much of the lower stream is on private land. Ask for permission before fishing on private land. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease* by cleaning mud from waders and equipment. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

GUNLOCK RESERVOIR: The reservoir was drained for dam repairs. A fish-consumption advisory was issued for largemouth bass from Gunlock due to elevated levels of mercury. For details, visit www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.

JOHNSON RESERVOIR: Musky fishing will be slow until spring. The reservoir contains an abundance of suckers, Utah chubs and small yellow perch. Special regulations: Whole fish and

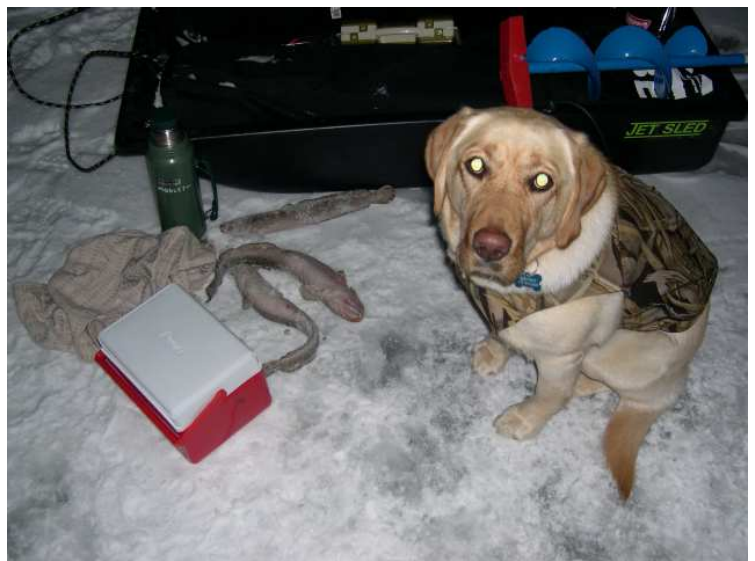
amphibians are not allowed as bait. Cut bait must be no longer than one inch in any dimension, and you can use only one piece per hook. The limit is one tiger muskie over 40 inches—all tiger muskies smaller than 40 inches must be immediately released.

KOLOB RESERVOIR: The reservoir should be iced over. You can gain access by snowmobile. ATVs are not recommended after the snow Southern Utah has received. Special regulations include artificial flies and lures only, with a limit of one trout, which must be over 18 inches. Scented jigs are not allowed. Tributary streams are closed to fishing until July 12. Please call the poaching hotline (1-800-662-DEER) to report violations.

KOOSHAREM RESERVOIR: The reservoir is ice-capped. Ice fishing will be slow at best this year. It is not certain how many fish survived low water this fall.

LOWER BOWNS RESERVOIR: Access should soon be limited to snowmobile or ATV. Ice fishing is usually good, if you can get there.

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



MILL MEADOW RESERVOIR: The reservoir is ice-capped and the ice should be close to safe. One angler reports very good success for perch. Medium-sized brown trout are abundant. These brown trout are wild fish spawned in the Fremont River. It is very unique to find such a dense population of wild brown trout in a reservoir. The best techniques for catching browns include flashy lures, streamers and natural baits like nightcrawlers and minnows. Good-sized perch (up to 10 inches) are semi-abundant. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR: The reservoir is covered with one inch of ice. The ice should be safe in one to two more weeks. Special regulations include artificial flies and lures only, with a limit of one trout, which must be over 22 inches. Scented jigs are not allowed. Please call the poaching hotline (1-800-662-DEER) to report violations. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

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

NAVAJO LAKE: The access gate is likely closed, so access may be by snowmobile or walking down from the highway only. The ice should be safe, and ice fishing is a good way to target splake. Try light-colored jigs tipped with cutbait.

NEWCASTLE RESERVOIR: There are no recent reports, but the reservoir should have thin ice. Please remember that golden shiners are not approved for use as fresh or frozen bait. fish-consumption advisory was issued for rainbow trout in Newcastle Reservoir due to elevated levels of mercury. For details, visit www.fishadvisories.utah.gov.



OTTER CREEK RESERVOIR: The reservoir is capped with thin ice. Give the ice at least a week and it should be safe. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

PANGUITCH LAKE: The lake is capped with thin ice and may have safe ice by the weekend. Special regulations apply at this water: The limit is four trout, which must be less than 15 inches or over 22 inches. All trout that are 15 to 22 inches long must be released. Trout caught at Panguitch Lake cannot be filleted—nor can you remove the head or tail—until you get home or to a camp. **TIPS FOR RELEASING FISH IN THE SLOT (15–22 inches):** If a fish swallows the hook, please cut the line to avoid mortality. A fish can pass a swallowed hook and survive, but digging the hook out will almost certainly kill the fish. You should also try fishing with single hooks instead of treble hooks.

PARAGONAH (RED CREEK) RESERVOIR: The reservoir should be ice-capped, but may not be safe for ice fishing yet. Access is primarily by snowmobile or ATV: Trucks are not recommended. The rainbows are very abundant, so please harvest to help the fish to stay in balance with the food base.

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

PINE VALLEY RESERVOIR: There are no recent reports, but the reservoir should be icing up. There has been a lot of snow in the area over the last few days, so access may be limited.

PIUTE RESERVOIR: The reservoir is starting to ice over. The ice should be safe in one or two weeks.

QUAIL LAKE: Rainbows have been stocked and fishing should be good. Bass fishing slows down during the colder months, though it is still possible to catch fish. Make sure you fish during the warmest part of the day. A very slow retrieve is key and even "dead-sticking" may help. Many bass anglers prefer drop-shot rigs in the winter. Don't be afraid to use larger plastics or even hardware. Remember the special regulations for bass: four bass under 10 inches and two over 20 inches.

SAND HOLLOW RESERVOIR: Recent cold weather and snow should shut down bass fishing for a bit. Bass fishing slows down during the colder months though it is still possible to catch fish. Make sure you fish during the warmest part of the day. A very slow retrieve is key even "dead-sticking" may help. Many bass anglers prefer drop-shot rigs in the winter. Don't be afraid to use larger plastics or even hardware. Remember special regulations bass limit is six, with one over 12 inches. Public access to the reservoir is available only through the State Park.

SEVIER RIVER (UPPER), ASAY CREEK:

The creek generally ices up at night during the winter and breaks up during the day. Though trout get sluggish, stream fishing can be very productive throughout the colder months. Try nymphs, spinners and natural baits. Most of the trout water on the upper Sevier is located upstream (south) from the town of Hatch. Intermittent sections of good habitat are present above Hatch and easily accessible from Highway 89. Asay Creek west of Highway 89 is on private land and access is restricted.



SEVIER RIVER MARYSVALE CANYON: Fishing is slow due to the ice cover.

THOUSAND LAKES MTN: Access is limited by snow. Most of the lakes should be iced over. Ice fishing is usually good in Solomon Basin, if you can get there.

TROPIC RESERVOIR: The reservoir should have safe ice, but snow may limit access. Winter is a good time to target brown trout. The local favorite bait is frozen minnows.

URBAN PONDS (Washington County): The ponds may have some thin ice. Catchable-sized rainbow trout have been stocked in all the ponds and fishing is good with any technique. Adults are encouraged to use lures and flies.

WIDE HOLLOW RESERVOIR: There are no recent reports, but it's likely that the reservoir has thin ice.

YANKEE MEADOW RESERVOIR: The reservoir should have safe ice. Access is limited to snowmobile and ATV. If you can get there, ice fishing is usually good.

DEER CREEK RESERVOIR: Anglers report catching mostly 12- to 15-inch rainbow trout. Walleye and bass success is slow. Please remember that the trout limit is four fish statewide, unless otherwise noted in the [2008 Fishing Guidebook](#). The yellow perch limit is 10. From Jan. 1 through Apr. 30, you must keep all the yellow perch you catch. Remember that the bass limit is six, and you should immediately release all bass over 12 inches long. The walleye limit is 10, but you may keep only one over 24 inches.

JORDANELLE RESERVOIR: Anglers report good success from boats for rainbow trout and brown trout. Courtesy docks have been pushed out to deeper water. Use caution: The ramps can be slippery and wet with the cold weather. Anglers report that smallmouth bass success is slow to fair. The bass limit is six fish, and you should immediately release all bass over 12 inches long. Please remember not to fillet bass or remove their heads or tails because of the size

restriction (for law enforcement purposes). Perch success is slow, but the perch limit is 50.



STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR: Unsafe ice is starting to form in several bays. A few anglers on small boats and some float tubers are still braving the cold temps, and report fair success. Download a PDF of the Strawberry Reservoir Fishing Regulations and Fish Identification brochure at wildlife.utah.gov/strawberry. Special regulations for the reservoir include: An aggregate limit of four trout or kokanee salmon. No more than two of the fish may

be cutthroat trout under 15 inches, and no more than one may be a cutthroat over 22 inches. All cutthroat between 15 and 22 inches must be immediately released. (Any trout with cutthroat markings is considered a cutthroat.) Don't feel compelled to harvest fish on every trip. Please do your part to ensure the future of this heavily utilized fishery by voluntarily releasing fish.

UTAH LAKE: There isn't much ice yet, so the water is mostly open. Anglers pursuing white bass report slow to fair success. The largemouth and smallmouth bass limit is six, and you should immediately release all largemouth and smallmouth bass over 12 inches long. For more information on conditions, call Utah Lake State Park at (801) 375-0731.

YUBA RESERVOIR: Last week, perch success was fair and good at times. Anglers still report occasional northern pike success using large spinner lures or minnow-imitating action lures and some patience. For more information, call the State Park at (435) 758-2611.

BURRASTON POND: Anglers report slow to fair success with traditional baits.



MILL HOLLOW: Mill Hollow was drained. No fishing until 2009.

PAYSON LAKE: Canyon-access gates are closed.

SALEM POND: Anglers report slow to fair success for trout and catfish using traditional baits. The park closes at 10 p.m. every night. Remember that regulations include a daily bag and possession limit of four fish for all species. For example, you could catch and keep one trout, two channel

catfish and one bluegill.

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY WATERS: Most anglers report slow to fair success using traditional baits.

SPANISH OAKS RESERVOIR: Closed for the season

SPRING LAKE: Anglers report slow to fair success for trout.

TIBBLE FORK RESERVOIR: There is light pressure and unsafe ice is starting to form. Anglers report slow to fair success from shore using traditional flies, lures, jigs and baits.

VERNON, GRANTSVILLE & SETTLEMENT CANYON RESERVOIR (TOOELE CO.): Anglers report fair success and light pressure at all three reservoirs.

AMERICAN FORK RIVER: There's light fishing pressure, and fair fishing success with worms or small flies.

DIAMOND FORK RIVER: Anglers report fair to good success with small flies or traditional baits.

HOBBLE CREEK & CATCH BASIN: Fishing success on the creek is fair with traditional baits and spinners.

PROVO RIVER: Anglers report good success using spinners or small dark flies. Some browns may exhibit the white, cloudy patches on their sides that occasionally results from spawning. Read the [2008 Fishing Guidebook](#) to learn more about the different regulations on the river. Some areas allow bait and others do not. And some stretches have size restrictions and reduced limits (like "two brown trout under 15 inches").

THISTLE CREEK: Anglers report fair to good success with flies, lures or worms under snowy conditions.



Christmas and New Year's Special

Join us at The Canyons in Park City, Utah for the holidays! We have a variety of activities and events going on through this special time. We invite you to come up and stay with us for these exclusive discounted rates on the following nights:



DECEMBER 24, 25 and 30, 31
starting at \$149 per night!*



Call to book: (866) 604-4171

*Rates start at \$149 per night. Prices may vary based on room type and season. Lodging discount only. Based on availability. Prices do not include taxes and service charges. Not offered to groups of 10 or more. Maximum 2 night stay only. May not be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply.

Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Bridge to Energy Independence By Selma Sierra, BLM Utah State Director

Our nation's economy and energy security are inextricably linked. The Bureau of Land Management plays a key role in advancing our energy and economic security by providing access to energy sources such as oil, gas and renewable energy. While we envision a future of energy independence sustained by alternative and renewable sources of energy, we also know that oil and natural gas are the essential bridge to that future energy independence.

It is important then that those who have a stake in the management of our public lands—and that

means every American citizen—understand how the BLM carries out its responsibilities, under the law, to manage the energy resources on public lands.

One aspect of BLM's current oil and gas program, the December 2008 lease sale, deserves particular attention at this time, because facts of the lease sale have been mischaracterized in the public forum, sowing confusion and misunderstanding.



It should be understood, first and foremost, that there can be no leasing—by law—in areas protected as Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. Second, BLM conducts quarterly lease sales based on the law of the land – specifically the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Rigorous environmental reviews of proposed parcels lead to public reviews, where the public has the opportunity to look at the lease offerings and present objections to

specific parcels for specific reasons.

This is a standard process BLM Utah conducts four times each year.

Granting a lease does not convey an unlimited right to explore or develop oil or gas resources. Leases are stipulated with terms designed to minimize the impacts of development. Standard lease terms require that the lessee minimize adverse impacts to the land, air, water, cultural, biological and visual values. Additional lease terms are applied according to site-specific needs. After a lease is issued the BLM works closely with the operator to modify the siting and design of facilities, influence the rate of development and timing of activities, and require other mitigation to minimize impacts. It is important to remember, too, that leasing is a temporary use of the land, and developers are required to reclaim sites.

And let's not forget what energy industry jobs mean to local economies. Many Utah communities depend on energy development, the jobs and infrastructure they bring. Thus far, Utah is fortunate that it has not been hit as dramatically as the rest of the country with job losses. That is due, in large measure, to energy jobs in the state, which have outpaced US job growth by more than 30 percent.

Oil and gas exploration is costly and highly speculative. Only about six percent of the leases are drilled, and about four percent of leases are productive. If a lease is explored and preliminary data indicates field development is probable, BLM then prepares the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document—typically an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment—to analyze and disclose environmental impacts. The NEPA process ensures continuing opportunities for public involvement in managing your public lands.

Little attention has been paid to the fact that this lease sale offers parcels for development of geothermal energy—a renewable energy resource—yet even these are protested. And

renewable resources are bearing the brunt of economic downturn and falling gas prices. Our collective memory as a nation is short. We forget how hard it was to pay \$4.00 a gallon for gas last summer, when we're paying less than half that price this winter. That being said, it is important that we are deliberate in our ability to maintain existing energy resources until we can fully transition to renewable energy resources.



Being dependent upon foreign sources of energy has always been risky. In the geopolitical world of today, our dependence on others leaves us frighteningly vulnerable. Common sense dictates that we have a strategy to lessen our dependence on foreign sources of energy, a strategy that gives us confidence about a future era of energy independence that is sustained by renewable and alternative sources of energy produced here in the United States.

In the meantime, that strategy must bridge the gap, by promoting responsible development of the substantial reserves of oil and natural gas resources found here at home.

For more information regarding oil and gas development on BLM-administered land in Utah please visit:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/info/more/Myth_vs_Reality/December_2008_Quarterly_Oil_and_Gas_Lease.html



*At the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn
gratefully to those who make the Garden possible.
Thank you and best wishes for the holidays.
The staff at Red Butte Garden*

HOLIDAY HORDES EXPECTED DESPITE DOWNTURN

Trips Down 2 Percent, But Over 598,000 Utahns Will Travel, Says AAA

SALT LAKE CITY, December 17, 2008 –The economic downturn has eroded the discretionary income of many Utahns, affecting travel plans and festivities and reducing projected holiday travel by 2 percent. Still, AAA forecasts over 598,000 Utahns will travel 50 miles or more from their homes to celebrate the end-of-year holidays.

“The significant reduction in the cost of gasoline has been insufficient to offset concerns over unemployment, job security and loss of disposable income,” said Rolayne Fairclough, spokesperson for AAA Utah. “But despite these fears, many will still be venturing out of town, and we can expect packed airplanes and congested highways.”

AAA predicts that more than 480,000 (84 percent) will be traveling by motor vehicle, representing a 1.5 percent decrease from last year. Airports can expect over 86,000 (13 percent) to fly this holiday season, a 6.7 percent decrease from last year's numbers. More than 29,000 (3 percent) plan to travel by bus, train or boat cruises.

Nationally, over 63 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more for the end-of-the-year holiday season, an overall 1.4 percent decrease from last year.

With airline companies reacting to falling demand, travelers can expect to pay 9 percent less in airfares over the Christmas holiday weekend than in 2007. Hotel rates for AAA-Rated Three Diamond hotels are down 16 percent for both Christmas and New Year's getaways.

AAA will once again provide its Topsy Tow program, offering a free ride home to motorists who feel they have had too much to drink in order to drive home safely. From 6 p.m. Wednesday, December 24th until 6 a.m. Thursday, December 25th, members as well as non-members alike can call (800) 222-4357 for a free tow home of up to five miles. Just tell the AAA operator, "I need a Topsy Tow," and the truck will be on its way.

"With more cold weather forecasted, AAA encourages motorists to prepare their vehicles for winter trips," added Fairclough. "Adapting your driving techniques to adverse conditions will also reduce the possibilities of accidents on the road."

Winterizing Your Car:

- **Check the systems.** Make sure your brakes, defroster, heater, exhaust system and lights work properly. Change the blades on your wipers and check the antifreeze level.
- **Inspect the tires.** Under-inflated tires can be dangerous and may suffer damage. The air pressure in your tires will decrease 1-2psi for every 10 degree drop.
- **Keep a full gas tank.** In winter it may become necessary to change routes, idle for long periods of time, travel slowly or turn around in a storm. A full gas tank allows you to do these maneuvers without worrying about running out of fuel.
- **Keep the windshield and windows clear.** Have a snow brush and ice scraper in the vehicle. Clean off the roof of the vehicle and the windows. Use the car's defroster or a clean cloth to defog the inside of the windows.
- **Carry an emergency kit.** Items to include in the kit are a flashlight, a first-aid kit, flares or emergency triangles, extra window washer fluid, a tool kit, a blanket or sleeping bag, gloves, paper towels, drinking water and extra food.

Driving with Caution:

- **Adjust your speed for the weather.** SLOW DOWN. Keep in mind that your vehicle needs at least three times more distance to stop on slick roads.
- **Increase your following distance.** To safely stop, a vehicle needs a minimum of four to eight seconds between it and the vehicle in front.

- **Be alert.** Learn to read road conditions to anticipate a hazard in time to react safely. Bridges, overpasses and shaded spots pose potential dangers because ice often forms first in these areas.
- **Steer clear of collisions.** Learn to take evasive action by steering around a situation to avoid collisions. Steering is preferred to braking at speeds above 25 mph because less distance is required to steer around an object than to brake.
- **Recognize hydroplaning hazards.** To reduce the chances of hydroplaning slow down, avoid hard braking or sharp turns, drive in the tracks of the vehicle ahead of you and increase your following distance.

AAA's holiday travel figures are based on a national telephone survey of 2,200 adults by the Travel Industry Association of America, which conducts special research for AAA.

AAA Travel is the nation's largest travel organization. AAA Travel offers trips, cruises, tours and vacation packages throughout the world. Call (888) 937-5523 for more information or visit us at your local AAA Travel office or go online at www.aaa.com/travel.

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.

Win a Case of Monster

The snow is falling and Utah's mountains are ready to welcome skiers and snowboarders for the holidays. Just this week, Utah has received over TWO FEET of light, dry powder snow. Be sure and check the Ski Utah snow report daily, as each time Utah receives a "Monster" dump (12 inches of snow or more in 24 hours), you can enter to win a case of Monster beverage. Simply log on to SkiUtah.com and click on the green Monster Dump banner to enter. Check daily, as Utah is known to get more than its fair share of Monster dumps!



The North Face & Mountain Sport International partner with Snowboard Magazine as the event's official media partner

Salt Lake City, Utah, December 17, 2008 – Now in its sophomore year, The North Face Masters of Snowboarding (TNF Masters) has become the largest cohesive competitive big mountain snowboarding tour in the country. A three-stop tour, TNF Masters is designed to cater to the motivation, talent and skill of world-class big mountain snowboarders. The 2009 tour visits Snowbird, Utah, Crested Butte, Colorado, and culminates at the ultimate big mountain competition venue of Kirkwood, California.

“The North Face Masters tour is going to be off the chain this year,” said TNF Masters Alyeska, Alaska, 2008 champion Rob Kingwill. “I am excited to be a part of the movement toward giving big mountain snowboarding competition the recognition it deserves. All three 2009 venues are



world-class, and I can't wait to see what happens.”

TNF Masters features a \$45,000 cash prize purse and serves as a qualifier event to the Freeride

World Tour. Winners from the Snowbird and Crested Butte TNF Masters events will have the opportunity to compete in the Nissan Tram Face at Squaw Valley, California.

“Freeriding, the use of natural terrain, fall line, and innovation from riding style is the essence of big mountain snowboarding,” said TNF Masters Head Judge Tom Burt. “The TNF Masters series is designed around this and that is the reason why I agreed to become the head judge. The terrain will be delivered by Snowbird, Crested Butte, and Kirkwood. All have different flavors of terrain so each will bring its own challenges for the riders, and every rider will bring their own style and innovation to each venue. When the two mesh the best freerider will emerge.”

TNF Masters gathers big mountain snowboarding tribes from all around the world. All male and female snowboarding competitors above age 18 are welcomed to participate. Registration is now open on www.thenorthfacemasters.com.

The North Face Masters of Snowboarding 2009 Series Schedule

Stop #1 – Snowbird, Utah. January 29-February 1, 2009

Stop #2 –Crested Butte, Colorado. February 12-15, 2009

Stop #3 –Kirkwood, California March 5-8, 2009

Fans of big mountain snowboarding can catch same-day coverage of the Semi-Final and Final rounds of each TNF Masters event on www.thenorthfacemasters.com where there are complete videos, photos, athlete profiles, detailed event schedules, registration information and more.

For more information please visit www.thenorthfacemasters.com.

Mobile Web Site Provides Instant Road Conditions to Cell Phone Users

WHAT: A new Nevada Commission on Tourism mobile Web site with live feeds from the Nevada Department of Transportation provides instant road-condition information to travelers using Internet-capable mobile phones. NVroads.mobi includes information on road conditions, construction, accidents, ski conditions at Lake Tahoe, weather information and winter driving safety tips. It also has “click to call” links to 511 (inside Nevada) and 877-NV-ROADS (outside Nevada).

WHO: The Nevada Commission on Tourism developed the mobile site to make it easier for travelers to plan their trips to Nevada.

WHY: When news agencies inform readers and viewers of road problems or construction, they can reach a larger audience by providing both a traditional phone number and a mobile Web site to access more information.

Mobile Web sites are becoming more and more popular as cell phone users turn to “smartphones” to keep them connected to e-mail and the Internet at all times. With an Internet-capable phone, users check weather reports, read news articles, conduct banking and check in for flights, among a variety of other applications. Mobile phones are perhaps the one device travelers always have with them, making it a vital tool to stay updated on travel-related news, such as weather reports and road conditions.

Ski Brian Head Powder

Brian Head Resort received another 7" of fresh, light powder in the past 24 hours! The 3-day storm total is 20". The current base depth is 32" and conditions are groomed corduroy and powder. More snow is expected today. Chairs 2, 3, 5 and 6 are expected to be open today.



Highway 143 is snow-covered from both Mammoth Creek and Parowan and chains or 4-wheel-drive are required this morning.

For more information visit our website at www.brianhead.com.

Updated Conditions and Rates

Deer Valley Lift Rates Rise

WHAT: Deer Valley Resort opened for the 2008/2009 season on Saturday, December 6, 2008.

Due to recent snowfall and extensive snowmaking capabilities, Deer Valley continues to open lifts and terrain. We fully anticipate that (weather permitting) Friday, December 19, Empire Canyon Lodge will open and will be accessed by Bandana ski run. On Sunday, December 21 Empire Express chairlift will open, bringing the total to 17 lifts, 43 runs and 2 bowls.

COST: Beginning Sunday, December 21, Deer Valley's regular season lift ticket rates apply, as follows:

Full Day Half Day (on sale @ 12:15 p.m.)

| | | |
|----------------------|------|------|
| Adult | \$83 | \$58 |
| Senior (65 +) | \$59 | \$41 |
| Child (12 and under) | \$50 | \$40 |
| Tot | \$21 | \$14 |

MONTE CRISTO OPEN AIR DEMO

Huntsville – Join Utah State Parks, the Utah Avalanche Center, and area snowmobile dealers and clubs for an Open Air and Safety Demo at the Monte Cristo Recreation Area Saturday, January 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Test ride the newest snowmobiles and check out winter recreation accessories. Learn avalanche safety, brush up on your beacon and probe skills, and enjoy a day in the snow.

Fees are \$5 per vehicle and annual parking passes are accepted. The Monte Cristo Trailhead is located 17 miles northeast of Huntsville off Highway 39. For more information, please call (435) 734-9494.

Free Shoes awarded in Contest

NO RESTRICTIONS contest runs through December 31st! What's your story? What's your definition of sustainability or building performance shoes responsibly? What are you doing to reduce your footprint, or go Off the Grid? What's your idea of fastpacking? Can vegans run faster? How many trees have you planted? What are five things you wish to end in the world? How many days in a row have you run? Answer me or pick your own topic. It's your show.



Speak to us via the written word, song, video or art. We have \$500 cash + free shoes in prizes. Visit the [END Blog](#) for all the details.

2009 Big Game Guidebook now on the Web

Everything you need to know to apply for a 2009 Utah big game hunting permit is available in the 2009 Utah Big Game Guidebook.

The guidebook is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

Printed copies of the guidebook should be available at sporting goods stores and Division of Wildlife Resources offices in early January.



The DWR will accept applications for 2009 big game hunting permits from Jan. 22 to Feb. 26.

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



Park City Vacation Discounts offered

Park City Mountain Resort saves you both time and money when you plan your upcoming ski vacation. Make your New Year's resolution and book by January 1st to save BIG!

See the chart below for the difference in what you could save during the President Week Holiday if you choose a Park City Mountain Resort vacation:

| | US | THEM |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Lodging | half the price of our competitors for a family of four | over \$6500 for the week |
| Non-stop Flight from LA | \$189 per person and 1.5 hours | \$286 per person and 2 hours |
| Non-stop Flight from FLL | half the price of our competitors | \$1000 per person |
| Drive from major airport | 40 minutes | 2 to 3.5 hours |
| Kids Mountain School | Guarantee of 5 or less students per instructor | Up to 14 kids per instructor |
| Distance to Town | 0 minutes; access via the Town lift and Town runs to historic Main Street | At least a 5 to 10 minute shuttle ride |

Here's a look at two of our great deals!

Super Slopeside Savings

Stay four nights and get your fifth night free when you book a Park City Mountain Resort vacation by January 1, 2009, for stays through January 31, 2009. Slopeside packages start as low as \$169 per person, per night (double occupancy) and include four days of lift tickets for two adults to Park City Mountain Resort. Subject to availability, rate quoted excludes taxes and restrictions apply.



Presidential Ski and Hot Tub Package

Park City Mountain Resort's Presidential Package includes a ski-in/ski-out two-bedroom luxury condo with private hot tub at Silver Star from January 19, 2009, for five nights with four days of adult lift tickets to Park City Mountain Resort (based on two adults and two kids up to 12 years of age). Kids stay and ski for free! Book by January 1st for prices as low as \$549 per adult per night, taxes and fees included. Subject to availability, restrictions apply.

Visit our [package deals page](#) for additional information or call **800-331-3178**.

We've had lots of new snow in the last week! View our video:
<http://www.parkcitymountain.com/videos/media/FirstStorm.mov>

Back in the USA

Lacroix, the high-end luxury ski brand from France, is back on the American market since the brand use rights have been bought back by the company Skis Lacroix SAS. Since 1967, Lacroix has symbolized top quality winter sports equipment along with an art of living in the mountains. By closely associating technology with design, Lacroix offers a range of «expert» skis and accessories designed for amateur skiers looking for equipment with unparalleled quality.

Ten years after the brand was taken over by Bertrand Roy, a former racer, the company is in full expansion. Mr Roy was able to restore both precision and passion to the brand by bringing together a team of specialists working in a genuine development laboratory. Since then, Lacroix has been increasing its prestige and recognition in Europe and abroad. Demanding skiers along with mountain professionals (instructors, ski patrollers, guides, mountain rescue professionals) praise the brand's skiability and unfailing high performance.

In addition, Lacroix has developed a full range of après-ski products designed for men and women who want to combine technical quality with elegance during their stay in the mountains.

Lacroix will be back in the US as of the 2009-2010 season, when the brand will again be



available in the most beautiful resorts on the North American continent, just as it is in Europe.

Woogi World Getting Kids Reading by Bringing Books and Kids' Virtual World Together

Castro Valley, CA – Dec. 16, 2008 – Woogi World™ (www.woogiworld.com), and leading children's publishers, HarperCollins Children's Books, Walden Media and Penguin Books, announced today their joint collaboration to introduce kids to great books through Woogi World's online WoogiReaders Club.

"We're excited to be part of this unique approach to enticing children to spend more time reading books," said Diane Naughton, Vice President of Marketing at HarperCollins Children's Books. "By melding the publishing industry with a popular children's virtual social site, we can create a new level of interest in reading, and thus capture even the reluctant reader's attention."

The Club launched Nov. 18 and hopes to be the catalyst to kids falling in love with books and reading. A basic club membership features an online version of a public domain children's classic (such as *Rikki Tikki Tavi*, by Rudyard Kipling). An upgraded club membership for \$7.95 a month entitles children to receive age-appropriate popular titles on a monthly basis, provided by the three participating publishers. The first books offered are *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary (HarperCollins Children's Books), and *The White Giraffe* by Lauren St. John, (Walden Media). Penguin will follow with *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit* by Paula Danziger. Children will be able to play chapter-oriented games and level up as they "pass off" each chapter of the current month's book.

True to Woogi World format, where all online clubs employ an expert in the subject matter who



guides activities and encourages advancement (Woogi World “leveling up”), the WoogiReaders Club will rely on **Palace**. The introduction of this inter-galactic club guru was one of the highlights of the national November launch.

“Combining the resources of HarperCollins Children’s Books, Walden Media and Penguin (along with the reach of the Internet via Woogi World), means more children will have access to the best books available,” said Scott Dow, CEO of Children’s Way, the creator of Woogi World. “Our partnership with these leading children’s publishers makes it possible for Woogi World to ignite this generation of children with not just a love of reading, but we believe in the long run, a love of learning.”

As with all Woogi World virtual clubs, children must apply for membership by first completing Woogi World’s Internet Basic Training (where they learn how to stay safe in cyberspace). The application process also involves writing a brief

paragraph as to why they want to join the club.

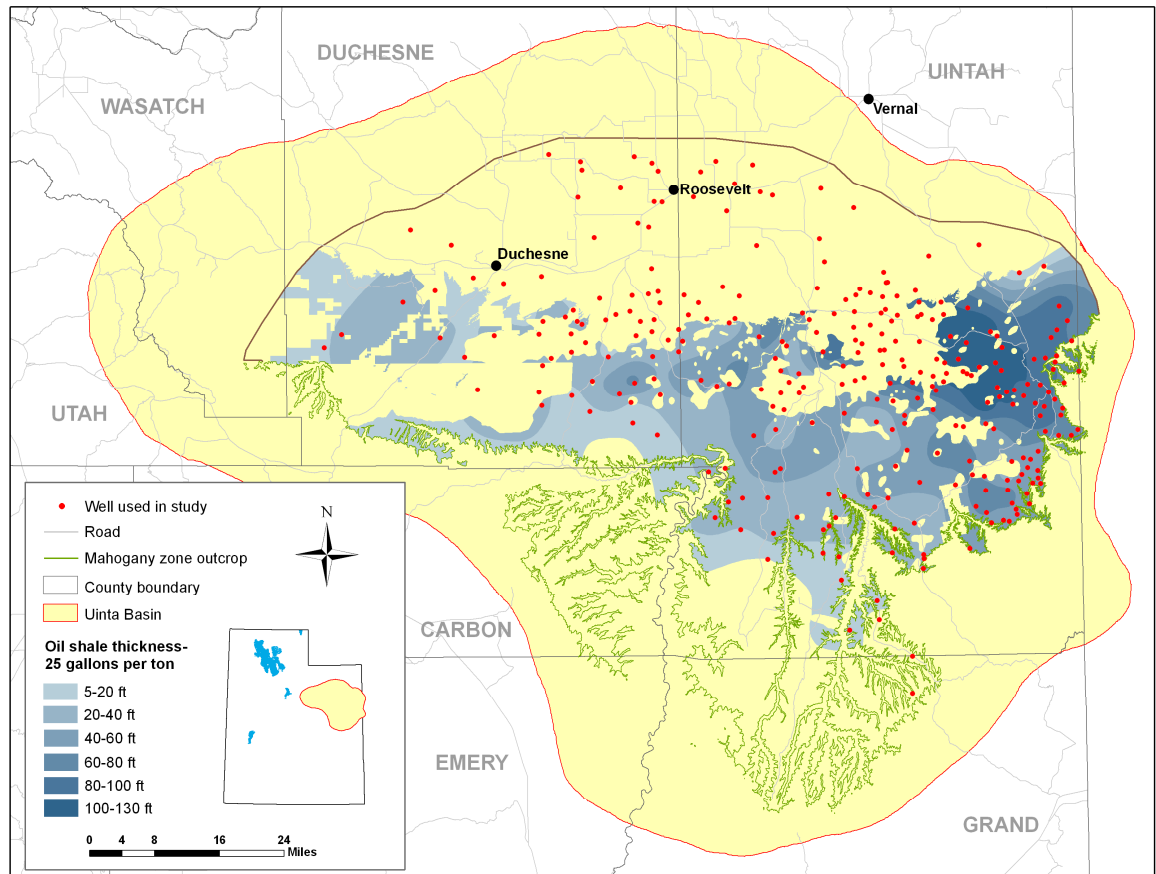
NEW ESTIMATES OF UTAH’S POTENTIAL OIL SHALE RESOURCE RELEASED

Salt Lake City, Utah -- According to a new study just released by the Utah Geological Survey (UGS), Utah’s potential economic oil-shale resource equals approximately 77 billion barrels of shale oil. While the estimate is considerably smaller than numbers frequently quoted, it is still deserving of attention. “A domestic resource of this size is very significant; a conventional field with just 1 billion barrels is considered a “giant”, says Michael Vanden Berg, UGS Project Geologist.

Special Study 128, *Basin-wide Evaluation of the Uppermost Green River Formation’s Oil-Shale Resource, Uinta Basin, Utah and Colorado*, was initiated due to concerns over diminishing conventional reserves. The UGS reexamined the Uinta Basin’s oil-shale resource, primarily in the Mahogany zone of the Green River Formation. This assessment answers the questions of “where” and “how much” that many people ask with regard to Utah’s largest unconventional resource by providing detailed basin-wide resource maps and estimates of in-place shale oil.

The UGS analyzed data from 293 wells located throughout the Uinta Basin to create a comprehensive picture of Utah's oil-shale resource. These widespread data were used to map oil-shale thickness for intervals with oil yields of 15, 25, 35, and 50 gallons of shale oil per ton (GPT) of rock. From these thickness maps, new basin-wide in-place resource numbers for each richness grade were calculated.

The thickest and richest oil shale zones are in central Uintah County, where overburden thickness ranges from zero in the east to almost 4000 feet in the northwest. A continuous interval of oil shale averaging 50 GPT



contains an in-place oil resource of 31 billion barrels in a zone ranging up to 20 feet thick. Likewise, an interval averaging 35 GPT, with a maximum thickness of 55 feet, contains an in-place oil resource of 76 billion barrels. The 25 GPT zone and the 15 GPT zone contain unconstrained resources of 147 billion barrels and 292 billion barrels, respectively. The maximum thickness of 25 GPT rock is about 130 feet, whereas the maximum thickness of 15 GPT rock is about 500 feet.

After calculating total in-place resource estimates, the UGS imposed several constraints on the total endowment to offer a more realistic impression of Utah's potentially economic oil-shale resource. These constraints are subjective since locally-tested commercial oil-shale technologies on which to base them currently do not exist. The constraints used were:

- 1) deposits having a richness of at least 25 GPT (assumed minimum grade),
- 2) deposits that are at least 5 feet thick (assumed minimum mining thickness),
- 3) deposits under less than 3000 feet of cover (maximum underground mining depth),
- 4) deposits that are not in direct conflict with current conventional oil and gas operations (this does not mean that oil shale deposits located within oil and gas fields will be

- permanently off limits - it simply demonstrates that regulators will need to recognize that resource conflicts exist and plan their lease stipulations accordingly), and
- 5) deposits located only on U.S. Bureau of Land Management, state trust, private, and tribal lands.

Accounting for these constraints, the new 77 billion barrel estimate was reached. According to Vanden Berg, “Utah’s large oil-shale deposits warrant further research, including the initiation of pilot-scale projects, so if this petroleum resource is someday tapped, products can be extracted in an environmentally responsible manner.”

Special Study 128 is available at the Natural Resources Map & Bookstore for \$24.95, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City (801-537-3320, or 1-888-UTAHMAP; geostore@utah.gov).

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