

Pronghorn Find New Homes in Northeastern Utah

Almost 100 pronghorn released in mid-December

Vernal -- Pronghorn from Parker Mountain in southern Utah have been introduced to new homes in northeastern Utah south of US-40. During the week of Dec. 15, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources moved 49 pronghorn to the Book Cliffs. Biologists also moved 50 pronghorn to the Nine Mile, Anthro unit southeast of Duchesne.

“We released 49 antelope in the Book Cliffs: 11 bucks, 30 does and eight doe fawns,” says Dax Mangus, UDWR wildlife biologist. “On the Anthro unit we released 50 animals: 12 bucks, 1 buck fawn, 27 does and 10 doe fawns.” Mangus says all of the animals were marked with pink ear tags. The tags have numbers on them. Mangus says the tags will help biologists estimate the number of pronghorn that survive and where they move to.



The UDWR released the pronghorn to help offset a severe decline in the number of pronghorn in northeastern Utah. Extended drought and other impacts to the pronghorns' habitat are the reasons for the decline. Without supplementing the herds with new animals, the biologists are afraid the herds might be lost. As the surviving animals in the herds get older, the potential that successful breeding will occur is declining.

In addition to introducing new animals, UDWR biologists have enhanced water and forage conditions in the areas where the pronghorn live. “We released the pronghorn as high up in pronghorn habitat as we could,” Mangus says. “We did this to avoid the lower ranges where impacts from drought and energy development have increased in recent years.

“The release sites also correspond with habitat improvement work we’ve done, including building guzzlers and other devices that hold water. We’ve also enhanced the ranges by thinning the pinion/juniper woodlands and setting prescribed burns. Both of these techniques help promote the growth of forage plants that are desirable for wildlife.”

UDWR biologists consider themselves lucky to have a convenient source of pronghorn to supplement the herds in northeastern Utah. “The Parker Mountain pronghorn herd continues to produce excess animals. Those animals have to be removed,” Mangus says. “Taking those

animals and moving them to areas where antelope populations are struggling is a win-win proposition.”

Trout Limit Will Change at Two Popular Waters

If you can identify a rainbow trout, you shouldn't have a challenge with new fishing regulations at two of Utah's best trout-fishing waters.

The trout limit at Scofield Reservoir and Panguitch Lake will change on Jan. 1. Starting Jan. 1, the following will be in effect:



- The trout limit will be 4 trout.
- Your 4-trout limit can include rainbow trout of any size.
- Within your 4-trout limit, you can have two cutthroat or tiger trout under 15 inches in length. You can also have one cutthroat or tiger trout over 22 inches long. All cutthroat and tiger trout between 15 and 22 inches long must be released immediately.

Identifying rainbows

“Surveys have confirmed that rainbow trout are the easiest of the three trout for anglers to identify,” says Roger Wilson, cold water sport fisheries coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Resources.

“If you know what a rainbow trout looks like—and then you catch a fish that doesn’t look like a rainbow—you’ll know the fish you’ve caught is covered by the special regulations.” The DWR has put a new brochure together to help you identify rainbow trout. The brochure is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/trout.pdf.

Changes

The limit change at Panguitch Lake will allow you to keep more rainbows. At Scofield Reservoir, the change will help ensure fishing remains good at the reservoir for years to come.



Scofield Reservoir

DWR biologists say the Utah chub population in Scofield Reservoir has increased dramatically over the past two years. To try and keep the population in check, biologists will stock Bear Lake cutthroat trout into the reservoir starting in spring 2009.

Putting Bear Lake cutthroats in the reservoir will give it two “chub eaters”—the Bear Lake cutthroat trout, and tiger trout that are in the reservoir now.

Putting special regulations on Bear Lake cutthroats and tiger trout will help ensure plenty of the large predatory fish stay in the reservoir.

“We put Bear Lake cutthroats in Strawberry Reservoir after we treated the reservoir in 1990. The cutthroats in Strawberry have been protected by a limit that’s the same as the limit that will be in place at Scofield starting Jan. 1,” Wilson says.



“The cutthroats have kept the chub populations in Strawberry in check. We hope they’ll do the same at Scofield.” Scofield Reservoir is just north of the town of Scofield.

Panguitch Lake

A 4-trout limit, which includes restrictions on the size of the fish you can keep, has been in place at Panguitch Lake since 2006. That was the year the lake reopened to fishing after being closed to remove Utah

chubs.

Just like at Scofield, the regulations at Panguitch Lake will help ensure plenty of Bear Lake cutthroats and tiger trout stay in the lake to control any chubs that might return. The difference between the past regulation and the new regulation is that your 4-trout limit can include rainbow trout of any size.

“In the past, anglers had to release all trout that were between 15 and 22 inches long,” Wilson says. “This change will allow anglers to keep more rainbows.”

Panguitch Lake is about 15 miles southwest of Panguitch.

2009 fishing guidebook

All of Utah’s fishing changes for 2009 are found in the 2009 Utah Fishing Guidebook.

The guidebook is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks . Printed copies are available at DWR offices and from fishing license agents across Utah.

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

THE OBAMA GUN BAN

President-elect Obama has stated that he wants to pass a semi-automatic gun ban. His plan is to ban certain semi-automatic firearms. He is being very misleading about this by labeling it an assault weapon ban. This is a falsehood as true assault weapons, fully automatic machine guns like AK47s, have been banned since May 19, 1986. His ban would essentially ban semi-automatic weapons that have detachable magazines and a variety of cosmetic features such as threaded barrels, folding stocks, etc. If we are to stop this we are going to need everyone flooding their legislators with phone calls. Once legislation is introduced on this issue we will

keep you informed with our E-mail alerts and let you know who you need to call and e-mail. Hopefully if we make enough noise we can beat the gun grabbers.

Nevada Commission on Tourism Awards 81 Rural Grants

CARSON CITY, Nev. – The Nevada Commission on Tourism awarded 81 grants Monday that enable Nevada’s rural communities to market their attractions and events to the world during its regular quarterly meeting, Lt. Gov. Brian K. Krolicki announced today.

The grants totaled \$381,531 and will be distributed to rural communities and tourism entities to help fund their marketing efforts. The grants require matching funds or in-kind contributions from those entities.

“The rural grants program is a vital tool in our mission to attract visitors to Nevada and generate crucial income and tax revenue,” Krolicki said. “As the state faces a major economic downturn, we’ve had to make significant cuts to the commission’s budget. But we were able to preserve essential funding for these grants that enable our rural communities to market themselves to the rest of the world.”



The grants are the second of two funding cycles; the first cycle is awarded in June. Commissioners unanimously approved the grant recipients at their quarterly meeting in Carson City Dec. 29.

Among the grant recipients is the White Pine Tourism and Recreation Board for the printing of a Tri-County Ghost Town Guide. The \$2,500 grant will allow the board to print a much-requested guide to the ghost towns in White Pine, Eureka and Lincoln counties, enticing travelers to extend their visits to the area and increase revenue for the counties. Another recipient is the Jarbidge Community Association for the Jarbidge Centennial Celebration. The \$3,540 grant will help the community promote its centennial celebration with fliers and ads. The event is expected to attract more than 1,000 visitors to the remote corner of Nevada. Virginia City is also celebrating an anniversary this year – its 150th – and the Virginia City Convention and Tourism Bureau received a \$7,500 grant to promote the three-day event, which local leaders expect to be the largest event ever put on by the historic town.

The Nevada Commission on Tourism requires stringent accounting and statistical analysis to evaluate the use of the grants and determine a return on investment. For information about the commission, visit www.TravelNevada.com

The Canyons Resort To Host New Year's Eve Festivities

(Park City, Utah) December 27, 2008- The Canyons Resort will be hosting some great New Year's Eve festivities for locals and guests alike. Kick off your evening with dinner at one of the options at The Canyons.

The Cabin Restaurant, located in the Grand Summit Hotel, will host two seatings for a five-course specialty dinner menu from Executive Chef Justin Harry. These dinners will be \$95/person or \$145/person including wine pairings. The first seating is at 5:30pm and will also offer a children's dinner pricing of \$25. The second seating is at 8:00pm and includes complimentary tickets to the Times Square Celebration at 10:00pm in the Kokopelli Grand Ballroom. Reservations through The Cabin Restaurant are recommended for these dinners.



The most exciting dining option is the New Year's Eve Romantic Excursion at Lookout Cabin. Guests load the Flight of The Canyons gondola at 6:30pm and then board a sleigh for the rest of the ride to Lookout Cabin.

There will be five-course dinner prepared by Executive On-Mountain Chef Jacob Guay. Also included is a champagne toast at 10:00pm to celebrate the ball dropping in Times Square, New York. This is for adults, 21 years of age and older and will be \$150/person.

For those guests who would prefer something more casual, there will be a New Year's Eve Family Dinner Buffet in the White Pine Ballroom of the Grand Summit Hotel. This will run

from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. This buffet will be \$29 for adults and \$14 for children. Reservations through The Canyons concierge are recommended for this dinner as well.

There will also be a New Year's Eve Times Square Celebration at 10:00pm in the Kokopelli Grand Ballroom to watch the ball drop in New York. This will be from 8:00pm to 11:00pm. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available.

Starting at 4:00pm in the Resort Village will be the New Year's Eve Rockin' Rail Jam. This will be an invite-only rail jam that will be showcasing some of The Canyons' top athletes, with live music by *Fastback*, starting at 6:00pm. The fireworks will start at 7:30pm, and *Fastback* will continue playing until 8:00pm.

Celebrate the New Year With a Meteor Shower

Stormy skies and the glare of the nearly full Moon may have spoiled our view of December's Geminids meteor shower but Utahns will get another chance to view a meteor shower when January's Quadrantids reaches its predicted peak during the early morning hours of Saturday the 3rd of January.

According to NASA Solar System Ambassador to Utah Patrick Wiggins, "During the time of the peak observers located away from city light pollution may see over 100 meteors per hour." And as a bonus, the peak occurs when the Moon is not in the sky, making rural skies even darker, increasing chances of a good show.



Now if only the weather will cooperate.

The Quadrantids and most other showers are best observed between midnight and sunrise as it's at that time the observer's place on Earth is more directly facing the oncoming meteoroid swarm.

Meteor showers get their names from the constellation from which the meteors appear. For

example August's Perseids seem to pour out of the constellation Perseus and December's Geminids from Gemini. The same applies to the Quadrantids however their ancient constellation, Quadrans Muralis is no longer recognized.

"Many people call meteors falling stars or shooting stars." says Wiggins. "They're actually tiny specks of rock that burn up and turn to ash when they slam into the Earth's extreme upper

atmosphere."

Telescopes and binoculars should not be used to view this or any meteor shower because they so severely restrict the observer's field of view. Wiggins notes that his favorite winter meteor observing equipment consists of nothing more than a lawn chair, sleeping bag and something hot to drink.

Some "Quads" may also be seen the morning before and the morning after the peak but their numbers will almost certainly be far fewer.

For additional astronomical information log on to Wiggins' Solar System Ambassador web site at <http://utahastro.info>

U.S. Reel Offers Rod Giveaway and \$10 Rebate on SuperCaster XL and SX Wide-spool Spinning Reels

ST. LOUIS, 12/26/2008 – U.S. Reel, the St. Louis-based manufacturer of fishing tackle will offer a double bonus for consumers who buy its SuperCaster XL and SX wide-spool spinning reels from participating retailers, in the form of a free rod and a \$10 rebate for the reel. The promotion will last from Feb. 1 to June 21, 2009.

For example, if a customer buys an XL reel for \$109.99, and gets the free rod from the retailer, he or she can then apply to U.S. Reel for the \$10 rebate, making the net purchase of the reel and rod combination \$99.99.

The SuperCaster spinning reel is the only lightweight wide-spool reel to receive Editor's Pick choices from *Bassmaster* and *Field & Stream* magazines.

During the cast, line explodes off the larger spool more rapidly and easier than off a small arbor, long-nose spool. What's more, the wide-spool design significantly reduces distance-robbing line twist and memory, resulting in casts up to 30 percent farther.

Control and accuracy are greatly enhanced because the wide spool is easily feathered by dropping a finger tip on the easier-to-reach spool lip. It's the perfect spinning reel for pitching and flipping. The wide spool allows the use of different pound-test lines, both mono and braid. The wide spool handles braid better because the short stroke of the reel and large-spool diameter inherently produces far fewer wind knots. Coupled with the fast line cross-wrap (good for high-drag tensions), long-cast capability and very light weight make SuperCasters the ultimate reels for braid.

As with all SuperCasters, the XL and SX series reels are designed and built to be extremely light yet extremely strong. All boast the exclusive sealed SDS™ Drag System. The SuperCaster has a larger-diameter spool relative to the drag disks. This leverage means the SuperCaster starts with less loading and is faster than any other reel. As such, the SuperCaster's drag can be set higher than other reels. In addition, the SDS™ Steady Drag System compensates for temperature

increases and reduced line as the line is paid out so that the drag tension remains the same throughout the fight.

Visit www.usreel.com for complete promotion details or ask the store staff. Buyers must mail the original or a copy of the dated sales receipt with the store identification, to verify the purchase of the qualifying reel. Redemptions must be postmarked no later than 30 days from date of receipt. The offer is for consumers only; and retailers, distributors or dealers of US Reel products are ineligible.

January is National Learn a SnowSport Month

Utah Resorts Help Locals Get "Lucky" at 13 Resorts

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH- January is National Learn a SnowSport Month at alpine resorts, Nordic centers, and state and national parks across the United States. Twenty-three states are offering special learn to alpine ski, snowboard, cross-country and snowshoe packages to locals. Participating states include: California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and



Wisconsin.

As America battles an obesity epidemic, the snowsports industry hopes to motivate youth and adults to be active in winter months when exercise is most difficult. Nearly 1 in 10 of the world's school children are overweight and the number of overweight adolescents in the U.S. has tripled in the past two decades.

Overweight conditions in children and adolescents are generally caused by lack of physical activity, unhealthy eating patterns or a combination of the two.

For more information on the January National Learn a SnowSport initiative visit www.winterfeelsgood.com.

Utah has served as a leader in this initiative and will once again be offering great beginner deals with its Lucky 13 promotion. Utah's 13 alpine resorts have put together special packages for Utah residents that are fun and affordable. Whether learning for the first-time, or simply brushing up unpracticed skills, these offers are the jackpot for people looking to ski or snowboard this January.

Locals are also invited to win a 'learn to ski or snowboard' package for their family (two adults and two children) by visiting www.skiutah.com/lucky13/. Simply log on, fill out the entry form and hope to be one of the Lucky 13 selected to win.

Get lucky this January with these great offers:

ALTA SKI AREA

First time skiers learn to ski package: Includes four separate days of 2-hour class lessons, lift tickets and equipment rental for \$179. Offer valid January 8-12, 2009 (no lessons January 16-19). To take advantage of this offer, call the Alf Engen Ski School at 801.359.1078, ext. 271. Ask for the first time skiers learn to ski package.

Ski Free After 3- Alta will continue with "Ski Free After 3" every day on Alta's Sunnyside detachable triple lift. To participate in this year's "Ski Free After 3", skiers just show up at the lift at 3 p.m.

BEAVER MOUNTAIN

\$13 group ski or snowboard lesson, \$13 beginner lift ticket, \$13 ski or snowboard rental. Offer valid January 4-13, 2009. Utah residents only. Valid ID required.



BRIAN HEAD

\$39 learn to ski or snowboard package. Package includes \$13 lift ticket, \$13 group ski or snowboard lesson and \$13 equipment rental. Offer valid January 20-31, 2009. Utah residents only.

BRIGHTON RESORT

\$13-off Brighton's intro ski or snowboard package. Package includes a learner lift ticket, equipment rental and a 2-hour group lesson. Regular

price \$85. Lucky 13 price, \$72. Offer valid January 19-31, 2009.

THE CANYONS RESORT

\$39 Lucky 13 learn to ski or snowboard package: Package includes \$13 ski or snowboard lesson, \$13 lift ticket, \$13 equipment rental. Offer valid throughout January. Book your lesson with The Canyons Ski and Snowboard School by calling 435.615.3449. Mention Lucky 13 when calling. Utah residents 15 and older only.

DEER VALLEY RESORT

Locals Learn to Ski Weekend. "Ski Utah Lucky 13" Offer valid January 24 & 25, 2009. Never-ever skiers and locals only (A local is anyone with a current Utah driver's license. Without a Utah driver's license, a photo ID accompanied by a current Utah property tax form, Utah utility bill or Utah business paycheck stub).

Clinic Time: 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Check-in time: 7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Age: 13 and older

Maximum- Limited to the first 55 registrants per day

Cost: \$39 for a never-ever ski package. (\$13 for lifts, \$13 for rental and \$13 for clinic)

What is included in your package: Clinic, lift ticket, rentals and locker token Must make reservations by calling 888.754.8477 or 435.645.6648 and mention "Ski Utah Lucky 13." One lesson per person only please.

Check in location: Snow Park lodge lower level basket check area. There will be a Skier Services Rep and a Deer Valley Marketing department rep meeting the group.No-show and

cancellation fee: Must cancel by 5 p.m. MST two days prior to the reservation; otherwise a cancellation/no-show fee of \$39 per reservation will be charged.

PARK CITY MOUNTAIN RESORT

\$13 lift ticket, \$13 equipment rental, 13 days: Night ski or snowboard at Park City Mountain Resort for only \$13, January 19-31, 2009. Enjoy great terrain located off of the PayDay and First Time chairlifts from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. Plus, rent the latest in equipment from Park City Mountain Rentals for only \$13 (good for night rentals after 3:30 pm). Utah residents only: Proof of Utah residency to be shown at time of purchase. Tickets may be purchased at any ticket window located in the Resort's Base Area or in Park City Mountain Rentals.

POWDER MOUNTAIN

Powder Mountain will offer Utah residents \$13 off any lesson during the last 13 days of January starting Martin Luther King Day, January 19, 2009. Discounted lessons include First Time Ski/Ride, group lessons (any level) and private lessons.

SNOWBASIN

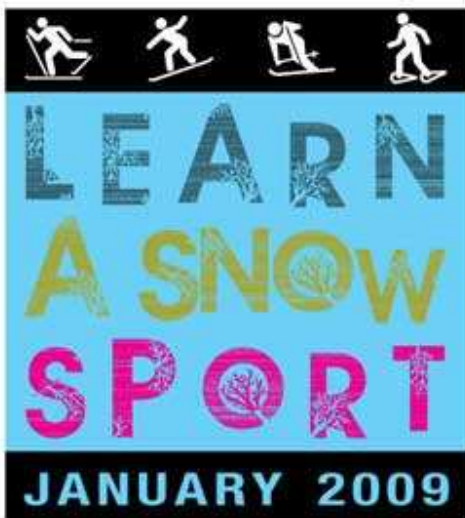
\$13 class lesson, \$13 Little Cat lift ticket, \$13 equipment rental. Offer valid for 13 days, January 19-31, 2009. Utah residents only.

SNOWBIRD SKI & SUMMER RESORT

\$39 Learn to Ski or Snowboard Package. \$13



group lesson, \$13 lift ticket,
\$13 equipment rental. January 11-17, 2009. Utah residents only.



SOLITUDE MOUNTAIN RESORT

\$13 beginner p.m. group lesson, \$13 beginner lift ticket, \$13 rental and a \$13 family-sized pepperoni pizza at the Stone Haus Located in the Village.

Offer valid January 5-31, 2009 (BLACKOUTS: January 16-19, 2009). This offer is for Utah residents only, valid I.D. required. Pre-registration appreciated (not required).

SUNDANCE RESORT

Twilight mid-week skiing \$13. Jan. 4-9, 2009. Call 801.223.4849 for more details.

WOLF CREEK UTAH SKI RESORT

First timers' special: Pay \$13 for one, 2-hour beginner group lesson at Wolf Creek Utah Resort. Offer valid from January 19-31, 2008. Call the Wolf Mountain Learning Center to make a reservation at 801.745.3511 and mention "Lucky 13."

Additionally, parents should remember to enroll their children in Ski Utah's 5th Grade Passport and 6th Grade SnowPass programs. More information and downloadable applications located at www.skiutah.com

DON'T DRIVE DRUNK – GET FREE RIDE HOME

AAA Offers Free Tow for Drinking Drivers on New Year's Eve

SALT LAKE CITY, December 30, 2008 – On a typical day, a AAA tow truck can come to the rescue when you need help. On New Year's Eve, one might just save your life.

AAA will offer its Tipsy Tow service to drinking drivers from 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve until 6 a.m. on New Year's Day in Utah, Nevada and Northern California. Drivers, potential passengers, party hosts, bartenders and restaurant managers can call (800) 222-4357 (AAA-HELP) for a free tow home of up to five miles. Just tell the AAA operator, "I need a Tipsy Tow," and a truck will be on its way. You do not need to be a AAA member.

The service will provide a one-way ride for the driver and vehicle to the driver's home. If there are additional passengers who need a ride, they will be taken to the driver's home as long as there is sufficient room for them to be transported safely in the tow truck. You cannot make a reservation.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration studies, four times as many people die in alcohol-related crashes on New Year's Eve than other midweek winter evenings. Alcohol is a factor in more than 16,000 vehicle crash deaths annually in the United States, and drunk-driving crashes account for about 60 percent of highway deaths of young people age 16 to

24 each year. It takes only one or two drinks to impair vision, steering, braking, judgment and reaction time.

AAA estimates that a first time DUI conviction can cost up to \$12,000 in fines, penalties, restitution, legal fees and added insurance expenses. You can't put a price tag on a crash that causes an injury or death.

“Start 2009 off right,” said Rolayne Fairclough, spokesperson for AAA Utah. “If you've been drinking, don't get behind the wheel. Give AAA a call and we'll make sure you get home safely.”

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.