

## **GIRL SCOUTS EARN UTAH STATE PARK PATCHES**

Salt Lake - Utah State Parks partnered with the Girls Scouts of Utah to create and provide a Girl Scout patch celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Utah state parks. Fifty-nine Girl Scouts visited 21 state parks, with two troops traveling almost 700 miles.

“We are very happy with Girl Scout participation in this program,” said Ann Evans, Utah State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Education Coordinator. “This was a fun way for Girl Scouts to experience Utah’s state parks and natural resources.”



The patch program promoted Utah’s 42 scenic, heritage and recreation state parks and included participation in the Utah State Parks Geocache Adventure. Many scouts learned to use a GPS unit and developed navigation skills.

## **PURCHASE ANNUAL STATE PARKS PASSES NOW**

Salt Lake City - This great winter season should mean good water levels in Utah’s lakes and reservoirs this summer. Now is the time to purchase your Utah State Parks Annual Pass or Senior Adventure Pass.



The \$75 Annual Pass waives day-use fees at most state parks and provides a new \$2 camping discount seven days a week, excluding holidays and holiday weekends. Passes do not discount special use fees, such as golf.

Utah seniors, 62 and over, may purchase a Senior Adventure Pass for \$35, which provides the same benefits as the Annual Pass.

Passes may be purchased at any state park, region office, online at <http://www.stateparks.utah.gov> or the Salt Lake Administrative Office at 1594 West North Temple. For more information, please call (801) 538-7220 or 877-UTPARKS.

## **CAMP HOSTS NEEDED IN UTAH’S STATE PARKS**

Salt Lake - Utah State Parks needs camp hosts to assist with the upcoming summer season. A typical season runs from mid-May through mid-September, however, several parks need year-round hosts.

Camp hosts receive a free campsite with hookups (if available), discounts at park gift shops, volunteer uniform and incentives such as park passes and clothing. Responsibilities

include greeting visitors, providing park and area information, collecting litter, cleaning campsites and restrooms and assisting park managers with various tasks.

For more information or to apply, please contact Robin Watson at (801) 537-3445 or [robinwatson@utah.gov](mailto:robinwatson@utah.gov).

## **UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS**

March 7 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway

Stars and Snow: Bundle up and join park staff in the visitor center at 7 p.m. for an evening observing the winter night sky. Program includes an indoor discussion, followed by outdoor constellation observation. Registration is required. (435) 654-1791

March 7 Jordanelle State Park - Heber

Starlight Hike and Star Gazing: Join John Peterson and park staff for a starlight snowshoe hike and star gazing at the Hailstone Recreation Area. (435) 649-9540

March 8 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Hike with a Naturalist: Between 600-400 A.D., the Fremont Indians hunted on

Antelope Island. Join the park naturalist for a hike to Elephant Head and a discussion about the Fremont culture. This hike is approximately nine miles at moderate difficulty and should take approximately 4.5 hours. Participants should meet at White Rock Bay Trailhead at 10 a.m. Participants should bring drinking water, sunscreen, a snack and sturdy shoes. Registration is required. (801) 721-9569



March 8 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Star Party: From Orion the Hunter to Scorpio the Scorpion, zodiac characters fill storybooks with their adventures. Join the park naturalist at 6 p.m. at the visitor center to learn more of these thrilling stories. There will also be an outdoor zodiac constellation tour after the program. (801) 721-9569

## **Federal Funding Released for Utah Scenic Byway Projects**

Salt Lake City – Nine projects along Utah’s state and nationally designated scenic byways are receiving funding for nearly \$346,000 in the 2007 National Scenic Byways Program funding cycle. The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The grants were awarded by the FHWA in December to 276 projects in 41 states, including Utah. The FHWA reports the funds are now being allocated for the Utah projects.

“We have obligated the funds,” said Carlos C. Machado, program manager of the Utah Division of the Federal Highway Administration. “This is an investment that the federal government is making in Utah. Utah has one of the strongest scenic byway programs in the nation and the largest in the West.”



The Scenic Byway projects include:

### **FUNDED**

Scenic Byway 12 - Corridor Management Plan Implementation Year 5 = \$25,000  
Trail of the Ancients - Corridor Management Plan Implementation, Year 2 = \$25,000  
Logan Canyon Corridor Management Plan Implementation Year 3 = \$25,000  
Scenic Byway 12 Interpretive Wayside Panels Fabrication and Installation - Phase 1 = \$71,998



Moose Pond Byway Facility Improvement = \$60,000  
Cannonville Gateway Improvement = \$20,000  
Escalante Mohr Christensen Park - Phase 1 = \$14,080  
Nations of the Native West, Phase 1 = \$8,800  
Flaming Gorge Dam Point Trail Improvement Project = \$96,000  
Total for Utah (9 Projects) = \$345,878

Meantime, the deadline for Utah byway leaders to submit their applications for the 2008 grants cycle is March 28.

In Utah, there are 27 state and nationally-designated scenic byways. The Utah Scenic Byways Program is part of Utah Office of Tourism, an agency of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development. For more information on Utah’s program, contact the Office of Tourism at (801) 538-1900 or coordinator Gael Hill at (435) 826-4584 or [gaelhill@utah.gov](mailto:gaelhill@utah.gov) or visit <http://www.byways.org/browse/states/UT/>.

### **BLM Seeks Nominations to Utah’s Resource Advisory Council**

The Bureau of Land Management in Utah announced today that it is seeking public nominations for five open positions on its 15-member Resource Advisory Council, which advises the BLM on public land issues. The BLM will consider the nominations for 45 days after today, when the agency is publishing its formal call for nominations in the Federal Register.

The BLM’s Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the Bureau carry out its stewardship of 258 million acres of public lands. The Bureau, which manages more land than any other

Federal agency, has 24 RACs across the West, where most BLM-managed land is located. Each RAC consists of 12 to 15 members with an interest in public land management, including such individuals as ranchers, conservationists, outdoor recreationists, state and local government officials, Tribal officials, and academics. The diverse membership of each RAC is aimed at achieving a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses.

State Director, Selma Sierra, said, “With a variety of experience and backgrounds, the RAC members offer wide-ranging viewpoints to our council. Their innovation and creativity is the engine that drives citizen-based problem solving for land management issues.”

Individuals may nominate themselves or others to serve on an advisory council. Nominees, who must be residents of the state or states where the RAC has jurisdiction, will be judged on the basis of their training, education, and knowledge of the council’s geographical area. Nominees should also demonstrate a commitment to consensus building and collaborative decision making. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from any represented interests or organizations; a completed background information nomination form; and any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

The five RAC positions open in Utah are in the following categories:

Category One – Public land ranchers and representatives of organizations associated with energy and mineral development, the timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, off-highway vehicle use, and commercial recreation.

Category Two – Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, archaeological and historical organizations, dispersed recreation activities, and wild horse and burro organizations.

Category Three – Representatives of state, county, or local elected office; representatives and employees of a state agency responsible for the management of natural resources; representatives of Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized; representatives and employees of academic institutions who are involved in natural sciences; and the public-at-large.

Nominations should be sent by April 14, 2008, to the Bureau of Land Management, Sherry Foot, Special Programs Coordinator

### **Catch fish, shoot arrows**

SANDY — Kids can catch fish, shoot arrows and drive remote-control ATVs at this year's DNR Youth Outdoor Sports Fair.

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

The expo will be held March 13–16 at the South Towne Exposition Center, 9575 S. State in Sandy. The cost to attend the exposition, which includes the youth fair, is \$10 for those 13 years of age and older. Children 12 years of age and younger are free.

The Youth Outdoor Sports Fair will be held on the south side of the exposition center. The Department of Natural Resources and three of its divisions Wildlife Resources, Utah State Parks and Recreation, and Water Resources are sponsoring this year's fair.

### **More than 20 activities**

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



Catch trout and possibly bluegills in a fishing pond and a fishing stream.  
Shoot arrows at targets.  
Make a survival kit, a turkey call and a petroglyph.  
Tie fishing flies.  
See how big they are compared to a deer, an elk or a moose!

Learn how to be safe in black bear country.  
Drive remote control all-terrain vehicles.  
Learn how to be safe while boating.  
Learn how to conserve water.  
Learn about a future career with the DNR.

"The kids who attend the fair will have fun, and they'll learn things that should make their next trip into the outdoors even more safe and enjoyable," says Tammy Kikuchi, marketing and communications director for the Department of Natural Resources.

More information about the March 13–16 International Sportsmen's Exposition is available at <http://www.sportsexpos.com>

### **High-Flow Experiment Proposed to Improve Grand Canyon Resources**

(Flagstaff, Ariz.) An experiment using high flows from Glen Canyon Dam to study and improve Colorado River resources in Grand Canyon National Park has been proposed by the Department of the Interior.

The goal of the experiment is to better understand whether higher flows can be used to rebuild eroded beaches downstream of Glen Canyon Dam by moving sand accumulated in the riverbed onto sandbars. Grand Canyon sandbars provide habitat for wildlife, serve as camping beaches for recreationists, and supply sand needed to protect archaeological sites. High flows also create areas of low-velocity flow, or backwaters, used by young native fishes, particularly endangered humpback chub.



The 2008 test would be different than previous high-flow tests conducted in 1996 and 2004. In particular, scientists have concluded that more sand is needed to rebuild sandbars throughout the 277-mile reach of Grand Canyon National Park than was available in 1996 or 2004. Currently, sand supplies in the river are at a 10-year high with a volume about three times greater than the volume available in 2004 due to tributary inflows below the dam over the past 16 months.

The proposed experiment is dependent on the completion of environmental review processes required by the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is in the process of preparing an environmental assessment of the proposed test. The environmental assessment is expected to be available for public review in early February 2008. This assessment evaluates the impact of the proposed test on a wide range of environmental and socioeconomic resources. A decision by the Department of the Interior is anticipated in late February 2008, with plans to conduct the high flow in early March 2008, if the decision is to move forward with the experiment.

The high-flow experiment and associated research activities, should they occur, will be undertaken cooperatively by scientists and resource managers from Interior's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Reclamation, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The proposed 2008 high-flow experiment and the accompanying studies build on learning that occurred as the result of the experiments in 1996 and 2004," says John Hamill, USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center Chief. "Given the current amount of sand in the system, we have a tremendous opportunity to learn more about whether high flows

can be used to improve important natural, cultural, and recreational resources in Glen and Grand canyons."

"Years of study and unique environmental conditions allow us to move forward with an experimental flow that will provide the valuable information needed to protect the resources within Grand Canyon National Park," stated Steve Martin, Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent.

One of the proposed studies will document habitat changes and determine how backwater habitats are used by young humpback chub and other native and nonnative fishes. Other studies will look at how higher flows affect the aquatic food base, rainbow trout recruitment and emigration, riparian vegetation, nonnative fishes and archaeological resources in close proximity to the Colorado River.

During the proposed high-flow experiment, Reclamation will release water from both the powerplant and the bypass tubes to a maximum amount of approximately 41,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) for about 60 hours. If approved, current plans would call for the flows to begin increasing on March 4, 2008 with powerplant bypass flows to begin on March 5, 2008. If a decision is made to move ahead with the experiment, a final release schedule

will then be announced.



Since 1996, releases from Glen Canyon Dam have generally ranged between 8,000 and 20,000 cfs. The increase to 41,000 cfs will change river conditions as well as the availability of campsites. It is suggested that all river users be prepared for variable conditions, including higher river flows.

"The water released during the test will not change the amount of water to be released over the course of the 2008 water year," said Larry Walkoviak, Regional Director of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region. "The current plan of operations calls for releasing 8.23 million acre-feet of water from Glen Canyon Dam. That water flows downriver to Lake Mead for use by the Lower Colorado River Basin States and Mexico. The

experimental flows are included within this annual volume. Monthly releases later in the year will be adjusted downward to account for the water released during the experiment."

The USGS's Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center is responsible for monitoring and research activities in support of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program, a Federal initiative designed to assist the Secretary of the Interior in protecting the resources downstream of Glen Canyon Dam. The program includes a wide range of stakeholders, including American Indian tribes, Colorado River Basin States, environmental and recreation groups, power customers and State and Federal cooperating agencies. The program, which helped guide the development of science activities for the experiment, is administered by Reclamation under the guidance of the Secretary of the Interior.

Grand Canyon rafters, fisherman and other river users and hikers can call Grand Canyon National Park's River Permits Office at 1-800-959-9164 for additional information on how the high-flow event may affect their visit. Additional information is available at [www.gcmrc.gov/research/high\\_flow/2008/](http://www.gcmrc.gov/research/high_flow/2008/).

USGS provides science for a changing world. For more information, visit [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov).

### **Gunnison Island: an oasis in the desert**

Surreal.

That's the one-word answer I give to people when they ask me to describe the Great Salt Lake.

On those special days when the surface of the water turns to glass, the lake looks like a mirage in the desert. As you look closer, however, you realize that the illusion of water in the distance actually IS water and not just heat waves and light playing tricks on you.



At the Great Salt Lake, sky melts into water and water flows into sky. Distant islands hover in between. It's one of those remote islands—a place most Utahns will never see in person—that provides a remarkable oasis in this unusual region.

### **Gunnison Island**

Even within the surreal land and seascape of the Great Salt Lake, Gunnison Island is unique. It bustles with life most of the year, providing an important breeding ground to

migratory pelicans, gulls and peregrine falcons. From spring through summer, the island constantly shifts, flutters and takes wing as birds come and go.

Sometimes, high winds churn the milky pink water that surrounds the island. This churning creates ribbons of sea foam that ring the island's shore. This sea foam constantly jostles and makes the island look like it's moving.

Bays named Lambourne, South, Pelican, Seagull and Phantom scallop the island as it rises from the water on its southern end. From there, a ridge of jagged limestone climbs to its highest point on the north end before dropping steeply to the water again. The island resurfaces, only briefly, forming tiny Cub Island to the northeast.

### **Petzl ULTRA BELT Headlamp Wins ISPO Outdoor Award**

**CLEARFIELD, Utah (February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008)** – Petzl, a leading manufacturer of hands-free lighting and technical climbing gear, has won the ISPO Outdoor award for its new ULTRA BELT headlamp. The ISPO Outdoor Awards recognize “high quality products” demonstrating “outstanding innovation”, and were announced last week at the ISPO winter tradeshow held January 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> in Munich, Germany.

An international jury composed of outdoor sports industry thought leaders selected the ULTRA BELT headlamp as the winner in the Technics/Electronic category, based on quality, performance, innovation, user-friendliness, and design criteria. Weighing just 230 grams and yielding a powerful 350 lumens of light, the ULTRA BELT is the perfect

companion for any outdoor endurance athlete looking for the ultimate in lighting power.



The ULTRA BELT and the ULTRA (the all-on-the-head version) are Petzl's newest

hands-free lighting® innovations. Intended for speed and rapid movements in all conditions, ULTRA series headlamps have a wide, spotlight-type beam, a secure, ergonomic fit, and three regulated brightness levels. Both high-powered headlamps are designed for maximum lighting and visibility, ideal for adventure racing, orienteering, night skiing, and outdoor endurance activities requiring high-quality and high-output lighting. The ULTRA BELT's rechargeable Lithium-Ion battery pack provides up to 34 hours of burn time and is guaranteed for three years.

According to the awards jury, "Petzl documents its premium position among headlamp companies with its latest development ... customary high-quality finish and outstanding light quality in this category make the ULTRA BELT a product to be recommended for ambitious outdoor adventurers".

The ULTRABELT is the result of several years of research and development by Petzl's hands-free lighting® project team. Petzl's team is constantly on the lookout for new technologies and how they can be applied in innovative ways. Most recently, Petzl has increased the power of its popular MYO XP headlamp by 200% without increasing weight or



decreasing battery duration, adding value to trail runners, climbing guides, adventure racers and other high-output headlamp fans. ULTRA series headlamps are the brightest in the outdoor market, and will be available in specialty retail stores as of July 1, 2008.

**About the ISPO Outdoor Award**  
The ispo Outdoor Award annually

recognizes the most innovative outdoor equipment and apparel. Products are chosen from the following categories: textiles, footwear, hardware, nordic fitness, adventure / travel, technics / electronics, backcountry and others. The award is presented in conjunction with the ispo

Outdoor industry tradeshow held in Munich, Germany every winter. More information about the Outdoor awards is available online at: <http://www.ispo-winter.com/link/en/19101649>.

### **About Petzl**

Petzl America is the U.S. division of Petzl, headquartered in France. For over 50 years, Petzl has been developing innovative tools and techniques used by those entering the vertical world. Today, the Petzl brand is closely associated with adventure, exploration, rescue, and many notable exploits in the worlds of rock climbing and alpinism. Petzl climbing hardware and headlamps can be found in outdoor specialty shops and premium sporting goods retailers around the world. For more information, log on to [www.petzl.com](http://www.petzl.com).

### **Brian Head Upcoming Events**

March 8 -  
Red Bull  
Sled-style  
Competition

March 15-16  
- Dennis May  
Memorial



YSL Championships - If you plan to compete in this race, please note that the registration deadline is Wednesday, March 12, at noon.

March 22 - Spring Carnival. Bring the kids up for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and other fun family activities!

March 29 - Crew Challenge

Details will be posted as they become available on our website at [www.brianhead.com](http://www.brianhead.com).

### **Red Butte Garden Classes scheduled**

Are you looking at your yard and garden and thinking “Where do I even start?!” With spring just around the corner and your yard full of broken branches and muddy patches it might feel overwhelming to even start thinking about spring and all of the yard work it entails.

We have growing secrets, design ideas, and instructional classes on how to start getting your yard back in shape.

### **Workshops**

TOMATO PROPAGATION WORKSHOP - HEIRLOOMS & ORGANICS

SATURDAY, MAR 1 9 AM - 12 PM

Join us and learn the secrets to successful seed starting in your own home and plant some unusual heirloom tomato and pepper seeds for your garden. You'll not only start seeds, but you'll also learn techniques to extend the growing season. By planting early, you can start harvesting tomatoes as early as July 4. Participants will plant and take home a flat of tomato seeds for germinating and growing at home. You will also receive (3) walls of water so you can plant your tomatoes in the garden before the last frost. Limited to 16 participants. Golden Reeves, "Tomato King", Master Gardener

MEMBERS \$35/NONMEMBERS \$43

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (801) 581-8454

### **TOMATO PROPAGATION WORKSHOP - HEIRLOOMS & ORGANICS**

SATURDAY, MAR 11 pm - 3 PM

Join us and learn the secrets to successful seed starting in your own home and plant some unusual heirloom tomato and pepper seeds for your garden. You'll not only start seeds, but you'll



also learn techniques to extend the growing season. By planting early, you can start harvesting tomatoes as early as July 4. Participants will plant and take home a flat of tomato seeds for germinating and growing at home. You will also receive (3) walls of water so you can plant your tomatoes in the garden before the last frost. Limited to 16 participants. Golden Reeves, "Tomato King", Master Gardener

MEMBERS \$35/NONMEMBERS \$43

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (801) 581-8454

### **WINTER PRUNING WORKSHOP**

SATURDAY, MAR 8 10 AM - 1 PM

Take the guess work out of pruning by joining us for this three hour hands-on workshop. We will start with a lecture and overview of pruning methods followed by two hours of demonstration and hands-on learning. Under the guidance of Crystal Reece, Lower Garden Horticulturist, you'll learn what trees and shrubs should be pruned in late winter/early

spring and how and where to prune. Wear appropriate clothing and bring gloves and hand pruners. Limited to 12 participants. Crystal Reece, Red Butte Garden Horticulturist and Bev Sudbury, Master Gardener

MEMBERS \$20/NONMEMBERS \$25

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (801) 581-8454

### **PROPAGATION WORKSHOP - BUTTERFLY GARDENS**

SATURDAY, MAR 15 10 AM - 1PM

Join us and learn secrets to successful propagation. This hands-on workshop will give you the opportunity to plant seeds of unusual annuals and take cuttings of tender perennials to take home and grow under lights. The plants we have selected are proven winners when it comes to attracting butterflies and other beneficial pollinators to home landscapes. This class meets at the Red Butte Garden Greenhouse. Limited to 16 participants. Brad Coleman, Red Butte Garden Greenhouse Coordinator

MEMBERS \$35/NONMEMBERS \$43

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (801) 581-8454

### ***WINTER PRUNING WORKSHOP***

SATURDAY, MAR 22 10 AM - 1 PM

Take the guess work out of pruning by joining us for this three hour hands-on workshop. We will start with a lecture and overview of pruning methods followed by two hours of demonstration and hands-on learning. Under the guidance of Crystal Reece, Red Butte Garden Horticulturist, you'll learn what trees and shrubs should be pruned in late winter/early spring and how and where to prune. Wear appropriate clothing and bring gloves and hand pruners. Limited to 12 participants. Crystal Reece, Red Butte Garden Horticulturist and Bev Sudbury, Master Gardener

MEMBERS \$20/NONMEMBERS \$25

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (801) 581-8454

### ***EXCEPTIONAL TREES FOR THE UTAH LANDSCAPE***

TUESDAYS, Apr 29 & May 6 6 PM - 8 PM

Trees are the backbone of any landscape and choosing the right tree can make or break your landscape design. We'll talk about trees that have multiple seasons of interest and then walk the Garden and look at some of our unique specimens. We'll focus on trees with

exfoliating bark, spectacular flowers, interesting fruit, and trees with fall color. Limited to 25 participants. Dale Torgerson, Horticulturist

MEMBERS \$40/NONMEMBERS \$45

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (801) 581-8454

### ***HANGING BASKET WORKSHOP***

SATURDAY, MAY 10 10 AM - NOON

This two hour workshop will teach the basics of designing and planting a hanging basket. You will create and take home a 14-inch moss lined wire hanging basket for your front porch, deck, or patio. All materials will be provided; however, you may want to bring an apron and trowel. This is a perfect Mother's Day gift. The class will meet at the Red Butte Garden Greenhouse. Limited to 18 participants. Scott Mower - Red Butte Garden Greenhouse Assistant



MEMBERS \$40/NONMEMBERS \$45

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (801) 581-8454

### **BLM Hosts Public Meetings on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Proposal**

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Price Field Office will host public meetings to discuss its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Proposal. BLM welcomes public comments on the draft statement, which evaluates a proposal to develop natural gas resources on the West Tavaputs Plateau, predominantly located in northeastern Carbon County.

Meetings will be held from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the following locations:

- March 11 in the Classroom Building, Utah State University, Roosevelt Campus, 987 E. Lagoon St., Roosevelt, Utah
- March 12 at the Holiday Inn, 838 Westwood Blvd., Price, Utah
- March 13 at the Salt Lake City Library, 210 E. 400 S., Salt Lake City

The draft, released Feb. 1, for public review and comment, considers a long-term development proposal including drilling up to 807 natural gas wells in 538 locations over a period of eight years. Each well has the potential to produce gas for up to 20 years. Project infrastructure would include development and construction of roads and pipelines, gas compression stations, and other facilities to accommodate natural gas delivery.

BLM is currently evaluating five alternatives in detail in an effort to address a broad spectrum of issues and uses specific to this area. The range of alternatives includes applying best management practices for oil and gas development, optimizing opportunities for directional drilling, and other mitigation measures developed to address sensitive issues.

The West Tavaputs Plateau is an area that has seen oil and gas development since the 1950's. More than 100 gas wells have been drilled within the proposed project area, most of which are currently in production. A substantial network of roads, pipelines, and compressor stations already exists on federal, state, and private lands within the project area in support of both past and present natural gas production.

Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted through May 1 and should be as specific as possible. Comments which express only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response; however, they will be considered in the BLM decision-making process. The most useful comments will identify issues that should be considered in the analysis. Comments will be accepted by letter, facsimile, or e-mail and may be sent by May 1 to:

Mail Bureau of Land Management  
Attn: West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field  
Development Plan DEIS  
Price Field Office  
125 South 600 West  
Price, UT 84501  
Fax (435) 636-3657  
E-mail [UT\\_Pr\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:UT_Pr_Comments@blm.gov)

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask in your comment to have your personal identifying information withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Price Field Office from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Comments may also be published as part of the NEPA document and other related documents. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

For further information, please contact Brad Higdon at (435) 636-3613.

### **Horse trainers needed for Wyoming Mustang Challenge**

Twenty-five talented horse trainers are needed for the Wyoming Mustang Challenge to be

held in conjunction with the Wyoming State Fair, August 15-16, 2008, in Douglas, Wyo.



The Wyoming Mustang Challenge pairs up 25 qualified horse trainers with wild horses provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The trainers then have 100 days to train the horses before competing for \$10,000 in prize money. After the competition, the horses are available for adoption to qualified adopters, with a percentage of the adoption fees going to the trainers.

During the competition on August 15, the trainers are evaluated on the body condition of their horses, as well as their ability to handle the horse “in hand” through a series of maneuvers which include picking up the horse’s feet, maneuvering it through obstacles and loading it into a trailer. Following the “in hand” course, trainers will mount their animals and complete a “horse course” that will include a series of obstacles, including the option of working with cattle, and require the trainer to demonstrate the level of competency the horse has accomplished. Three skilled horsemen will judge the competition.

The winning trainer will receive \$5,000, second \$2,500, third \$1,000, fourth \$750, and fifth \$500. Trainers also receive \$500 reimbursement for travel costs and a 20% commission if their horse is adopted for \$200 or more.

The Mustang Challenge rules and regulations and the trainer application form can be found on the Mustang Heritage Foundation’s web site at [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org/adoptions.php](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org/adoptions.php) or by calling 512-355-3225.

The deadline for applications is April 1, 2008.

The Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF), in partnership with BLM, created the Mustang Challenge event to highlight the recognized value of wild horses through a national training competition. The purpose of the Mustang competition series is to showcase the beauty, versatility, and trainability of these rugged horses that roam freely on public lands throughout the West, where they are protected by the BLM under Federal law.



For additional information on the Mustang Challenge or BLM’s wild horses, please contact BLM Wild Horse Specialist Alan Shepherd at 307-775-6097.

## OUTDOOR SPORTS INDUSTRY WEILDS ECONOMIC CLOUT

*Local Economy and Environment Benefits from Anglers, Hunters, Boaters and Campers*  
**Salt Lake City (February 22, 2008)** – The 10th Annual Utah International Sportsmen’s Exposition (ISE), Utah’s largest outdoor show for the entire family, is presented by KUTV2. Running **March 13-16**, the ISE’s 500 exhibitors will fill all quarter-million square feet of **South Towne Exposition Center** in Sandy.

Though it’s not always top-of-mind as ISE attendees marvel at the latest fishing equipment, best travel destinations, or the sleekest boats on the market, the passions of Utah’s anglers, hunters, boaters and campers generate millions of dollars for the local economy, and also support a variety of land, water, animal-management and conservation efforts.



According to the latest Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation report, hunters and anglers pump \$70 billion into the U.S. economy annually. In Utah, where one out of five residents hunt or fish, that translates to 351,000 hunters and anglers spending \$1.9 million a day—or \$696 million a year. Spending by hunters and anglers supports 13,000 jobs and provides \$350 million worth of paychecks for Utah job-holders. State and local tax coffers benefit to the tune of \$70 million.\*

Nationally, each hunter contributes approximately \$92 a year to conservation via licenses, excise taxes and donations, generating nearly \$1.3 billion a year. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, hunters contributed another \$280 million in 2006 to groups that devote most of their revenue to conservation—including Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

At the state level, the money hunters and anglers spend on licenses and excise taxes make up about 75 percent of state wildlife agencies’ revenues. Such monies go toward improving habitat, creating access to wildlife and outdoor areas, stocking fish, planting wild turkey, and, just recently, feeding animals whose food source was impacted by Utah’s heavy snowfall.

“The outdoors is a huge industry in Utah,” said Brian Layng, ISE CEO and President. “Yet anglers and hunters, who through taxes on their purchases have contributed many billions of dollars to wildlife restoration, continue to underestimate their value to the State and community. They often are completely unaware of their political power. At the same time, other groups and interests, though typically much fewer in number, would diminish or take away this outdoor heritage through focused efforts with our legislators. The outdoors has e



nough dedicated folks who are fighting the battle for enthusiasts, but they need backing voices--voters. As the largest event of its kind in Utah, ISE is giving our support,” said Layng.

\*Source for these numbers and state by state information can be found at

<http://www.nssf.org/07report/> and at [www.sportsmenslink.org](http://www.sportsmenslink.org)

### **About the International Sportsmen’s Exposition**

With a diversity of outdoor products and services not found at any other consumer event in the state, the International Sportsmen’s Exposition (ISE) combines travel, fishing, boating, hunting, camping and off-road activities all under one roof. Exhibits include: fishing and hunting resorts and lodges, outfitters and guides; fishing, hunting and camping products; outdoor apparel and optics; lifestyle furnishings; local clubs and organizations representing all of the outdoor activities spotlighted in the show; trucks, trailers and aftermarket accessories; ATVs, motorcycles and personal watercraft; boats and marine accessories; and RVs and campers.

In addition to the vast number of product and travel opportunities, the ISE presents hundreds of seminars led by top local, regional and national experts at a variety of stages and interactive areas. Several competitions also hold their championships at the ISE, including: International Dutch Oven Society World Championship Dutch Oven Cook-Off; Utah State Duck-Calling Championships; National Best-of-the-West Distance Fly-Casting Finals; Best-of-the-West Elk- Calling Contest; new Frost Bite BBQ Contest; and new Utah National Wild Turkey Federation sanctioned calling contest. All contests except cooking include youth divisions. (All youth 12 and under enter the show for free.)

A feature unique to the ISE is the 8,000-sq.-ft. hands-on Youth Outdoor Sports Fair, presented by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State Parks, and Utah Department of Natural Resources. More than a dozen guided activities are provided, from catch-and-release fishing to animal identification, to boating and offroading safety

**Date:** March 13-16, 2008

**Hours:** Thursday and Friday, Noon to 9:00 pm  
Saturday, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Location:** South Towne Expo Center, 9575 S. State St., Sandy, UT 84070

**Admission:** \$10; Youth 12 and under are admitted FREE  
Tickets online

[SaltLakeCity.SportsExpos.com](http://SaltLakeCity.SportsExpos.com) or at the gate. FREE onsite parking

**Coupons:** Cabelas, Checker Auto Parts, Big O Tires, and at [SaltLakeCity.SportsExpos.com](http://SaltLakeCity.SportsExpos.com)

**Parking:** Free parking at South Towne Exposition Center and a new TRAX stop within a short distance. [www.utabus.com](http://www.utabus.com) for Trax information and schedules.

**More information at** <http://saltlakecity.sportsexpos.com>



## Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

**March 5-6, 2008, 9:00 A.M., DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah**

### AGENDA

**Wednesday, March 5, 2008 Pagoda Restaurant, 26 E Street 6:00 pm**

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION** – Paul Niemeyer, Chairman
2. WAFWA Update **INFORMATION** –Del Brady & Ernie Perkins, Board Members
3. Law Enforcement Update **INFORMATION**– Mike Fowlks, Law Enforcement Chief
4. Conceptual discussion on Wildlife Board variance requests **INFORMATION**  
– Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General

5. Elk Management Objectives **INFORMATION**– Ernie Perkins, Board Member

**Thursday, March 6, 2008**

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION** – Paul Niemeyer, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION** – Paul Niemeyer
3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**– Rick Woodard, Vice-Chair
4. DWR Update **INFORMATION** – Jim Karpowitz, DWR Director
5. **Motion to Dismiss Argument – Marshall Grant Lindsay – Time Certain 9:00 a.m.**
6. Fees, Exchanges, Surrenders, Refunds & Reallocations of Wildlife Documents Rule R657-42 (5-yr review) **ACTION** – Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief
7. License Permit & COR Rule R657-45 (5-yr review) **ACTION**  
– Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief
8. Amphibians & Reptile CIP Rule R657-53 (5-yr review) **ACTION**  
– Laura Hines, Native Aquatics Species Biologist
9. Zoological Animals CIP Rule R657-3 (5-yr review) **ACTION**  
– Laura Hines, Native Aquatics Species Biologist
10. CWMU Advisory Committee **ACTION**  
– Boyde Blackwell, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator
11. Free Fishing Day – Rule Amendment **ACTION** – Staci Coons, Rules Coordinator
12. Certification Review Committee Variance Request – Mr. James Dix  
**ACTION** – Staci Coons, Certification Review Committee Chairman
13. Variance Requests **ACTION** – Judi Tutorow, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
14. Other Business **CONTINGENT** – Paul Niemeyer
  - ❖ “Accompanying” adult for youth hunters

**Scope of Hunting and Fishing Industries Broader than Ever**  
*Economic, Social & Environmental Impacts Resonate in 2008*

## **Salt Lake City (February 26, 2008) The 10th Annual International Sportsmen's Exposition**

(ISE), Utah's largest outdoor show for the entire family, returns to Utah March 13-16 at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy. And with it comes a range of dynamic issues, each as big as the great outdoors. Whether it's the economy, the burgeoning movement to fight "nature deficit disorder" among kids or its contributions to wildlife conservation, the industry's reach is far and wide.

### **Economic Impact**

Amid splash-dog water-jumping contests, fly-tying demos and hunting clinics, the ISE is alive and well with the buzz of an industry with the economic clout to pump \$70 billion into the U.S. economy annually. In Utah, where one out of five residents hunt or fish, that translates to 351,000 hunters and anglers spending \$1.9 million a day—or \$696 million a year. Spending by hunters and anglers supports 13,000 jobs and provides \$350 million worth of paychecks for workers around the state. State and local tax coffers benefit to the tune of \$70 million.\*



### **Environmental Contributions**

According to the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service, hunters contributed \$280 million in 2006 directly to groups that devote most of their revenue to conservation—from Ducks Unlimited (82 percent) to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (87 percent) and Pheasants Forever (89 percent).

At the federal level, hunters and anglers purchased \$24 million Duck Stamps—required for waterfowl hunters age 16 and older. These funds go toward wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System through the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Since the program started in 1934, sales have exceeded \$700 million and 5.2 million acres have been preserved.

At the state level, the money hunters and anglers spend on licenses and excise taxes make up about 75 percent of state wildlife agencies' revenues.

“Hunters and anglers are obviously great contributors to the quality of outdoor life in Utah, in every way,” says Brian Layng, ISE CEO and President. A lot of people don't realize that.



We hope they'll come out to the ISE and learn something they didn't know about us.

### **Green Space Versus Screen Space**

But it's not just economics. Social issues concerning kids and nature have emerged as critical topics among industry leaders. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that the average kid spends 44.5 hours a week—more than a fulltime job—engaged with media of some sort, which leaves little time or motivation to connect with nature.

The tug of war – “green space versus screen space” for kids has garnered major attention since “Last Child in the Woods” author Richard Louv coined the term “nature deficit disorder” to describe the fundamental lack of nature in the lives of so many children.

“The future of hunting and wildlife, which are so intertwined, depends on us,” says Brian Layng, ISE CEO and President. “No other source of funds comes close to conserving habitat and wildlife like hunters who generate nearly \$1.3 billion for conservation each year through licenses, excise taxes and donations. We need to engage our youth as aggressively as the video game marketers are doing and teach them a love for our outdoor treasures.”

To help educate youth and fire their passion for the outdoors, a feature unique to the ISE is the 8,000-sq.-ft. hands-on Youth Outdoor Sports Fair, presented by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah State Parks, and Utah Department of Natural Resources. More than a dozen guided activities are provided, from catch-and-release fishing to animal identification, to boating and offroading safety. The fair will host over 8,000 youth during the show. People who once visited this Youth Fair as children are now bringing their own children to learn about fishing, boating safety. “The kids who attend the fair will have fun,

and they'll learn things that should make their next trip into the outdoors even more safe and enjoyable," says Tammy Kikuchi, marketing and communications director for the Department of Natural Resources.

Fact Sheet on ISE available or more info at [www.sportsexpos.com](http://www.sportsexpos.com)

\*Full report available at <http://www.nssf.org/07report/> and at [www.sportsmenslink.org](http://www.sportsmenslink.org)

## **UTAH SIGN UP ANNOUNCED FOR CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS**

Lisa Coverdale, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, has requested applications for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to help stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in Utah. Approximately \$500,000 will be available to support successful grant applications in FY 2008. Each grant will not exceed \$75,000 and may run between one and three years in duration. The two categories to be funded this year are "Natural Resource Concerns," and "Technology." Funds will be awarded through a statewide competitive grants process that begins February 22, 2008 and ends April 4, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Applications must be sent to the NRCS state office at 125 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138.

The official notice for these grants can be found on the Utah NRCS Web site at <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CIG/index.html>, or on the Grants.gov Web site at <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=H2vQLVyGp9JzRy93nMzlhjY4k6cw3NxyvGnYJMTLvbPKTsmtrgLX!1788281199?oppId=40773&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>, or you may contact your local NRCS field office for more information on the application process.

## **FILLMORE LIBRARY TO RECEIVE SOMETHING OF MAMMOTH PROPORTION**

What: The tusk of a mammoth that lived along the shores of Lake Bonneville more than 10,000 years ago will be unveiled at the Fillmore Library



Who: Fillmore City Councilman Bevan Johnson The Gowin Family

Tom Mellenthin, Utah Friends of Paleontology Don DeBlieux, Utah Geological Survey (UGS)

When: 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Where: President Millard Fillmore Library  
25 South 100 West  
Fillmore, Utah  
(435) 743-5314

Why: On November 13, 2004, a six-foot-long mammoth tusk was unearthed by a bulldozer operator in a sand and gravel pit on Earl and Elaine Gowin's ranch near Fillmore, Utah. The Gowins contacted the State Paleontologist at UGS who sent a team to



excavate the tusk.

Since then, UGS paleontologists and volunteers have carefully reconstructed the tusk and will present it to the library for display. The tusk is officially curated by the Utah Museum of Natural History, which is loaning it to the Fillmore Library. For more information

about the discovery, excavation and preparation, go to:

<http://geology.utah.gov/utahgeo/dinofossil/iceage/tuskdiscovery.htm>

### **Following TRCP Protest, BLM Defers Utah Energy Leases**

*Oil and gas development on contested areas would compromise big game and sage grouse; BLM decision underscores inconsistent management practices*

WASHINGTON – In the wake of protests by sportsmen, the Bureau of Land Management withdrew more than 7,400 acres of prime wildlife habitat from its Feb. 19 energy lease sale, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) announced today. Concerns about important big-game range and sage grouse habitat drove the Feb. 4 TRCP protest, which asserted that the BLM failed to conduct the necessary upfront planning for habitat conservation and that game and fish populations would be significantly altered by energy development as proposed.



“Sportsmen can celebrate the fact that, for the time being at least, these

valuable Utah public lands will continue to provide world-class big-game hunting opportunities,” said Joel Webster, a TRCP field representative.

“The TRCP is extremely pleased that the BLM made the right decision in Utah and deferred these areas from leasing,” Webster continued, “because energy leases are managed as a contractual obligation for development. Oil and gas development should not proceed until the agency undertakes comprehensive planning for development and considers the full range of impacts to this important habitat.”

So far in 2008, the national conservation coalition has filed protests of BLM lease sales in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming based on concerns for populations of big game, including mule deer, elk and pronghorn, and sage grouse, which presently is being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Recent research on the impacts to sage grouse from energy development shows that development is detrimental to sustaining local populations of this species. An ESA listing would fundamentally affect sportsmen due to the possibility of the elimination or restriction of hunting opportunities.

“The BLM’s decision, while welcome news to hunters and anglers, only underscores the agency’s inconsistent approach to dealing with mineral leasing,” said Steve Belinda, energy initiative manager for the TRCP and a former BLM biologist. “In the past month, we’ve protested close to 200,000 acres across the Rocky Mountain West, all motivated by sportsmen’s concerns for big game, trout and sage grouse. The BLM response – deferring

only a few thousand acres in Utah – sends a clear message: The agency’s model is broken.”

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

## **Business and Trade Association Leaders to Participate in Second National Regulatory Fairness Hearing**

**WASHINGTON** - The Office of the National Ombudsman at the U.S. Small Business Administration will host its second national regulatory fairness hearing in Washington D.C. on March 12, at 10 a.m. This event, which will be held at the Environmental Protection Agency’s East Building, will give leaders from business organizations and trade associations an opportunity to comment on unfair or excessive federal regulatory enforcement that impacts their members and small businesses nationwide.

“The first national hearing was a great success, as groups explained the challenges their small business members face when trying to comply with regulations within their respective industries,” said SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens.

“We would like to build upon last year’s hearing, and continue to successfully identify those federal regulatory enforcement actions that are excessive — rather than effective — for small businesses across the nation,” Owens said.

The national hearing will also function as an information session on how SBA’s Office of the National Ombudsman serves as troubleshooter for the nation’s small businesses. “We’d like the representatives, on behalf of their associations’ members, to come away with a better understanding of how the National Ombudsman is a vital resource for America’s small business owners,” Owens said.

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 created the Office of the National Ombudsman within the SBA and established 10 regional regulatory fairness boards nationwide.

Each year a series of public regulatory fairness hearings are held around the country.

These hearings are usually chaired by the National Ombudsman and regional board members and attended by officials from various federal regulatory agencies. During the hearings, small business owners have an opportunity to testify in person, presenting their concerns about unfair practices or burdensome policies imposed on them by federal agencies, without fear of retaliatory action. Business owners also have the option of submitting their comments in writing to the National Ombudsman.

The upcoming national hearing will follow a similar format. During a typical regional hearing, comments from business owners are forwarded to the appropriate federal agency for their review. The National Ombudsman asks the federal agency to respond within a specified time period. In many instances, the federal agency has reduced or waived particular penalties and/or compliance actions. At a minimum, the agencies direct a high-level review of the enforcement action to ensure fairness. Comments from the national hearing will also be included in the National Ombudsman's annual report to Congress, which rates federal agencies on responsiveness to small business concerns.

For more information on the national hearing, contact Christina Marinos in the Office of the National Ombudsman at [christina.marinos@sba.gov](mailto:christina.marinos@sba.gov), or by phone at (202) 401-8254. To learn more about the Office of the National Ombudsman, visit the Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman).