

UTAH WINTER GAMES WINTERFIT COMPETITION WRAPS INAUGURAL SEASON

Park City, UT (March 20, 2007) -- The average American gains four pounds during the winter. The average Utah Winter Games WinterFit participant lost four pounds, and that makes everybody happy.

WinterFit has just wrapped up its inaugural season as practically summer-like temperatures sweep the state, and participants and organizers are declaring the program a success.

The purpose of WinterFit is to encourage people to get off the couch and do something active in the winter. It doesn't much matter what they do, but when snow falls regularly for five months of the year in Utah it's important for everyone's health and fitness to do something.

WinterFit is based on a summer model developed in Iowa, and in only five years, the Iowa program has mushroomed to 33-thousand participants. Utah Winter Games Executive Director Heidi Hughes expects similar growth for WinterFit. It's the first statewide winter fitness program in the nation, just as the Utah Winter Games are the oldest and largest state winter games in the nation.

Nearly 280 people finished the entire winter season. The 70 people in the Weight Loss category dropped a little over four pounds piece for a grand total of 299 pounds. It appears the largest single weight loss was 50 pounds for a very happy woman named Mary Anne, one of whose friends exclaimed for the record, "Gosh, she really looks terrific!" That's enough of a prize right there.

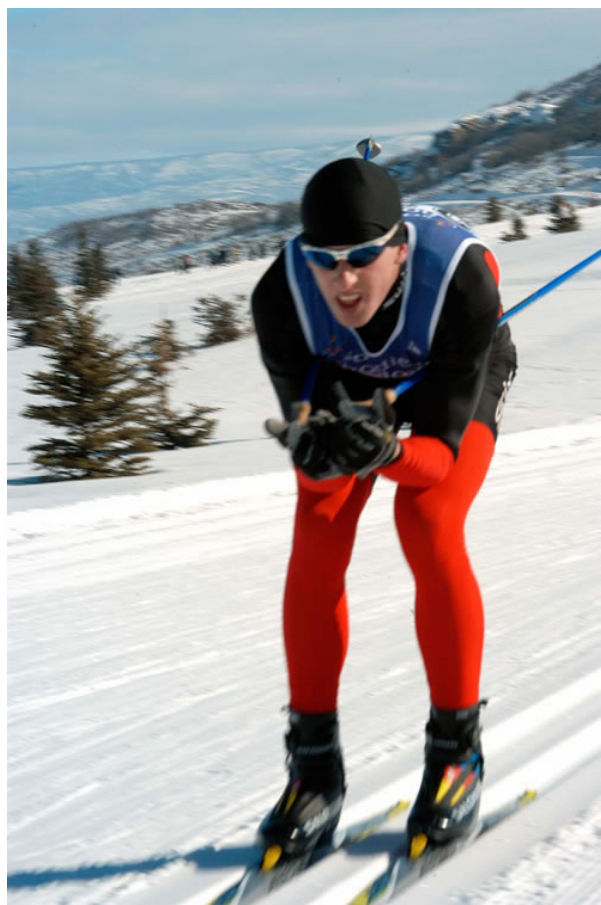
A total of 207 people joined the Minutes of Activity competition and they averaged individually over 57 hours of total physical activity in the three-and-a-half months of the program. Collectively, that means they exercised a whopping 12-thousand hours. All types of exercise counted toward the totals from obvious winter sports such as skiing or snowshoeing to such things as going to the gym to use a treadmill or even shoveling the driveway.

In the team competitions, Twice As Nice pulled out a last minute victory in the weight loss division, while the Ski Utah Powder Pigs took a very tight competition in the Minutes of Activity category. Yes, even Ski Utah needed to get outdoors more in the winter. They point out that it's the busy season for them, and they spend most of their time sitting at their desks just like everyone else.

Virtually all of the participants say they'll be back next year as seasoned veterans, but they'll have their work cut out for them since the entire WinterFit program will be significantly larger than in this first season.

The Utah Winter Games are the oldest and biggest amateur winter sports event in the country. They continue the legacy of 2002 in Utah by making it possible for large numbers of people of all skill levels to have a wonderful time with winter sports.

In the 2005-2006 20th anniversary season, more than three thousand people took part in 20 competitions in 15 sports and 32 instructional clinics. With the help of principal sponsor KSL, this coming season's Games will be significantly larger with more sports at more venues for more people.



The Utah Winter Games: All Ages, All Abilities, Always Fun.

For more information on WinterFit and the Utah Winter Games, please contact Christa Graff at 435-640-7921 or christa@graffpr.com or visit the Utah Winter Games web site at <http://www.utahwintergames.org> .

SNOWMOBILE SEASON FOR YELLOWSTONE PARK ENDS, COMMENT PERIOD ON WINTER USE PLAN TO BEGIN

The number of snowmobile visitors to Yellowstone National Park this winter has grown! In a just released report from Yellowstone National Park for the period ending March 11, 2007, snowmobile visitors totaled 30,940 as compared to 28,833 in the 2005-2006 season for a 7.3% increase. In the same report, snowcoach visitors increased to 20,206 for the 2006-2007 season from 19,856 in the 2005-2006 season for an increase of 1.76%.

What does this mean? It means that, even with the restrictions this season of the "Interim Rule", snowmobile visitation to Yellowstone is on the rebound! There are several reasons for the increase.

First, the national and international appeal of Yellowstone by snowmobile! On my two commercially guided trips into the Park this winter, I met folks from several foreign countries. These international visitors wanted to visit the park by snowmobile.



Second, this season Yellowstone received more positive press than in the past. Potential visitors learned that seeing winter in Yellowstone by snowmobile was a great experience. In addition, marketing of the snowmobile as a special form of winter transport into the park helps to bring additional visitors.

Third, with this season's congressional rider legislation stopping all legal action from affecting the Park's Interim Winter Plan, visitors knew they could make plans to enjoy the park by snowmobile without fear of the courts shutting the Park down.

Fourth, the announcement by the Park Service that the preliminary Draft Environment Impact Statement (PDEIS) and its preferred alternative included a continued level of snowmobile access to both Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks created additional interest in seeing the Parks by snowmobile this winter.

What next? By the end of March 2007, the formal Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS) will have been released and a formal comment period will start. BlueRibbon, along with the rest of the snowmobile community, will need your help to comment on any concerns with the DEIS. BlueRibbon will be issuing an alert with a link to our website that will provide suggested comments to be submitted to the Park Service. Note: For current information on the Yellowstone access issue and commenting on the DEIS go to our dedicated website at www.saveyellowstonepark.com.

In closing, please remember the fact that Yellowstone remains open to snowmobiles represents one of the most profound victories over the extreme environmental movement in our lifetime. Enjoy the victory and, together, we can make a difference in the upcoming comment period.

JETPAC POWERS A PIRATE SHIP

Setting sail on a pirate ship is a great way to enjoy a few hours out on the water off the coast of Palm Beach, Florida, for lads and lassies of all ages. Powered by a 150-hp JetPac from Sword Marine, the *Black Prince* is a 48' tour boat that plays host to family theme parties by day and adult cruises by night.

Captain Mike Kiernan was looking for a diesel alternative to his gas-powered engine when he stumbled across the Sword Marine website earlier this year. He needed a more fuel efficient engine and was impressed with the JetPac's claims of improved energy efficiency and better handling.

Kiernan says that installation went smoothly and the JetPac has lived up to and exceeded his expectations. "The boat has improved maneuverability and the fuel efficiency is much better than I expected," he added. Kiernan's long range plans include building more pirate ships as commercial tour boats with the JetPac as its primary source of propulsion.

For more information about the *Black Prince*, visitors are invited to www.longreachpirates.com.

Contact Sword Marine Technology, Inc., 1815 N. US Highway 1, Ormond Beach, FL 32174. Phone: 386-676-7685; Fax: 386-676-0164. www.swordmarine.com

Utah Tourism Office Hosts Cooperative Marketing Workshops

Salt Lake City – The Utah Office of Tourism will present a series of Cooperative Marketing Workshops around the state this spring. The workshops are free and are open to the public, but reservations are encouraged by sending an e-mail to Kelly Day at kday@utah.gov. Participants will review changes in the co-op guidelines, application, and procedures.

Schedule:

- April 12 - Abbey Inn, St. George, 2 p.m.
- April 27 - State Capitol Complex West Building (House Building) Room W135, Salt Lake City, 2 p.m.
- May 17 - College of Eastern Utah, Price, 2 p.m., held in conjunction with the Utah Tourism Conference

Insight will be offered from the Board of Tourism Development's Cooperative Marketing Committee; Donna Law, former director of marketing from the Utah Shakespearean Festival; and Nan Anderson of the Utah Tourism Industry Coalition (UTIC).

"This has been a tremendously successful program that is designed to attract out-of-state visitors to Utah," said Leigh von der Esch, managing director of the Utah Office of Tourism. "Over the past two years, the tourism board has approved 111 applications totaling \$3.7 million from nearly every corner of the state."

Non-profit and destination marketing organizations who have been in existence for at least one year are eligible to apply for co-op marketing funding. The next deadline for submission of regular co-op applications is June 29, 2007. Details on the program can be found online at http://travel.utah.gov/cooperative_mktg/co-opmktg.htm.

For questions or additional information on the Cooperative Marketing Program, please contact Dave Williams at dmwilliams@utah.gov or Kelly Day at kday@utah.gov at the Utah Office of Tourism, 300 N. State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114, (801) 538-1900.

Letter from Utah Anglers Coalition and story from Salt Lake Tribune

Read the article below: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_5464520 then I would suggest that each of you write a letter to the governor's office asking to get this looked at and changed. It is important to send this to as many interested parties as we can to get the word out.

The email address to Huntsmans office is (<http://www.utah.gov/governor/contact.html>). SITLA's mission needs to be changed-- it will take public access away from us for high dollar developments, and this could take place anywhere where SITLA owns land—from the top of Logan Canyon to the Arizona border. If enough people write him he will be forced to look at it. Maximizing profits without any willingness to work with other state agencies should not be the mission for SITLA-- that is destructive.

Thanks Chris Thomas, President
Utah Trout Unlimited

Clashing over Utah's trust lands: Selling the land vs. saving the land What's more important: Make top dollar for schoolkids or preserve scenic spots?

[By Christopher Smart](#)

[and Joe Baird](#)

[The Salt Lake Tribune](#)

Article Last Updated: 03/18/2007 02:35:52 AM MDT

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The viewpoints: Kevin Carter, director of SITLA, believes... (Steve Griffin/The Salt Lake Tribune)

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It controls 3.4 million acres of Utah land, has amassed some \$700 million and is a major power broker from one end of the state to the other.

Although its name carries the kind of bureaucratic freight that makes people's eyes glaze over, its actions often raise hackles.

The Utah School & Institutional Trust Lands Administration is the state's gorilla. SITLA is backed up by statutory might that allows the agency to rule with an iron hand - when it wants to.

White-hot topics like the trust-lands agency's desire to auction off 365 scenic acres near Little Hole, the blue-ribbon trout fishery on the Green River, have wildlife enthusiasts biting their lips. Developers

[SITLA Lands across Utah](#)

http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live/media/site297/2007/0318/20070318_023021_TrustLandsUtahFINAL.pdf

SITLA land across the state of Utah (.pdf)

want to build an upscale lodge and cabins on the land.

And recently, the agency turned up its nose at a \$40 million offer from the state Department of Natural Resources for 28,000 acres on Tabby Mountain on the south slope of the Uinta Mountains. It's a favorite for hunters, but trust-

lands officials say they can get a better offer in the future, most likely from the private sector.

The state Division of Wildlife Resources is willing to buy, and preserve, the Little Hole land, and the director of the state Department of Natural Resources is willing to pay above-market prices to keep Tabby Mountain undeveloped.

Says DNR's director, Mike Styler: "The governor would like to keep it open. So would the Duchesne [and] Wasatch county commissions. We're afraid it will be sold off to an oil company that would close it off."

But SITLA's leadership is unmoved. Officials say their priority is not to be environmental stewards, but to maximize profits - no matter what - for the benefit of Utah's schoolchildren.

These philosophical disputes, along with other flash points, such as SITLA's Washington County developments

[Trust Land Comparisons \(.pdf\)](#)

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and big bonuses for trust-lands officials, are shining a bright, if narrow, beam on the "quasi" state agency, which in the past decade has made more than a half-billion dollars for schools.

"How could you claim this is not a tremendous success story?" asked Republican state Rep. Mel Brown, who is often credited as being the "architect" of the modern-day trust-lands administration.

\$2 billion and beyond?

On July 1, 1994, the Legislature transformed the then-poorly performing agency. At that time, about 4 million of the original 7.4 million acres of trust land had been sold off, and Utah didn't have much to show for it, Brown said.

For 100 years, these lands were managed less aggressively. "But who paid the price? The school system," he said.

Brown spearheaded legislation that removed trust lands from the then-Division of State Lands and Forestry. It reinvented SITLA on a private-sector model that emphasized profit and rewarded employees for productivity.

Although hikers, campers and hunters have trod these lands for generations - just like they have on federal Bureau of Land Management tracts, parks and forests - Brown contended that the agency's remaining 3.4 million acres are not public lands.

"It's difficult when tradition has established access and

**Trust-lands distributions in Western states
FY 2004**

The trust-lands administration provides 0.5 percent of Utah's annual education budget, according to a 2004 legislative audit. The agency reduced to 2.5 percent the annual outlays from its permanent fund in order to build a larger endowment fund.

STATE	ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION TO TRUST BENEFICIARIES	ANNUAL K-12 SCHOOL BUDGET	PERCENT OF DISTRIBUTED TRUST DOLLARS TO OVERALL SCHOOL BUDGET	PERMANENT FUND BALANCE	DISTRIBUTION AS A PERCENT OF FUND BALANCE
MT	\$55,262,861	\$1,208,058,000	4.6%	\$411,173,416	13.4%
CO	\$31,100,000	\$6,644,305,000	0.5%	\$369,000,000	8.4%
ID	\$55,105,000	\$1,726,941,000	3.2%	\$755,348,948	7.3%
AZ	\$77,077,140	\$6,210,287,000	1.2%	\$1,311,567,000	5.9%
UT	\$11,543,545	\$2,557,874,000	0.5%	\$469,000,000	2.5%
NV	\$3,937,227	\$3,008,639,000	0.1%	\$172,485,155	2.3%
WY	\$14,010,146	\$910,319,000	1.5%	\$1,129,000,000	1.2%

Source: Office of the Utah Legislative Auditor General *The Salt Lake Tribune*

use," he said. "But read the enabling act. They are, plain and simple, not public lands."

The land was deeded to Utah by the federal government in 1896 to be held in trust for schoolchildren. The trustee of that land - SITLA - would then funnel money earned from mining, oil and gas leases, as well as grazing permits, into the state's permanent school fund.

Trust-lands executives estimate that by 2010, the permanent school fund will be worth \$1 billion - and Brown believes that in future years, that endowment could be pushed to \$2 billion and beyond. That cash would represent a storehouse of capital that could not be touched. Only the interest generated would go to schools - \$140 million a year from a \$2 billion endowment.

To reach those billion-dollar plateaus, the agency has kept down its annual payouts to public education but still retains an annual grant program that delivered \$11.5 million - 0.5 percent of the total education budget - to specific school programs in 2004, according to legislative auditors.

"To reach total potential will ultimately require that SITLA owns no land," he said.

'Let's not destroy'

But not everyone is on board with that philosophy.

Don Peay, who heads up the influential Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife and is a former SITLA board member, worries that SITLA-managed lands cherished by outdoors aficionados will be sold off to developers.

He maintained that some of the trust lands, like the Tabby Mountain acreage, should be purchased by the state and left open to the public.

The state's scenic lands are what make Utah special and are "the best classroom" for children, Peay said. Even at \$2 billion, interest earned by the endowment would provide only a tiny fraction of Utah's annual education budget.

"Let's go ahead and make some money for schoolchildren," said Peay. "But let's not destroy the customs and the culture of Utah. Maybe it's time to tweak SITLA's mission so that some of these lands can be set aside."

Peay seems to have support in the Legislature, including Senate President John Valentine.

"One of the things we've done is say, 'What is a more rational approach to these lands? Do we have to get the last dollar - or is there some public aspect to it?'" he said.

Trust-lands officials concede they have a public-relations problem.

But the agency's director, Kevin Carter, said that is because most Utahns, including sports enthusiasts, do not notice SITLA's myriad conservation agreements, land exchanges and other efforts at stewardship.

"It's unfortunate that we can't make everybody happy. But when you deal with 3.4 million acres, you can't make everybody happy," he said.

More grumbling - particularly over agency-managed residential developments in Washington County and compensation for top trust-lands officials - led legislators two years ago to push for the audit. Last year, in its report, the Office of the Legislative Auditor General revealed that, among other things, the agency continues to sell land at a brisk pace, even though land sales account for only about 20 percent of its profit.

The trust-lands agency makes almost 60 percent of its profits from leases on lands rich in coal, oil and natural gas. The balance comes from other kinds of leases and interest from investments.

'More than the bottom line'

Auditors point out that Western states have differing philosophies.

"Other than Utah and Arizona, most Western states do not sell trust lands," the audit stated. The report quoted Colorado's director of Natural Resources who said, "The best protection for the next generation is to keep the land [in the public domain]."

Colorado legislation passed a decade ago recognized that significant areas need protection, according to Bob McCarty, a real estate specialist with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and a liaison to that state's trust-lands agency.

"There is a level of oversight that wasn't there before," he said. "[Trust-land] boards have to have the guts to say 'no,' and balance maximizing revenues with the benefit to the public" of keeping some lands open.

In Utah, SITLA is doing just that, Carter contends. He points to the sale of trust lands in Castle Valley near Moab to the nonprofit Utah Open Lands. In 2003, the agency sold 221 acres surrounding Castleton Tower for \$640,000.

Additionally, the agency agreed in 2005 to trade 40,000 acres - near Dinosaur National Monument in Uintah County and along the Colorado River in Grand County - to the federal government. Those acres, with no underlying oil and gas reserves, will remain as open space.

In exchange, SITLA would gain energy-rich federal lands in the Book Cliffs. If Congress OKs the deal, the Book Cliffs deed will include a permanent public easement.

Last year, the agency hammered out an agreement with the state Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among others, to establish an 800-acre prairie-dog preserve in south-central Utah.

Beyond that, Carter said, the agency is constantly seeking to trade scenic lands to federal and state agencies for other ground that may have potential for energy exploration.

"We're in a position right now to capture significant revenue from oil and gas because we've done land exchanges that have allowed us to do that."

Nobody is complaining about SITLA's success at increasing the permanent school fund, particularly the Utah Board of Education, said Margaret Bird, education's liaison to the trust-lands agency.

She supports the agency's decisions at Little Hole and Tabby Mountain.

"If SITLA would have done an inside deal [with the Division of Wildlife Resources] at Little Hole, we'd have cried bloody murder."

Further, Bird explained that Tabby Mountain land is increasing in value at a greater rate than the estimated 7 percent return it could expect if SITLA had sold the tract to the state for \$40 million.

"If the purpose of [the trust-lands agency] is to support schools, then the purpose is to make money," she said.

But at least one Board of Education member disagrees.

"We need to broaden our vision and see there is more than the bottom line," said Board of Education member Debra Roberts. "If there are pieces of land that have our unique heritage, maybe those lands should be preserved."

TWO BUCKS POACHED WEST OF PRICE

PRICE, UTAH--Officers from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) recently investigated several deer that were killed illegally west of Price. The deer were shot west of Pinnacle Peak in the Haley Canyon and Long Bench area. After the deer were killed, they were left to waste.



A reward of \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the poaching of these deer. Anyone with information should contact Officer Chris Rhea at 435-820-6016 or the Help Stop Poaching hotline at 1-800-662-DEER. Those calling with information may remain anonymous or confidential.

During the winter months, deer, especially bucks are vulnerable. They are easily located by anyone

recreating in the hills outside of town. Numerous deer are poached each year. Each illegally killed buck can greatly affect the future deer population. If you witness any wildlife violation, please call the Help Stop Poaching hotline at 1-800-662-DEER.

AAA OFFERS LIFESAVING PROGRAM FOR TEEN DRIVERS

Driver-ZED DVD Free to Members and Schools

SALT LAKE CITY, March 15, 2007 – Parents of teenage drivers now have a tool available to help protect their children. AAA Utah is offering Driver-ZED (Zero Errors Driving), a new computer program designed to teach teens lifesaving driving skills.

The need for preventative intervention becomes clear when you consider the risk. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2002, more than 5,000 teens ages 16 to 19 died of injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes. Per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are four times more likely to be in a crash than older drivers, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. In 2003, teenagers accounted for 10 percent of the U.S. population and 13 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths.

“Getting a driver’s license can be exciting for teenagers but often causes enormous anxiety for their parents,” said Rolayne Fairclough, spokesperson for AAA Utah. “Driver-ZED is a way to reduce the risks young inexperienced drivers face as they get behind the wheel. The program is designed to help teens test their skills and prepare for potentially deadly driving situations *before* they face them for real on the road.”

Driver-ZED is an interactive computer DVD-ROM that allows teen drivers to gain experience at recognizing dangerous driving situations in a safe virtual environment. The software offers teens more than 100 different live-

action scenarios in a wide variety of driving venues – on highways, in towns and rural areas, and through roadwork zones.

“Whether or not you’re the parent of a teen, this issue affects you,” said Fairclough. “Every motorist in Utah shares the roads with young and inexperienced drivers. It’s in the best interest of all drivers to make sure that teens get the very best driver training available.”

Copies of Driver-ZED can be ordered at aaa.com/teensdrive. The software is free for schools and members of AAA of Northern California, Nevada and Utah. The cost for non-members is \$7.

AAA Utah offers a wide array of automotive, travel, insurance and financial services to more than 150,000 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.

PF's National Pheasant Fest coming to Saint Paul's RiverCentre next January

Fourth-Ever Fest to Coincide with Pheasants Forever's Silver Anniversary

Saint Paul, Minn. - March 15, 2007 - At a press conference this morning, Pheasants Forever (PF) President and Chief Executive Officer Howard Vincent announced that Saint Paul is the destination for PF's fourth-ever National Pheasant Fest. Slated for January 18, 19 & 20, 2008, the event will be held at Saint Paul's RiverCentre. Vincent also announced that National Pheasant Fest 2008 will be a milestone event marking PF's 25th anniversary. PF was formed in Saint Paul in 1982 and is currently nationally headquartered in White Bear Lake.

National Pheasant Fest 2008 will mark the event's second go-round in "The Land of 10,000 Lakes." Previous Fests were held in Bloomington, Minn. (2003), Omaha, Neb. (2005), and Des Moines, Iowa (2007). The 24,510 people who attended the 2007 Fest in Des Moines helped make that the largest PF event ever held, but National Pheasant Fest 2008 promises to be the largest and most complete event in the organization's history. National Pheasant Fest 2008 will feature hundreds of exhibits, seminars, special events and other attractions. The family event will offer something fun for everyone, from puppies and paintings to guns and gun dogs, and everything in between.

"We are very excited to be coming home to Saint Paul for this special National Pheasant Fest and 25th anniversary," Vincent said. "In total, the show size is going from 650 booths in Des Moines up to nearly 800 booths for 2008. And, our attendance goal will be to draw 25,000 people over the course of the Fest's three days. Attendees will find more dog-related attractions than ever before. We're also increasing the activities in our Youth Village and adding more attractions for women."

Pheasants Forever will also use National Pheasant Fest 2008 to celebrate 25 years of work dedicated to the conservation of pheasants and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs. "People didn't give the organization a lot of hope in the beginning, so this event will be very special," said Jeff Finden, PF's co-founder and first CEO. The organization many thought could never succeed has now grown to over 700 Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever (PF's quail division) chapters across North America, accounting for 115,000 members. Nationwide, PF has spent nearly \$200 million on wildlife habitat projects and conservation education. Those funds have translated into 300,000 habitat projects benefiting 4.4 million acres across the continent. "It's safe to say that through our efforts, the landscape has really changed and we've seen significant habitat improvements for pheasants and other wildlife," Finden said.

Fittingly, the celebration will take place in the organization's birth place, as PF was formed in St. Paul, Minn., in 1982. Pheasants Forever's first chapter, the Kandiyohi County Chapter of PF, formed in Minnesota in 1983. Since its first project in 1984, Minnesota's 70 PF chapters and 22,000 PF members have completed thousands of projects affecting more than 177,000 acres of wildlife habitat. In fact, Minnesota PF chapters have spent more than \$27 million on habitat and conservation education in the state. National Pheasant Fest 2008 will bring together chapter leaders and members from across the country, not only for a look back, but a look ahead. "It will be very gratifying to get together at the biggest and best ever National Pheasant Fest and look back at what our dedicated volunteers,

staff and supporters have accomplished throughout our first 25 years," Finden said, "But we all know there's always more to do."

Daily ticket prices for National Pheasant Fest 2008 include: Ages 16 and older - \$10; ages 6-15 - \$5; ages five and under - free. Friday, Jan. 18th will be Senior Citizen Day with \$5 admission for Seniors, while Sunday, Jan. 20th will be Family Day with \$1 off all admissions. National Pheasant Fest 2008 will combine a national consumer show, habitat seminar series, and family event complete with puppies, tractors, shotguns, and art.

National Pheasant Fest promises to be the country's largest event for upland hunters, farmers, sport dog owners, and wildlife habitat conservationists. The event is open to the public, and you do not need to be a PF member to attend. For additional information about Pheasants Forever, please visit www.PheasantsForever.org.

Time to sign up for the Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting

From Cliff Green, UFOP President:

Dear interested, and or willing participants,

Below please find the registration form for you to print, fill it out, and send with check, or money order to address indicated at bottom. We are in the process of finalizing details for lodging. We will post a block rate at the Westwinds Hotel, post contact information in the final circular going out next week for all lodging facilities, i.e. camp grounds, RV sites, and other hotel options in the Green River area.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience at dinonaut@emerytelcom.net

Sincerely,
Cliff Green

**Dinosaurs of Utah Symposium and
Utah Friends of Paleontology 2007 Annual Meeting
Registration Form
May 17 – 20, 2007
Green River, Utah**

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____
Email _____
Chapter/Affiliation _____ Phone _____

2007 UFOP Convention Fees

Number of people Cost
Convention Fee - \$20.00 prior to April 30 _____ X \$20.00 = _____

\$25.00 after April 30 _____ X \$25.00 = _____

Friday, Banquet _____ X \$10.00 = _____ May 18

T-Shirts S____,M____,L____,XL____ _____ X \$15.00 = _____ XXL____, XXXL____ _____ X \$18.00 = _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Utah Friends of Paleontology**

Mail to: Cliff Green
628 North Aspen Circle
Price UT 84501

Can Livestock Grazing Benefit Wildlife?

Hardware Ranch hosts open house March 24 in Wellsville

Wellsville -- A major study to learn the ways livestock grazing might be used to improve wildlife habitat is among the many programs at the Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area this year.

You can learn more about the work that's happening at the WMA by attending a public open house in Wellsville on March 24. The open house runs from noon to 5 p.m. It will be held in the Reception Building at the American West Heritage Center, 4025 S. US-89/91 in Wellsville.

"As we look at the busy year ahead, we need to tell people what's happening at the ranch," says Dan Christensen, superintendent of the Hardware Ranch WMA, which is about 15 miles east of Hyrum.

"Our programs are creating changes on the landscape, as well as in classrooms and in our community."

About 1,000 cattle will be released onto portions of the ranch around April 1 as a study continues to determine whether prescriptive livestock grazing can be used to improve wildlife habitat, especially in places too steep or rocky to use heavy equipment or other traditional methods.

The cattle will initially graze along the steep hillside about six miles above SR-101, the main road in Blacksmith Fork Canyon. Then the cattle will be moved among five other areas on the ranch throughout the summer.

"The number of cattle and the effects they're having on the range will be obvious to people as they come up the canyon to camp, fish and hike this spring," Christensen says. "The study will affect many areas of the ranch throughout the summer. We want to explain why we think this study is important and let people know that they can still use most of the ranch this year."

Christensen is also gearing up to continue a major facilities improvement project. In June 2006, the WMA received much-needed funding to repair and replace utilities, buildings, roads, fences and other systems.

Some of the trenches and repair scars from past work are reappearing as the snow melts, and there will be more trenches and improvements as major projects resume at the WMA in April.

The visitor center at the WMA is also being repaired and upgraded. That work will continue through the summer. New displays, major artwork and a new habitat garden will premiere in time for the ranch's Elk Festival in October. A new interpretive area, located where people wait in the winter to board sleigh rides that take them through a wild elk herd, will also be completed this year.

"At the open house we want to talk about new partnerships, growing education programs, habitat initiatives, recreational opportunities and future plans," Christensen says.

"We're bringing together a team of people who know and care about what happens at Hardware Ranch. We want to talk to our neighbors to learn more about what they want to see."

For more information, call the Hardware Ranch WMA at (435) 753-61686.

Changes Coming to Hunting Course

Changes should get more parents and kids into the outdoors

Some major changes are coming to a course that every young person in Utah must take before they can hunt.

Beginning April 1, the cost to attend Utah's Hunter Education course will climb slightly - from \$6 to \$10 - but students will actually save money because they'll receive a free hunting license.

The license allows a Hunter Education graduate to hunt small game. It's valid for 365 days from the day it's issued.

How you register for the course will also change. In the past, students registered for the course the first night the course was held. Starting April 1, you must register in advance at any Division of Wildlife Resources office or hunting license agent location in Utah.

More than 300 agents sell Utah hunting and fishing licenses.

The following are the major changes that will happen in the program starting April 1:

- When you register for the course, you'll receive a two-part voucher. After you complete the course, your instructor will mail the first part of your voucher to the DWR. Once the DWR receives the voucher, they'll mail your Hunter Education card to you (this card is called a *blue card* in Utah).
- The second part of the voucher is a hunting license that allows you to hunt small game. After you complete the course, your instructor will sign your license and place a stamp on it. His signature and the stamp make the voucher a valid hunting license.

A list of where and when Hunter Education courses are offered is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation.

Getting Kids and Adults Hooked on Hunting

The DWR believes the changes will lead to more parents and kids enjoying the outdoors together.

"About 30 percent of the students who complete the Hunter Education course, but are under the age of 15, never buy a license and go hunting," says Lenny Rees, Hunter Education coordinator for the DWR. "Now they'll have a license in their hands as soon as they complete the course."

"Also, anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult while hunting. These young hunters will have a license in their hands and they'll need an adult to take them hunting. We think this change will bring a lot of adults back who have slipped away from hunting for a bit."

If you plan on hunting out-of-state, Rees advises you to take the course well in advance of your trip.

"You'll need a blue card to buy an out-of-state hunting license, and it could take up to 10 days for your blue card to arrive in the mail," Rees says.

For more information, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4727.

GOLF COURSES OPEN AT WASATCH MOUNTAIN

Midway - Two of four, 18-hole golf courses are now open at Wasatch Mountain State Park. The Lake Course at Wasatch and Silver Course at Soldier Hollow are open for play this weekend. The Soldier Hollow Gold Course will open within the week, and the popular Mountain Course will open as soon as weather and snow conditions

permit.

Regular green fees for the 2006 - 2007 season are \$37 weekdays and \$39 weekends for 18 holes with cart. Junior and senior rates are available. Beginning May 21, fees are \$40 with a cart seven days a week.

Season golf passes are now available for Wasatch Mountain and Soldier Hollow golf courses. The pass is \$1,000 and covers green fees, but cart rental is not included. Passes are available for purchase at the Wasatch Mountain visitor center and both Wasatch Mountain and Soldier Hollow golf courses.

The pass is valid at Wasatch Mountain Golf Course Monday through Friday, and at Soldier Hollow Golf Course seven days a week. The pass expires one year from the month issued.

New this year, a pass exclusive to Soldier Hollow Golf Course is available for \$1,000 and includes cart. The pass expires one year from the month issued.

For more information or for tee times, please call Wasatch Mountain Pro Shop (435) 654-0532 or (801) 266-0268 and Soldier Hollow Pro Shop (435) 654-744 or (801) 261-4733.

MORE TURKEYS MOVE TO RANGE CREEK

PRICE, UTAH--On March 16, 2007, the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) released 19 more wild turkeys at the Range Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in eastern Utah. A month earlier, 20 birds were turned loose. Prior to 2007, DWR biologists were responsible for seeding the canyon with a hundred other birds.



While only a handful of birds called Utah home less than two decades ago, the state now boasts a population of more than 15,000—thanks to DWR's partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation. In years to come, transplants and natural reproduction should make the species a common sight throughout the Beehive State.

Range Creek, situated west of the Green River on the Tavaputs Plateau, was purchased for its potential as wildlife habitat. It has since become famous as a treasure trove for Fremont Indian ruins and artifacts. DWR's role in the WMA has included cultural resource protection as well as wildlife management.

UTAH STATE PARKS STATEWIDE GROOMING ENDS APRIL 1

Salt Lake -- With the onset of spring conditions across much of the state, the Division of Utah State Parks and Recreation announces an end to its 2006 snowmobile trail grooming season effective April 1.

Utah State Parks operates 11 snowmobile trail groomers on nine distinct snowmobile trail complexes in the state. These complexes stretch from Logan Canyon to Cedar Mountain.

"We've had a good snowmobile season," said Fred Hayes, OHV program coordinator with Utah State Parks. "Since we began grooming in November, our groomers have maintained over 25,000 miles of trail for public use. However, with spring conditions limiting groomer access on many complexes, and with the current budgetary constraints, it is time to wrap up this season."

For additional information, please call (801) 538-7220 or 1-800-OHV-RIDE.

Utah State Parks and Recreation administers the state off-highway vehicle program, providing education, access, trail maintenance, and enforcement.

PUEBLO POTTERY WORKSHOP AT EDGE OF THE CEDARS

Blanding- Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum staff host potters Emma Lewis Mitchell and Dolores Lewis Garcia May 14 through 18 teaching students the art of making traditional Acoma Pueblo pottery.

The workshop is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the museum. Participants will learn from and work with the talented and skilled Lewis sisters. Participants work with Acoma clay to fashion their own small pots, which they will finish with rubbing stones, slip and paint with yucca brushes, and watch as their pots are fired in an outdoor kiln. Each participant will be able to create and finish several small pots, and perhaps even a canteen or ladle.

The Lewis sisters have been teaching the art of pottery making for decades and they enjoy sharing a wealth of tradition, stories, and family history. Their pottery is well known by collectors and has won many awards. The workshop also includes a field trip to look for clay sources, a chance to view the documentary, Daughters of the Anasazi, and a backroom collections tour of the Museum.

The workshop is limited to 15 participants and pre-registration is required. For workshop pricing or to register, please call (435) 678-2238.

EASTER WEEKEND EVENTS AND CAMPING

Salt Lake - If you are planning a trip Easter Weekend, it's not too late to reserve a campsite at a Utah state park. The following parks have campsites available, but are filling up quickly: East Canyon, Millsite, Otter Creek, Palisade, Wasatch Mountain, Willard Bay and Yuba.

To make a reservation or for more information, please call (801) 322-3770 from within the Salt Lake calling area and (800) 322-3770 from outside the area or visit www.stateparks.utah.gov.

Special Easter events are held at the following state parks:

April 7 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Fielding Garr Ranch Easter Celebration: Join us in celebrating Easter with an Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. Other activities include a fish pond, face painting, pictures with the Easter bunny, farm ball at 1 and 3 p.m. gunny sack races at 2:00, 3:00, and 4 p.m. Prizes will be given for all activities. For more information call (801) 649-5742.

April 7 Fremont Indian State Park and Museum - Sevier

17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Children 12 and under can join park staff for an Easter egg hunt including candy and prizes. Events begin at 9 a.m. sharp. For more information, please call (435) 527-4631.

PURCHASE ANNUAL STATE PARKS PASSES NOW

Salt Lake City - With the summer season approaching, now is the time to purchase your Utah State Parks Annual Pass. The \$70 Annual Pass waives day-use fees into most state parks. Passes do not discount overnight camping or special use fees, such as golf.

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

You may also request a free Utah Field Guide. This brochure offers vacation ideas, descriptions, photographs, and facilities at Utah's 42 state parks.

If you are planning to boat, fish, picnic, or visit any state park museum, buy your pass and pick up your free Utah Field Guide. Passes may be purchased at any state park, region office, or the Salt Lake office located at 1594 West North Temple. For more information, please call (801) 538-7220 or toll free 877-UTPARKS.

Utah State Parks celebrates 50 years as Utah's recreation authority throughout 2007. Explore the beauty and history of Utah's 42 state parks and museums with an annual pass, your passport to discovery. Visit www.stateparks.utah.gov for a list of current events.

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

March 24 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

Lava Tubes Tour: Join Naturalist Caitlin Hutter beginning at 5 p.m., for a two-mile roundtrip hike and a chance to explore the unique formations of a lava tube. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information, please call (435) 628-2255.

March 31 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

Desert Survival Basics: Todd Goss, former Navy Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) instructor teaches desert survival skills from basic navigation to the construction of solar stills beginning at 2:30 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information, please call (435) 628-2255.

April 7 Fielding Garr Ranch Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Junior Ranger Program: Join park staff at 2 p.m., to learn about how sheep were sheared and wool was processed at one of Utah's earliest ranches, the historic Fielding Garr Ranch on Antelope Island. Though this informative Junior Ranger Program is geared for those six to 12, everyone is welcome. For more information call (801) 649-5742.

FISHING REPORT FOR SOUTHEASTERN UTAH

GENERAL It's gotten late in the ice fishing season. At some reservoirs, the ice pack recedes from the shoreline during the day. For that reason, it's a good idea to bring along an extension ladder or board to bridge the gap between the bank and ice pack—especially for the return trip, after you're done fishing. Please remember to follow traditional ice safety precautions: 1) fish with a buddy, 2) carry a rope and floatation device, 3) keep a pair of ice picks handy for self-rescue.

ABAJO MOUNTAINS Fishing has been good fishing at Blanding #4 Reservoir, but has been slow at Recapture Reservoir.

CLEVELAND RESERVOIR Ice fishing pressure has been virtually non-existent this winter. Deep snow around the shoreline has made access difficult.

ELECTRIC LAKE Open water occurs on the north end. Otherwise, the lake remains iced over.

GIGLIOTTI POND The pond is ice-free. Fishing with nightcrawlers has been good.

HUNTINGTON CREEK Try a #12 beadhead Montana, drifted along the bottom.

HUNTINGTON NORTH STATE PARK Ice is off. The water level is very low and will remain that way until work on the dam gates and spillway are completed in April. Park Manager Dan Richards reports that some nice bass (up to 16 inches) have been taken from the bank. Tom Ogden fly-fished from a tube over the weekend, but

didn't hook a fish, due to an afternoon midge hatch. Conservation Officer Chris Pugliese says that crawdad fishing has been good.

HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR (also known as **MAMMOTH RESERVOIR**)

Snow and slush cover the ice pack. Bring along an auger extension to get through the ice. Fishing success has been sporadic. On Bigfishtackle.com one angler reported icing 35 fish in four hours with a variety of lures tipped with wax worms or piece of chub. He said fishing was best before 11 a.m. and in shallower water. Tiger trout range from 12-17 inches. Closed to the possession of cutthroat trout.

JOES VALLEY RESERVOIR Ice will soon be gone. April and May are traditionally the best months to fish Joes Valley. Special regulations apply. Please refer to the 2007 fishing guide.

LAKE POWELL Visit <http://wayneswords.com> for the fishing report, provided by Wayne Gustavson, DWR project leader.

LASAL MOUNTAINS Kens Lake is open. Conservation Officer Casey McVay describes fishing success as "hit and miss." The water is clear and cold. On 3/18, James Bown caught his limit (3 browns and 1 rainbow) in 30 minutes with spinners. Casey says it's best to fish the lake early, before the large crowd arrives. Stick to deeper water. Casey says the shallow water hasn't produced any fish this year.

LOWER FISH CREEK Tom Ogden recommends one of the following: a #8 beadhead San Juan Worm, #12 beadhead hares ear, or #12 beadhead Montana.

MILLSITE RESERVOIR The reservoir is ice-free. Park Manager Dan Richards reports good fishing for 12-14 inch trout.

SCOFIELD RESERVOIR On 3/14, an angler on Bigfishtackle.com reported catching 50 trout in 10-12 feet of water with a pale pink and white Ratso tipped with a waxworm. The bite has ranged widely from fast to slow.

