

Provo River Clean-Up. Get your hands on river protection! Join us on Saturday, September 15th from 9:00 am to Noon to clean a stretch of the Provo River and trail. Meet at Canyon Glen Park in Provo Canyon, be sure to wear shoes and clothes that can get wet and muddy, and bring a water bottle. For more information, contact Lauren at 801-486-4776. RSVPs appreciated, but not required!



River Benefit coming soon! Saturday, October 13th at The Jewish Community Center, the Council will once again hold its annual River Benefit. Enjoy great food, fine conversation, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and can be purchased by calling 486-4776. Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 5th.

Fall 2007 Explore Series. It's not too late to get out on the river. On Wednesday, September 19 Dave Bastian will lead a float down the Jordan River. On Saturday, September 22, Amy Defreese will lead a canoe trip down the Bear River outside of Benson, Utah. Your \$20 donation will register you for one of the two trips and enroll you for a one year membership with the Utah Rivers Council. There are only a few spots left for each trip so call soon to register with the Council at 801-486-4776.

Join the Council for a hike along the potential Wild and Scenic Stillwater Creek - On Saturday September 29 the Council is leading a short hike along this gem of a river on the north slope of the Uintas Mountains. The trailhead is a short two hour drive from Salt Lake City. Stillwater Creek along with Hayden Fork and Ostler Fork comprise some of the incredible headwaters of the Bear River. Call the Council to reserve your space today!

Salt Lake County is hosting the first annual Salt Lake Countywide Watershed Symposium on October 3rd and 4th at the South Towne Expo Center and they need your help. The event includes lively discussions, field trips and lunch.

The county needs volunteers to drive the vans for the field trips as well as staff the tables for registration. There are two or three hour shifts available in the morning or afternoon from 8:15 am to 5:00pm. If you need more information or want to volunteer, contact Nicholas Daniels at 801-815-2260 (cell), 801-468-2796 (Office) or at Ndaniels@slco.org.

Price River Clean-Up. Join The Council on Saturday, October 6th to clean a stretch of the Price River. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lauren at 801-486-4776.

Bend-in-the-River Fall Project. It's a morning of noxious weed removal in an urban natural area on the Jordan River! Join Bend In The River on Saturday, September 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to noon for a light breakfast, a brief orientation, and then some hearty work removing noxious weeds. Those who volunteer will receive a free T-shirt courtesy of REI. RSVP by September 19th with the number of people in your party to tpoelzing@sa.utah.edu.

Conservation Tip

That leaky faucet let's you know there is a problem, but what about a leaking toilet? You can waste up to 15,000 gallons of water a month from a leaky loo! There is a simple way to check for this problem. You'll need some dye, some municipal water companies will provide dye capsules or tablets, but food coloring or instant coffee works fine. Put enough dye in the tank water to give the water a deep color, wait 30 minutes and make sure nobody uses the toilet. If there is any of the dyed water in the toilet bowl after the time has passed, your toilet is leaking. Consider a new low flow toilet if it is time to replace. If a fix is in order, purchase a tank repair kit, an inexpensive way to save both water and money.

River News Roundup

Diversion dam pits farmers against fisherman - recently a fly fisher visited his favorite spot on the Provo River only to be completely shocked and saddened. The very stretch he had fished days earlier was now completely dammed and diverted. This incident highlights the conflicts between recreation/rivers and farmers in the Western United States. The farmer in this case had a legal right to divert the river for his fields. This highlights the problems with the current water law in Utah. The water law needs to change in order to provide instream flows for the river at the same time as providing the farmer water for his fields. To learn more, view the [Salt Lake opinion editorial http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6719550?source=email](http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6719550?source=email) .

Biologist: Water plan invites peril - A Nevada biologist has examined the Southern Nevada Water Authority's plans to take the water for golf course and home development in the Las Vegas area, and deemed it a guaranteed ecological disaster. Is a water war imminent? Find out in the [Salt Lake Tribune Article](http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6835948) http://www.sltrib.com/ci_6835948 .

Fishing Forecast for the Southern and Southeastern Regions

ABAJO MOUNTAINS: Dedicated Hunter Mike Jensen surveyed San Juan County fisheries this past weekend. He reported fair fishing for pike at Recapture Reservoir and recommended a three-inch silver Rapala, two-inch orange Rapala, and a one-inch yellow/ green spoon. Good fishing was found at both Monticello and Foy reservoirs. The Jake's Spin-a-Lure was the best-performing lure at Monticello. Good colors were silver, gold and black/yellow. At Foy, fly fishermen had the best success. The best-performing fly was a "pistol Petes."

BENCHES RESERVOIR: There are a couple of baits worth trying. First, try a worm & bubble separated by two feet of leader. If that doesn't work, try a rainbow PowerBait/crawler combo.

BLUE LAKE: (near Emerald Lake) Small (6- to 10-inch) grayling and 8- to 10-inch rainbow occur in this high elevation lake. Justin Hart recommends scuds or double renegades.

BLUE LAKE: (near Grassy Lake) Rob Toler recommends a Blue Fox spinner for pan-size trout.

BOULGERS RESERVOIR: Several things are worth trying. A worm/ marshmallow combo is a good first choice. If that doesn't work, try a combination of nightcrawler and orange or rainbow PowerBait.

CLEVELAND RESERVOIR: Morning fishing is best with a worm/PowerBait combo. The best PowerBait colors are green and rainbow.

COVE LAKE: (on the South Skyline Drive) Rainbows up to 16 inches can be taken with a fly and bubble.



One year-old Kendal Richards of Kearns catches a few rainbows with her dad at Benches Reservoir.

DUCK FORK RESERVOIR: Try a #10 beadhead Canada blood leech or #10 beadhead scud. Spinner recommendations include a black/yellow Panther Martin or Jakes in silver, gold or black. Tigers get up to 17 inches. Special regulations apply. Refer to the proclamation.

ELECTRIC LAKE: Try a nightcrawler/salmon egg combo on the north end.

EMERALD LAKE: (on the south Skyline Drive) Try a scud or double renegade for 6- to 10-inch grayling or rainbows.

FAIRVIEW LAKES: Kassi Christianson reported good fishing with rainbow sparkle PowerBait floated off the bottom with a slip sinker. Todd Munford recommends fast-stripping a red crystal bugger on sinking line around weed beds.

GREEN RIVER: Cast pieces of nightcrawler into eddy pools for lots of 12-inch catfish.

HUNTINGTON CREEK: Good spinners include a black Panther Martin with silver or gold blades or a Jake's in silver or gold. Tom Ogden has had good success with the following patterns: #10 beadhead Montana, #12 beadhead hare's ear, or #12 beadhead ugly. Special regulations exist on Huntington Creek. Please consult the proclamation.

HUNTINGTON NORTH STATE PARK: For trout, try a combination of green or orange PowerBait with a worm. Catfish are biting on nightcrawlers or chicken livers. Two record catfish, weighing 25 and 27 pounds apiece were taken in August.

HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR: (also known as MAMMOTH RESERVOIR) Slow fishing continues, based on the reports that have come in. No recommendations. Special regulations apply. Please refer to the proclamation.

JOE'S VALLEY RESERVOIR: Slow fishing is expected until the water temperature drops into the low 50s. The best year-round bait is a Utah chub, which can be caught at the reservoir. Special regulations apply. The limit is two fish. Only one may be over 22 inches. All trout from 15 to 22 inches must be immediately released.

LAKE POWELL: Visit www.wayneswords.com for the fishing report, provided by Wayne Gustaveson, DWR project leader.

LASAL MOUNTAINS: Try worms or PowerBait at Dark Canyon. A black wooly bugger or PowerBait is recommended for Warner Lake. At Ken's Lake, try purple plastic worms for 9- to 16-inch bass. The Mill Creek Bridge remains under construction and will be impassable until November. Anglers wanting to fish Oowah must access the lake from the south end of the LaSal Mountain Loop Road. Warner Lake fishermen will need to come from the Castle Valley side.

MILLSITE RESERVOIR: No recent report.

PETE'S HOLE: Good fishing is expected. Try worms and salmon eggs.

POTTER'S PONDS: Baitcasters should try a combination of orange PowerBait and a nightcrawler. Good flies include wooly buggers and renegades. Silver Mepp's with orange blades are a good bet for spincasters.

SCOFIELD RESERVOIR: The majority of boaters anchor up and still-fish with a crawler/PowerBait combo. Orange, sparkle orange, green, sparkle green and rainbow are good colors. Trollers have had success in the main channel, using lime green needlefish or rainbow triple teasers. The best bank fishing is found along the east shoreline off the rocks. Tom Ogden and a party of fly fishermen fished last Thursday for about three hours. Each angler caught and released approximately 10 fish apiece. One rainbow measured 24 inches and was estimated to weigh four to five pounds. Another bow stretched 20 inches and was judged to weigh three to four pounds. The party fished with wooly buggers and leeches on sinking line. Darker colors seemed to perform better. Tom reported that the water temperature was 61 degrees, and predicted that the catch rate will pick up, once the lake temperature drops into the 50s.

WILLOW RESERVOIR: Several reports of good fishing have come in. Try PowerBait, nightcrawlers or a combination of the two. Fly casters should try a #8 beadhead wooly bugger in darker colors.

BAKER RESERVOIR: Fishing is slow to fair.

BARKER RESERVOIRS, NORTH CREEK LAKES: Some success for catchable rainbows in Upper and Lower Barker using worms or PowerBait. Yellow, Flat, and Joe Lay hold some nice brook trout. Try black marabou jigs or black wooly buggers fished near any structure. Good success for cutthroat and tiger trout in Round and Long Willow Bottom casting lures and flies from shore.

BEAVER MOUNTAIN LAKES: Anderson Meadow and Kent's Lake have had the most consistent fishing, as well as the most pressure. Kent's is at conservation pool level and has quite a bit of algae in it, limiting visibility. Most anglers are using worms and PowerBait. Lower Kent's, LaBaron, and Puffer Lake also have algae blooms. The water in Little Reservoir has improved and Anderson Meadow is clear. Moss along the edges makes fishing more difficult.

BEAVER RIVER, LOWER: Pressure is moderate and success is fair to good. Recent sampling found abundant rainbows and browns. There are a surprising number of fish in the river. Much of the river is on private property, so please treat the area with respect. Much of the private land is open to walk-in access, but some is closed to trespass so watch for signs.

BEAVER RIVER, UPPER: Pressure is light. Fishing is fair to good for small browns and rainbows with a dry fly-dropper combo. Lures and bait should also produce. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease* by cleaning mud from waders and equipment. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

BOULDER MTN LAKES: Reports of good fishing are coming in from several of the North Slope lakes. Some of the best reports this summer have come from Fish Creek Reservoir, where fishing was good to excellent for splake and tiger trout. Cutthroats are also present. Fishing is very good at Donkey Reservoir for small to medium-sized (up to 14 inches) brook trout. Fishing has also been good at Blind Lake. Good success reported for brook trout and a few grayling at the Row Lakes using spinners. A standard technique at the brookie lakes is a black marabou jig fished near any cover. Woolly bugger, leech and scud patterns will also work. Special regulations on many of the Boulder Mountain waters include a trout limit of four of which only two may be over 14 inches.

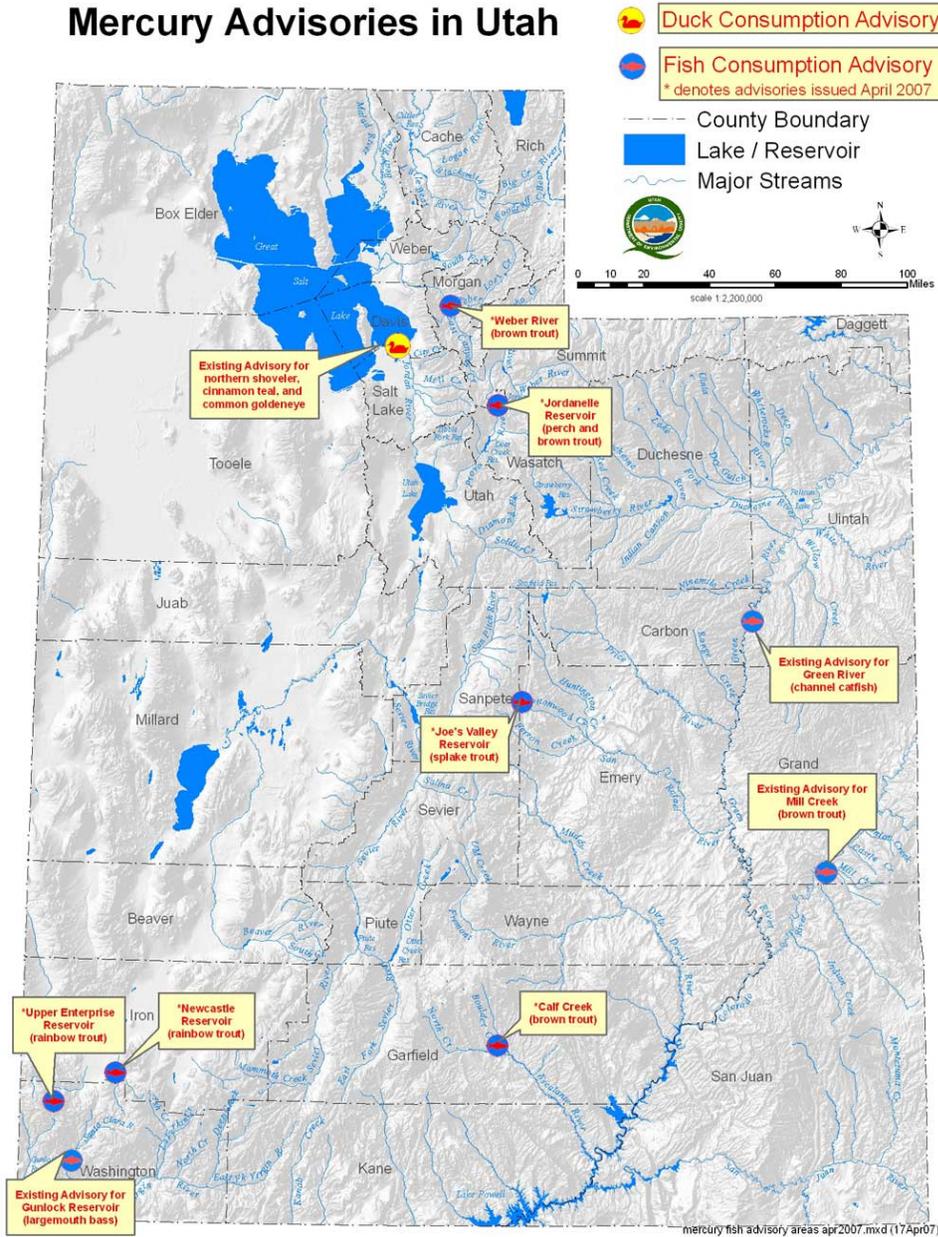
CHALK CREEK: Small stream east of Fillmore. Catchable rainbows have been stocked in the campground area. Wild rainbows are abundant everywhere else in the stream and can be caught with spinners and flies.

CLEAR CREEK: Water is clear and fishing is good, especially for rainbows in the upper stretches. Try wet flies if the trout are not hitting top water flies. Drifting worms through the holes has also been productive.

CORN CREEK: Catchable rainbows have been stocked in the campground area. Wild brown trout are abundant everywhere else in the stream and can be caught with spinners and flies.

DUCK CREEK/ASPEN MIRROR: Fishing is slow to fair with bait, better success with flies.

Mercury Advisories in Utah



EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER KINGSTON CANYON: Flows and turbidity are still up, but the stream is fishable. Try heavily-weighted flies or lures. Also try drifting nightcrawlers through the deep holes. Storms can make the river more turbid and unfishable. There is public access on a section of Kingston Canyon midway through the canyon that was purchased through the

Blue Ribbon Program. Look for the signs. Most of the remainder of the canyon is private and posted, so ask permission first.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER BLACK CANYON: Unlike Kingston Canyon, flows are low and clear here. Brown trout are abundant and will take a variety of lures and flies. Good success reported using hoppers with a nymph dropper. For the section of river from the BLM property boundary (about four miles south of

Antimony) upstream to the confluence with Deer Creek, special regulations include the use of artificial flies and lures only and a limit of two trout. Some private land is closed to trespass, so watch for the signs.

EAST FORK SEVIER RIVER ABOVE TROPIC RESERVOIR: Flows are low and generally clear. Fishing is good for small- to medium-sized brown trout. Best trout water starts near Kanab Creek and upstream. Lots of shiners below. Some of the tributaries also hold good trout populations.

ENTERPRISE RESERVOIR: (Upper and Lower): The upper reservoir was drained for dam repairs. The lower reservoir still has water, but also has a heavy algae bloom. A fish consumption advisory was issued for rainbow trout in Upper Enterprise Reservoir due to elevated levels of mercury. It is recommended that adults limit their consumption to one eight-ounce portion per month. Women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children should limit their consumption to one two-ounce portion per month. For further details, check the [news release](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/news/07-04/advisories.php).

FISH LAKE: Fishing for perch is fast by jigging just off the weedline. Fishing for splake is generally slow—some fish have been caught jigging at 40 to 60 feet. Good success for rainbows trolling pop gear in 15 to 20 feet or stillfishing PowerBait from a boat. Trolling for lake trout is slow to fair some action trolling at 70 to 80 feet. Note: A few tiger muskies have moved up from Johnson Reservoir. The general statewide limits on tiger muskie apply here—one fish, which must be over 40 inches.

FORSYTH RESERVOIR: The reservoir is about half full, and launching boats is difficult. No recent report on fishing. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

FREMONT RIVER: Brown trout are abundant above Mill Meadow Reservoir and will take most flies or spinners. The lower sections of the stream can be good at any time of year if the water is not turbid. Much of the lower stream is on private land. Ask for permission before fishing on private land. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease* by cleaning mud from waders and equipment. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

GUNLOCK RESERVOIR: Some larger bass have been caught this year. No recent reports. A fish consumption advisory was issued for largemouth bass from Gunlock due to elevated levels of mercury. It is recommended that adults limit their consumption of largemouth bass to two eight-ounce portions per month.

Women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children should limit their consumption to one four-ounce portion per month. For further details, check the [news release](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/news/07-04/advisories.php). <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/news/07-04/advisories.php> Remember special regulations for bass: four bass under 10 inches and two over 20 inches.

JOHNSON RESERVOIR: No recent report on fishing, though the water level has dropped. The reservoir contains an abundance of suckers, Utah chubs, and small yellow perch. Special regulations: Whole fish and amphibians are not allowed as bait. Cut bait must be no longer than one inch in any dimension and only one piece per hook. Limit one tiger musky over 40 inches—all tiger muskies less than 40 inches must be immediately released.

KOLOB RESERVOIR: The road from Virgin is open again, though there is some construction work, so be prepared for delays. Fishing is slow to fair, with best success reported using an olive scud early in the morning. Fish are usually deep. Special regulations include artificial flies and lures only, with a limit of one trout, which must be over 18 inches. Scented jigs are not allowed. Please call the poaching hotline (1-800-662-DEER) to report violations.

KOOSHAREM RESERVOIR: Aquatic weeds are very thick making trolling difficult. Fishing is slow to fair.

LOWER BOWNS RESERVOIR: Good fishing for 10- to 15-inch rainbow trout. Bait, lures, and flies have all produced. Fly fishing can be effective in the evening.

MAMMOTH CREEK: Flows are generally low and clear, but the stream does get turbid after rainstorms. Moderate pressure on weekends, especially in Hatch Meadow. Good success with flies and spinners. Public access is possible on some of Mammoth Creek west of Highway 89—please watch for and respect private property postings. Special regulations apply to a section of Mammoth Creek—check the proclamation for details. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

MILL MEADOW RESERVOIR: Water level has dropped. Trout fishing has slowed down. Perch fishing is better, with lots of good-sized fish. Fishing pressure was higher than usual. Remember that the perch limit is 20. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

MINERSVILLE RESERVOIR: The water level has dropped to a few feet above the conservation pool and is turbid. There was no indication of a significant fish kill, and conditions should improve with cooler weather and the end of irrigation. The water is relatively warm and fish are stressed. Some hooking mortality was observed, so anglers need to make an extra effort to limit the amount of stress put on fish they catch. Trolling with lures with treble hooks seems to be especially hard on the fish. Using single hooks and releasing fish without removing them from the water will help reduce stress. Some anglers have caught smallmouth bass on the rocky shorelines. Most of these fish are small (8 to 9 inches).

Special regulations include artificial flies and lures only, with a limit of one trout, which must be over 22 inches. Scented jigs are not allowed. Please call the poaching hotline (1-800-662-DEER) to report violations. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

MONROE MOUNTAIN LAKES: The water levels in many of the lakes have been dropping. Fishing is still good at all of the lakes. Barney Lake: Good success reported for 15- to 20-inch tiger trout. Try woolly buggers fished deep and slow. Manning Meadow Reservoir: Fair to good success with woolly buggers and flashy lures. Best success in the upper end. Remember special regulations: At Barney Lake, trout limit is two and tackle is restricted to artificial flies and lures. Manning Meadow is also restricted to artificial flies and lures, and the trout limit is one fish over 22 inches.

NAVAJO LAKE: Fishing is generally slow. Try fishing early and late in the day. Flashy lures have worked well all year for rainbows and splake. Also try casting woolly buggers from a boat or float tube. Good numbers of brook trout are also present. Try dark-colored marabou jigs and woolly buggers for brook trout.

NEWCASTLE RESERVOIR: Several reports have come in that the wipers are biting. Anglers reported success from shore using lures, jigs, and dead shiners. The key seemed to be having some red color on the lure or jig. One angler reported catching two fish near four pounds. A fish consumption advisory was issued for rainbow trout in Newcastle Reservoir due to elevated levels of mercury. It is recommended that adults limit their consumption to two eight-ounce portions per month. Women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children should limit their consumption to one four-ounce portion per month. For further details, check the news release. <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/news/07-04/advisories.php>

OTTER CREEK RESERVOIR: Water level is at 34%. No problem launching boats. Fishing has slowed but is still good from boats. Fish are right on the bottom, so troll down the middle of the lake or along the south point. Shore fishing is slow—most shore anglers are just catching chubs. Lumps and sores have started to show up on some rainbows at Otter Creek. These are caused by a skin infection brought on by the warm water temperature. This infection affects only the skin, so the flesh is safe to eat. The infection will dissipate as the water cools later in the fall. Please prevent the spread of *whirling disease*. *Do not transport* any parts of fish caught here to other waters.

PANGUITCH LAKE: NEW REGULATIONS NOW IN EFFECT - Limit is four trout, which must be less than 15 inches or over 22 inches. All trout 15 to 22 inches must be released. **TIPS FOR RELEASING FISH IN THE SLOT (15 to 22 inches):** If a fish swallows the hook, please cut the line to avoid mortality. A fish can pass a swallowed hook and survive, but digging the hook out will almost certainly kill the fish. Also try fishing with single hooks. Heavy algae blooms. Bait fishing is very slow. Look for success to pick up as water cools in the fall. Fly anglers are doing very well nymphing from float tubes in shallow water near the Blue Springs inlet.

PARAGONAH (RED CREEK) RESERVOIR: Recent sampling found that rainbows are very abundant. Harvest is encouraged to allow fish to stay in balance with the food base. Fishing was a little tough. Bait is not as successful for wild fish, so try flashy lures or flies.

PINE LAKE: Fishing is slow to fair for 10-inch rainbows using bait and any kind of lure or spinner. Cutthroat trout are also abundant. Bank fishing is popular along the dam. Float tubes and small boats work well for fishing other parts of the lake.

PINE VALLEY RESERVOIR: Catchable-size rainbows have been stocked.

PIUTE RESERVOIR: Water is down to 24%. Can still launch boats. Fishing is slow to fair from shore, better in boats. Anglers have picked up some small mouth bass this summer on the north end of the lake. Try crankbaits or tube jigs near rocky cover.

QUAIL LAKE: Bass fishing was hit and miss. Try fishing in early morning or near dark to avoid the heat. Try chartreuse curly tail jigs or crayfish-imitating lures. Senkos are also popular here. Crappie and bluegill are being caught in 25 to 30 feet. Trolling for rainbow trout was productive. Shore fishing for trout is hit and miss. Remember the special regulations for bass: four bass under 10 inches and two over 20 inches.

SAND COVE RESERVOIRS: Upper reservoir: Catchable rainbows have been stocked. Lower reservoir: Fast action for one- to two-pound largemouth bass on just about anything. Some large fish up to three pounds are present. Fast action for bluegill with a worm suspended below a bobber. Fish early and late to avoid the heat.

SAND HOLLOW RESERVOIR: Bass fishing was good to excellent. Lots of small bass caught near shore with a variety of lures and jigs. In general, green seems to be a productive color. Larger fish are in deeper water. Fish are found in most habitats, from the rocky dikes to submerged brush. Recent sampling found lots of small bass as well as good numbers of larger fish up to four pounds. Anglers have reported catching fish up to six pounds this year. Small bluegill are also abundant. Try fishing early and late to avoid the heat and water skiers. Lots of recreational use on the weekends, so be prepared to face crowds. Special regulations for bass: four bass under 10 inches and two over 20 inches. Public access to the reservoir is available only through the State Park.

SEVIER RIVER (UPPER), ASAY CREEK: Turbidity varies, depending on the weather. Expect the river to be muddy after each storm. Most of the trout water on the upper Sevier is located upstream (south) from the town of Hatch. Intermittent sections of good habitat are present above Hatch and easily accessible from Highway 89. Asay Creek west of Highway 89 is on private land and access is restricted.

SEVIER RIVER MARYSVALE CANYON: Water is still high, but a few fishermen are catching browns using bait.

THOUSAND LAKES MTN: Fishing is generally slow to fair.

TROPIC RESERVOIR: Water level has dropped. Fishing is very slow.

URBAN PONDS: Iron County: Catchable rainbows have been stocked in Parowan Pond and Woods Ranch Pond. Channel catfish have been stocked in Parowan Pond. Fishing at Woods Ranch was very good. Washington County ponds: Trout fishing is nonexistent during the summer. Largemouth bass and bluegill are present in Skyline and the Tawa Ponds. Try a worm suspended below a bobber for bluegill. Try chartreuse curly-tail jigs for bass. Check out the new Razor Ridge Pond in Washington City (on Telegraph Street, just south of SR-9).

WIDE HOLLOW RESERVOIR: The water level is very low and weeds are thick. Fishing was tough. Launching from the boat ramp is not recommended.

YANKEE MEADOW RESERVOIR: Fishing was slow to fair. Lots of pressure. Weeds are thick. One report of good fishing from a tube with royal coachman late in the evening (almost dark) and with a woolly bugger early in the morning.

News from Stampede – Western Folklife Center’s Song Contest

Howdy all y'all again. Well, after some delays and working out the bugs, you can now go to www.westernfolklife.org and vote for your favorite song which I HOPE is "The Yellowstone Song". You can listen to the song, too. After you vote, you should be able to see how the votes are going. When Steve voted, there were 2 songs with 10% of the votes and mine had the other 80%!! YEEHAW!!!!!! There won't be any stacking the deck either as you can only vote once and they're suppose to announce the winners Oct. 15th.

Let me know what you think of the song,

Figure 1

I really appreciate everyone's help and support on this. The kids that sang with me are so excited and are looking forward to the final results.



Thanks again!!

Yodelingly Yours

Terri Taylor, the Epiglottis Goddess

STAMPEDE!

www.saddlepalmusic.com

Greetings

Next Step Gun Class Scheduled

Just to let you know. I have a new Next Step Class scheduled for Nov. 24, 2007 at the Hendrickson Range.

The time will be 1:00 PM. There is a list of things needed and an class outline at www.taylorgunsmithing.com/DefensiveHandgunClassInfo.html

I have also reduces the price to \$60

This class should fill up so get your spot soon.

Thank you

Brant

Peter Breinholt Concert Scheduled

Tickets go on sale today for a very special Peter Breinholt concert. On October 13, Peter will do a one-man show (with a little help from pianist David Tolk) at the new, gorgeous Performance Hall on the Utah State University. AND we've put ticket prices low enough that even you poor, starving college students can join us! (To hear a clip of the show, go to <http://www.peterbreinholt.com>)

Tickets \$8

Available at:

<http://www.peterbreinholt.com>

"The Book Table" Bookstore (tickets available tomorrow)

29 S. Main St, Logan, UT

435-752-3055

Bird Watchers Look for Changes Linked to Climate

If you feed birds, scientists need your help

Ithaca, NY If you've ever watched birds at a feeder, you've seen change varying numbers of different birds through the seasons and the years. Do some of the long-term shifts reflect changes in the environment, including global climate change? The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch is seeking help from bird watchers to help answer that question.

FeederWatchers count the birds at their feeders each week and send the information to the Lab of Ornithology. They've helped



document unusual bird sightings, winter movements, and shifting ranges of some bird species over the past 20 years. To see the effects of global climate change, scientists say they need new and veteran participants alike to keep counting birds now and well into the future.

“Being a FeederWatcher is easy and fun, and at the same helps generate the world’s largest database on feeder-bird populations,” says project leader David Bonter. “Since we started in 1987, nearly 40,000 people have submitted observations, adding up to well over 1.5 million checklists.”

Some of the most dramatic changes revealed by data collected during two decades of Project FeederWatch may be related to changes in climate. “We’re seeing hummingbirds turning up much farther north than usual during the winter,” says Bonter. “Warblers and other insect-eaters are also lingering longer into the northern winter, possibly because of warmer temperatures. Bird count data



gathered in the coming years will really help us focus on these trends and what might be causing them.”

Recent mild winter conditions may be contributing to the northward range movements of several nonmigratory species. The

Carolina Wren, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal, and Tufted Titmouse have all expanded their ranges several hundred miles to the north in recent decades. Some migratory hawks are also remaining farther north in winter. Reports of Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s hawks have increased across the northern tier of the continent in recent years.

Project FeederWatch data also show drastic declines in Evening Grosbeaks across the continent. While grosbeak populations are declining, other species are booming. FeederWatchers in the southeastern United States reported record high numbers of Yellow-rumped

and Pine warblers. Reports of woodpeckers of all kinds are increasing across the northeastern quadrant of the continent.



Northern Flickers and Anna's Hummingbirds are climbing up the list of the top 25 most-reported birds in the Pacific Northwest. Twenty years ago they didn't make the list at all.

The 21st season of Project FeederWatch gets underway November 10 and runs through April 4. All ages and skill levels are welcome. To learn more about

Project FeederWatch or to register, visit www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw or call the Lab toll-free at (800) 843-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) participants receive the FeederWatcher's Handbook, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds in their area, a

calendar, complete instructions, and the FeederWatch annual report, Winter Bird Highlights.

The Southwestern Utah Friends of Paleontology Chapter is planning a field trip to Petrified Forest National Park on October 4 -7. See below and attached for details. There is space for a few more participants, so if anyone is interested in going, please get in touch with Steve Stephenson by Friday, September 14th at (435) 628-6693.

Utah Friends of Paleontology Trip Scheduled

Here are details about the forthcoming field trip to:

Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, 4-7 October 2007.

Travel day - 4 Oct. In Park with guides - 5-6 Oct. Return day - 7 Oct. A few of us will stay one extra day for some exploring and return 8 Oct. Car pool rides possible when requested.

Matt Brown, the Park lab manager who was at our meeting in April, and Bill Parker, the Park manager, will serve as guides to both paleontological and archaeological sites.

General Info:

The Park is about 400 miles from St George. We will stay at a motel in Holbrook, Arizona, which is about 375 miles from St George. The Park entrance fee is \$10 per car for 7 days, free for drivers with a Golden Age Passport.

Vicki Evans will try to get the lowest group rates at a motel with breakfast, fridge, and microwave.

Please let Steve Stephenson, 628-6693, know by Friday, September 7, if you are going and would like motel reservations for either 4-7 Oct or 4-8 Oct.

Elisabeth Nipperus, Secr. UFOP SW Branch Elisnip@aol.com

CELEBRATE FREE STATE PARKS DAY SEPTEMBER 29

Salt Lake - Celebrate Free State Parks Day and National Public Lands Day Saturday, September 29. Day-use fees will be waived at all Utah state parks. (Special fees, such as golf and camping fees still apply.) Visit for the day, attend a special event or volunteer to improve your state parks. Events that day include:

Antelope Island State Park Volunteer Project: Help clear built-up soil along a new three-mile section of the White Rock Bay Trail. Project begins at 9 a.m. Wear a long-sleeved shirt, hat, and sunscreen, and bring drinking water. RSVP / information: (801) 773-2941

Wasatch Mountain State Park Apple Picking at Huber Grove: Join park staff at 9:30 a.m. for this first apple picking harvest and learn to make apple juice using an old cider press. Explore the historic farmhouse, creamery, and orchard. This event is free. \$3 per bag of apples. (435) 654-1791

Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum Camp Floyd Day: Experience stagecoach rides, museum tours, play period games, march and drill with re-enactors; watch a battle and shoot period firearms; Civil War encampment, food, music and entertainment. (801) 768-8932

Snow Canyon State Park Bats - Masters of the Night: Eighteen species of bats call Washington County home. Join Tom Haraden of Zion National Park at 6 p.m. and learn about their natural history and importance to our ecosystem. Space is limited and registration required. (435) 628-2255

Green River State Park Golf Course Fall Two-Person Scramble: Visit Green River for this tournament. Regular green fees apply and registration is required. (435) 564-8882.

Wasatch Mountain State Park Junior Ranger Program: Sun Catchers - Leaves. Children six through 12 can become a Junior Ranger by joining the naturalist for this one-hour program. Program begins at 1 p.m. at the Educational Yurt. (435) 654-1791

For more Utah State Parks events and activities, visit www.stateparks.utah.gov.

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

September 21 to September 23 Fremont Indian State Park and Museum

Pottery Workshop: Learn to make pottery the Fremont way. Join instructors Scott Turner and Ruth Bradfield to discover primitive pottery making techniques. Each participant will make at least one pot of their own. The workshop is \$60, and registration is required. (435) 527-4631

September 22 Dead Horse Point State Park

Ranger Program - What They Leave Behind: Join the park naturalist at 6:30 p.m. at the amphitheater for this program on the tracks and scat left by animals of the Colorado Plateau. Kids attending this program can earn a Junior Ranger badge. (435) 259-2614

September 22 Antelope Island State Park

Where the Buffalo Roam, Life on Antelope Island Lecture: Join us at 2 p.m. for an informative lecture by former Fielding Garr Ranch hand Max Harward for an informative lecture on how Antelope Island's ranchers lived at one of Utah's earliest ranches. (801) 649-5742.

September 22 Kodachrome Basin State Park

Kodachrome After Dark - Join volunteers from Bryce Canyon National Park for an astronomy program and stargazing. Come early and view the sun through the solar scope. Time: TBD (435) 679-8562

September 22 Snow Canyon State Park

Yoga on the Dunes - An Autumn Equinox Gathering: Experience poetry in motion from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Breathe in the magic of the majestic red mountains. Join Janice Brooks-Nichter for a morning of yoga, storytelling, song, and meditation. All ages welcome and registration is required. (435) 628-2255

September 23 Dead Horse Point State Park

Junior Ranger Program - Ravens, Beauties or Campsite Pests? Join the park naturalist for a program about these fascinating birds at 10:30 a.m. in the amphitheater behind the visitor center. (435) 259-2614.

Bureau of Land Management Completes Preliminary Non-Binding Determination on Bald Knoll Road



The Bureau of Land Management has completed, for its land management purposes only, a preliminary non-binding determination (NBD) for the Bald Knoll Road in Kane County. Based on review of information submitted by Kane County and information in BLM records, the BLM Utah State Office has made the preliminary determination that the Bald Knoll Road is a valid R.S. 2477 right-of-way.

The Bald Knoll road is located in Kane County, approximately 20 miles northeast of Kanab. Total length of the road is approximately nine miles, with nearly the entire length crossing public lands administered by the BLM. The east end of Bald Knoll Road connects to Mill Creek Road and the west/south end of Bald Knoll Road connects to Dead End Road.

This preliminary determination is the first to be processed by Utah BLM and is an internal, administrative action for BLM land management purposes. The NBD

concerns only that portion of the claimed right-of-way which crosses public lands administered by the BLM, is not a formal decision by

the BLM, and is not binding on any person or entity. Based on court decisions and direction from the Secretary of the Interior, this is the administrative procedure that has been outlined for the BLM in reviewing R.S. 2477 assertions.



The preliminary NBD and related information are now available for a 30-day public review period. Copies are available at the BLM Utah State Office, 200 South 440 West, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, UT 84101; at the BLM Kanab Field Office, 318 North 100 East, Kanab, UT 84741; and via the BLM Utah internet site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html>

During the review period, additional evidence relevant to the determination may be provided to the BLM Utah State Office, attention Mike DeKeyrel, at the above address, mailed to BLM Utah State Office, P.O. Box 45155, Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155 or emailed to Bald_Knoll@blm.gov. For additional information, contact Mike DeKeyrel at (801) 539-4105. The public review period ends on October 15, 2007.

BLM Restricts Motorized Recreational Use in Recapture Canyon

Citing impacts to cultural resources, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Monticello Field Office (MFO) will close 1,871 acres of public lands in Recapture Canyon, near the city of Blanding, Utah, to motorized recreational use, including Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use.

The area is currently designated as “open” to cross-country travel under a land use plan decision from 1991. Emergency and law enforcement personnel, permittees and other administrative uses are exempt from the travel restriction.

When the previous Resource Management Plan (RMP) was implemented in 1991, route proliferation was not a problem, but today it is. Impacts from OHVs to cultural sites located in the canyon have become a serious concern warranting a closure order.

The closure is being enacted under 43 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 8341.2, which allows field offices to implement closures when an area is being adversely impacted as a result of OHV use.

The closure will be effective September 13, 2007, and will remain in effect until the Monticello Field Office determines that the adverse effects leading to the closure have been eliminated and measures have been implemented to prevent recurrence. Areas outside of the closure area will remain open to motorized use. Maps showing the closure area and routes open to OHV use are posted at the closure area, as well as at public offices in Blanding and Monticello.

An open house meeting to explain the details of the closure, and to answer related questions, is scheduled for September 18, 2007, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at the College of Eastern Utah, Arts and Events Center Auditorium, in Blanding, Utah. The public is invited to attend and learn more about the closure.

NATION'S AVERAGE GAS PRICE CREEPS UPWARD

AAA Utah Reports State's Prices Continue to Drop

SALT LAKE CITY, September 11, 2007 – As the nation's average gasoline price starts to increase, Utah and the Intermountain West continue to report dropping prices, according to the latest report from AAA Utah, which tracks gas prices as a service to consumers.

The current average price in Utah for regular, self-serve gasoline is \$2.73. This is 14 cents lower than AAA's last survey on August 14 and 22 cents lower than a year ago. Thirty-three states have prices higher than Utah.

“This year the price for gasoline has been driven in large part by the ability of refineries to supply their local markets,” said Rolayne Fairclough, AAA Utah spokesperson. “With the end of the summer driving season demand and the seasonal cleaner fuel requirements ending in many locations, refineries should continue to have an easier time supplying fuel.”

The national average price for regular, self-serve is \$2.81 a gallon. This is an increase of 4 cents from last month's report and 19 cents higher than a year ago. The highest price is reported in Hawaii at \$3.21. The state with the lowest average price is New Jersey at \$2.54. There are eight states with prices over the \$3 mark. These prices, with the exception of Alaska and Hawaii, are found in the Upper Midwest and Great Plains states.

“As OPEC meets today in Vienna, some analysts are looking for a boost in production to help the slowing U.S. economy,” said Fairclough. “Others refer to the healthy global crude inventories and believe OPEC will want to guard against a drop in prices due to excess supply and lower demand.”

With one exception, prices continued to drop throughout the Intermountain West. Idaho’s motorists enjoyed a double-digit drop in the average price for regular, self-serve gasoline. The current average price in Idaho is \$2.78, a 13-cent decrease from August’s report. Montana’s price dropped 3 cents to the current average, \$2.96. Wyoming’s average price is \$2.83. This is 7 cents lower than last month. Colorado is the only intermountain state to see an increase in their average price. The price increased 2 cents to the current average, \$2.93. Arizona’s price dropped 5 cents to \$2.63. Motorists in Nevada are paying 5 cents less this month. The current price in Nevada is \$2.79 a gallon. California’s current average price is \$2.87, a 6-cent drop from last month.

All of the Utah cities surveyed by AAA reported a decrease in the average price of regular, self-serve gasoline. St. George enjoyed the greatest decrease, at 22 cents. The current average price in St. George is \$2.72. Provo reported the next largest decrease in prices. The average price in Provo is \$2.69. This price is 20 cents lower than last month’s price.

Logan’s price dropped 17 cents to the current average, \$2.67. Motorists in Salt Lake saw prices drop 14 cents since the last AAA survey. The current average price in Salt Lake City is \$2.65. The current average price in Vernal is \$2.86. This is 11 cents lower than last month. Ogden’s average price dropped 8 cents to the current average, \$2.68. Moab’s price, \$2.90 is 6 cents lower than last month.

Motorists can save money on fuel by shopping aggressively for the lowest prices. AAA has a tool that can help. Located online at www.aaa.com/gasprices, the AAA Fuel Finder has real time information on gas prices at more than 85,000 gas stations throughout the United States.

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

AAA Utah offers a wide array of automotive, travel, insurance and financial services to more than 165,000 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.

BIZZY BUZZY BUGS

Buzz and crawl your way around the Ogden Nature Center as you hunt and net insects. See a spider up close, grow your own wings, enjoy a buggy snack, sing buggy songs and hear buggy stories.

There are several times to choose from:

Wednesday, Sept. 19: 9:30 am or 11 am
Friday, Sept. 28: 9:30 am, 11 am or 1 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 9: 9:30 am, 11 am or 1 pm
Thursday, Oct. 11: 9:30 am, 11 am or 1 pm

Programs are 1 hour and designed for ages 3-5 \$3 per child / adult chaperones are free

Space is limited
Please call 621-7595 to pre-register

The Ogden Nature Center is located at 966 W. 12th St. in Ogden.

Summer To Fall

It may feel like summer for a few more weeks, but summer officially ends here in Utah and the rest of the northern hemisphere the morning of Sunday, the 23rd of September, at 3:51 a.m.

According to NASA Solar System Ambassador to Utah Patrick Wiggins, "At that moment the Sun will glide southward across the celestial equator, an event known as the September or autumnal equinox."

The celestial equator is an imaginary line in space directly above Earth's equator.

On the day of the equinox the periods of daylight and dark are nearly equal and the Sun rises due east, and sets due west.

Wiggins notes that "While we in the northern hemisphere see this month's equinox as the beginning of fall, those in the southern hemisphere, where the seasons are reversed, see it as the beginning of spring."

The next similar event, known as the March or vernal equinox, will occur next March when the Sun moves northward across the celestial equator marking the start of spring here in the northern hemisphere.

There are two times a year when the Sun is furthest from the sky's equator. One is at the start of summer, when it's furthest north, and the other is at the start of winter, when it's furthest south. These events are known as the June and December solstices.

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

Tour Jordanelle Museum

Park Rangers would like to invite you to the Rock Cliff Nature Center at Jordanelle State Park on Sept 15, 2007. There is no fee to enter the Nature Center on Sept 15th.



The Rock Cliff Nature Center opened in 1994 and since then it has been one of the favorite field trips for many schools from the Wasatch Front and the local area schools.

Rock Cliff is also a favorite place for people to just wander in and look around. Even after 12 years Rock Cliff is hidden paradise. People are still finding their way here and are pleasantly surprised when they get here. The boardwalks take you out into the wetlands and to the river where you may see a moose or some deer. The American Dipper is a favorite

bird to see along the river. You can see evidence of beavers hard at work getting ready for winter.

So bring your family on Sept 15th to enjoy a hands-on experience at the Nature Center and a walk through the wetlands.

The Nature Center is open from 9am-5pm on Sept 15th. The park is open from 6am -10pm.

Rock Cliff is located on the East arm of Jordanelle near Francis and Kamas.

JORDANELLE STATE PARK, SEASONAL CLOSURES

Heber City—Beginning Sept 15, 2007 the hike-in campgrounds at Jordanelle will be closed to camping. The drive up campgrounds with hookups at Hailstone and the Rock View campground at Rock Cliff will remain open until Oct 31, 2007. For more information on camping please call (435) 782-3030 or (435) 649-9540.

RBFF Outlines Fishing Education & Conservation Efforts

ALEXANDRIA, VA (September 10, 2007) – Frank Peterson, president and CEO of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) will outline the organization's fishing education and conservation efforts at the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA) board meeting being held on Sept. 15, 2007 in Denver, Colo. during the FlyFishing Retailer World Trade Expo.

While there, Peterson will provide the AFFTA board with the latest information on the Anglers' Legacy program including an updated pledge count and the results of a recent survey revealing the program's potential influence on participation. He will also update the board on RBFF's education efforts and the national recruitment and retention program that will help all states increase fishing license sales.

"Anglers' Legacy has seen dramatic growth in the past year and we're excited about its progress because each new Ambassador instills newcomers with a passion for fishing and provides aquatic education and respect for the resource," said Peterson. "Together with our youth, family and diversity education efforts and a program at the state level to increase fishing license sales, we believe these programs will have a positive impact on participation."

For more information about RBFF's programs and products, visit RBFF.org or call (703) 519-0013. If you'd like to set up a one-on-one meeting or interview in

Denver, e-mail RBFF Communications Director Heather Sieber or call her at (703) 778-5160.

About RBFF

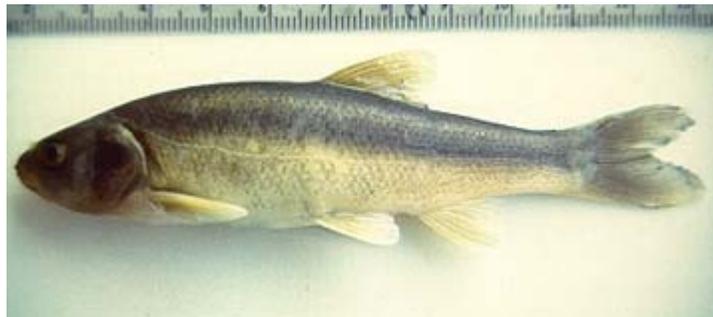
RBFF is a nonprofit organization established in 1998 to increase participation in recreational angling and boating. RBFF helps people discover, share and protect the legacy of boating and fishing through national outreach programs including the Take Me Fishing <http://www.takemefishing.org> campaign and Anglers' Legacy. <http://www.anglerslegacy.org/>

OPEN LETTER FROM THE DWR TO JOES VALLEY RESERVOIR ANGLERS

PRICE, UTAH—The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is aware that some anglers are unhappy with fishery management at Joes Valley Reservoir. The real problem stems from the abundance of chubs at the reservoir and attempts by the DWR to combat the problems created by this unwanted species. The management strategy in recent years has resulted in restrictive regulations and changes in the kinds and numbers of fish that are stocked.

The problem had its beginning with the illegal practice of using live fish as bait. For years, law-breakers have captured and kept juvenile chubs in live wells for use as bait. Introduction of any kind of minnows to a

reservoir creates management mayhem! In the course of a fishing trip, some baitfish get off the hook. At the end of a day, law-breakers dump leftover chubs overboard to avoid a citation and fine. The minnows (juvenile chubs) grow up and reproduce. In the case of Joes Valley, the illegal baitfish grew to outnumber and out-compete the desirable sportfish.



From that time forward, the DWR has been fighting a war of fish supremacy. Chubs eat the same food and occupy the same habitat as trout. Unfortunately, just like weeds in a garden, chubs are incredible invaders and took over. After a while, the trout stocked by the DWR failed to grow, and weren't showing up in creel surveys. Continued planting of the same trout became fruitless. The DWR had to

do something different. A new strategy was developed, using splake as the dominant predator.

Splake are a sterile hybrid between brook and lake trout. Because males and females don't waste energy on reproductive products, all energy goes into growth.



Furthermore, because they can't reproduce, they can't overpopulate a reservoir and stunt. Regulated stocking keeps the population at a manageable level. Another important attribute is the fishes' predatory nature. Once a splake reaches a size of 16-inches or so, they

become chub predators, which is exactly what's needed to manage the chub problem.

Many anglers wonder why the DWR doesn't poison the fishery and start over. "I would love to treat Joes Valley Reservoir!" says Paul Birdsey, Regional Aquatics Manager. "When I came to the region more than a year ago, that's exactly what I had in mind. However, once I started planning the technical aspects of the treatment, I discovered that it just wouldn't work."

First of all, the reservoir's outflow is about 300 cubic feet per second, because of downstream water demands, which include culinary, agricultural and industrial uses. For a treatment to be successful, the outflow must be slowed to a minimum, so that a high concentration of rotenone can be held in the reservoir and to give the downstream detoxification process a chance to work. Culinary water may have to be shut down for as long as two weeks. Farmers would have to forgo water for irrigation and stock watering. The Hunter Power Plant wouldn't have the supply it needed for continued operation.

There's an equally serious technical problem. The toxin, rotenone, doesn't work well in cold water. That's a problem at Joes Valley, especially because it drops 100 feet in places. Deep water is very cold. Rotenone causes a chemical reaction that prevents the gills of a fish from absorbing oxygen from the water. The reaction doesn't predictably occur in cold water. During the stress of treatment, fish naturally escape to deeper water, where oxygen levels are higher. In Joes Valley, the target fish would retreat to the cold depths to avoid suffocation.

Paul Birdsey is very concerned that he could spend millions of sportsmen's dollars on a project, which almost certainly would fail. There's another problem, relative to the reservoir's depth. Even if the toxin worked effectively in cold water, the current application equipment and technology is not suited for distributing the chemical in much more than about 30 feet of water. There's no way to assure complete coverage and uniform application, leaving the target fish another avenue of escape.



If user conflicts and technical roadblocks aren't enough, the DWR faces endangered species issues. Joes Valley Reservoir is home to the

Bluehead Sucker, a species that occupies the highest tier of state protection. Because rotenone poisons all fish, this population would have to be sacrificed. This could push the species toward federal listing as threatened or endangered. If this were to happen, the Endangered Species Act requires that the federal government take over management for the protection of the species. Such management could jeopardize sportfishing altogether.

Since treatment with rotenone is not possible, what else can be done? In 2006, the DWR began netting and removing chubs from the reservoir. During the past two years, this was done just prior to the spawning period. To date, 27,000 lbs. of chubs have been netted and removed from Joes Valley. Besides the fish themselves, the DWR estimates that by removing the gravid females, as many as 5 million eggs were destroyed. That has to make an impact!

In order to provide anglers with an alternate trout species, the DWR has begun stocking tiger trout, another sterile hybrid. Like splake, tiger trout can't reproduce, so there's no chance for over-population and stunting. All energy goes into growth, and tigers grow up to be chub-munching machines. Paul Birdsey expects that the chub population will plummet within 5 years. At such time, restrictive regulations and slot limits can be eliminated. "In a few short years, Joes Valley



Reservoir will be a great trophy and family fishery by anyone's standards!" says Birdsey. "We just need some time for the plan to work."

DEER VALLEY RESORT RANKED #1 SKI AREA IN NORTH AMERICA FOR THE THIRD TIME!

DEER VALLEY, PARK CITY, UTAH (Winter, 2007/2008) ? Deer Valley Resort has been honored with being named the #1 ski resort in North America by the readers of *SKI* magazine for the third time. Remarkably, in the past seven years, Deer Valley's rating hasn't dipped lower than third, with a #2 ranking in 2001/2002; a #1 ranking in 2002/2003; a #3 ranking in 2003/2004; a #2 ranking in 2004/2005; another #1 ranking in 2005/2006, a #2 ranking in 2006/2007, and now a third #1 ranking for the 2007/2008 season.

"We are so thrilled with the #1 ranking, it's hard to describe," says Bob Wheaton, Deer Valley Resort president and general manager. "To be honest, placing anywhere in the top echelon of 60 North American resorts is an honor and a privilege. To have ranked so high for seven years running is remarkable. The fact that *SKI* magazine readers, who are avid skiers, travelers, and lifestyle enthusiasts, continue to give us the "thumbs up" means the world to us here at the

Resort. We poll our guests regularly to determine which amenities and services are important to them, and we work very hard as a staff to stay on the cutting edge of excellence in grooming, equipment, dining, service ? everything that makes an unbeatable winter ski vacation experience. To consistently be chosen as a favorite resort is a tribute to the original vision of our founders Edgar and Polly Stern, and a compliment to the Deer Valley employees who give it their best every day. We feel incredibly proud about the experience we offer here at Deer Valley, and getting recognition like this from skiers around the country lets us know we're hitting the mark. We couldn't be happier with the results.?"

Aside from being named the #1 Resort overall out of 60 North American resorts, Deer Valley ranked winningly in many individual categories. Highlights included the Resort being given #1 rankings for grooming, service, on-mountain food and weather (Deer Valley has consistently placed #1 in these categories since *SKI* magazine has been tracking ratings). The Resort also received #2 rankings for dining, lifts, and access; a #3 ranking for overall satisfaction and a #4 rating for lodging.

More than 20,000 *SKI* readers are surveyed for its "Top 60 Resort Guide" by an independent research firm. *SKI* readers ski an average of 23 days a year. The ski resort survey is the most comprehensive and longest-running in the winter sports industry. Some of the personal comments about Deer Valley in this year's surveys include: "It's always a good day at Deer Valley"; "If it is possible for Deer Valley to be underrated, it is. They simply won't say 'no' to a request"; "Wonderful, laid back area"; "Well managed, seamless operations"; "Took my first ski trip there this year - heard a lot about it - all positive and it lived up to the billing"; and "There is no better service on planet Earth. Grooming is done right. The happiest little ski place outside of heaven."

For more information on Deer Valley Resort or its #1 *SKI* magazine ranking, please contact Resort Communications Manager Erin Grady at 800-424-DEER (3337) or 435-645-6522, or visit deervalley.com.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE RELEASES IN 2007

PRICE, UTAH--During mid-September, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) will again release some 4,000 Chukar Partridge throughout the state. Adult pen-reared birds will be released as part of a continued effort to provide more hunting opportunity for Utah's upland game sportsmen. Since the closing of



DWR's last game farm in 1993, many Utah upland game hunters have expressed an interest in seeing some of their license funds used to propagate game birds for release into the wild for hunting. Limited releases of Chukar Partridge began

by DWR in 1997.

Birds for release are grown by a Utah game bird producer, and then purchased by DWR for release into the wild.

Chukars are an exotic bird, 15 inches in length and weighing 20 ounces. Chukars are native to places like India and Afghanistan in the Middle East. The Chukar Partridge inhabits some of the most inhospitable habitat Utah has to offer. Chukars are found in the barren desert areas of the state and prefer steep, rocky, arid slopes. Low growing shrubs such as sagebrush, saltbush and cheatgrass vegetative zones above and below the juniper tree belt seem to be preferred. Talus and rocky slopes provide chukars with concealment as well as escape cover. Their diet consists of grass seeds, weed seeds, buds, flowers, and new growth grass. Male and female chukars are mostly identical in appearance, except that male birds will often have a "button-like" spur on the back of the leg.

Pen-reared chukars will be released in five areas in Carbon and Emery counties. Locations are selected in suitable chukar habitat that will provide hunter opportunity. These areas include: Miller's Canyon southeast of the town of Emery; on the south side of Cedar Mountain near Jim Wilson Reservoir or other livestock ponds; above Millsite reservoir near the town of Ferron; the Gordon Creek fields on the Consumer's Road 8 miles west of Price; and the Farnum area southeast of the town of Wellington. Hunters are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity but hunt in a safe, responsible manner. Wing barrels may be placed at some of these locations so that biologists can monitor harvest rates.

The 2007 chukar season opens on September 15th and runs through January 31st in Southeastern Utah. Both males and females are hunted with the daily bag limit of 5 birds and a possession limit of 10 birds. If you have any questions, contact the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Office in Price at (435) 636-0260.

Utah's Resorts Shine in SKI Magazine Rankings

SALT LAKE CITY, UT, (September 7, 2007) - Ski Utah was thrilled by an announcement made by SKI Magazine detailing the results of their annual "TOP 50 RESORT GUIDE." The October issue, which hits newsstands Sept. 25, listed Deer Valley Resort as the #1 ski resort in North America and listed Park City Mountain Resort at #6. Utah resorts heavily dominated the lifestyle rankings with Snowbird, Utah being voted the "Best Skier's Mountain" and Alta, Utah coming in as the "Best Weekend Escape."

Deer Valley captured the #1 spot for the third time in the survey's twenty year history, being noted for its top notch service, grooming and dining. "It really is an incredible honor when you consider the company we keep among the resorts consistently voted in the top 5," said Bob Wheaton,

president and general manager of Deer Valley. "The award is truly due to all the hard work and dedication of the staff here at Deer Valley."

"Utah's resorts work really hard to provide the best ski experience available," said Nathan Rafferty, Ski Utah president, "I'm happy to see our success recognized on so many different levels. It is becoming more and more apparent to skiers and riders everywhere that The Greatest Snow On Earth is being complemented by the world's greatest resorts."

SKI Magazine's resort ranking is considered one of the foremost rankings in the industry. "SKI readers are an astute, not to mention well-traveled, bunch and their consensus is convincing," says SKI Magazine's executive editor Greg Ditrinco. "You'd do well to consider them advance scouts as you plan this year's ski vacation. They won't let you down."

For more information on The Greatest Snow On Earth and Utah's highly acclaimed resorts visit www.skiutah.com

Price Field Office Releases Prickly Pear EA for Public Comment

Price, Utah—September 13, 2007— The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Price Field Office announces that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Bill Barrett Corporation's proposed 2007-2008 Prickly Pear Unit Winter Drilling Project is available for public review and comment. The comment period will run through September 28. This EA will determine if a one time exception to the high country watershed stipulation will be given to allow development during the winter season.

The proponent has requested the exception in order to develop four well pad locations to accommodate seventeen natural gas wells (four vertical and 13 directional) to be developed during the 2007-2008 winter season. The project is proposed within the Prickly Pear Federal Unit, where oil and gas exploration and development has been occurring since the 1950's.

This EA incorporates by reference the analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment for the West Tavaputs Plateau Drilling Program, completed in 2004, and is tiered to the previous planning decision to implement oil and gas development in the area, including on Prickly Pear Bench. The 2004 Environmental Assessment did not contemplate development taking place during the winter season, while subsequent analysis evaluated only limited winter

activities. Since the current EA incorporates these previous analyses, it is narrow in scope, focusing only on the effects related to these site-specific winter activities. Therefore, the issues fully evaluated in this analysis only include the high country watershed and wildlife, particularly wintering big game species and greater sage grouse.

The EA considers additional mitigation measures specific to this drilling project, such as measures to protect the high country watershed and wildlife species. These measures could be attached to individual drilling permits as conditions of approval in addition to the stipulations developed for the previous drilling projects.

The EA assists the BLM in making a determination as to whether any significant impacts could result from the analyzed actions. The EA is available at <https://www.ut.blm.gov/enbb/index.php>. Written comments may be sent to Don Stephens, Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501. Comments can also be submitted via email to UT_Pr_Comments@blm.gov.

National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebrates Unique Conservation System

Congressionally Appointed Commemoration Set for Sept. 22

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- National Hunting and Fishing Day -- the 36th annual, Congress-appointed, president-proclaimed celebration of hunters, anglers and conservation -- is set for Sept. 22, 2007.



Honorary chairman Jeff Foxworthy, a host of national sponsors and a growing list of public celebrations around the country -- including a signature event at Wonders of Wildlife museum in Springfield, Mo., the official home of [National Hunting and Fishing Day](#) -- are in place to help communicate the day's core message.

"The fourth Saturday of every September is a formal reminder for Americans who forget that wildlife and wild places exist only because of leadership and funding from hunters and anglers. Together, they keep our country's unique conservation system strong," said Chris Dolnack of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

NSSF founded and fostered the National Hunting and Fishing Day concept in the early 1970s.

Dolnack added, "If you can't volunteer, attend an event or show support in a public way, the best way to honor National Hunting and Fishing Day is to simply take a newcomer hunting or fishing."

It's among America's best ideas ever: assigning fish and wildlife resources to public ownership, and then taxing those who harvest the surplus. In other words, hunters and anglers, through licenses, permits, fees and special excise taxes, pay for the conservation programs that benefit society as a whole.

This system brought our country's once overexploited wildlands gushing

Jeff Foxworthy: Hunter, Angler, Conservationist

"As a teenager, I strongly considered being a wildlife biologist. But I guess God had other plans for me, and he conveyed it through my grades in school."

Now, instead of pondering scientific theories behind deer habitat management, he spends his days pondering, "What rhymes with booty?"

Funnyman Jeff Foxworthy is a lifelong sportsman as well as this year's honorary chairman of National Hunting and Fishing Day.

back to life. It sustains our fish and wildlife riches even today. And it remains the envy of many, many nations.

At the urging of NSSF, Sen. Thomas McIntyre, N.H., in June 1971 introduced Joint Resolution 117 authorizing National Hunting and Fishing Day on the fourth Saturday of every September. Rep. Bob Sikes, Fla., introduced an identical measure in the House. In early 1972, Congress unanimously passed both bills.

Every U.S. President from Richard M. Nixon to George W. Bush has recognized the day via formal proclamations.

Their message still resonates with the public. Surveys show three of every four Americans support legal hunting and nine in 10 approve of recreational fishing, even though not everyone actually participates in any given year.

New data from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service show almost 34 million licensed hunters and anglers went afield in 2006, contributing more than \$1.2 billion to conservation by purchasing licenses, permits and fees.

Additionally, "Those who bought guns, ammunition, bows, arrows, rods, reels and other equipment also paid special excise earmarked for conservation. In 2007 alone, over \$615 million in such taxes were apportioned to state conservation agencies. Over the years, this system has generated more than \$10 billion for fish, wildlife and habitat programs," said Dolnack.

Celebrities traditionally lend their names to the National Hunting and Fishing Day cause by serving as honorary chairs. Comedian Jeff Foxworthy holds this distinction for 2007, appearing on posters and public service announcements distributed nationally. Foxworthy's Web site (www.jefffoxworthy.com) also includes a link to the National Hunting and Fishing Day site (www.nhfd.org).

Previous honorary chairs have included Hank Williams Jr., Tom Seaver, Arnold Palmer, Terry Bradshaw, George Brett, Robert Urich, Ward Burton, Louise Mandrell, Travis Tritt, Wade Boggs, Tracy Byrd and many other sports and entertainment personalities.

Celebrating America's conservation system is a daily occurrence at Wonders of Wildlife, the only hunting- and fishing-focused facility that's both affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution and accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.

National Hunting and Fishing Day 2007 sponsors include Wonders of Wildlife, NSSF, Realtree, Baron Technology, National Wild Turkey Federation, Smith & Wesson, Bass Pro Shops, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, GunBroker.com, Field & Stream and Outdoor Life, Woolrich, The Sportsman Channel, Cabela's and Outdoor Channel. A host of partners also lend support.

For more information, including a detailed history of National Hunting and Fishing Day, as well as a feature article on Foxworthy as a hunter, angler and conservationist, visit www.nhfd.org.

Adventure Rally News

Dear GPS Adventure Rally enthusiasts,

Figure 2

American Rally Sport Group is pleased to announce the opening



of registration for the 2007 GPS Adventure Rally event returning to Laughlin, Nevada Veterans' Day weekend, November 9-11.

There are more than six motorsports events happening during the Motorsports Festival, and the GPS Adventure Rally is one of the best. Event registration and information are available at www.RallyUSA.com

There are plenty of new and exciting things planned for this year, tune up your GPS skills and plan to head for Laughlin. I hope to see you again.

4 M News

Award winning author and producer Timothy Ferris discusses his upcoming film, *Seeing in the Dark*, with host Scott Roberts on *A Sidereal Hour* on Meade 4M Radio.

The program produced in HD is about stargazing and how backyard astronomers are probing deep space and guarding the Earth from interplanetary peril. It introduces viewers to the rewards of first person, hands-on astronomy. Based on Ferris's book, *Seeing in the Dark*, published in 2002 was named by The New York Times as one of the ten best books of the year.

The film's remarkable high-definition astrophotography vividly portrays the advances of amateur astronomers using backyard telescopes, as they capture cutting-edge images of the solar system and deep space.

4M Community members can listen and download the show in mp3 format at meade4m.com.

Seeing in the Dark reveals how they are linked globally through the Internet, and are making important discoveries which have stirred a revolution that is sweeping the amateur and professional communities of astronomy.

Seeing in the Dark, will air on Public Broadcasting Stations across the nation on Wednesday, September 19th at 8:00 p.m. (check your local listings)

Pheasants Forever's 2007 Pheasant Hunting Forecast

With potential habitat losses, is 2007 the boom before the bust?

Overview: All across the Midwest and Upper Midwest, signs are pointing to

an excellent pheasant hunting season. The typical pheasant powerhouses - South and North Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and Nebraska - will again top the list. Unfortunately, because of the potential for massive habitat losses this year and next, namely Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres under soon-to-expire contracts, we may soon be referring to 2007 as "the good old days." Key pheasant states, including South Dakota and Iowa, stand to lose literally hundreds of thousands of acres of critical wildlife habitat in the next few years to row crop conversion. That's why now, more than ever, there is a need for all hunters and wildlife enthusiasts to become actively involved in the 2007 Federal Farm Bill process. The Farm Bill will be introduced in the U.S. Senate soon, meaning now is the time to contact your state's Senators and let them know you want a Farm Bill with a strong Conservation Title. After all, CRP and other federal farmland conservation programs accounting for over 50 million acres nationwide are primarily responsible for the birds you'll be chasing this fall. Find your state's Senators by logging onto www.PheasantsForever.org/page/LegislativeAction

. Always consult state hunting regulations for rules and season dates before taking to the field. Find your state agency by logging onto www.PheasantsForever.org/page/StateAgencies.

California - Pheasant production during the spring of 2007 period varied geographically in association with rainfall and supplemental irrigation. Habitat on public lands managed for wildlife remained in good to excellent condition, while privately-owned pheasant habitat generally continued to degrade in association with agricultural practices. Exceptions to the latter occurred on a few privately-owned areas actively engaged in intense pheasant habitat management in association with an experimental technique tested on the Little Dry Creek and Howard Slough units of the Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area. Preliminary results indicate average production on these managed areas. Pheasant production appears to have been below normal in the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento River delta area and Sacramento Valley. Pheasant hunters generally bag about 150,000 wild roosters in California. Season Opener: November 10

Colorado - Colorado's crow counts were down 40 to 50 percent across the board from one year ago. That drop is not surprising considering the population has been hampered by six years of drought and the past winter in which 2' of snow covered the ground for over 70 days. However, an excellent spring brought improved habitat and nesting conditions, and pheasants have

rebounded nicely. The snow cover last year essentially shut down Colorado's pheasant season at the halfway point, leading to a harvest of only 37,000 roosters. Colorado hunters can expect to reach that mark again, and if spring production is as good as advertised, eclipse it. Yuma County in northeast Colorado annually contains the state's number one pheasant harvest, as it rests in the state's best pheasant range - the triangular area from Sterling to Holyoke to Burlington. Season Opener: November 10

Idaho - After harvesting 98,000 roosters in 2005, Idaho hunters eclipsed the 100,000 harvest mark last season. Though it's been one of the driest years in decades - a dry winter, dry spring and dry summer - state biologist Don Kemner stated that observation reports were again showing a fair number of pheasants, which should again lead to a good pheasant hunting season with a harvest right around six figures. Areas of promise include the north-central part of the state, including near Lewiston and Moscow, where there is quite a bit of CRP land, and the Magic Valley in south-central Idaho, which contains isolated public tracts. Season Opener: Multiple

Illinois - Hunters in the Prairie State can expect to bag about 200,000 roosters this year, according to John Cole, upland wildlife manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The state's population has remained relatively stable during the decade. This year's pheasant call counts were up 3% from last year, while brood surveys were virtually unchanged. In Illinois, pheasant abundance is severely limited by the amount of available nest and brood cover, but the tide could turn with the enrollment of partial fields, filter strips and field borders in CRP and the establishment of additional grass cover through the Roadsides for Wildlife program. The best places to hunt pheasants are the north-central and east-central parts of the state. Hunters can apply for permits to hunt public State Pheasant Habitat Areas at <http://dnr.state.il.us>. Season Opener: November 3

Indiana - Indiana has experienced an adverse drought this year, but there's quite a degree of variability on the effects of that drought on the state's primary northwest pheasant range. Steve Backs, Wildlife Research Biologist with the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, said the inconsistency of the drought can be seen in a matter of miles in this region. All of which translates into spotty success for Indiana's pheasant hunters, who will be hard pressed to harvest their normal 20,000 roosters.

Season Opener: November 9

Iowa - Despite a March blizzard, an ice storm, and flooding during the spring nesting season, the Iowa pheasant population remained relatively unchanged compared to last year. Iowa's 2007 August Upland Wildlife Roadside Survey saw an average of 27 birds per route across the state, compared with 28 last year. Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist with the Iowa DNR, said Iowa pheasant hunters should harvest between 700,000 and 780,000 roosters this fall. Once again, northwest, north-central and central Iowa reported higher bird counts, but small, localized areas of good pheasant numbers were reported in the northeast, east-central and southeast. Unfortunately, Iowa stands to lose a significant amount of crucial habitat before the pheasant season opens on October 27. Iowa is expected to lose almost 200 square miles of CRP habitat after October 1 as farmers plow up land in preparation for row crop conversion next spring to try and meet the needs of the ethanol industry. With no CRP sign-up in 2008, the state is expected to lose another 350-400 miles of CRP after October 1, 2008. Bogenschutz said a habitat loss of this magnitude will certainly mean Iowa's pheasant population will be lower in 2008 and 2009. Season Opener: October 27

Kansas - The overall forecast for pheasants is again sunny in Kansas. Last year, hunters harvested approximately 600,000 roosters, and hunters should approach that number once again. Excellent nesting conditions this spring has the western one-third of the state looking good. Reports are more mixed in the north central and south central regions, ranging from below average to strong. This stems from scattered heavy rains in late May. From Norton and Phillips Counties in the northwest down to Ford and Stevens Counties in the southwest and all areas in between, hunting should be excellent. Season Opener: November 3

Michigan - A very mild winter and fair to good nesting season for upland game birds has the state of Michigan in line for its annual harvest of 100,000 pheasants. Michigan's grassland areas, particularly the 276,036 total CRP acres and 60,757 CREP acres, will again benefit the state's pheasants, particularly in the lower third and "Thumb" region. Season Opener: Multiple

Minnesota - In each of the past two years, hunters in Minnesota have harvested nearly 600,000 roosters, the most since 1964. With favorable

pheasant nesting and brood-rearing conditions this year and abundant habitat, Minnesota hunters can expect more of the same. The state's pheasant index remained at its highest level in 20 years, (107 birds per 100 miles driven) topping 100 for the third consecutive year. Protected grassland habitats in the state's pheasant range account for approximately 6% of the landscape - the highest number in more than a decade - and those areas are the major contributing factor to the increased population. Hunters will want to take note of the southwest portion of the state, where observers reported 223 birds per 100 miles driven; the south-central area, with 121 birds reported per 100 miles driven; and the west-central area, where 118 birds were reported per 100 miles driven. Season Opener: October 13

Missouri - Last year, 10,400 hunters harvested 34,000 pheasants in the "Show Me State," but with August roadside surveys down 37%, it could be hard to replicate those numbers. The northwest portion of the state is Missouri's number one pheasant region, with the Bilby Ranch Conservation Area outside Maryville being a prime opportunity. The bonus for upland hunters in Missouri's northern tier is the small game grand slam - pheasant, quail, dove and woodcock. Also, to provide more opportunities for hunters ages 6 through 15, the Conservation Commission has established youth-only pheasant and quail seasons. Both seasons take place Oct. 27-28. Season Opener: November 1

Montana - Montana's pheasant hunters appear to have a favorable season of hunting ahead. A mild winter made for good survival, and timely spring moisture helped insect production and provided good nesting and brood-rearing cover. The only potential pre-season sour notes were drought conditions after mid-June and some notable hailstorms that may have impacted pheasants and other upland game birds in some central and northern plains areas, but pheasant numbers should still be average to above average in those regions. And speaking of averages, last year 155,000 pheasants were harvested, which is well-above the 20-year average of 132,000 birds. Conditions at Ninepipes Wildlife Management Area in northwest Montana indicate a pheasant season comparable to 2006, with better brood numbers and sizes around the moist and irrigated areas on the WMA. Season Opener: October 13.

Nebraska - Although total harvest in 2006 was below the 2005 harvest of 437,000, pheasant hunters experienced above-average success. However,

severe snow and ice storms last winter and heavy rains this spring appear to have impacted pheasant populations in some regions. Statewide, the August roadside survey indicated a decline of 5% from last year, while the rural mail carrier survey indicated a decline of 11%. Yet these surveys indicated that pheasant numbers in the northeast, southeast and southwest - the most heavily hunted regions in the state, were comparable to last year. Like last year, the highest abundance of birds can be found in the southwest and northeast regions, followed by the panhandle and southeast regions. Season Opener: October 27

New Jersey - The last available data showed New Jersey hunters harvesting approximately 3,000 wild pheasants in 2005-2006, and the harvest again this year should be in that ballpark. State biologist Andrew Burnett said New Jersey pheasants, like quail and other wildlife in the state, suffer from both a lack of quantity and quality of available habitat, and it's unknown exactly how many wild pheasants remain in the state. Season Opener: November 10

New York - Wild pheasant populations continue to hold on in New York at low levels, having declined over 90 percent in the last four decades. Last year, 45,000 hunters bagged around 80,000 pheasants in New York. With a good nesting season, hunters can expect to replicate those numbers again this year. The Lake Plains area of western New York - south of Lake Ontario from Syracuse to Buffalo - continues to contain the state's best pheasant habitat. Season Opener: Multiple

North Dakota - The forecast again looks bright for North Dakota's upland hunting season, with one of the best recent years expected for pheasants, sharptails and prairie chickens. Good population carryover from last year and decent nesting conditions have contributed to the conditions prime for a banner year, though some fairly heavy rains during peak hatch likely affected reproduction in the southeast corner of the state. State biologist Stan Kohn expects a year comparable to 2005, when NoDaks harvested 809,000 roosters. Traditional pheasant hotspots include the northwest corner of the state, the area around Lake Sakakawea and areas south of I-94, however, Kohn did say that counties just north of the interstate are starting to catch up to southern counties in terms of population. Season Opener: October 13

Ohio - Though insect production may have been hurt by a dry summer, it

appears as though Ohio pheasants on the whole enjoyed a successful nesting season. As a result, hunters in the Buckeye State should expect to reach their annual harvest of 200,000 roosters. Pheasants and hunters both are benefiting from available habitat, thanks to more CRP than ever before in the state - there are currently 362,000 acres of CRP in Ohio. The state's three CREP programs (Lake Erie, Upper Big Walnut and Scioto River) and nearly 13,000 acres of CP33 Quail and upland field borders have added tens of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat to Ohio's landscape. Season Opener: November 2

Oklahoma - The north central and panhandle portions of Oklahoma represent the state's pheasant range, most notably Alfalfa, Grant, Beaver, Cimarron and Texas Counties. While the state has experienced above average rainfall and even flooding in areas, the northwest part of the state hasn't experienced those extreme amounts. All of which leads state upland game biologist Doug Schoeling to remain optimistic that Oklahoma hunters will be able to eclipse last season's harvest of just over 71,000 pheasants. Schoeling also reported that Oklahoma pheasants appear to be responding positively to CP-33 (upland bird buffers). Season Opener: December 1

Oregon - With relatively good conditions during the hatch, Oregon hunters are in line for another harvest near last year's total of 40,795. Though the season will likely be below Oregon's three-year average, it should be better than the state's 10-year average. Oregon's best pheasant habitat is found in the Columbia Basin and in northern Malheur County along the border with Idaho. Season Opener: October 13

Pennsylvania - Pheasant populations in Pennsylvania have been decimated by habitat loss. Over the past three decades, due mainly to losses of suitable habitat, wild pheasant populations have declined dramatically in Pennsylvania, and according to the state are essentially non-existent. However, the state now boasts over 177,000 CREP acres and, in cooperation with local Pheasants Forever chapters, is in the midst of a three-year program to re-establish wild pheasant populations in the "Keystone State." The project appears to be taking hold in the Pike Run Watershed in southwest Pennsylvania, with "crow" counts and flush surveys showing increases. Season Opener: Multiple

South Dakota - Simply put, South Dakota has the makings of a banner 2007 pheasant season, with pheasant survey routes indicating one of the largest

pheasant populations in South Dakota history. In fact, brood count surveys by the S.D. Game, Fish and Parks Department show an estimated pheasant population that easily surpasses the 40-year high mark set in 2005. Overall, statewide numbers for 2007 are 23% higher than the 2006 counts and 18% higher than the 2005 mark. The growth in population can be attributed to a perfect scenario of weather and habitat conditions at peak hatch. Tom Kirschenmann, Sr. Wildlife Biologist for the S.D. Game, Fish and Parks Department, said that with cooperative weather and corn harvest, this year's pheasant harvest could approach 2 million birds. Unfortunately, while the pheasant population has soared, future habitat conditions in the "Pheasant Capital" appear to be at risk. Kirschenmann said that the state is set to lose nearly 300,000 CRP acres this fall. South Dakota, which currently has 1.55 million acres enrolled in CRP, could potentially see that number drop under 1 million acres in a few years. The detrimental effects would be three-fold: The loss of all-important pheasant habitat, as well as fewer public access opportunities, and the resulting downturn in the economic impact visiting hunters have on the state's fall economy. Season Opener: Multiple

Texas - The word out of the "Lone Star State" is that after a dry year last year, a wetter weather pattern has helped pheasants flourish in the 37-county panhandle region. In fact, some reports say action could be amazing. Season Opener: Multiple

Utah - Overall, Utah pheasant hunters can expect a decent season in line with 2006, when 16,521 hunters harvested 44,971 birds. A dry spring reduced production, but isolated pockets of birds will still exist in Utah's northern regions. Urban sprawl and a subsequent loss of habitat continues to slow pheasant hunting in the central region of the state, but agricultural lands and marsh areas around Utah and the Great Salt Lake harbor some birds, and there is limited public hunting available on the Utah Lake Wetland Preserve and Powell Slew WMA. In southeast Utah, pheasant populations are significantly lower than in years past, particularly due to farming practices not favorable to pheasant populations. In the southern portion of the state, Millard and Sevier Counties will hold a fair number of pheasants. For public grounds, look to the Clear Lake and Redmond WMAs. Season Opener: Multiple

Washington - A rainy, cold snap likely hindered first broods, but

re-nesting attempts appear to have been successful. What does this mean for Washington pheasant hunters this season? Spotty success, with a harvest at or below the 110,000-115,000 range of the past few years. Look for more success in the southeast portion of the state, including Whitman, Columbia, Garfield and Walla Walla Counties. State biologist Mick Cope also reported a handful of cooperators are taking part in the "Partnerships for Pheasants" program offered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in which private landowners in southeastern Washington improve habitat adjacent to CRP fields and riparian areas.

Season Opener: October 20

Wisconsin - The Badger State's rural mail carrier survey showed a 22 % increase in pheasants, and the outlook for the state's pheasant hunting is equally as good. Wisconsin hunters have harvested 200,000 pheasants annually the past two seasons, and look to hit that mark once again. While the southern half of the state has traditionally been the pheasant stronghold, DNR biologist Sharon Fandel reported that hunters can expect more birds in Dunn, Pepin and Polk Counties in the west/northwest region.

Season Opener: October 20

Wyoming - Pheasant hunters in Wyoming typically harvest 30,000 roosters, but with a drought that again hurt reproduction, hunters can expect a below average year. There should still be birds to be had in Goshen County in SE Wyoming and Big Horn County and the surrounding areas in the north-central part of the state. Season Opener: Multiple