

Letter from concerned Gun Owners

Please take time to vote... Also, please take time to pass this on...

Don't forget that there is a lot of talk about a new federal assault weapon ban. We don't want this to be used to further that cause.

In my humble opinion Gun Control is part of the problem – this was a gun free campus – even the campus cops didn't have guns – if one professor had had a concealed carry permit he or she could have stopped the whole thing

Please take the time to vote NO - Also pass along to all

Virginia Shootings

Already, ABC news is polling to see if this tragic incident is grounds for restrictive gun control. Predictable. It's almost unthinkable that ABC is already milking this for what it is worth, politically. But they are....

Please participate in this poll, and forward on to others.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/BeSeenBeHeard/popup?id=3046132>

Celebrate Astronomy Day April 21, 2007

Utah residents are invited to participate in “Astronomy Day,” hosted on Saturday, April 21, 2007 by Clark Planetarium, Salt Lake Astronomical Society and the University of Utah. Astronomy Day will host a wide variety of events, many of them for free, that will encourage individuals and families to learn about space and science.

Astronomy Day begins at Clark Planetarium at 12:30 p.m. with a series of science demonstrations. Representatives from Salt Lake Astronomical Society and the University of Utah will be at the planetarium showcasing their astronomy programs. In addition, all shows in the Hansen Dome Theatre will have \$1 admission from 1:30 – 3:45 p.m. Visit www.clarkplanetarium.org for show times.

Beginning at 4:30 p.m., Dr. Stacy Palen, an astronomer at Weber State University and director of WSU's Ott Planetarium will give a free lecture at Clark Planetarium on Black Holes. Following her lecture, there will be a drawing for a free Meade Telescope.

In conjunction with events at Clark Planetarium, the University of Utah Observatory will be open to the public beginning at 2 p.m. The University will host a series of presentations on the sun, telescopes and general astronomy. For a complete list of events at the University of Utah, visit <http://web.utah.edu/astro/astroday.html>.



In the evening, Clark Planetarium and the Salt Lake Astronomical Society will host star parties at both This is The Place Heritage Park and the Stansbury Park Observatory Complex, weather permitting. At 7 p.m. members of SLAS will feature solar viewing telescopes to view the sun at This is The Place Heritage Park. After the sun sets, nighttime star observing will begin. The star party at the Stansbury Park Observatory Complex begins at 7:30 p.m. with a 30-minute presentation by SLAS board member Bill Kennedy on the history of the optical telescope.

Astronomy Day was developed to promote astronomy activities and recognize the importance that space and science bring to our communities. In fact, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon signed a proclamation at the Salt Lake County Council meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2006 recognizing the importance of Astronomy.

A complete schedule of events and Clark Planetarium show times are available at www.clarkplanetarium.org. This is The Place Heritage Park is located at 2601 E. Sunnyside Avenue in Salt Lake City. For directions to the Stansbury Park Observatory Complex, visit <http://slas.us/maps/SPOCMAP.HTML>.

Interested in a Free, Guided Fishing Trip?

Get your essay in by April 30

For the second straight year, the Utah Conservation Officers' Association (UCOA) is sponsoring a free, guided fishing trip to Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Six lucky 7th through 12th graders will win a fishing tackle package and an all-expenses-paid trip to the reservoir in June. The trip includes overnight accommodations, good food and great company.

“Don’t miss your chance to learn some tricks and techniques from some of Utah’s top fishing experts,” says Stacy Jones.

Jones is a conservation officer with the Division of Wildlife Resources and president of the UCOA.

“If you qualify for the trip, you’ll receive some neat fishing tackle from Sportsman’s Warehouse,” Jones says. “The Utah Bass Federation and the DWR will provide the trip guides and fishing experts.” For a chance to participate in the trip, all that 7th through 12th graders need to do is submit an essay at www.wildlife.utah.gov/essaycontest by April 30. The theme of the essay is: “Why a bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work or school.”

The contest is open to 7th through 12th graders throughout Utah. The UCOA will select one winner from each grade. The winners will be notified by phone on May 25.

“Turn off the Game Boy for a few minutes and warm up your keyboard,” Jones says. “The essay topic is an easy topic. You’ll be done with your essay before you know it.

“Think about the good times you’ve shared with mom, dad and the rest of your family. Maybe you caught a lot of fish. Maybe you didn’t. But you had a great time, right? Tell us about it.

“Maybe you’ll be one of the lucky teenagers who wins a trip.” For more information, call Jones at (435) 636-0277 or (435) 820-6445, or e-mail her staceyjones@utah.gov.

Fish Doing Well in Recapture Reservoir

Blanding -- If you’re an angler, what biologists found in Recapture Reservoir recently might grab your attention.



During the week of April 9, Division of Wildlife Resources aquatic biologists Justin Hart and Kenny Breidinger conducted a gillnetting survey at the reservoir about three miles north of Blanding. They were excited by what they found.

Many of the northern pike they collected measured 18 to 24 inches in length. Several of the pike measured as long as 31 inches and tipped the scale at eight pounds.

Their netting also revealed a number of very robust 11- to 14-inch largemouth bass. They also collected good numbers of black bullheads that weighed in at two pounds each.

Hart offers some advice to help you cash in on the cache of fish at Recapture:



For largemouth bass, try a chartreuse or pumpkin-colored 3- to 4-inch curly tail grub, hooked into a ¼ oz. white or pink jighead. Fish this rig slowly along the bottom.

Another rig you might try involves using a 6-inch pumpkin-colored rubber worm. Rig the worm weedless on a bass worm hook, and place a single piece of split shot about 15 inches above the worm. This rig should also be fished slowly along the bottom.

Boaters who like to troll for northern pike might try a medium-diving Berkley Frenzy in a crawdad color, or a double-jointed silver Canadian Wiggler. Northern pike and largemouth bass can also be caught by casting crankbaits, spinners or large jigs along the shorelines and near other underwater structure.

As the water warms, topwater lures should also produce fish in the mornings and evenings.

Bullhead anglers should try dropping weighted worms or commercial catfish baits to the bottom of the reservoir.

For more information about fishing at Recapture Reservoir, call the DWR's Southeastern Region office at (435) 636-0260.

Ice-off "Luring" Anglers to Strawberry Reservoir

If you're a shore angler, right now is the perfect time to fish Strawberry

Strawberry Reservoir -- The ice has started to melt along the shorelines at Strawberry Reservoir.

Anglers who know a little about great fishing are starting to take advantage of one of the best times of the year to fish Utah's most popular fishery.

Strawberry Reservoir was also honored by the American Fisheries Society recently as one of the best trout fishing waters in the nation.

“On April 17, many of the bays were free of ice, and much of the shoreline had enough open water to provide shoreline anglers with good places to fish,” says Scott Root, regional conservation outreach manager with the Division of Wildlife Resources.

“The Soldier Creek side of the reservoir is mostly open water, and boats can actually be launched



from the Soldier Creek boat ramp,” Root says.

“Unfortunately, there’s still a lot of ice on the main body of Strawberry. Ice also surrounds the Strawberry Marina, so you can’t launch a boat from the marina yet.

“Complete ice-off usually occurs around the second week of May, but if conditions are right, it could happen within the next week or so.”

DWR Conservation Officer Paul Davis says many anglers are finding great success by casting tube jigs, minnow-imitating lures or even traditional baits toward the edge of the ice. That’s where hungry trout are often lurking.

“Depending on the direction of the wind, you can shorefish the entire reservoir,” Davis says.

“Although there’s open water to the dam, some ice may blow through the area, so boaters need to be careful.

“Fishing is good, especially on the Soldier Creek side of the reservoir. I’ve already checked several big rainbows and at least one cutthroat that was over 22 inches long.”

Anglers are reminded about some special regulations at Strawberry Reservoir:

- The limit is four trout or salmon in the aggregate.
- In your 4-trout limit, you may not have more than two cutthroat trout under 15 inches, and no more than one cutthroat trout over 22 inches.
- All cutthroat trout from 15 to 22 inches long must be immediately released.

Strawberry Reservoir is about 25 miles southeast of Heber City. For more information about fishing at Strawberry, call the DWR's Central Region office at (801) 491-5678.



Red Rock Golf Trail Hits Milestone

(St. George, Utah) “St. George’s Red Rock Golf Trail recently surpassed the **million dollar** mark!” said Joyce Kelly of the St. George Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

This marketing cooperative is a combination of city, county and private sectors. Golf courses include: Suncor’s Coral Canyon (Washington City), City of Hurricane’s Sky Mountain, The Ledges of St. George, SunRiver Development’s SunRiver Golf Club (St. George) and the City of St. George’s Sunbrook, Southgate, St. George Golf Club and Dixie Red Hills. The CVB and 15 lodging properties complete the partnership.

The golf trail was created in February 2004 to increase tourism in Washington County by promoting “stay and play” packages. In the first year of conception the RRGTT generated 378 room nights and 706 tee times; producing \$70,000 in package revenue. In 2005 the revenue increased to \$270,000. The numbers continued to climb with 1,891 room nights and 3,452 tee times for a total of \$407,000 in 2006. In March of 2007 just barely three years since conception, revenues have exceeded the million dollar mark.

The CVB is responsible for placing ads, attending trade shows, promoting the web site as well as booking packages to increase tourism revenues for Washington County.

“It’s actually a lot of fun talking with people from all over the nation and Canada, who can’t wait to experience our scenic golf courses and great weather”, said Joyce Kelly. To quote a recent surveyed customer, “The Red Rock Golf Trail-Rocks!”. The CVB attributes the growing success

of the golf trail to the area hoteliers and golf courses all working together with the CVB to build the St. George area into a nationally prominent year-round golf destination.

For more information visit www.redrockgolftrail.com.

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

April 20 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding

Evening with An Author: Southwest author Craig Childs introduces and reads from his newest publication *House of Rain* beginning at 6:30 p.m. This book is a monumental effort in research and personal experience and details Childs' journey across the landscape of the Colorado Plateau, one footstep at a time. Childs, whose commentaries are often heard on National Public Radio, is the renowned author of several books including *The Secret Knowledge of Water*, *Stone Desert*, and *The Way Out*. This event is open and free to the public. For more information, please call (435) 678-2238.

April 20 Goblin Valley State Park - Green River

Discover Goblin Valley: Join the park naturalist for an evening walk through the goblins. Find out how the goblins came to be and who lurks around in the night! Meet at the Observation Point at 8 p.m. above the Valley of the Goblins. Don't forget your flashlight. For more information, please call (435) 564-3633.

April 21 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding

Comb Ridge Writing Workshop With Mary Sojourner: This workshop is for writers, both new and experienced, who want to improve their writing skills. Participants meet at the museum, then, proceed to inspirational Comb Wash for the morning writing session. The afternoon portion of the workshop continues at the museum. This workshop is limited to 15 participants and pre-registration is required. A deposit of \$100 is required. Class runs 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuition fee is \$140. To register or for more information, please call (435) 678-2238.

April 21 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Springtime at the Ranch: Join park staff in celebrating springtime at one of Utah's earliest ranches, the historic Fielding Garr Ranch on Antelope Island State Park. Learn to make pioneer handkerchief dolls, pick up a needle and quilt. Learn pioneer games such as farm ball and race your family in a sack race. These activities are available all day. For more information call (801) 649-5742.

April 21 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

Wildflowers Revealed: Enjoy the beauty of local wildflowers at 9 a.m. as park staffers discuss the reproductive strategies of plants during a two-mile roundtrip hike. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information, please call (435) 628-2255.

April 21 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Junior Ranger Program: Ravens demonstrate high intellect when solving simple issues. Join the park naturalist and ravens on an adventure into solving problems facing Great Salt Lake. Participants should meet at the visitor center at 4 p.m. This activity is intended for children ages six to 12, however all ages are welcome. For more information, please call (801) 721-9569.

April 21 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Star Party: Join Ogden Astronomical Society and Weber State University for an evening under the stars. Participants can expect to enjoy beautiful celestial views (weather permitting), and stellar conversation with local astronomers. Meet at White Rock Bay group campsite #1 at 8 p.m. If you bring a flashlight, please make it a red-colored lens. For more information please call (801) 721-9569.

April 21 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway

Earth Day Celebration: Celebrate with park staff and assist with native landscaping around the Educational Yurt from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prepare to get dirty and have lots of fun as we pull non-native species and plant native shrubs, flowers and grasses. There will also be a cleanup around the visitor center pond. Refreshments will be provided. Bring the whole family. For more information call (435) 654-1791.

April 21 Goblin Valley State Park - Green River

Junior Ranger Program - Predators and Prey: Who are the predators and who are prey at Goblin Valley? How do they survive in this harsh environment? This program is geared toward children six through 12, but everyone is welcome. Earn a Junior Ranger badge and have fun! Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Observation Point above the Valley of the Goblins. For more information, please call (435) 564-3633.

April 21 Goblin Valley State Park - Green River

Rock Art: What tools might have been used and what might the artists have been thinking? Find out at 7:30 p.m. at the amphitheater. For more information, please call (435) 564-3633.

Catching Cold Water Fish: A Guide for Beginning Anglers



Sometimes the hardest thing about an activity is taking the first step, especially if it's an activity you've never tried before.

Most anglers probably don't remember that first step because they grew up with someone who fished. All they had to do was

climb in a car; everything else was provided. As they got older, they were given fishing poles, reels, hooks, lures and other equipment. Eventually, they had enough fishing gear that they could go fishing on their own.

For those of you who weren't that lucky, or have forgotten what to take on a fishing trip, Lowell Marthe provides some suggestions. Marthe is the Flaming Gorge/Green River fisheries project

leader for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources:

“A beginning angler isn’t likely to own a boat,” Marthe says. “So, for a first time shore angler, I’d recommend starting with a six-foot rod [light to medium action] with a closed-face reel and 8-pound test line. A closed-face reel is a bit simpler and less intimidating for a beginner.

“If you’ve fished before, an open-faced spinning reel would be a good choice. Unfortunately, open-faced reels often come with a heavy line, so ask the store if they can help you replace the heavy line with an 8-pound test line. Eight-pound test is light enough to cast but heavy enough to pull through most of the weeds and other things you might accidentally hook.”

For cold water fish, such as rainbow, brook and cutthroat trout, Marthe recommends using baits or lures.

“I’d start with worm hooks [size 6 to 8], split shot weights and a few bobbers [also known as bubbles],” Marthe says. Worms are somewhat universal. They’ll work for a wide variety of fish under a variety of conditions.

“In the spring, trout are often in shallow water, or they’re suspended near the surface over deeper waters. So placing a worm, like a night crawler, on your hook, and adding a bubble or bobber on the line four to six feet away from the hook, works well.

“When you cast this out, the worm will float four to six feet below the surface. The bobber will also act as a strike indicator; when it goes under, there’s something on your line.

“As summer progresses, the water on the surface gets too warm, and the fish go deeper,” Marthe says. “When this happens, try hooking on a marshmallow or floating bait next to the worm, and replace the bobber with a few split shot weights two to three feet from the hook.

“When you cast this out, the weights sink to the bottom but the marshmallow or baits float the hook and worm above the muck and vegetation found on the bottom. Fish often cruise just above the vegetation, so this method places the hook where the fish can see it.”



If sitting and waiting for fish to come to you is boring to you, Marthe recommends using fishing lures, or a fly and bubble combination. “Spoons, spinners and rapalas are good choices for most trout and cold water species,” Marthe said. “Rapalas come in floating and sinking varieties. Both

of the varieties work well in the spring.

“Later in the summer, the sinker [rapala] will work best because the fish will be deeper. Depending on how large the fish are that you might catch, I’d start with two- to three-inch rapalas. In this case, you’re trying to imitate a minnow, so silver and black, and gold and black, are good color choices.

“Spoons and spinners come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colors. I’d start with a small selection of small to medium sizes [one to two inches long] in colors such as silver, gold, chartreuse, fluorescent orange or red, mixed with some darker colors. “

Marthe recommends casting the lures in a fan shape around the area where you’re standing. Send some casts along the bank and other casts out to deeper water.

As the weather gets warmer, you should make most of your casts to the deeper water. To get your lure to go deeper, try counting off a few seconds before reeling it back in.

When reeling your lure, try reeling it in at different speeds, and watch how it comes in. The lure should show some action and look as natural as possible. It shouldn’t skip across the surface or look like it’s being dragged.



Fly and bubble combinations can also work well for cold water fish. “A fly and bubble is an effective but often overlooked way to catch fish,” Marthe says.

“This method works best when the water is cold and you can see fish surfacing. Attach the bubble about five or six feet above the fly. I prefer using a wooly bugger [or wooly worm]

in a dark color, either black, brown or green.

“Leach, mosquito, ant or mayfly imitations can also be effective.

“Cast this combination out, and then slowly reel it back in. Reel slow enough that the bubble makes no disturbance, or only a slight disturbance, on the surface of the water. Reeling the combination slowly will cause the fly behind the bubble to follow in an undulating pattern, slowly

rising and sinking.”

Fishing Information / Rod and Reel Checkout

Fishing can be an enjoyable activity for everyone. More information about fishing is available at www.wildlife.utah.gov/fishing. Fishing poles and reels are also available for free checkout at most DWR offices and at many state and city parks.

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

A Word of Warning About Drought

Salt Lake City, Utah -- A first-of-its-kind, comprehensive overview of drought in Utah is now available. The Utah Division of Water Resources is announcing the completion of the latest in a series of reports under the title of “Utah State Water Plan.”

The report, *Drought in Utah: Learning from the Past-Preparing for the Future*, is a word of warning about drought, and a strategy for mitigation and preparedness. “This report was written primarily for water suppliers in Utah,” said Dennis Strong, Division Director. “We hope it will encourage them to fully assess their vulnerability to drought in order to better prepare for future events.”

The report addresses several important issues related to drought:

- The impact of drought on society from an historical perspective, and how projected growth has the potential to make Utah more vulnerable
- The likelihood of more severe and longer-term droughts in the future, based on reconstructed climate and proxy records, as well as climate change
- Various strategies to mitigate, prepare for and respond to future drought events
- Recommendations for future action at the state and local levels

“The report is definitely an eye-opener,” said Todd Stonely, River Basin Planning Chief. “We should all be concerned about being prepared for the next drought.”

A copy of the report is available at the division's web site: www.water.utah.gov

WHOPPING INCREASES MARK SPRING GAS PRICES

AAA Utah Reports Increases Throughout the Country

SALT LAKE CITY, April 17, 2007 –Whopping gas price increases greet motorists at each fill-up. It is early in the driving season and many motorists wonder what the summer will bring.

AAA, which tracks gasoline prices as a service to consumers, reports significant price increases throughout the country. In Utah, the current average price for a gallon of regular, self-

serve gasoline is \$2.79. This is 45 cents higher than last month's average. The national average price is \$2.87, a 33-cent increase from last month.

“The U.S. Department of Energy reported a very weak gasoline inventory early in April,” said Rolayne Fairclough, AAA Utah spokesperson. “This could explain in part the dramatic rise in gasoline prices as refiners try to stockpile reserves for the high demand of the summer driving season.”

All of the Intermountain West states saw significant price increases this past month for regular, self-serve gasoline. Idaho's average price jumped 44 cents to today's average of \$2.85. Montana's motorists experienced the highest jump in price in a month of the Intermountain West states. The current average price in Montana is \$2.88, 46 cents higher than last month. Wyoming's average price is the lowest in the Intermountain West. The current price is \$2.70, a 39-cent increase from last month's report. Colorado's average price is \$2.82. This is a 33-cent increase from last month. Arizona's price increased 35 cents to the current average of \$2.95. Nevada's price of \$3.07 a gallon is 31 cents higher than last month. California's average price of \$3.34 is the highest in the country and is 23 cents higher than last month.

Five states currently have average prices over \$3 a gallon for regular, self-serve gasoline. Those states are California at \$3.34, Washington at \$3.11, Hawaii at \$3.08 and Nevada and Oregon, both at \$3.07. These western states typically have the highest prices in the nation. New Jersey has the lowest average price in the country at \$2.66.

Motorists in the Utah cities surveyed by AAA saw significant price increases for a gallon of regular, self-serve gasoline. Despite a 44-cent increase from last month, Salt Lake City has the lowest average price, \$2.73, of the cities surveyed. The next lowest price, \$2.78, is shared by both Ogden and Provo. Ogden motorists are paying 46 cents more than last month. Provo's price is 44 cents higher than last month. Logan's current average price of \$2.81 is 45 cents higher than last month. Vernal's average price is now \$2.82. This is 48 cents higher than last month. St. George's gasoline price average is \$2.83. This is a 43-cent increase from the March average. The highest gasoline price in the cities surveyed is in Moab. Their current average is \$2.95, a 50-cent increase from last month.

“It has been reported that California actually had a decrease in gasoline consumption in 2006 even through there were more cars than ever before,” said Fairclough. “Even though it was only 1 percent less it is significant because it shows that price does matter and drivers can adjust their habits to use less gasoline.”

Tips to help use less gasoline include:

- Make sure tires are properly inflated.
- Keep vehicle well serviced, making sure belts and hoses are in good repair and filters are clean.
- Drive the speed limit and accelerate slowly.
- Consolidate errands and plan the most efficient route.
- Lighten the vehicle by taking out any unnecessary equipment.
- Use the vent feature rather than air conditioning.
- Consider buying a more fuel efficient vehicle when you make your next vehicle purchase.

Motorists can shop aggressively for the lowest fuel price available with AAA's Fuel Finder located at www.aaa.com/gasprices. This site has real time information on gas prices at more than 85,000 stations in 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.

SAWS ACTION ALERT: Selkirk Mountain Range Winter Travel Plan Sandpoint, Idaho

Comment Deadline: April 27th, 2007

Send Comments to:
Sandpoint Ranger District
Attn: Greg Hetzler
1500 East Highway 2, Suite 110
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

E-mail: comments-northern-idpanhandle-sandpoint@fs.fed.us

Fax: 208-265-6670

All online documentation related to the Selkirk Mountain Range Winter Travel Plan can be found here, including an 11 MB PDF map considered by the Forest Service to be the "Starting Point": <http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/kaniksu/wintertravelplan/index.html>

By now most of you have heard about the non-existent caribou that temporarily closed some of the best snowmobiling area in North America near Priest Lake, Idaho. Some of this so-called habitat is still off limits to snowmobilers and the litigation in this matter is far from over. SAWS asks that everyone receiving this email send at minimum a brief statement telling the Forest Service that



closures to snowmobiling in the Selkirks are fundamentally dishonest given the present facts. The most glaring fact is the caribou that are allegedly being harassed by snowmobiling in north Idaho actually make their year-around home in Canada.

None of the current snowmobile closures are necessary. SAWS is therefore asking that you tell the Forest Service that all recent closures be re-opened to snowmobiling. Please include any personal information in your comments that relate to your experiences snowmobiling in Northern Idaho, including reasons you came to snowmobile in the area if from out of town or out of state; you're experiences with caribou (or lack thereof) and other wildlife including the respect you and your companions demonstrate when encounters occur; and anything else you can think of.

Here are some additional points to add to your comments.

- Recommended wilderness should not be managed as congressionally designated wilderness. The Forest Service is required to maintain wilderness character in these areas, and snowmobiling has never been scientifically shown to have any adverse effects on wilderness quality. To close them to motorized access for the purpose of providing a wilderness experience and setting, essentially creating an administratively designated wilderness, is in fact contrary to provisions of the Wilderness Act.
- Research Natural Areas (RNA) are not adversely affected by snowmobiling when adequate snow levels are present.
- Several caribou studies relate that there is no correlation between the departure of an area by caribou and snowmobile use, including high snowmobile use. In some areas of high snowmobile use, caribou left the area and in other areas of heavy snowmobile use the caribou remained. The abundance of caribou in high use snowmobile areas in British Columbia supports this assertion.
- Closing areas with low snowmobile activity does nothing to improve caribou recovery, but these closures do have an adverse effect on the local economies.
- There is no factual information with which to determine if an actual caribou corridor exists in the Selkirks; nor is there any factual information that states a corridor is required.
- Fair and unbiased scientific research is needed to properly evaluate all conditions related to recreation and wildlife and provides the only sustainable solution.
- While SAWS does not support any closure to snowmobiling, SAWS does respect wildlife and its habitat. If unbiased evidence supports a temporary closure, then state that you would support a closure only if it is reviewed for its effectiveness and in a timely manner before becoming permanent.
- Selkirk Crest should be re-opened to snowmobiling because no caribou have returned to this area. The Forest Service should implement their Management Area (MA) 1E – Primitive Lands designation for Selkirk Crest to preserve the area's backcountry value while re-opening the area to snowmobiling.
- Trapper Burn should be re-opened to snowmobiling because its potential as a corridor is no longer viable.

Thank you all for your interest in and dedication to protecting YOUR right to ride.

Scott.

Snowmobile Alliance of Western States

Protecting the right to ride for the owners of 303,604 registered snowmobiles (2005) in the western United States.

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Permission is granted to distribute this information in whole or in part, as long as Snowmobile Alliance of Western States (SAWS) is acknowledged as the source. If you are not yet a member of SAWS and you would like receive these alerts, please sign up on our web site at:

<http://www.snowmobile-alliance.org/>

If you are not a member of these organizations, please consider joining them:

Idaho State Snowmobile Association (SAWS member)

<http://www.idahosnowbiz.com/>

Blue Ribbon Coalition

<http://www.sharetrails.org/>

BID TODAY ON CRAIG BARRETT EARTH DAY EBAY AUCTION — FLY FISHING AND LUXURY IN STUNNING MONTANA SETTING

MISSOULA, Montana —April 19, 2007—Bidding has opened for a unique eBay charity auction that offers a Montana vacation with Intel Chairman Craig Barrett, while supporting a conservation cause that benefits all Americans. The Craig Barrett Earth Day auction will take place April 17 - 26, benefiting the conservation mission of the National Forest Foundation. Pre-qualify now at www.ebay.com/nationalforestfoundation .

Craig Barrett, vice chairman of the National Forest Foundation Board of Directors, will host a Montana retreat for the winning bidder and a guest at the Triple Creek Ranch. This once-in-a-lifetime experience with a captain of business and philanthropy offers a memorable adventure for the winning bidder's outdoor spirit and business mind. Nestled at the foot of the stunning Bitterroot Range, Triple Creek Ranch – a member of the exclusive Relais & Chateaux line of retreats – offers Montana outdoor scenery and recreation at its finest, with a touch of luxury.

During a three-day, two-night stay, the top bidder and a guest will enjoy a private cabin, along with all the wonderful activities and dining (all meals are included) the ranch has to offer. The bidder and Craig will take part in one of his favorite activities – a day of fly fishing on the Bitterroot River – and will also explore the Bitterroot National Forest on horseback. In addition, one evening during the stay, Triple Creek will create one of its gourmet dinners especially for the bidder and Craig.

The National Forest Foundation's Earth Day auction blends a unique opportunity to support conservation, meet Craig Barrett, and enjoy one of the nation's most spectacular settings. One hundred percent of the winning bid for this auction will benefit the National Forest Foundation and

its mission to conserve and enhance the forests, watersheds, wildlife habitat and recreational resources of our National Forests and Grasslands.

“Craig is a wonderful individual who combines excellent stewardship of his own ranch with a passion for helping the National Forest Foundation and the Forest Service in their efforts to ensure the long-term health and vitality of our 193-million-acre National Forest System,” said William Possiel, president of the National Forest Foundation.

Auction details are available at the following Web site: www.ebay.com/nationalforestfoundation

Potential bidders must register to pre-qualify; bidding will be open from April 17 through April 26. For anyone unfamiliar with the online auction process, the National Forest Foundation’s auction partner – Kompolt – provides personal assistance. Kompolt is an experienced marketing agency that concentrates on promoting brands through high-profile, high-value charity auctions. Potential bidders can contact Jason Morgan, Kompolt customer service representative, at 805-201-2711, for guidance in auction registration and bidding.

About National Forest Foundation

The National Forest Foundation is a nonprofit partner of the U.S. Forest Service, dedicated to engaging Americans in the conservation and stewardship of our National Forests and Grasslands. To learn more about the National Forest Foundation, please visit www.natlforests.org ; for information on recreation and volunteer opportunities on our National Forests and joining *Friends of the Forest*[®], visit www.becomeafriend.org .

Groups Working to Restore Lost American Tree Treasure

04/16/2007

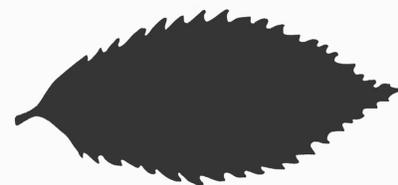
EDGEFIELD, S.C. — On April 27, 2007, conservation-minded volunteers throughout the country will spend the day planting tree seedlings in celebration of national Arbor Day. They won't, however, be planting American Chestnut seedlings -- at least not this year.

Centuries ago giant American Chestnut trees — the size of sequoias in fact — dotted the Appalachian mountain range and much of the area surrounding it. The American Chestnut's timber value made it a dynamic part of eastern rural economies and many Appalachian families gathered sacks full of them to eat throughout the winter.

Today those trees are gone, their demise the result of a sickness they couldn't survive.

As a result nearly 9 million acres of American Chestnut trees have disappeared since an exotic fungus known as blight was discovered in New York City in 1904.

"Nearly every species of wildlife in the East — from black bears to red squirrels and rabbits and wild turkeys to white-tailed deer — feasted on the tree's abundant crops of nutritious nuts," said



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION

Dr. James Earl Kennamer, the National Wild Turkey Federation's senior vice president for conservation programs. "Their chestnuts once blanketed the ground each fall, but none can be found today."

But the future is looking brighter for the American Chestnut, wildlife and the forestry community.

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is developing a tree that has the blight resistance of the Chinese Chestnut while keeping the physical appearance of the American chestnut tree. The new tree will be more than 94 percent American Chestnut with blight resistance as the only remaining trait of the Chinese Chestnut.

The NWTF and TACF are working together to restore American chestnut trees in areas where they once grew. Together the groups will work to improve forest health by eventually planting American chestnut trees to benefit wildlife in the eastern United States.

"Blight destroyed a beautiful tree, and a major food source of wild turkeys," said Robert Abernethy, NWTF director of agency programs. "Reintroducing a blight-resistant, American chestnut tree will improve wildlife habitat benefiting hundreds of species of animals."

The restoration of the American chestnut tree is a long-term project. While there are some trees ready for planting, it will take many more years to develop enough genetic lines to increase the regional adaptability of the trees and begin to restore chestnuts across the Eastern half of the country.

"This partnership will benefit wild turkeys and their habitat, along with everyone who believes in the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting tradition," said Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF senior vice president for conservation programs. "

For more information about the NWTF, its habitat work or its partnership with TACF, call (800) THE-NWTF.

The American Chestnut Foundation: — Founded in 1983, TACF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation with nearly 6,000 members and chapters in 15 states including Virginia. For more information about chestnut restoration, visit www.acf.org, or call (802) 447-0110.

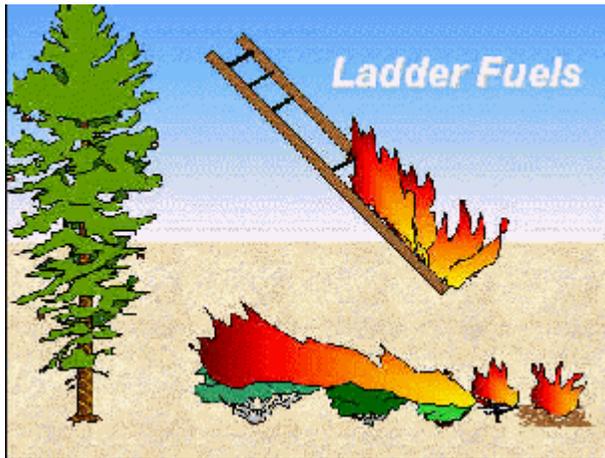
SPRING CLEANUP CAN REDUCE FIRE HAZARD AT HOME

Wednesday, April 4, 2007 ... Salt Lake City, Utah ...Is your home or cabin ready for the 2007 wildfire season? Federal, State and local fire officials urge all residents who have homes and other structures along the urban interface and in forested areas to protect their property by creating a defensible space around it.

Wildfire hazards around your home can be reduced by simple spring cleanup projects around the yard and regular maintenance of the home. Something as simple as branches touching your roof could be the avenue for a wildfire to ignite your home. In Utah, wildfires happen in both remote and urban areas where you might least expect it. It is each homeowner's responsibility to make their home safe from wildfire and now is the time to take action. The combination of new homes

being built in wildland areas and vegetation overgrowing older subdivisions makes wildfires increasingly more difficult to fight.

“As spring approaches, now is a great time to take action to prepare your property to survive the potential damage caused by wildfires” says Tracy Dunford, fire management officer for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. “The best action homeowners can take is to create a space around their homes or cabins that may allow the property to survive a wildfire without firefighter assistance,” he added. “This is known as defensible space.”



Property owners can create this defensible space by following these tips:

- Clean out gutters, sweep decks and clean off your roof. These places can catch wind-driven embers that will ignite your home.
- Remove leaf clutter and branches overhanging the roof. Vegetation should not touch the home.
- Make sure that there are no flammable materials within 3 to 5 feet around the building.
- Dispose of plant debris according to local regulations.

- Keep your grass cut short and well watered within a 30-foot radius of structures
- Store firewood away from the house.
- Organize a neighborhood cleanup day. By helping your entire community, you’ll be providing better protection to yourself.
- Contact your local fire department or agency office for more specific information.

“Research has shown that homes with defensible space, free of flammable fuels, can often survive a wildfire. Defensible space later offers firefighters the advantage of extra room to operate equipment to safely reach and extinguish any active fire when they check your home after the fire passes,” added Dunford.

There are many other things you can do if you are landscaping your yard or remodeling your home that may add to the safety of your home and the likelihood firefighters will be able to defend it. For more information and tips about landscaping go to www.firewise.org, or www.utahfireinfo.gov.

For more information on making your home and landscape firewise, visit these websites:

Utah Web Resources

www.utahfireinfo.gov – Fire

information for all agencies in Utah (prevention, restrictions, prescribed fire, helpful links).



www.utahfireinfo.gov/prevention/livingwithfire/intro.htm – Resources to help you make your home or cabin firewise.

http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/HomeTown/HO_Firewise.htm – Lists of firewise plants from Utah State University Extension.

www.ffsl.utah.gov – Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (community fire planning).

www.planning.utah.gov/CRMPFirePreparedness.htm – Fire preparedness planning.

www.utahredcross.org – Greater Salt Lake Chapter of the American Red Cross (Salt Lake, Tooele, Wasatch, Summit, and South Davis Counties).

National Web Resources

www.firewise.org – Official “Firewise” site with tools and information for individuals and communities.

www.myfirecommunity.net – A community fire planning resource site.

www.smokeybear.org – Official home page of Smokey Bear.

www.ecosmart.gov – An interactive landscape planning tool with firewise choices.

Firewise Landscaping

Recommended Firewise Herbaceous Perennials:

Common Name Scientific Name

Silvery Yarrow *Achillea clavennae*

Fernleaf Yarrow *Achillea filipendulina*

Yarrow *Achillea* — other species

Columbine *Aquilegia* species & hybrids

Artemisia (various names) *Artemisia* — species & hybrids

Bergenia *Bergenia* species & hybrids

Red Valerian, Jupiter’s Beard *Centranthus ruber*

Dwarf Mouse Ear Coreopsis *Coreopsis auriculata* var. Nana

Coreopsis *Coreopsis* — perennial species

Pinks *Dianthus plumarius* & others

Fleabane *Erigeron* species & hybrids

Blanketflower *Gaillardia* x grandiflora hybrid

Hardy Geranium *Geranium cinereum*



Bloody Cranesbill

Geranium sanguineum

Geranium *Geranium*

species

Daylily *Hemerocallis*

species

Coral Bells, Alum Root

Heuchera sanguinea

Iris *Iris* species &

hybrids

Red-hot Poker *Kniphofia*

species & hybrids

Lavender *Lavandula*

species

Shasta Daisy

Leucanthemum x

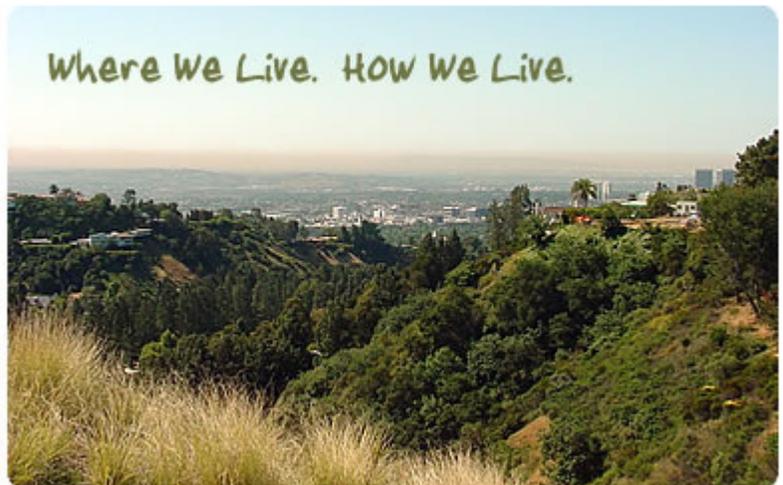
superbum

Sea-lavender, Statice

Limonium latifolium

Flax *Linum* species

Lily-turf *Liriope spicatum*
 Lupine *Lupinus* species & hybrids
 Alfalfa *Medicago sativa*
 Primrose *Oenothera* species
 Poppy *Papaver* species
 Penstemon *Penstemon* species & hybrids
 Russian Sage, Azure Sage *Perovskia atriplicifolia*
 Nepal Cinquefoil *Potentilla nepalensis*
 Cinquefoil, Potentilla *Potentilla*— other species
 Salvia, Sage *Salvia* species & hybrids
 Wineleaf Cinquefoil *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*
 Lamb's Ear *Stachys byzantina*
 Yucca *Yucca fi lamentosa*
 Recommended Firewise Shrubs And Woody Vines:
 Common Name Scientific Name
 Saltbush *Atriplex* species
 Serviceberry *Amelanchier* species
 New Jersey Tea *Ceanothus americanus*
 Ceanothus *Ceanothus ovatus*
 Mountain-mahogany *Cercocarpus* species
 Rock-rose *Cistus* species
 Rockspray, Rock Cotoneaster
Cotoneaster horizontalis
 Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster*—other spp.
 English Ivy *Hedera helix*
 Prostrate Kochia *Kochia prostrata*
 Honeysuckle *Lonicera* species &
 hybrids
 Creeping Oregon Grape *Mahonia
 repens*
 Western Sandcherry *Prunus besseyi*
 Bitterbrush, Antelope Bitterbrush
Purshia tridentata
 Firethorn, Pyracantha *Pyracantha
 coccinea*
 Buckthorn *Rhamnus* species
 Skunkbush Sumac *Rhus trilobata* (*R.
 aromatica*)
 Sumac *Rhus*—other species
 Currant, Gooseberry *Ribes* species
 Rugosa Rose *Rosa rugosa*
 Woods Rose *Rosa woodsii*
 Buffaloberry *Shepherdia* species
 Snowberry *Symphoricarpos* species
 Lilac *Syringa vulgaris*
 Recommended Firewise Trees:
 Common Name Scientific Name
 Maple *Acer* species
 Thinleaf Alder *Alnus tenuifolia*
 Birch *Betula* species



California Redbud *Cercis occidentalis*
Quaking Aspen *Populus tremuloides*
Poplar, Cottonwood *Populus*—other species
Willow *Salix* species

Use of firewise plant species can make your landscape beautiful while resisting fire.

Choose from the many plants listed below.

Recommended Firewise Grasses:

Common Name Scientific Name

Wheatgrass *Agropyron* species

Buffalograss *Buchloe dactyloides*

Orchardgrass *Dactylis glomerata*

Blue Fescue *Festuca cinerea*

Rye Grass *Lolium* species

Western Wheatgrass *Pascopyrum smithii*

Kentucky Bluegrass *Poa pratensis*

Sandberg Bluegrass *Poa secunda*

Recommended Firewise Ground Covers:

Common Name Scientific Name

Bearberry, Kinnikinnick *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Sea Pink, Sea Thrift *Armeria maritima*

Beach Wormwood, Dusty Miller *Artemisia stelleriana*

Snow-in-summer *Cerastium tomentosum*

Bearberry Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster dammeri*

Hardy Ice Plant *Delosperma nubigenum*

Evergreen Candytuft *Iberis sempervirens*

Spring Cinquefoil *Potentilla neumanniana*

Stoncrop, Sedum *Sedum* species

Hen and Chicks *Sempervivum tectorum*

Periwinkle *Vinca* species