

## The 108th CBC, December 14th 2007 to January 5th 2008

*The tradition continues of counting birds across the Americas*

The field season begins on Friday, December 14th, 2007 and runs through Saturday, January 5th, 2008. The dates of the CBC period every season run from 14 December to 5 January.

The 107th Christmas Bird Count summary issue of *American Birds* went to press in October, with articles including the release of the 2007 WatchList and a feature by Scott Weidensaul on how Christmas Bird Count results may help us track birds as they respond to global climate change. Other features highlight unique experiences and sightings during CBCs in Iowa and Ohio, as well as how CBC data help our understanding of the status of introduced doves in Florida. Additionally, as is the tradition the complete overall and Regional Summaries from all areas are included, with many photos submitted by compilers and participants.



Use both the current year and historical results tools on the Audubon CBC Web site to peruse detailed bird results over the past century. Or you can take a look at reports from earlier seasons in Christmas Bird Count issues of *American Birds* in the "Annual Summaries".

### Utah Christmas Bird Counts 2007-2008

Cedar City	Dec 14	Keith Day
Grand Staircase-Escalante N.M.	Dec 14	Kathy Munthe
Salt Lake City	Dec 15	Pomera Fronce
South Ogden Bird Count	Dec 15	John Bellmon
<a href="#">Ouray NWR Bird Count</a>	Dec 15	Diane Penttila,
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge	Dec 19	John Bellmon
Bryce Canyon N.P.	Dec 19	David Roemer

Morgan  
Dec 26 Arnold Smith

St. George  
Dec 26 Marilyn Davis

Fish Springs NWR  
Dec 30 Jay Banta

Jordan River Bird Count

Jan 1 Jeanne LeBer  
and Ray Smith

Antelope Island Bird Count  
Jan 1 John Bellmon



**See local Hunter experience Hunt of a Lifetime**

On Friday, January 11, 2008 on the Versus Network, Escape to the Wild will air and show my African Safari. The show will air at 7:00 p.m. Eastern. Reruns will run for the next few days at various times. If interested, please tune in to see my hunt of a lifetime. Please pass this on to all those you know who might be interested in viewing the show.

**Brian Head Celebrates Grand Opening of Interconnect**

Brian Head Resort has received another 11" of new snow in the past 24 hours! Current base depth is 25", and we're expecting more snow today. Chairs 3, 4 and 6 are running today with 11 runs open, and a terrain park with some boxes and rails. Lift tickets this weekend are \$25 for adults, children and seniors, and children age 5 and under ski free with a ticketed adult.

Join us for the Grand Opening of the Brian Head Resort Interconnect on Saturday, December 15! Bring 4 or more cans of food to benefit the Iron County Care & Share, and get 50% off a full-day lift ticket. Food, music, a Torchlight Parade and Fireworks Extravaganza, and more! Go to <http://www.brianhead.com/resort/inauguration> for more details.

## WINTERFIT SEASON IS HERE

Utah Winter Games Kicks Off Second Annual Winter Fitness Program (*Park City, UT*) It's time to put down the remote, put on the coat, and get outside because WinterFit season is here. The nation's only statewide, entry-level winter fitness program is gearing up to help all Utahns enjoy winter instead of hiding from it.

A community outreach effort organized by the Utah Winter Games, WinterFit is a fun group fitness program where teams made up of anywhere from two to 10 people get together, choose a captain, register online, and start improving everyone's health. There are two basic categories, Weight Loss and Minutes of Activity, and each team can choose to be in one or both programs.



Why participate? The Centers for Disease Control says the average American gains four pounds over the winter, while last season, the average WinterFit participant lost four pounds. That gives you eight pounds worth of bragging rights. More than that, WinterFit runs through the holidays, so participants have a reason to get outside and work off the plum pudding.

Whether you're an armchair quarterback or an elite athlete, WinterFit is for participants of all abilities. The goal of WinterFit is to introduce people to good health in the winter in the simplest ways possible. That means if you are in the Minutes of Activity division, you can rack up minutes for your team by shoveling the driveway, building a snowman, or parking at the far end of the parking lot and recording how long it took you to get into the mall. Of course, you can also go skiing or speed skating if you're up to it.

Why is a team important? Guilt, mostly. If you are part of a team, you don't want to be the one who lets the team down by failing to climb out of the Laz-E-Boy over Christmas week. That's because the team captain logs on once a week to record the team's accomplishments. Teams can be made up of co-workers, friends, families, and neighbors. Last season, groups of employees formed teams to compete against each other inside an office, the staffs of several elementary schools had a serious rivalry, and some teams just wanted to appear at the top of the leader board.

Want to find out more? Log on to [www.WinterFit.org](http://www.WinterFit.org) or call 1-866-OLY-PARKS.

## **JORDANELLE STATE PARK HOSTS TRACKING PROGRAM**

Heber City - Join the park naturalist on the first and third Saturday each month from December 15 through March 15 at the Rock Cliff at Jordanelle State Park from 10 a.m. to noon to learn about animal tracking and animal myths.

Registration is required and group size is limited to 25 people. Snowshoes are available at the park. Day-use fees are \$8 per car, up to eight people. For more information or to register, please call (435) 782-3030 or (435) 649-9540.

## **PREPARE FOR WINTER NOW, YOUTH SNOWMOBILE COURSE AVAILABLE IN JUAB COUNTY**

Utah State Parks and Recreation offers Know Before You Go! snowmobile education course at 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 18 at the USU Extension Office in the Juab County Building. Students must pre-register for this class.

According to Yuba State Park Assistant Manager Chris Evans, youth age eight to 16 are required by state law to take a safety class prior to operating snowmobiles on public lands or trails. To pre-register or for more information about Utah off-highway vehicle programs, please call 1-800-648-7433 (1-800-OHV-RIDE).

## **UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS**

December 20 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding

Luminaries at the Edge: Enjoy the magical glow of more than one thousand candle lights illuminating the walkways and Pueblo walls from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. (435) 678-2238

December 28 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Delve into the deep ecology of Great Salt Lake with the park naturalist. Learn about the unique inhabitants of the lake and all the life that depends on Great Salt Lake's ecosystem for their survival. Participants should meet at the visitor center at 2 p.m. (801) 721-9569

## See hundreds of wild elk

HYRUM — You can take a sleigh ride that will put you in the middle of as many as 600 wild elk.



Horse-drawn sleigh rides take visitors among the elk herd that feeds in the ranch's large, snow-covered meadow.

*Photo by Marni Lee*

The rides are available five days a week at the Hardware Ranch Wildlife Management Area.

Hardware Ranch is 17 miles east of Hyrum. Its winter elk viewing

season began Dec. 13. The WMA offers the following during its winter season:

### Sleigh rides

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Utah's state mammal by taking a sleigh ride through a herd of up to 600 Rocky Mountain elk.

The sleigh rides last 20 to 30 minutes. They wind through the center of the elk herd and make occasional stops so you can get a perfect photograph.

During the rides, the sleigh drivers share the history of the ranch and explain why the elk behave like they do. They're also happy to answer questions you might have.

The sleighs are pulled by a team of large breed draft horses. If snow conditions get poor, the sleighs can be converted into wagons.

### Visitor center

In addition to the sleigh rides, the Hardware Ranch WMA also operates a visitor center. The center has interactive wildlife displays and staff who can answer your questions.

### When it's open

The WMA's winter season should run until March 17. The ranch is open during the following days and times:

Monday: noon to 5 p.m.

Thursday: noon to 5 p.m.

Friday: noon to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: noon to 5 p.m.

If you want to take a ride through the elk herd, you must

buy a ticket at the visitor center before 4:30 p.m. The last sleigh ride leaves at 4:30 p.m.



The sleigh rides cost \$5 for those nine years of age and older, and \$3 for those four to eight years old. Children three years of age and younger can ride for free.

### **How to get there**

The Hardware Ranch WMA is located at mile marker 22 on SR-101 in Blacksmith Fork Canyon. The ranch is about 115 miles north of Salt Lake City (about a two-hour drive). It's about 17 miles east of Hyrum and 22 miles southeast of Logan.

Good lodging, food and entertainment are readily available in Cache Valley, within 45 minutes of the ranch. The roads up Blacksmith Fork Canyon are usually plowed and sanded by noon each day.

For more information about the Hardware Ranch WMA, call (435) 753-6206 or visit [hardwareranch.com](http://hardwareranch.com) on the Web.

Hardware Ranch is a wildlife management area owned and operated by the Division of Wildlife Resources. It provides important big game winter range for elk, deer and moose.

## **Northern Region Fishing Report**

**BEAR LAKE:** Surface water temperature at Bear Lake is 43° F and the boat ramps at Cisco Beach and the Bear Lake State Park Marina are open. For real-time weather (wind speed, water temp, air temp, lake elevation) see [bearlakewatch.com](http://bearlakewatch.com). The Bonneville whitefish spawn is underway and limit catches are common. The fishing yesterday at Cisco Beach was great. We anchored in about 12 feet of water and cast our 1/8 tube jigs (red and black were the best colors) toward shore and retrieved them right along the bottom. We tipped our tubes with about a one inch piece of night crawler which really seemed to make a difference. The whitefish are spawning over rocky areas along the shoreline in 3 to 15 feet of water.

There have been fish caught off the Utah State Park marina and off the North and South Eden deltas in addition to Cisco Beach. The fish are averaging about 1.5 to 2.5 lbs, but can grow to upwards of 3 lbs. The fishing should continue to be red hot for the next two weeks and then begin tapering off just before Christmas. Several different lures will work, but small jigs with twister tails, marabou or tube jigs all work well. You can also try casting small spinners in the #0-#1 sizes as well as small spoons.

The whitefish can hit hard, but often it is a very subtle hit. If you are not catching fish or snagging up on the rocks, then chances are you are not fishing close enough to the bottom. While fishing for the whitefish we picked up a couple of nice sized (3 to 4 lb.) cutthroat trout. Don't be surprised to catch a lake trout either. At this time of year all the different fish can be in the same location. A popular thing to do is fish shallow for the whitefish and after you catch what you want to keep, try moving slightly deeper 30 to 50 feet of water and jig with larger jigs tipped with cisco for cutts and lakers.

Trolling at this time of the year also can work well on certain days. Try rapala-type lures or flatfish on downriggers in the same areas as mentioned above. Remember a Utah license is valid on the Idaho side of Bear Lake, but you may NOT use a second pole when fishing on the Idaho side of the lake. Idaho license holders are only able to use one fishing pole on either side of the lake this year. For those interested the GPS coordinates for the new rockpiles using WGS84 datum going from south to north are: 41 degrees 58.097 minutes; 111 degrees 23.682 minutes;

41 degrees 58.187 minutes; 111 degrees 23.728 minutes; 41 degrees 58.292 minutes; 111 degrees 23.765 minutes; 41 degrees 58.418 minutes; 111 degrees 23.798 minutes. Report courtesy of Scott Tolentino.

**BLACKSMITH FORK RIVER:** The river gets very little fishing pressure this time of year, even on weekends. On Saturday December 8, there was only one angler on the 14-mile stretch of river between the mouth of the canyon and Hardware Ranch—it might be the least fished blue ribbon trout stream in the state. There are nice mountain whitefish in this river that are great when smoked. Try using chamois caddis pattern.

NOTE: Hardware Ranch opens December 13. "If you can't make it to the North Pole to see Santa's reindeer, come on up to Hardware Ranch to see their cousins," says Marni Lee, Assistant Manager and Education Program Director at Hardware Ranch. The recent storms have brought nearly six inches of new snow to the ranch and elk are moving in daily.

The horses have been training for weeks and anxiously await the chance to pull the sleighs—pulling is truly what these animals live for and they love to do it. The "two horse open sleigh" rides at Hardware Ranch to see wintering Rocky Mountain elk operate Thursday through Monday (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). These rides are truly one of Utah's greatest wildlife traditions.

Come To Hardware Ranch—Oh What Fun It Is To Ride!!!

[www.hardware ranch.com](http://www.hardware ranch.com)

**HYRUM RESERVOIR:** No ice and no fishing activity on December 11.

**LOGAN RIVER:** The spawning season is just about over, and the fish are moving off to deeper water. Many spawning beds can still be seen throughout the stream, but there are few or no fish in them. Egg patterns are still generating success, but not as rapidly as they were a week ago. Try to fish longer leader between your nymph and your strike indicator to allow for the fly to get closer to the bottom. Target areas which are about one to two feet deep with slow to moderate current. Other flies that have been working are #12-16 Copper Johns and Hares Ears. No dry fly action was observed—way too cold! The temperatures up the Logan Canyon are extremely cold, so if you do head out come prepared. Report is courtesy of Pavlik Krasnov of [Western Trout Flies](#).

**MANTUA RESERVOIR:** Forty percent of the reservoir was covered with ice on December 11.

**PINEVIEW RESERVOIR:** Ice was forming in the bays and around the boat launch on December 11. Just a few days before that, there was quite a bit more pressure. Water temp was 39° F and the level is still on the rise. The anglers in the narrows were experiencing fast action for panfish vertical jigging over deep water. Any fish brought up from that deep should probably be kept. There was a bald eagle taking advantage of specimens succumbing to handling mortality though; so they're not exactly going to waste. Muskie are still hitting on occasion.

**WEBER RIVER:** Rarely anyone fishes the part of the river on the west side of Ogden. An angler interviewed on December 7 said that he had just caught three small browns on a panther martin and that he had caught a 17-inch brown trout the day before. The part of the Weber and Ogden River that runs through town was recently called a "putrid conveyance of waste" by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as he toured the area in hope of raising awareness to clean it up and make it an asset to the Ogden area. Truly, this part of the Ogden and Weber Rivers could use all the help it can get. If you are interested in these great river systems, contact Ogden City Officials and ask them what you can do to help.

### **The HSUS and The Utah Domestic Violence Council Meet to Discuss Utah Felony Animal Cruelty Penalties**

SALT LAKE CITY (Dec. 13, 2007) – The Utah Domestic Violence Council and The Humane Society of the United States sponsored a coalition-building meeting in Salt Lake City today to generate support for felony animal cruelty legislation and to develop a strategy to support such legislation in Utah's 2008 legislative session.

Members from a wide range of communities—police chiefs, prosecutors, state government officials, social workers, counselors, therapists, animal control officers, psychologists and domestic violence counselors —came together to discuss the need for stronger animal cruelty penalties. While 43 states make egregious acts of animal cruelty a felony, Utah is one of only seven states with only misdemeanor penalties for animal cruelty.

"UDVC is pleased to partner with The Humane Society of the United States to facilitate a dialogue about the intersection between animal cruelty and domestic violence," said Judy Kasten Bell, executive director of UDVC. "Domestic violence shelters in Utah often work with animal shelters so that victims of domestic violence will also have a safe place for their pets. Effective animal cruelty legislation would help protect animals and our communities."

Mary Lou Randour, a psychologist with The HSUS agreed: “Perpetrators of human violence often use beloved family pets as yet another means of intimidation and control, and research shows that people who abuse animals are more likely to commit acts of human violence in the future. Strong laws against animal cruelty are critical in stopping the cycle of violence.”

Frank R. Ascione, professor of psychology at Utah State University and expert on the link between animal cruelty and human violence, also attended the meeting. “There has been a recent resurgence of interest in the relation between cruelty to animals and serious violent behavior, especially among youthful offenders,” Ascione said. “Addressing cruelty to animals as a significant form of aggressive and antisocial behavior may add one more piece to the puzzle of understanding and preventing youth violence. “

The coalition expects animal cruelty legislation to be introduced when the Utah Legislature convenes in January.

## **DON'T WAIT TO JOIN DEDICATED HUNTER PROGRAM**

*Applications accepted starting Jan. 2*

If you've been thinking about joining Utah's Dedicated Hunter program, you may not want to think much longer.



The program is almost full.

Ten thousand hunters are allowed in the program. Right now the program is only 2,900 spots away from that cap. The remaining spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

"You can apply for the program starting Jan. 2," says Jill West, coordinator of volunteers for the Division of Wildlife Resources. "The spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. I'm certain

all of them will be taken this year.

"If you're interested in joining, I'd encourage you to apply as close to Jan. 2 as

possible."

### **Extra deer hunting**

Those who join the Dedicated Hunter program can hunt all three general deer hunting seasons in the region of their choice. In return, they must pay a program fee and spend time helping on wildlife conservation projects.

More information about the program is available at [wildlife.utah.gov/dh](http://wildlife.utah.gov/dh).

### **Application materials available online**

To join the three-year program, you must complete an online wildlife conservation course and submit your application online. The DWR is not accepting mailed-in paper applications this year.

You can complete the course and submit your application at [wildlife.utah.gov/dh](http://wildlife.utah.gov/dh).

"If you don't have access to a computer, you can drop by a DWR office and use one of our computers," West says. "We'll be happy to help you any way that we can."

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

### **Historic Preservation Grant Apportioned**

(Washington, D.C.) --- Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne today announced the apportionment of a \$366,352 grant to Central State University in Ohio. The award was made from the Historic Preservation Fund for the period through September 30, 2010.

"I am honored to announce that Central State University, one of our nation's oldest historically black universities, is the recipient of this award from the Historic Preservation Fund," said Kempthorne. "These grants are instrumental in helping to preserve our national heritage."

The matching funds made available to Central State University are in addition to an earlier grant of \$1,109,432; the entire \$1.475 million will be used to assist the university in repairing and preserving historic Emery Hall on its campus. Founded in 1947, Central State University is located in Wilberforce, Ohio.

## **Giving "Green" Has New Meaning This Holiday Season**

*Experiences gifts may be the best way to get people to care about the earth*

Washington DC (December 13, 2007) - More consumers are interested in environmentally conscious gift-giving, as the selection and quality of green gifts have improved and awareness has grown. According to a recent survey by Opinion Research Corp, about 58% of Americans are interested in receiving a green gift this year.

Giving a non-material gift is an increasingly popular way to be earth-friendly, especially as many people complain that they already have too much "stuff." An innovative idea is to give life experiences, which promote an appreciation for our environment while leaving a minimal footprint. John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, observed that getting people to experience the environment was the best way to get them to care about the environment.

Excitations, a premier gifting company, has embraced this philosophy by offering hundreds of experiences that appeal to environmentally conscious consumers who want to give meaningful and memorable holiday gifts this year. Some of the popular experiences from Excitations "Green Gift" category include: kayaking and snorkeling guided tour, science under sail, wolf watch experience, rock climbing, walking photo safari, a dog musher adventure, and a llama lunch trek for kids.

"Giving a gift – one way of connecting to people -- is also an opportunity to connect to our planet," said Kim AuBuchon, COO of Excitations. "What better way to make your green values known – and to share them with others – than by presenting earth-friendly gifts to friends and family?"

Other earth-friendly ideas from Excitations to consider for your holiday shopping:

- Save gas and reduce your carbon footprint by ordering experience gifts online at [www.excitations.com](http://www.excitations.com)
- Give gifts in reusable packaging, like Excitations distinctive red keepsake box, and eliminate extra waste in our landfills
- Send your experience gift electronically with our Experience E-Card - eliminating waste, reducing carbon, and meeting your last minute shopping needs!

## Snowkiting Eveng a big Success



Over 50 minds, representing the core of North American Snowkiting, gathered at Skyline in early December for the inaugural Snowkite Summit. A wide variety of topics brought the community into unison, with a perspective on where the sport has been and the potential for where Snowkiting is going. The exchange of information opened many

new doors, leading to the creation of an American based Snowkite Association, a dedicated Snowkite magazine and a snow specific Instructional program to help grow the sport safely.

Hosted by Windzup and largely supported by Ozone Snowkites, the Snowkite Summit offered free lodging at the Wind Walker Ranch to invited guests and provided a common ground for all those attending. Guest speakers included Ozone founders Matt Taggart and Rob Whittall, Kite-Mountaineer Andrew McLean, Avalanche Forecaster Max Forgensia, and backcountry pioneers Noah Poritz, Ken Lucas & Brian Schenck.

Their words were inspiring and educational and tapped into the wide realm of Snowkiting that is unfolding before us all.

Coming from over 20

different states and 2 countries were dozens of Kite Retailers, Snowkite Schools & Instructors along with representatives from Kiteboarding, Kiteworld and Drift



magazines. A special hot Gumbo meal was prepared on the mountain by Loren 'the Ragin Cajun' Cox, and many souls were rescued from the deep powder by slednecks Chris Nester, Matt Dadum and Dave Hanning, who also manned the avalanche beacon garden all weekend.

Thank you to everyone who made this experience amazing. It is always special when the tribe gets together. We are looking forward to the next gathering.

### **Central Region Fishing Report**

**AMERICAN FORK RIVER:** (Dec 12) Some nice new fishing holes created at the newly-decommissioned power plant (brown trout seen in the newly-constructed clear pools of water). Light fishing pressure and fair success.

**BURRASTON POND:** (Dec 12) Slow to fair fishing success using traditional baits and lures.

**DEER CREEK RESERVOIR:** (Dec 12) Shoreline fishing success was considered by using baits. Worm/marshmallow combination or PowerBait is still best bait combination. Fishing pressure is very light. State Park Ranger reports that boat ramps are closed but at the Island ramp it is "launch at your own risk" launching is discouraged due to vehicles getting stuck. Call State Park for boat launching information at (435) 654-0171. Although bass fishing success is very slow right now, remember that the bass limit is six, but immediately release all bass over 12 inches long. Walleye limit was increased this year to 10 but only one over 24 inches may be kept.

**DIAMOND FORK RIVER:** (Dec 12) Light fishing pressure and slow to fair success by using flies, worms or lures. The closed area above three forks will open up to angling on January 1st.

**HOBBLE CREEK & CATCH BASIN:** (Dec 12) Few anglers fishing Hobble Creek this week but several fish were seen in the river. Catch basin is starting to fill up again but no fish will be stocked until next year (although a few rising fish were seen on the surface this week).

**JORDANELLE RESERVOIR:** (Dec 12) State park staff report very little ice and launching is still possible. Main docks have been pulled but temporary dock remains to help anglers load their boats it will be pulled when ramps get iced in. Few boat anglers seen today. Ranger reports good success for perch and rainbow

trout with an occasional brown trout being caught. Bass limit is six, but immediately release all bass over 12 inches long.

**MILL HOLLOW:** Drained! No fishing until 2009.

**PAYSON LAKE:** (Dec 12) Gate to Payson Canyon (Nebo Loop) is now locked therefore, no access to the lakes.



**PROVO RIVER:** (Dec 12) Brown trout spawn has ended but fishing is still considered fair to good by using small nymphs or glo bugs (egg imitations). Read the fishing proclamation for the different regulations on the river some areas allow bait and others do not. Size restrictions and reduced limits ("two brown trout under 15 inches") are in place in some stretches.

**SALEM POND:** (Dec 12) Slow success for trout, catfish and bass. The park is closed to at 10 p.m. each night. Remember that regulations include: limit is four

fish (Daily bag and possession limit is a total of four fish in the aggregate for all species, for example: one trout, two channel catfish and one bluegill.

**SALT LAKE WATERS:** (Dec 12) Most urban pond anglers report light pressure and fair fishing success.

**SPANISH OAKS RESERVOIR:** (Dec 12) Gate closed and City states that it's closed for the season.

**SPRING LAKE:** (Dec 12) Slow success for trout and catfish.

**STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR:** (Dec 12) Boat docks have been pulled for the season, making launching and loading a little difficult. Biologist Justin Robinson reports, "It's the time when everyone wants ice updates, so here goes: No safe ice yet! Mud Creek is the only bay with any ice, and it is only one fourth frozen and about two inches thick, at best — give it more time. The fishing is still good for hardy folk who are willing to pack to the shore or use float tubes or pontoon boats. Lots are being plowed at Chicken Creek and into the lodge at Strawberry. Mud Creek is accessible only with a 4x4 only right now, but, with luck, the plow will get in there soon. Fishing was fairly good. One report from a tube on Mud Creek last Saturday said six nice fish were caught on tubes during the blizzard." Regulations for the reservoir include an aggregate limit of four trout or kokanee salmon. No more than two of which may be cutthroat trout under 15 inches and no more than one may be a cutthroat over 22 inches long. Immediately release all cutthroat between 15 and 22 inches (consider any trout with cutthroat markings to be a cutthroat). Don't feel compelled to harvest fish on every trip. Please do your part to ensure the future of this heavily utilized fishery by voluntarily releasing fish.

**THISTLE CREEK:** (Dec 12) Low Pressure, with fair success.

**TIBBLE FORK RESERVOIR:** (Dec 12) Snowy around the reservoir and no safe ice. Slow to fair success in the open water areas by using traditional baits.

**UTAH LAKE:** (Dec 12) No significant ice forming yet. Slow fishing for all species. Walleye limit is 10, but only one may be over 24 inches. There is no limit on white bass. Largemouth and smallmouth bass limit is six, but immediately release all largemouth and smallmouth bass over 12 inches long. For more information on conditions call Utah Lake State Park at (801) 375-0731.

**VERNON, GRANSTVILLE & SETTLEMENT CANYON RESERVOIR:** (Tooele Co.) (Dec 12) Slow to fair fishing success at Vernon, Grantsville and Settlement Reservoirs.

**YUBA RESERVOIR:** (Dec 12) No anglers seen today and State Park staff report no significant ice and anticipate slow success for all species. Slow success for walleye, northern pike and trout. Perch must be immediately released but new regulations on perch take place January 1, which will allow anglers to keep 10 perch. For more info call the State Park at (435) 758-2611.

**PARK CITY MOUNTAIN RESORT'S HOLIDAY FAMILY EVENTS**  
*Celebrate the Holidays with the Park City Mountain Resort Team*

*Park City, Utah* (December 12, 2007) – Park City Mountain Resort celebrates the holidays with events in December for all to enjoy.

“Our holiday activities have become a real Park City tradition with the local community and visiting guests alike,” said Krista Parry, director of marketing and communications for Park City Mountain Resort. “There’s certainly a magic in the air this time of year and we’re happy to share in the holiday spirit.”

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Park City Mountain Resort welcomes Santa Claus into Park City as he and his reindeer descend Town Lift from the top of the mountain. Guests are welcome to arrive around 5 p.m. to enjoy hot cocoa and snacks. Santa and his reindeer fly their sled full of goodies onto the Town Lift plaza around 6:15 p.m. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, look for Santa Claus skiing around the mountain during the day and handing out treats. Just after sunset, enjoy holiday music and treats on the Resort Plaza and then watch as Santa leads the Resort’s Ski and Snowboard School gracefully down PayDay run with torch lights during the traditional torch light parade. All holiday activities are complimentary.

In addition to the Resort’s holiday activities, Park City Mountain Resort is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will commemorate the event with free birthday cake in all of its on-mountain restaurants on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. As well, the Resort will honor its 45<sup>th</sup> winter season and mining past with complimentary Historic Mining Tours provided by mountain host historians at 11 a.m. daily on skis and snowboard. The Historic Mining Tours, which meet at the Summit Demo Center, provide a unique way to learn the town’s history and its influence in starting the Park City ski industry.

## **BRC ACTION ALERT**

### **ISSUE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED**

"A Wilderness Study Area by any other name... still stinks!"

Dear BRC Action Alert Subscriber,

The Bureau of Land Management in Utah is **Ground Zero** for an epic land use battle that could close tens of millions of acres of BLM lands across the West.

The issue concerns the question of whether or not the BLM can create millions of acres of NEW Wilderness Study Areas across the West.

There will be a series of key public comment periods regarding this issue, but perhaps one of the most important deadlines is **THIS THURSDAY**, December 13, 2007. That is the deadline for the Price Field Office's Resource Management Plan revision.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

This issue extends beyond Utah BLM lands. Utah is Ground Zero on an effort to change the law to allow for an ongoing, never ending expansion of Wilderness Study Areas across all BLM lands.

Fortunately for you, dear BRC Action Alert subscriber, making effective comments on this issue is extremely easy. There are four simple comments below that you need to make. Simply cut and paste these into an email and click send.

As always, if you have any questions or need any help, please call.

Brian Hawthorne 208-237-1008 ext 102  
Ric Foster 208-237-1008 ext 107  
BlueRibbon Coalition Public Lands Department

#### **SITUATION:**

In a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Utah BLM's Price Field Office is proposing to designate somewhere in the neighborhood of one million acres of new Wilderness Study Areas. "Isn't that illegal?" You ask? Yes, it is, but BLM says it's legal because these WSAs aren't "WSAs," they are actually

"Non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics." But you asks; "aren't they managed the same as WSAs?" Exactly!

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**

Send the BLM a quick email with the four comments below.

Send your email comment letter to:

Bureau of Land Management, Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah, 84501

E-Mail: [UT\\_Pr\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:UT_Pr_Comments@blm.gov)

**IMPORTANT:** Put "Comments on Price RMP SEIS" in the subject line and be certain to include your name and address. A return email address is NOT sufficient! (BLM often discards "anonymous" email comments.)

Dear Price BLM,

I would like to make the following comments on the Price Field Office SEIS:

- 1) I believe the BLM is establishing new WSAs without the authority to do so. Calling a new WSA by a different name does not make it legal.
- 2) Please disclose the difference in management prescriptions between "non WSA lands with wilderness characteristics" and WSAs in the FEIS.
- 3) The 1999 inventory found lands that contain extensive OHV trails to have "wilderness characteristics." If the presence of OHV use did not impact the presence or absence of "wilderness characteristics," then by what rationale is the BLM proposing to significantly reduce OHV trails in these areas?
- 4) The SEIS is utilizing the Utah BLM 1999 statewide wilderness re-inventory. This inventory was based on criteria that were not available for public comment and review. As an OHV user who will be directly affected by your decision, regulations say I should have a chance to review and comment on such criteria.

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

## **MORE INFO:**

BRC's Utah RMP Website:

[http://www.sharetrails.org/public\\_lands/?section=MoabUpdate](http://www.sharetrails.org/public_lands/?section=MoabUpdate)

Price BLM Website: <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/planning.html>

## **Big game transplants**

*A chance for "hands-on" management!*

Every year, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and its partners devote large amounts of time, money and effort to capturing and moving big game.

It's a worthwhile investment because these majestic animals are an important part of Utah's natural heritage.



The UDWR is committed to ensuring that healthy, abundant populations of big game animals are maintained in the state.

These animals enhance the quality of life that Utahns and visitors to our state enjoy.

By capturing and moving a small group of big game animals into habitat that's unoccupied, a new and thriving population can be created very

quickly, often within a span of five to 10 years.

This process of moving big game animals is called a big game transplant.

Increasing the distribution of wildlife in Utah is part of the Division of Wildlife Resources' mission. Through its aggressive transplant program, the UDWR has been very successful in fulfilling this charge.

## **Lots of work, but it's worth it!**

On the surface, transplants might seem simple. But in reality, they're very complex and involve a lot of research and planning.

In Utah, an extensive checklist of requirements is completed before we ever start the fieldwork needed to capture big game. We identify sites that will provide the new populations with the best chance to survive and grow, and that will reduce the possibility of conflicts with other land uses.

These big game transplants result in more opportunities to view and hunt big game across Utah. Almost all of the elk, pronghorn, mountain goat and bighorn

sheep populations found in Utah today are the result of transplants that have taken place during the last century.

As Utah was settled, almost all of the state's big game animals became scarce. Some species succumbed to changes in their habitat. Others died because of exposure to livestock-borne disease. Unregulated hunting also took a toll. Bison disappeared from Utah, and elk and bighorn sheep were eradicated across most of the state's mountain ranges.

Over time, the situation improved. Better management of rangelands, livestock husbandry and strict control over hunting helped big game populations grow. Now there are enough animals that we're able to return many of these species to their original ranges. The Henry Mountains bison herd is an example. The herd now consists of a few hundred animals and is one of only four free-ranging bison herds on public land in the country. The herd owes its new beginnings to a transplant of 18 animals purchased from Yellowstone National Park in 1941.

## **Southeastern Region Fishing Report**

**HUNTINGTON NORTH STATE PARK:** State Park Manager Dan Richards reports two or three inches of layered ice, but suggests that anglers wait until the ice thickens.

**HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR:** (also known as Mammoth Reservoir) The ice is more than six inches thick and topped with slush and snow.



Aquatics Manager Paul Birdsey says that December is always the best month to fish the reservoir. The ice isn't too thick and the catch rate is typically high. Earlier this month, Huntington resident Kevin Phillips hauled a six-pound tiger trout through the ice, although most tigers range from 12 to 18 inches.

Good fishing continues. The best tackle is an ice fly tipped with bait, such as reidside shiner, wax or mealworm or nightcrawler.

**LAKE POWELL:** Visit [www.wayneswords.com](http://www.wayneswords.com) for the fishing report, provided by Wayne Gustaveson, DWR project leader.

**MILLSITE RESERVOIR:** As of Monday, State Park Manager Dan Richards indicated that the reservoir was still open with ice forming around the edges.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY:** Sergeant J. Shirley reported very good fishing at Kens Lake and Blanding #4 Reservoir. Conservation Officer TJ Robertson recommends PowerBait or salmon eggs at Kens.

**SCOFIELD RESERVOIR:** Fishing success has ranged widely, but has typically been good. The ice is six to eight inches thick with a covering of slush and snow. State Park Manager Dan Richards will be hosting an ice fishing tournament on December 29 and urges interested anglers to call (435) 687-2491 for registration details. On Monday, Jim Beason reported slow fishing on the east side, but using an underwater viewer, saw a lot of trout. They just weren't biting. Conservation Officer Mike Milburn reported good fishing last weekend. He recommends a Stinger or silver Kastmaster as attractors, 10 to 12 inches of leader, and a small ice fly tipped with a piece of nightcrawler. Lieutenant Carl Gramlich fished this past week and described fishing success as fair to good. He recommends a chartreuse jig and worm.

### *Air-X and Air Breeze Achieve CSA Certification*

**The land versions of Air Breeze Land and Air-X small wind turbines received certification from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) on November 28, 2007 for electrical safety.**

Meeting the rigorous CSA standards ensures consumers that the Air Breeze is safe product. Certification is required for installation of all electrical devices including small wind generators in Canada and some areas of the United States. "Achieving certification serves as a benchmark to other small wind manufacturers and elevates the quality of products in this growing industry" says Andy Kruse, Vice President of Business Development of Southwest Windpower.

Air Breeze is the newest generation of Air wind turbines. Flagstaff, Arizona based Southwest Windpower has produced over 100,000 Air turbines, which can be found in some 120 countries making Air the most popular small wind turbine on the market. Air is commonly used to work in conjunction with solar photovoltaic panels to supply small amounts of electricity for applications such as remote homes, sailboats, telecom sites, offshore platforms and water pumping.

[CSA Certificate - Air X](#)

[CSA Certificate - Air Breeze](#)

## Ogden Nature Center Events in January scheduled

The Ogden Nature Center announces their line-up of nature-based classes for January, 2008. To register for classes or for more information, please call 801-621-7595 or visit [www.ogdennaturecenter.org](http://www.ogdennaturecenter.org). The Ogden Nature Center is located at 966 W. 12th Street, Ogden, UT 84403.

### JANUARY CLASSES

Writing Nonfiction -- Nature Writers Series

Tuesday, Jan. 8 / 5:30 7 pm For adults

\$5/members, \$6/non-members

Learn the basics of nonfiction writing with an emphasis on nature. Taught by teacher/naturalists William Pollett & Susan Snyder. Please call to pre-register by Monday, Jan. 7.

Bluehead Sucker on the Weber River -- About Utah Series



Thursday, Jan. 10 / 6 7 pm For adults and children  
8+

\$5/members, \$6/non-members

Aaron Webber, an aquatic biologist with the Division of Wildlife Resources will present slides and information about bluehead sucker on the Weber River. A recent genetic study finds the bluehead sucker to be a unique species that could be added to the threatened species list in the next 20 years. Learn about these locally significant findings and about this unique fish. Please call to pre-register by Tuesday, Jan. 8.

Nature Photography in the New Year -- Nature's Mediums Series

Saturday, January 12 / 9:30 11:30 am For adults

\$5 for members, \$6 for nonmembers

This will be a hands-on photography class. Learn the basics of nature photography, then go outdoors and take photos. The pictures will be downloaded to a computer and shared with the group. Bring a digital camera with a memory card. Buz has 35 years of experience with losing cameras, lens caps, and other miscellaneous equipment, and in the process taking some fantastic pictures. You'll love this hands-on class.

Instructor: Buz Marthaler

Please call to pre-register by Thursday, January 10.

Sock Snowman -- Children's Craft Workshop

Saturday, January 26 / 10:30 am

\$10 for members / \$12 for nonmembers

Ages 6+

Build a sock snowman filled with birdseed and decorated with a scarf and carrot nose. All materials provided. Please call to pre-register by Thursday, January 24.

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Starry Starry Nights

Bring your little ones (ages 3-5) out for Ogden Nature Center's Preschool Discovery Days. Children will get to know the night-time canopy. Explore the moon, stars, planets, galaxies, comets and more. Hear tales of the night sky and enjoy a midnight snack. There are several times to choose from:

Mon., Jan. 28: 9:30 am, 11 am or 1 pm

Weds., Feb. 13: 9:30 am, 11 am

Thurs., Feb. 21: 9:30 am, 11 am or 1 pm

Programs are 1 hour. \$3 per child / adult chaperones are free. Space is limited. Please call to pre-register.

## ONGOING

Wildlife Wednesdays

Every Wednesday / 3:30 pm For all ages

Members are free, Adults/\$3, Children/\$1.25

Slithering snakes, hooting owls, awesome eagles, desert tortoises, tarantulas and more. Meet a different animal up-close each week and learn about their behavior, habitat, diet, unique characteristics and more. Drop-ins welcome. No registration required.

## **DNR Reaction to Governor's Proposed Budget**

Salt Lake City, Utah -- "Overall, we're pleased." That is the sentiment from the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to Governor Huntsman's proposed state budget. "The Governor's budget shows strong support for public employees," said DNR Executive Director Mike Styler. "That is the most pleasing aspect of the budget to us."

The DNR budget, which is approximately \$170 million, includes one-time funding for important projects like state parks renovations and monitoring wells in the Snake Valley. It also includes new, on-going funding for the fight against Quagga mussels, an invasive, non-native, aquatic species that has established colonies in

lakes in neighboring states, and threatens to move into Utah. There is also money to cover the cost of fighting the devastating wild land fires from last summer, and funding to help the Division of Water Rights with a backlog in adjudication. "The scarcity of water is driving up the price of water, which is putting extreme pressure on the Water Rights office," said Styler.

## **Major Storm Pounds Utah's Mountains**

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH- A major winter storm hit Utah's mountains this weekend blanketing ski resorts with as much as thirty inches of snow. A pacific storm brought a steady stream of snowfall starting on Thursday which has lasted throughout the weekend. Weather forecasts are calling for additional snow as the weekend wraps up. Skiers and snowboarders have flocked to the slopes to enjoy the new powder snow. The storm has had a very positive effect on Utah ski resort conditions just in time for the holidays.

Utah is home to 13 world-class ski resorts. Five of Utah's resorts ranked in the Top Ten for "Best Snow" according to the readers of SKI Magazine in the publications 2007 survey. More information on Utah's resorts, or skiing and snowboarding in Utah can be found at [www.skiutah.com](http://www.skiutah.com).

## **Alert for all Recreational Boaters**

Your voice will count! We need your help NOW!

Please take time to review this alert and act today! We need to make sure the Recreational Boating Act of 2007 is passed quickly. Without this federal legislation, you will need to apply for and pay a discharge permit to legally operate each of your recreational boats, starting September 30th, 2008.

BlueRibbon has been working with other boating groups to pass this legislation, which will eliminate (for recreational boats only) the new court-imposed EPA permit. We know that boating depends on clean water and healthy natural resources. However, a boat permit will not create a tangible environmental benefit, and it will be another inconvenience and tax for you.

Please take a few minutes and contact your Representative and two Senators at the federal level using the link below. We need them to support and co-sponsor "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007" (House Bill #2550 and Senate Bill #2067).

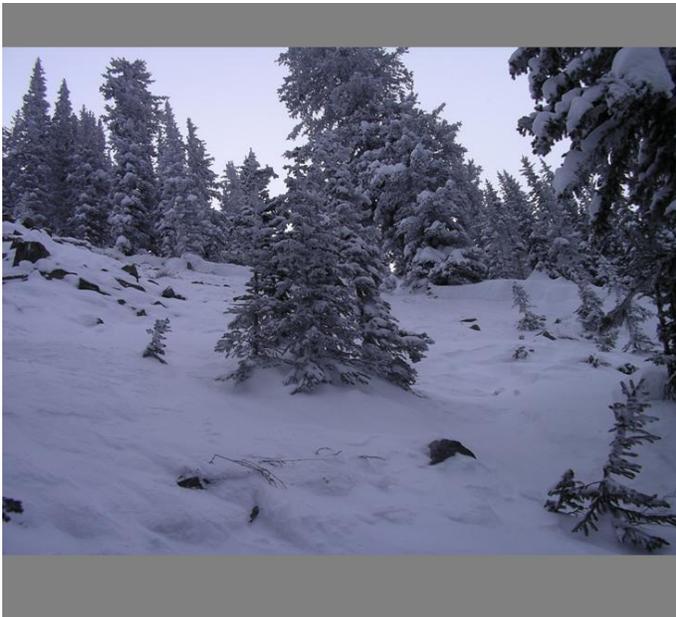
It is important to note that all current environmental restrictions on the overboard discharge of oil, fuel, garbage, and sewage still stand, and will not be altered by this legislation.

For more background information and to contact your Representative and Senators, please go to the website [www.boatblue.org](http://www.boatblue.org).

Thanks in advance for contacting your congressional delegation!

Jack Welch, President

### **Avalanche Conditions cause concern in Backcountry**



**Pioneer Peak  
ridgeline incident,  
12-13-07**

**Two snowboarders  
caught, one carried  
and partially buried.**

**Looking up at the  
starting zone. Person  
caught had a long,  
rocky, rough ride,  
including several  
bands of trees. They  
were mostly buried,  
with their head near  
the surface and one  
hand free.**

Salt Lake City  
December 7,  
2007 – Early  
snowfall in the  
Salt Lake  
Mountains has  
created an  
unstable snow  
pack at many  
upper elevation  
mountain  
locations.  
Combine the  
weak  
underlying

snow with a large amount of new snow expected Friday through Saturday and we have just the recipe for dangerous avalanches.

The “Fresh Snow Starved” Salt Lake population will no doubt be eager to get up into the mountains to recreate this weekend. We are urging people to use caution. The Avalanche danger will be on the rise and may reach a HIGH avalanche danger by Saturday morning. An Avalanche Watch has been issued for the mountains near Ogden, Salt Lake, Park City, Provo, and the Western Uinta Mountains.

Avalanche information is available by calling toll free 1 888 999 4019 or on the internet at <http://utahavalanchecenter.com> .

### **UTAH’S GASOLINE PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE**

*AAA Reports Utah One of Only 11 States to See Increases*

SALT LAKE CITY, December 11, 2007 – Despite dropping oil prices, the latest report from AAA Utah finds that Utah’s average price for a gallon of gasoline increased 4 cents from last month. AAA Utah reports only 10 other states experienced increases in their gasoline prices since last month.

Utah’s current average price for regular, self-serve gasoline is \$3.07 a gallon. This is 3 cents higher than the average in last month’s report on November 13, and 79 cents higher than a year ago. According to AAA Utah, which tracks gasoline prices as a service to the consumer, 13 states have prices higher than Utah.

“The price of oil has dropped from its high mark of just over \$98 a barrel to under the \$88 mark in the past several weeks,” said Rolayne Fairclough, AAA Utah spokesperson. “This drop has translated into lower prices for gasoline throughout most of the country.”

The movement in the price of oil and gasoline has been more closely linked than usual to the condition of world financial markets and the value of the dollar, as much as it has been to the normal influences of supply and demand. In the past two weeks conditions have improved to somewhat stabilize the dollar, although it is still weak against the Euro, pound sterling and Canadian dollar. This is important because oil is priced and sold in dollars, and sellers want to make sure they do not lose purchasing power when their dollars are converted back to their countries’ currency.

The national average price is \$3 a gallon. This is 11 cents lower than last month’s average and 71 cents higher than a year ago. Hawaii has the highest price at \$3.43 a gallon. Missouri has the lowest price, \$2.76. Thirty-eight states reported lower average prices than a month ago, 11 have higher prices, and one state’s price remained the same.

Prices for regular, self-serve in the Intermountain states decreased with the exception of Idaho. Idaho’s current average price is \$3.11, a 2-cent increase from last month. Montana’s price dropped 4 cents to the current average price of \$3.14. Wyoming’s price also dropped 4 cents. The current average in Wyoming is \$2.99. Colorado’s motorists enjoyed an 18-cent drop from last month. They are now paying an average of \$2.92. Arizona was the only state where the price remained the same. Arizona’s average price continues to be \$2.99 a gallon. Nevada’s price

dropped 2 cents to the current average of \$3.13. California's price dropped 6 cents from last month to the current \$3.33.

All of the Utah cities surveyed by AAA experienced increases in their average gasoline prices. Logan's price jumped 3 cents to \$3.07. Ogden's price increased 9 cents. Ogden's motorists are now paying \$3.07 for a gallon of regular self-serve. Salt Lake City's motorists saw an increase of 4 cents to the current average price of \$3.02. Provo's average price increased 4 cents. The current price in Provo is \$3.05. Vernal's price increased 8 cents to the current average price of \$3.09. Moab's price also increased 8 cents. The current average price in Moab is \$3.19. The motorists in St. George saw prices increase 3 cents this past month. The current average price in St. George is \$3.14.

"Supply and demand is another measure in pricing gasoline," said Fairclough. "There is a trend to flat or slightly lower demand over the past month. This puts a downward pressure on prices since demand usually increases about 2 percent per year as more vehicles are added to the roadways. This drop-off of demand, as reported by the Energy Information Administration and Mastercard, may be a reflection of concern about the state of the economy and gasoline prices over \$3 a gallon."

AAA's Fuel Finder can help motorists shop aggressively for the lowest prices on fuel. Located online at [www.aaa.com/gasprices](http://www.aaa.com/gasprices), the 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 offers a wide array of automotive, travel, insurance, financial services and consumer discounts 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.

**Ogden Nature Center volunteer Jack Rensel receives the 2007 Wasatch Outdoor Volunteer Award**

The staff of REI has selected Ogden Nature Center volunteer, Jack Rensel, as a recipient of the 2007 Wasatch Outdoor Volunteer Award.

This award is presented annually to an outstanding volunteer from an outstanding partner organization, whose mission and programs encourage safe and responsible outdoor recreation or serve to promote conservation and stewardship of outdoor areas. This award was created to draw attention to the ever more crucial role of volunteers in creating a lasting legacy of trails, rivers, and wild lands for generations to come.

A wildlife biologist, Jack retired from the State of Utah as its Director of the Northern Region of the Division of Wildlife Resources, and is past chair of the Ogden Nature Center's board of directors. Jack was chosen as the outstanding volunteer for his huge impact in the field of conservation and stewardship of outdoor areas. Jack has helped guide the Ogden Nature Center for over thirty years.

Jack is actively involved with the Ogden Nature Center's land management committee and is largely responsible for much of the restoration work on Ogden Nature Center property. Jack continually educates the Ogden Nature Center staff with slide shows and talks about Utah birds and wildlife. A skilled photographer, Jack's wildlife photos grace the Ogden Nature Center newsletter and website regularly.

Jack has also been actively involved for the last 26 years with the Wasatch Audubon Society, serving in a variety of leadership positions. Jack leads many field trips for the Wasatch Audubon Society all over the top of Utah.

Congratulations to Jack Rensel for his life-long commitment to environmental stewardship and conservation along the Wasatch Front.

## **IMPROVE YOUR SKIING AND HAVE MORE FUN WITH A DEER VALLEY SPECIALTY PROGRAM**

DEER VALLEY RESORT, PARK CITY, UTAH (December 12, 2007) – Deer Valley Resort's Skier Services offers a great selection of specialty ski programs designed to improve skiers' skills, confidence, knowledge and overall enjoyment of the sport. Whether you're a beginner skier who wants to get the basics down or an accomplished athlete who needs a little brushing up on skills, specialty

programs offer focused attention for all ability levels. Programs offered this season at Deer Valley include:

***Mahre Training Center Ski Camps:*** Deer Valley is pleased to present for the fourth season the Mahre Training Center Ski Camps, hosted by American Olympic medal winners and brothers, Phil and Steve Mahre. Three-day camps are scheduled for December 15 - 17, 2007; January 12 – 14, 2008; and February 1 – 3, 2008. Five-day camps will be held this season from December 10 – 14, 2007, and January 7 – 11, 2008. Class sizes for the clinics are typically between five and

*seven people, ages 12 years and older, for all ability zones. Cost for each clinic is \$650 (including lift tickets) for the three-day camp and \$990 (including lift tickets) for the five-day camp. Participants will receive six hours of daily instruction by*

*Deer Valley's top ski instructors, the chance to ski with Phil and Steve Mahre during the camp, daily lift tickets, evening sessions, the unique Mahre Training*

*Center progression, video and other amenities.*



***Adult Specialty Programs:*** Deer Valley will also continue its highly popular Men's and Women's Adult Specialty Programs this season,

conducted by Deer Valley's top ski instructors.

The programs feature stance, balance and alignment analysis, Dartfish technology video analysis, new equipment demo and a get-acquainted social, as well as multiple hours on the slopes perfecting and enjoying the craft!

One Men's Weekend (all ability zones) is offered this season, February 8 – 10, 2008. The cost is \$470 per person, excluding lift ticket. The Men on Thursdays program (all ability zones) is \$600 per person (excluding lift tickets) and runs five consecutive Thursdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 2008. The Women on Wednesdays program (all ability zones) is \$600 per person (excluding lift tickets) and runs five consecutive Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30, and February 6, 2008. Two Women's Weekends (all ability zones) are offered this season, either

February 8 – 10, 2008, or February 29 – March 2, 2008. The cost is \$470 per person, excluding lift ticket.

***Children's Programs:*** Deer Valley Ski School offers a wide array of children's specialty programs for kids from 3 to 14 years old. Specialty Programs offer children the opportunity to improve their skiing in a fun, safe environment over a two- to six-week period from January through early February.

**The Pre-school Programs** (for children 3 to 5 years old) are offered Mondays/Wednesdays (January 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 and February 4 and 6, 2008) or Tuesdays/Thursdays (January 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 and February 5 and 7, 2008) from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$496 and includes a lift ticket.

**The Friday Afternoon Program** is for children ages 3 to 14 and runs from 1 to 4 p.m. on January 4, 11, 18, 25 and February 1 and 8, 2008, from 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$374 and includes lift ticket.

The **Saturday or Sunday Ski Experience** is for children ages 3 to 14 years and runs Saturdays (January 5, 12, 19, 26 and February 2 and 9, 2008) or Sundays (January 6, 13, 20, 27 and February 3 and 10, 2008) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$599 and includes lift ticket.

Advance reservations are required for all of Deer Valley's specialty programs.

For more information on the amenities and programs offered to Deer Valley guests through Skier Services this season, please visit the Resort Web site at [www.deervalley.com](http://www.deervalley.com)

## **SUMMIT MEADOWS ADVENTURES OPERATED BY DEER VALLEY RESORT NOW OPEN FOR THE 2007/2008 WINTER SEASON**

**WHAT:** Deer Valley operated Summit Meadows Adventures guided snowmobile tours take place on the Garff Ranch, a five-mile, ten-minute drive from Park City's Main Street, located on Brown's Canyon Road off Highway 248. Summit Meadows Adventures has access to 7,000 acres of pristine open lands on which to snowmobile. Beautiful scenic views of the Wasatch mountain range make this an adventure you won't want to miss. Complimentary transportation from Park City is available. For more information or

reservations please call 888-896-7669 or 435-645-7669. Guided tours use single or double capacity machines.

**WHEN:** One, two or three hour guided tours are available daily, conditions permitting.

**COST:** A one-hour guided tour costs \$79 per person, with a passenger rate of \$20. One-hour tours leave daily at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. A two-hour guided tour costs \$109 per person, with a passenger rate of \$25. Two-hour tours depart daily at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. A three-hour guided tour including lunch costs \$129 per person, with a passenger rate of \$35. Lunch tours depart Monday-Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Located on the beautiful Garff Ranch, a five-mile, ten-minute drive from Park City's Historic Main Street.



## **NEW COMMERCIAL BOATING RULES IN UTAH**

Salt Lake -- Beginning January 1, 2008 new Utah boating rules that affect commercial boating, including guides and outfitters, go into effect. These new rules were drafted after several years of research and input, and incorporate the best practices of local outfitting companies, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard.

“Our goal is to continue working with agencies, outfitters, and captains/guides to ensure that commercial boating in Utah maintains a high level of safety,” stated Utah State Parks Boating Coordinator Dave Harris. “We want to encourage and help increase boating opportunities around the state, as well provide standards, education and enforcement ensuring passenger safety for those who put their trust in an outfitting company and a captain or guide to lead them on one of Utah’s

diverse boating adventures.”

Rule changes include:

All entities providing vessels and vessel operators are now considered outfitting companies. Previously, only those providing services on rivers were considered outfitting companies.

Outfitting companies are responsible for the condition of vessels and must carry liability insurance.

The River Guide and Vessel Operator Permit programs have been combined into one Captain/Guide License program with endorsements for specific types of operations.

A crew permit system was developed for company employees considered apprentices or deck hands.

All licenses and permits are valid for a five-year period.

Boat liveries (boat rentals) must register with Utah State Parks.

Liveries are required to display their company name on each rental craft.

On-the-water tow services are now considered outfitting companies and must comply with standards to ensure the safety of passengers and towed boats.

Vessels carrying passengers for hire are required to be inspected for safety equipment and seaworthiness.

For more information on Utah’s commercial boating laws and rules, please visit [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov) or call (801) 538-7361. Utah State Parks is the state boating authority, providing access, education, and search and rescue on Utah’s boating waters.

### **Entangled Elk freed by DWR**

On November 29, two bull elk were discovered about 15 miles NE of Monticello. During combat for breeding rights, their antlers had become entangled and locked. Due to exhaustion, one of the combatants died. The situation was reported to the

DWR.



DWR conservation officers responded to the scene and solved the problem by sawing off one of the antlers from the dead bull elk in order to free the survivor. The action was taken at considerable personal risk for both men. Luckily, the surviving bull was too exhausted to take any aggressive

action against his rescuers.

Photo #1 Bull elk locked up.

Photo #2 Sgt. J. Shirley saws the antler off the dead bull.

The credit for all photos belongs to Tj Robertson



**UPDATED CONDITIONS AND RATES BEGINNING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2007**

**WHAT:** Deer Valley Resort opened for the 2007/2008 season on Saturday, December 8, 2007. Due to recent snowfall and extensive snowmaking capabilities, Deer Valley continues to open lifts and terrain.

**COST:** **Beginning Saturday, December 15, 2007,** Deer Valley's lift ticket rates will be;

		<u>Full Day</u>	<u>Half Day (on sale @ 12:15 p.m.)</u>
Adult	\$73	\$51	
Senior (65 +)		\$52	\$36
Child (12 and under)		\$43	\$35
Tot		\$19	\$12

**LIFTS:** **15 out of 22 lifts open:**

Burns	Judge
Snowflake	Northside Express
Carpenter Express	Quincy Express
Silver Lake Express	Red Cloud
Homestake	Viking
Sterling Express	Wasatch Express
Crown Point	Jordanelle Express Gondola (access only)
Deer Crest	

**WHERE:** Deer Valley Resort, Park City, Utah.

**WARNING:** whirling disease was found in the Northeastern Region, please clean, dry and sterilize waders, live wells and other fishing gear before venturing to another water. Do not clean fish or dump fish parts taken from one water into another lake or stream, this could move whirling disease organisms.

**BIG SAND WASH RESERVOIR:** No new reports but surrounding waters do have ice so its likely there is ice on Sandwash. Check ice thickness carefully as edge ice could be quite thin due to filling. Main access is from the boat ramp.

**BULLOCK / COTTONWOOD RESERVOIRS:** No new reports. Both reservoirs should have ice but check conditions carefully before venturing out. Reservoirs are located approximately five miles north of the town of Gusher.

**BROUGH RESERVOIR:** No new reports on fishing success just that the reservoir has ice. Check ice condition carefully before venturing out. Reservoir is being filled which may make water murky. Note: Special catch and release regulations, please read proclamation. To get to Brough, take State Route 88 south from US Route 40 (Ouray Road). Turn west at the second dirt road past the high power lines. Follow this road approximately two miles staying to the left at each main fork. Road can be quite rutted.

**BROWNIE / SPIRIT LAKE:** No new reports from anglers even though roads are accessible. The area has not received much snow from the recent snowstorms. Lakes are now frozen but no information on ice conditions. Check ice condition carefully before venturing out. Warning: whirling disease has been found in this area. Do not clean fish or dump fish parts taken from one water into another lake or stream, also make sure to clean, dry and sterilize waders, live wells and other fishing gear before venturing to another water. to avoid moving whirling disease.

**CALDER / CROUSE RESERVOIRS:** Reports of good ice fishing prior to the last set of storms. Area has received recent snow so road access is questionable. The new "trophy fishery" regulation for Calder went into effect on January 1, 2007 so baits and scents can not be used while ice fishing.

**CURRENT CREEK RESERVOIR:** Lake is frozen, no reports on fishing conditions. Check ice thickness carefully before venturing out. Area received more snow last week. The roads is usually kept open to the dam.

**EAST PARK / OAKS PARK:** No new reports, access by skis or snowmobile. Reservoirs should be frozen, check ice condition carefully before venturing out.

**FLAMING GORGE:** Good fishing for rainbows, lake trout and kokanee on majority of the reservoir. Utah ramps are open. Ice reported down to about Firehole in Wyoming. Rainbows have moved shallow again in response to cooler water temps. Larger fish can be found feeding on points in 10- to 20-foot water or in inflow areas. Rainbows can be caught from shore using bait and lures in the typical spring locations such as Mustang Ridge, the Visitor Center area, Sheep Creek Bay, Antelope Flat, and most shoreline areas in Wyoming. All Rainbows can also be caught trolling small spoons, pop gear or rapalas in 10 to 20 feet of water. Use long

line technique or planer boards to get lures away from boat. Very nice sized fish are being caught.

Kokanee fishing is open again as of December 1, 2006

Smallmouth fishing is very slow, fishing becomes difficult during fall and winter. Smallmouth typically move deeper in winter and can be found as deep as 60 feet.

Lake trout fishing is fair to excellent depending on location and size of targeted fish. Smaller fish are quite catchable and action has been good. Larger fish have pretty much finished the spawn and are now feeding again making them easier to catch. If boat fishing for lake trout; try trolling bottom structure using down riggers or steel line and flatfish, crank baits, or flashers trailing a lure or minnow for large lake trout. Vertical jigging using tube or bucktail jigs tipped with sucker meat can also be effective for lake trout when they are on the bottom. Long-lining rapalas and other minnow imitation lures a couple hundred feet behind the boat or behind planer boards is a good technique to use to catch large lake trout in the next few weeks. Large fish finish spawning and actively feed near the surface in December. Areas around Linwood Bay are good locations to start. White, brown or chartreuse colored three-inch tube jigs on a 3/16- or 1/4-ounce jig heads tipped with meat can be particularly effective for small lake trout. White tube jigs have been working well the past few weeks. Fish in depths from 50 to 90 feet, also look for suspending fish over deep structure and use your graph to put a jig or lure right in front of them. There are many small- and medium-sized lake trout in Flaming Gorge, so please take advantage of the eight-fish lake trout regulation (one over 28 inches) and harvest a limit. These smaller fish are excellent eating. Fishing is typically best during periods of stable weather and high pressure or just before a front moves in. The current surface temperature in the canyon is 41 to 43° F.

A recent report of ice fishing for burbot in upper Wyoming is fishing has been good and some fish are in the 27- to 30-inch range. Try fishing off the points at night, especially first few hours after sunset as the fish move in from deeper waters. Try working the bottom with jigs tipped with sucker meet or other scented baits. Burbot, or ling cod, were illegally introduced into the upper Green River drainage and have made their way to Flaming Gorge Reservoir. The daily and possession limit for burbot is 25 fish, and all burbot caught must be killed. Please familiarize yourself with the appearance of these fish in case you catch one. Although the fish are quite odd looking in appearance, they are very good to eat with white flesh similar to walleye or perch. These fish are moving south in the

reservoir and are now being caught frequently in Utah's waters. Numerous burbot were caught on the Linwood Bay lake trout spawning area with jigs and spoons.

**GREEN RIVER:** (upper) The flows on the river are currently 800 cfs. Due to low inflows into the reservoir in 2007, flows should remain steady at 800 cfs throughout the winter to conserve water. From Dec 10 to 17, equipment maintenance will require use of the bypass tubes. Water levels should remain close to 800 cfs.

Fishing on the river may slow a bit as the Bureau of Reclamation uses the bypass tubes while doing maintenance on the dam. Dry fly fishing is typically slow during the winter. Nymphing action has been good to excellent. The slot limit size range has changed from 13–20-inch to 15–22 inches to make regulations more consistent statewide. Nymphing with glo-bugs and San Juan worms with smaller nymphs trailering has been the workhorse. Small midge patterns work some days. Streamers are working well and have been extremely good some days. Size 2–4 buggers such as Goldilox and patterns in olive, pink and white.

Spin fishermen should try small rapalas (floating, countdown and husky jerk); small spinners; black, brown or olive marabou jigs; and small jigs. Please check to see that your tube jigs contain no fish attracting scents as they are illegal to use in the river.

New Zealand mudsnail densities have dramatically increased in several localized areas near Little Hole, and have been documented in most areas of the river. Please thoroughly clean mud and vegetation from waders, boats and fishing gear; and if possible, completely dry equipment before leaving the area. A hot water bath (120° F) will kill mudsnails, and spraying equipment with 409 or a similar soap solution before drying will increase effectiveness.

**GREEN RIVER:** (lower) Water level is low. No new reports from anglers. Some stretches are beginning to freeze.

**MATT WARNER RESERVOIR:** No new reports. Iced over and should be good fishing. Last snow storm dropped an additional foot or more snow blocking access from Hwy 191. Likely southern access is closed as well from recent snowfall and deep drifts.

**MOON LAKE:** No new reports. Should be iced over as observed at lakes at similar elevations.

**PELICAN LAKE:** New ice about four to six inches thick on areas close to shore. Waterfowl were keeping the middle ice-free but it looks like it has frozen in the last night or so. Anglers reported great fishing on Thursday for bluegill and a few bass.

**RED FLEET RESERVOIR:** Reservoir is almost completely open water. Some ice forming but only in the shallowest bays. Park personnel were working to plow roads to the boat ramp on Friday.

**STARVATION RESERVOIR:** No signs of ice yet or reports from anglers.

**STEINAKER RESERVOIR:** Ice forming only on the shallowest edge of the northern bay, the rest is all open water. Park personnel were working to clear ice and snow from roads.

**UINTA MOUNTAIN LAKES AND STREAMS:** No new reports. Lakes and streams have ice but check it carefully before venturing out. Area has received several snowstorms. Early ice fishing on lakes and reservoirs is also almost always good. Fishing success on mountain lakes and streams can be spotty so if one isn't producing try moving to another. With over 400 managed fisheries on the South Slope alone, it's easy to find a new place to fish. Always go prepared for serious weather, as the Uinta Mountains are well known for frequent unexpected storms and high winds. Note: The Uinta Mountains have a four-trout limit with a bonus of four more brook trout — see proclamation for details.