

Shirilla Wins Again; Three-time Shirilla Wins 2008 International Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race

Park City, Utah-February 2, 2008-Melanie Shirilla of Lincoln, Mont., won the International Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race (IPSSSDR) with an overall time of 24:41:05. Shirilla gained the lead in Stage Five and maintained it throughout the final days of the race. Shirilla was the first woman to win the IPSSSDR in 2002 and won again in 2006 before winning today's race to become a three-time winner.

Wendy Davis of Lander, Wyo., placed second in this year's race with 25:03:25 and Jacques Philip of Nenana, Alaska, was third with 25:39:06.

Shirilla began her professional mushing career in 2000. In addition to her IPSSSDR victories, her race resume includes a 2003 win of the Atta Boy 300.

The IPSSSDR is an eight-day race, traveling through 10 Wyoming towns including Jackson, Lander, Pinedale, Big Piney/Marbleton, Alpine, Kemmerer/Diamondville, Evanston and Mountain View before finishing in Park City, Utah.

With its unique "stage stop" racing format, the IPSSSDR stops in a different community each night, allowing Wyoming's host towns to show their hospitality:

Festivities on offer for mushers and spectators alike include pancake feeds, dog parades, banquets, carnivals and snowshoe softball.

The Pedigree® brand actively supports a wide range of programs that promote responsible pet ownership and highlight the contributions dogs make to society.



The International Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race, the largest sled dog race in the lower 48 states, was founded in 1996 by Frank Teasley to make sled dog racing more accessible to the public. For a complete schedule, visit the race Website at <http://www.wyomingstagestop.org>, contact the race via e-mail at bark@wyomingstagestop.org, or telephone at 307.734.1163.

AVALANCHE REPORTED AT DEER VALLEY

Saturday, February 02, 2008

At 11:35 a.m. today, Deer Valley Ski Patrol received a report of avalanche slide activity in Daly Chutes #5 and #6 located in Empire Canyon. The area has been closed for skiing the entire season but tracks into the chutes were spotted and, in an effort to be cautious, a full scale search was launched. Deer Valley's Patrol immediately mobilized a probe search as well as their two avalanche dog teams. Additional avalanche dog teams and patrollers were sent to Deer Valley from neighboring Park City Mountain Resort to aid in the search. The Canyons Ski Patrol was on stand-by along with Summit County Search and Rescue and Park



City Police. Air Med was on site with their helicopter and assisted by flying over the area and utilizing their transponders.

The avalanche was between 150' and 200' wide, 150' to 200' long, with various depositions reported

ranging from one to five feet, most of which was debris from previous avalanche control work.

At approximately 1:36 p.m. the search was completed and no victims were found in the slide area.

Deer Valley Resort has experienced near record snowfall this season, with snow totals of over 14 feet received since opening day.

500 HP JETPAC PACKS A POWER PUNCH

Sword Marine Technology, a leader in high-performance, safe and efficient marine



propulsion systems, introduces a state-of-the-art 500 hp JetPac. This revolutionary outboard features a heavy-duty, 7-liter GM LS7 engine, making it the most powerful outboard engine in the world.

With all the same benefits and features of Sword's current JetPacs, the durable 500 hp unit provides increased reinforcement with a stronger drive shaft and double-bearing system. This pre-production model will be available for commercial sale later in 2008.

The engineering that went into creating the innovative 500 hp JetPac will also make Sword's new 400 hp line possible. Using a GM 6.2-liter engine, the versatile gasoline model will be ideal for pleasure or commercial use.

Traditional marine engines utilize outdated technology and exposed propellers that are hazardous to boaters and marine life. With no propeller, unique Sword JetPacs can be used offshore or in extremely shallow water. Incredibly reliable, they have fewer moving parts, last longer and offer superior handling. Sword trained professionals manufacture all of the units in the United States.

FOREST SERVICE MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO NEW PLANNING RULE

Preferred alternative for Final Environmental Impact Statement of the 2008

Planning Rule is released

WASHINGTON, February 7, 2008 -- The U.S. Forest Service has moved one step closer to finalizing a new planning rule that will engage the public in the development, implementation and monitoring of forest plans. The release of the agency's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the 2008 Planning Rule identifies the Forest Service's preferred alternative and is a procedural move towards the implementation of a new planning rule.

The planning rule is important because it brings people together with the Forest Service to develop land management plans which provide the framework for all resource and recreation management on national forests and grasslands nationwide.

"The process of developing a forest plan is a public service that ensures a great future for national forests on behalf of the American public," stated Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief of the National Forest System. "We're proud of this vitally important planning process and yet we recognize that improvements were needed to emphasize more public collaboration, to be more adaptive to changing environmental conditions, and to ensure the protection of wildlife. The preferred alternative encompasses all of these elements."

After receiving and considering over 79, 000 comments on a draft environmental impact statement, the Forest Service developed 'Alternative M' as their preferred alternative. The alternative is based on public comment and builds on the 1982, 2002, and 2005 Planning Rules and years of professional forest planning experience. The preferred alternative provides extensive public participation and offers an approach to quickly respond to changing natural resource conditions.

"This preferred alternative expands public involvement by requiring early and frequent public dialogue in all phases of the development, implementation and monitoring of land management plans," stated David Dillard, Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination. "This exceeds National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for public involvement. Our goal is to create strong, relevant conversations that address local issues as well as incorporate the latest available science and technology in the plans. Additionally, all plans and projects developed under those plans are expected and required to comply with NEPA."

The preferred alternative is responsive to changing conditions because adaptability is built in the approach. Plans will be able to adjust more quickly to changing

conditions such as those brought about by climate change. By doing so, they will better protect resources of the forest and address the concerns of the surrounding communities.

Alternative M requires improved monitoring and sustainability standards for wildlife protection as well as the requirement for an Environmental Management System to be in place prior to the implementation of approved projects. In addition, Forest Service Timber Policy will not be affected by the preferred alternative because resource protections for timber management activities have not changed.

The FEIS will now be sent to the Department of Agriculture for a decision on a final rule for forest planning. The Record of Decision and final rule will be published in the Federal Register in approximately 30 days.

Additional information on the planning process can be found at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/emc> .

Spring fishing at Lake Powell

Long-time biologist gives his predictions

PAGE, ARIZ. — Lake Powell is one of Utah's best fishing waters. And no one knows how to catch fish in the lake better than Wayne Gustaveson, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resource's long-time biologist at the lake.

Here's Gustaveson's tips and advice for fishing Lake Powell this spring:

Gustaveson says striped bass populations are near the bottom of their "boom and bust" cycle. That means populations will be rebuilding, and young stripers will dominate the catch.

Smallmouth bass populations lag a year or two behind the stripers. Gustaveson says the bass you catch will be a balanced population of both young and old fish.

"Other fish species are less abundant than the "big two," so it's almost impossible to predict subtle changes in how many there will be and how fast you'll catch them," Gustaveson says.

Runoff is the second major factor that will determine what fishing is like this spring. Spring inflow has been modest the past few seasons. But this winter's snow pack is building, and more storms are on the way.

Gustaveson says it's possible that water level increases in 2008 could be similar to 2005, when the lake level increased by more than 40 feet. The additional water will spread the shad in the reservoir out. "Fishing results will be similar to 1999, when

shad abundance was small," he says.



Gustaveson says the largest variable can't be estimated.

"That's the effect of storm fronts that cool the water and drastically impact fishing success for a three- to five-day period following the storm," he says.

"Remember that warming periods usually provide the best spring fishing, regardless of the phase of the moon.

"With that introduction, this is my best guess on fishing prospects for 2008," Gustaveson says:

Fishing success for striped bass and walleye will improve in late February. The best early success will be found near where the Colorado and San Juan rivers flow into the reservoir. Fishing across the lake will improve in the backs of canyons rather than in the main channel. Slow trolling (2 mph) is the most effective technique.

March fishing success will be punctuated by spring storms that will make fishing success spotty. Some of the best largemouth bass fishing is found on warm March afternoons in shallow coves that have brush in them. Because shad will be scarce, crayfish will be the prey the fish will seek the most. Fishing bottom-bouncing grubs in rocky structure is the best way to imitate crayfish. Stripers on a crayfish diet are extremely susceptible to anchovy bait. You'll catch more stripers in the

main lake if you fish with bait. At the inflow area, trolling and casting produce the most fish.

Smallmouth bass and striped bass fishing will improve in April. Search for both species in the murky colored water in the backs of the canyons. Remember that clear water is colder. Clear water won't provide good fishing until it warms above 60 degrees.

The best spring fishing will occur in late April when the water is warming but runoff hasn't significantly increased the lake level yet. Expect bass to spawn the third week of April. During this time, you can actually see bass building nests on the shallow shoreline. Striped bass will be in the same canyon locations that the bass are in, but they'll be in deeper water just off the edge of the spawning flats. In those special years when bass spawning happens before the lake rises, fishing success is beyond belief. If the snow melts early, this event

won't happen. Expect the lake to be rising rapidly by the fourth week of April. The runoff will muddy the water all the way to Bullfrog by mid- to late-May. When the northern waters get muddy, fishing for most species is better south from Bullfrog to Padre Bay. May is the very best month to catch walleye. The warming water increases their metabolism and forces them to feed during the day. Walleye like murky water.

Most of the walleye are north of Bullfrog.

Striped bass will be caught half way between the back of the canyon and the main channel. The lack of abundant shad in the canyon will move stripers toward the



detectable current of the main channel in April and May. Striper fishing success by numbers will certainly be less, maybe much less, than seen in the record-breaking harvest years of 2005 to 2007. It will be challenging to finding moving schools of stripers, but once you've located a school, the fish will be cooperative. You'll catch fewer fish, but the condition of the stripers will be dramatically better.



For more information including updated fishing

reports visit www.wayneswords.com.

Eclipsing Moon

Utahns watching the sky during the evening hours of Wednesday, February 20th will be treated to a total eclipse of the Moon.

Unlike eclipses of the Sun, which require special observing equipment, eclipses of the Moon can be viewed safely with no special equipment.

According to NASA Solar System Ambassador to Utah Patrick Wiggins, "The dark, easily visible part of the eclipse will start about 6:45 p.m."

Totality will arrive at 8:01 and last until 8:50. During totality the appearance of the Moon can vary from bright orange or copper, to blood red, to invisible. The color comes from a small amount of light that is refracted (or bent) around the edge of the Earth by Earth's atmosphere.

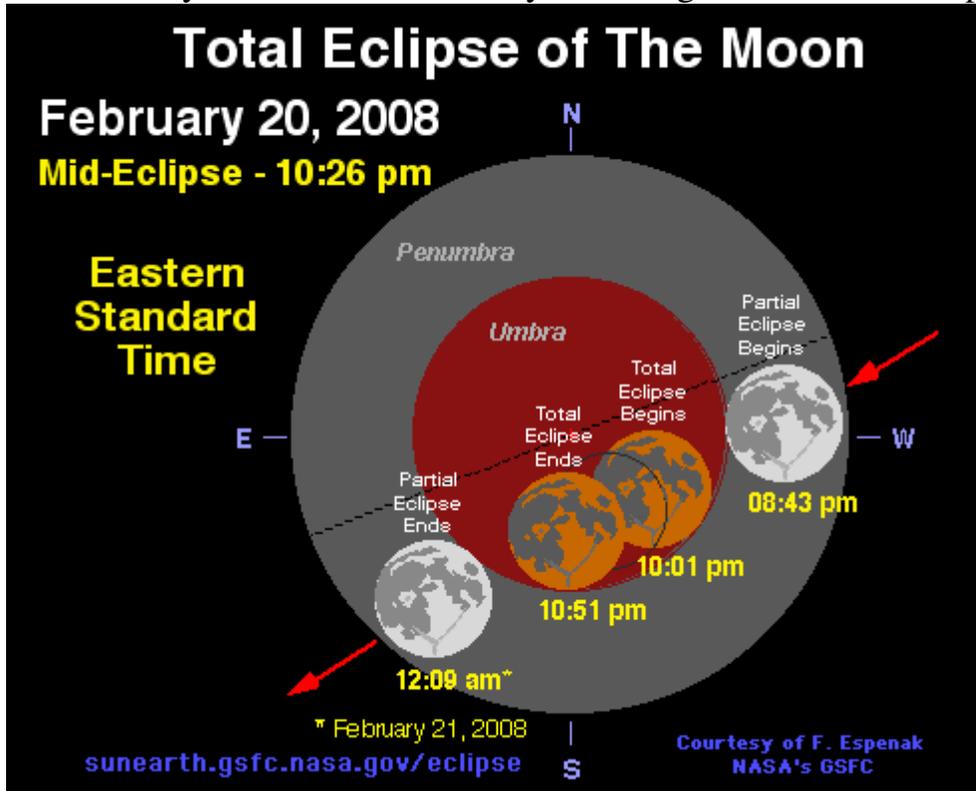
If the atmosphere happens to be especially clear at the time of the eclipse the refracted light is fairly bright. A dustier atmosphere can make for a dramatic red color or even render the Moon invisible.

The "coming out" portion of the eclipse will run until a few minutes after 10:00

p.m. when the last traces of the Earth's dark shadow will disappear from the lunar surface.

Adding to the view will be the planet Saturn just to the lower left of the Moon. While easily visible to the naked eye as a bright "star", a telescope will be needed

to show Saturn's beautiful system of rings.



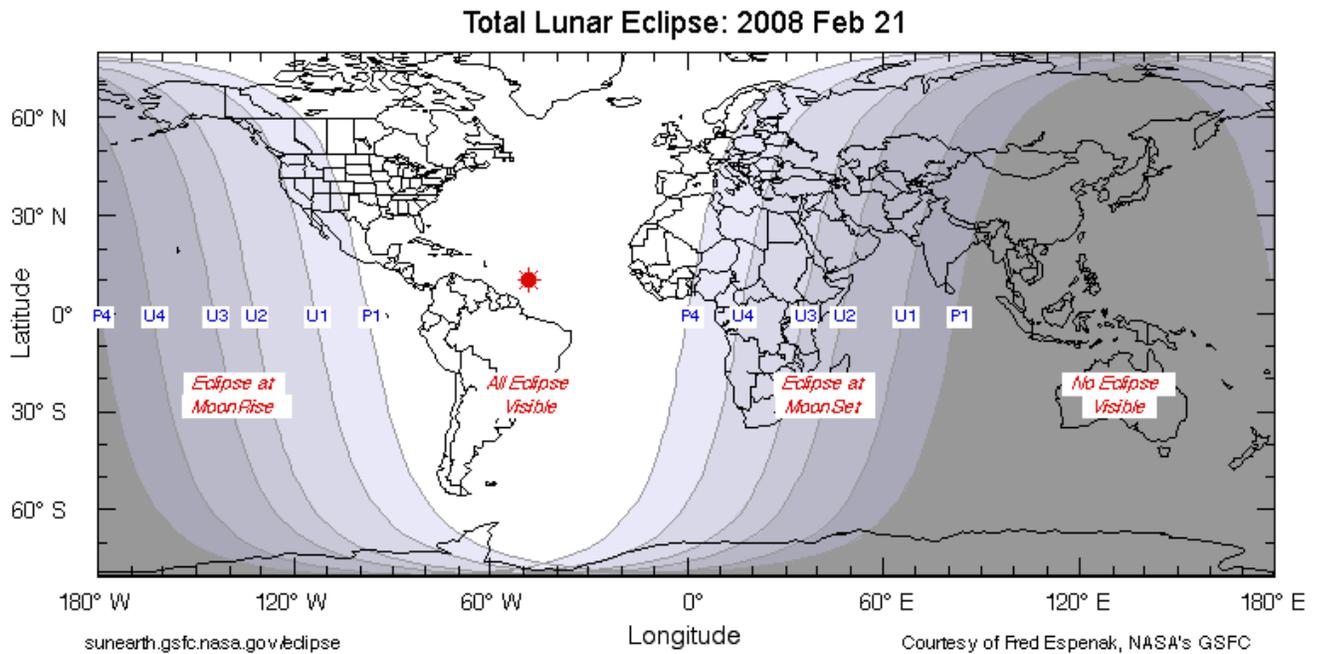
The last total eclipse of the Moon visible from Utah occurred last August. The next one will occur in 2010.

Utah will not experience an eclipse of the Sun until a

partial eclipse occurs in 2012. The next total eclipse of the Sun to be visible from Utah will not occur until 2045 although one will pass just north of the state in 2017.

Eclipses of the Moon occur when the Moon passes into the shadow of the Earth, while eclipses of the Sun are caused by the Earth passing into the shadow of the Moon.

The Salt Lake Astronomical Society will open its Stansbury Park Observatory Complex to the public for the eclipse. To reach the observatory from Salt Lake take Interstate 80 west to exit 99 (the Stansbury/Tooele exit) and then travel south to Stansbury Park where signs lead the way to the observatory.



In addition the University of Utah and Southern Utah University in Cedar City will open their observatories to the public for the eclipse. The U's observatory is located on the roof of the South Physics Building, just off of President's Circle at 125 South 1400 East, while SUU's observatory is located on the hilltop just south of the SUU Farm on Westview Drive.

The observatories are unheated so visitors should dress warmly. There is no charge for admission.

For additional astronomical information, including a list of all eclipses visible from Utah through 2025, visit Wiggins' Solar System Ambassador web site at <http://utahastro.info>.

Starvation perch search results

On the morning of January 31, ice-angling investigators from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and interested public set out to solve the mystery of the missing yellow perch. Summer fishing is excellent and gill net surveys revealed a large population of several strong year classes including fish up to a foot in length. However, over the last two years, few are caught by ice-anglers. Where do they go?

Almost all of the investigators who met at the Starvation Reservoir boat ramp had some experience with catching yellow perch at Starvation during the summer months and most had successfully ice-fished for them on other reservoirs.

After sharing tips on where and how to look or fish for the perch, and reviewing



the latest information from the UDWR and Steinaker State Parks personnel, five crews went out. Each group worked an area along the reservoir where they drilled holes and dropped in lines, cameras and fish finders. Crews moved frequently in an attempt to locate a concentration of fish.

The first two crews went northeast to the Saleratus Wash

Knights Hollow area. There they checked out the deeper water flats and the shallower bays. They were looking for waters in the 45-foot depth range and shallow areas where the weed beds held perch during the summer.

A group went down to the Indian Bay area, where they fished shallow to deep waters working their way in and out of the bays and around a small island. Another crew went farther west to check out the inlet, then returned to a small bay south west of the bridge and finally to the bay under the bridge checking inside the bay and out along the cliff face.

The last group investigated the area within sight and walking distance of the boat ramp. They placed themselves where they could be seen if additional anglers came out to help while testing the waters from three to 75 feet deep in the main channel and along the banks.

Did they find the fish? Well kinda but not really.

One of the two crews in Saleratus caught five perch most of the way back in along the lip of the old channel. The area above the channel would have had weed beds during the summer months. The other crew spread out and fished deeper waters in the middle of the Bay, along the rocky reef, along the wall near Mike's Point and in the shallower inland bay areas. They had a few strikes but no fish and felt some of the strikes were likely rainbow or brown trout rather than yellow perch. This group also used an underwater camera but it didn't show much.

The crew at the boat ramp had several strikes, including two rainbows because they brought them to their holes before losing them. The rainbows were in 10 and 25 feet of water.

The Indian Bay crew only had a couple of nudges as they worked out from the bays into deeper waters and circled the small island. It wasn't until they centered themselves between the two southern points and the island that they caught fish. The three anglers caught six perch in five minutes before the fishing shut itself off. The school they located was in roughly 45 feet of water.

The final crew found the waters near the inlet to be quite muddy so they returned east and tried a hollow southeast of the bridge. Not finding fish there, they decided to work the bay next to the Bridge where another angler reported catching a few perch a week earlier. They started inside the bay and worked their way out the mouth just northeast of the bridge where they caught a yellow perch and hooked into a big walleye in about 12 feet of water.

While the catch rates were disappointing, the anglers learned a couple of things. First, the perch are not in the same places they occupied during summer. The experienced anglers theorize the perch have probably formed large schools. The schools are likely spread out and probably rest in 45 feet or more of water and then move into shallower areas to feed.

Second, while the perch didn't cooperate, the rainbow trout did. Most of the crews felt they had at least one rainbow strike. This was exciting to the fisheries managers as only a few rainbows were experimentally stocked during the fall of 2006. Biologists quit stocking rainbows into Starvation years ago due to increasing predation from walleye, bass and brown trout and from competition from other fish. The experiment was to stock larger fingerlings in the fall to see if they could survive to reach catchable sizes.

These experimental fish didn't turn up in the spring and summer nettings, nor did biologists hear of anglers catching them during the summer. So a more extensive evaluation was proposed for the future to compare a larger number of advanced fingerlings stocked in the fall to catchable 10-inch sized spring plants.

The two rainbows the anglers brought in and could see under the ice were big, healthy fish. Park rangers said they had also observed a few additional rainbows caught during the last few months. This has given biologists added incentive to continue experimenting with the goal of bringing about a return of the rainbow trout fishing at Starvation.

The biologists who helped organized the Starvation Perch Search, would like to thank the searchers and to challenge anglers with a quest find the perch! If you succeed, please call or drop in to the Northeastern Region or any other UDWR office or the Starvation State Park headquarters and tell your story. The yellow perch fishery in Starvation is simply too nice to let it sit idle under the ice.

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON DRAFT AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FLIGHT PARK STATE RECREATION AREA



The Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation has developed a draft area management plan (AMP) for Flight Park State Recreation Area. The draft AMP identifies issues relating to public use, resource management and future development at

the park and will make recommendations to guide park managers for the next ten years.

A planning team consisting of park users, local citizens, neighboring agency representatives and park managers developed the draft plan through a series of team and public meetings.

Beginning Monday, February 11, the plan will be available for review online at www.stateparks.utah.gov/about/plans , or in hardcopy at the Utah State Parks Office at 1594 West North Temple, Suite 116 in Salt Lake City; Utah Lake State Park Office at 4400 West Center Street in Provo; or the Utah State Parks Northwest Region Office located at 1084 North Redwood Road in Salt Lake City.

Comments will be accepted until Tuesday, March 11, 2008 and can be sent to:

E-mail: planscomment@utah.gov

Regular mail: Utah State Parks: Planning Section

P.O. Box 146001

1594 West North Temple, Suite 116

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6001

BOAT SLIPS AVAILABLE AT JORDANELLE STATE PARK

Heber - Boat slip applications are available for boat storage at Jordanelle State Park. Applications are available online at www.stateparks.utah.gov/parks/jordanelle/. All applications must be received no later than Friday, February 15.

For more information, please call (435) 649-9540.

Firearms and Ammunition Contribute \$3 Billion to Wildlife Conservation; Industry Announces Important New Initiative

LAS VEGAS -- Executives from America's leading firearms and ammunition manufacturers gathered this evening at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show to mark an important milestone in the firearms and ammunition industry's longstanding support of wildlife conservation. Manufacturers have since 1991 contributed more than \$3 billion dollars to fund wildlife conservation through the payment of a federal excise tax on the sale of their products. The excise tax is a primary source of wildlife conservation funding in the United States. Since the inception of the excise tax in 1937, more than \$5 billion dollars has been collected.

In recognition of this milestone, a commemorative check for \$3 billion dollars was presented to H. Dale Hall, the director of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Matt Hogan, the executive director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), from key firearms industry leaders at the annual membership meeting of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) – the industry's trade association.

"Our industry is proud of its leading role in financially supporting wildlife conservation and protecting habitat," said Doug Painter, NSSF president and chief executive officer. "We are especially proud that our industry stepped up to the

plate for America's wildlife and natural resources decades before 'environmentalism' became a popular movement."

The federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition products (11 percent on long guns and ammunition and 10 percent on handguns), is collected by the U.S. Treasury, Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) and given to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) where it is deposited into the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Trust Fund. These taxes are the major source of conservation funding in the United States.

"The federal excise taxes paid by manufacturers of firearms and ammunition through the Wildlife Restoration program provide state wildlife agencies this critical funding necessary to help maintain wildlife resources, educate hunters and fund sport shooting ranges nationwide," said Hall. "For example, my home state of Kentucky used these funds to restore elk populations to sustainable levels. Now, for the first time in hundreds of years, sportsmen and women have the opportunity to hunt elk east of the Mississippi River."

In just the past 12 months, the firearms and ammunition industry has contributed more than \$280 million to conservation via the Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax (FAET). This amount of money demonstrates a 41 percent increase over the last five years. The complete amount collected through federal excise tax payments, a number which includes payments from the archery and fishing industries, tops \$1 billion a year.

"For over 70 years, state fish and wildlife agencies have used the revenue from the Pittman-Robertson program to build the most successful wildlife conservation model the world has ever known," said Hogan. "One needs only look at the return of species like the whitetail deer, wild turkey, pronghorn antelope and the wood duck, to name a few, to see that this money has been well spent for the benefit of all Americans."

Industry Introduces Plan to Supplement NAWCA

Demonstrating its continued support for conservation, industry announced a plan to supplement congressional funding (currently \$75 million dollars) of the North American Wetland Conservation Act -- a grant program providing federal cost-share funding to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. "NSSF is proud to announce a new multi-pronged three-year initiative to support wetlands conservation," commented Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF senior vice president and general counsel.

As part of the NSSF proposal, the trade association has promised to use staff resources to work with its partners in the shooting, hunting and outdoor communities to better promote NAWCA at industry events. NSSF will also advocate for stronger congressional funding for NAWCA during the appropriations process and will contribute \$150,000 annually for the next three fiscal years to a mutually agreed upon NAWCA project.

"We understand the value of wildlife conservation and preserving migratory bird habitat, and we are fully vested in ensuring that the hunters and sportsmen who use our products have game to hunt and places to go hunting so that they can enjoy this important national heritage and pass it onto the next generation," concluded Painter.

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

February 8 - July 31 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding
Art Exhibit: Journeys and Destinations, The Photography of Anna Day- Enjoy over forty amazing images that document the evolution of Day's photographic journeys from the Utah desert to the coast of Iceland. (435) 678-2238



Freezin' For A Reason

February 16 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse
Polar Bear Plunge: Pay \$25, bring a costume, and jump into the Great Salt Lake. All proceeds benefit the Special Olympics. Participants receive a long sleeve t-shirt, and prizes are awarded for costumes. To register or for more information, visit www.sout.org.

February 16 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway
Wonderful Winter Wildlife- Animal Tracks and Scat: Join park staff from 10 a.m. to noon to learn about animal tracks and scat. Winter is a great time to look for signs of wildlife. Many animals stay active all winter long, and learning to recognize tracks and scat can help make any winter outing more enjoyable. Meet at the Educational Yurt. Snowshoes are available. (435) 654-1791

February 16 Jordanelle State Park - Heber
Track Me if you Can: Join the park naturalist from 10 a.m. to noon at the Rock

Cliff Nature Center to learn about the animals living in the park. Begin indoors and learn how to identify animal tracks, and then venture outside for an hour walk to practice the art of animal tracking. Meet at the Nature Center. Snowshoes are available. Day-use fees apply. Limit of 20 people. (435) 649-9540

February 16 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

Snow Canyon Geology: Learn the basics of Snow Canyon geology beginning at 1 p.m., with guest geologist Boma Johnson. Activity includes a 1.5-mile round-trip hike. Space is limited and carpooling is encouraged. Registration required. (435) 628-2255

Wasatch Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo awaits

The Stonefly Society and Cache Valley Anglers, chapters of Utah Trout Unlimited, are pleased to announce the Second Annual Wasatch Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo. The Expo will be held Friday & Saturday, May 2-3, 2008 at the Karen Gail Miller Convention Center, Salt Lake Community College, 9750 South 300 West, Sandy, Utah.

This two-day Expo will feature fly tying demos from some of the best fly tiers in Utah, casting clinics, fly tying and fly fishing workshops, activities for kids, prize raffles, exhibitors, and more. Last year's inaugural event was a great success and we anticipate this year's Expo to be bigger and better. Saturday evening we will conclude the Expo with a banquet and auction featuring renown author and fly shop owner Kelly Galloup (www.slideinn.com) as our keynote speaker. Expo activities on Friday will go from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. The banquet Saturday evening will start at 6 p.m.



The goals we have are threefold: 1) raise funds for future conservation projects for Utah's streams, rivers, and lakes, 2) celebrate fly tying and fly fishing in the state of Utah, and 3) have some fun.



In addition to the Expo event, we are pleased to announce the first annual Wasatch Fly Fishing Film Festival which will be held on Thursday May 1st, 2008 at 7 p.m. The film festival will feature 5-7 mini fly fishing film segments of 2008. We hope to make this an annual event that will draw some of the best fly fishing film producers from around the world. It will be held at the Miller Free Enterprise Center in the Auditorium, Salt Lake Community College, 9750 South 300 West, Sandy, Utah. Tickets will be \$8 per person, \$10 at the door. We will be giving away some great door prizes and holding a few raffles. It should be a great event.

The workshops, classes, and casting clinic schedules will be posted on the Stonefly Society website soon. Check the website often for updates and announcements. (www.stoneflysociety.org) Our new expo website should also be up running soon as well. Check it out. (www.wasatchexpo.com)

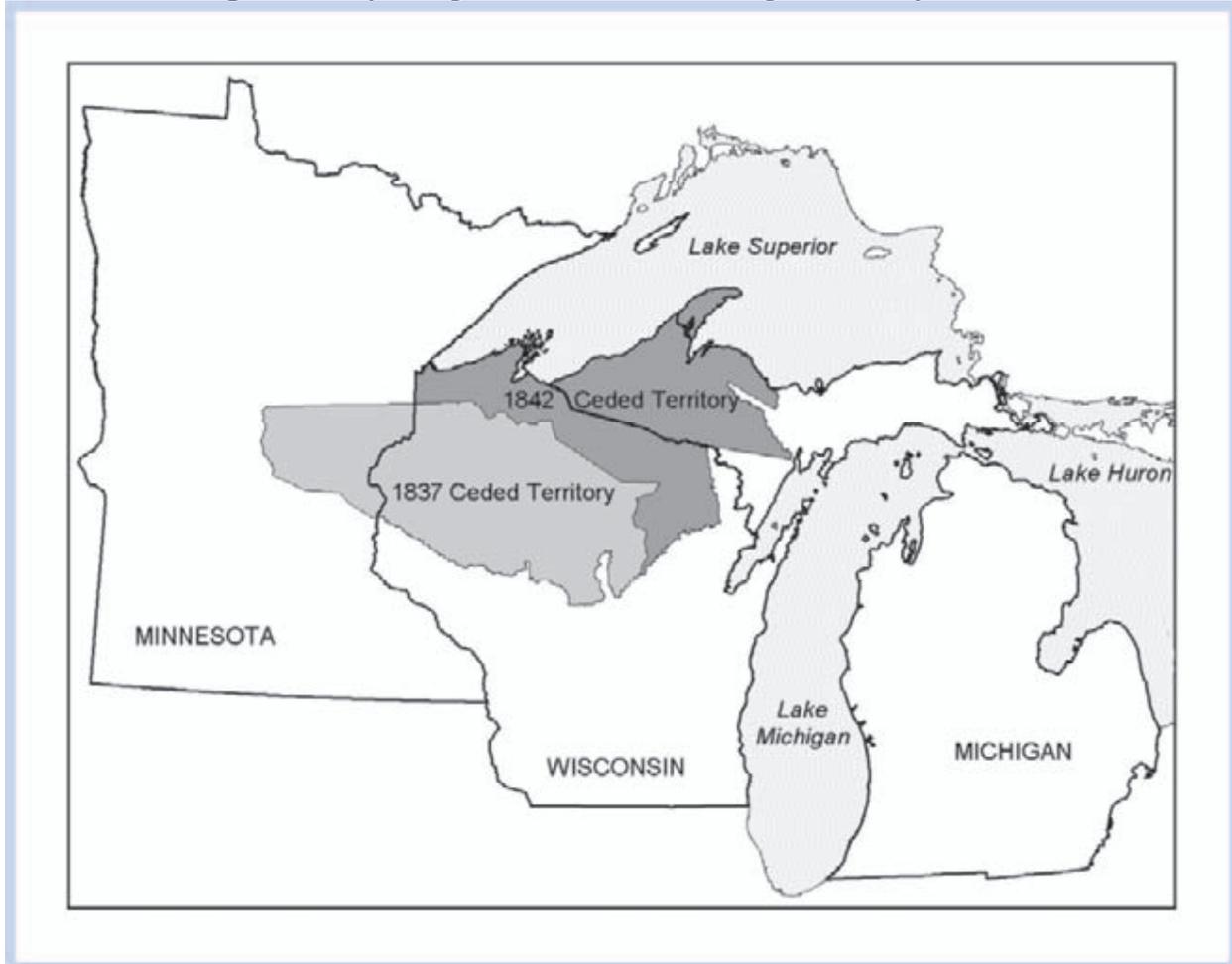
Please review the different raffle/banquet packages and fillout your RSVP and send it in. RSVP's for the banquet are due April 15th.

If you would like to be a volunteer fly tyer to exhibit your fly tying skills, please contact Curtis Fry via email at frito1@gmail.com.

Balancing Culturally Important Fish Harvesting and Consumption by Native Americans with Mercury Contamination

Ojibwe tribal members in the northern Great Lakes region traditionally harvest walleye, a fish that commonly has concentrations of methylmercury that could be harmful. A group of researchers has produced new data and advice for the Native American population, ensuring that the potential risks are balanced with the potential benefits of eating the fish. The results are published in the latest issue of *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*.

Walleye are at the top of the aquatic food chain, typically accumulating mercury in their tissues to potentially dangerous levels. Leading this study, the Great Lakes



Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) has produced walleye consumption advisories depicted on maps since 1996 to help tribal members reduce exposure to methylmercury due to fish consumption.

In creating updated advisories, however, the GLIFWC was careful to balance the risks of walleye consumption with the clear health benefits of eating fish. The harvest and consumption of fish are culturally important activities of the Ojibwe tribes. Walleye harvest has increased since the 1980s when federal courts reaffirmed the tribes' rights to hunt, fish, and gather in territories ceded to the United States through treaties signed in 1837 and 1842 in the present-day states of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

The new data, collected through a risk-based approach, provide consumption advice for 293 of the 449 lakes assessed in the region. Most of the advisories for

the lakes carry a recommendation of no more than four meals per month for the general population and no more than one meal per month for the sensitive population. The approach used here could be adapted for other regions.

To read the entire study, click here: <http://www.allenpress.com/pdf/i1551-3793-4-1-118.pdf>

BLM Sets Meeting of National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board for February 25 in Tucson

The Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet on Monday, February 25, 2008, in Tucson, Arizona, to discuss



issues relating to the management, protection, and control of wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands. The one-day meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., local time, at the Radisson Suites Tucson, 6555 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85710.

The Advisory Board provides input and advice to the BLM as it carries out its responsibilities under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The law mandates the protection, management, and control of these free-roaming animals in a manner that ensures healthy herds at levels consistent with the land's capacity to support them. The BLM manages about 29,000 wild horses and burros that roam BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states.

The public may address the Advisory Board at the February 25 meeting at an appropriate point in the agenda, which is expected to be about 3 p.m., local time. Individuals who want to make a statement should register with the BLM by noon on the day of the meeting at the meeting site (Radisson Suites Tucson, 6555 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85710; telephone: 520-721-7100). Depending on the number of speakers, the Board may limit the length of presentations, set at three minutes for previous meetings.

The agenda of the meeting can be found in the January 25, 2008, Federal Register. Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the BLM at the meeting; those who would like to comment but are unable to attend may submit a written

statement by February 15, 2008, to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147.

Comments may also be e-mailed to: Ramona_DeLorme@blm.gov. Those submitting comments electronically should include the identifier “WH&B” in the subject of their message and their name and address in the body of the message.

For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Ramona DeLorme, Wild Horse and Burro Administrative



Assistant, at 775-861-6582. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. DeLorme at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

The Advisory Board meets at least two times a year and the BLM Director may call additional meetings when necessary. Members serve without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses according to government travel regulations.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska.

The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

Four to enter Bass Fishing Hall of Fame

40th Bassmaster Classic is setting for Feb. 21 induction ceremonies

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. - Four legendary figures of bass fishing who have contributed greatly to the sport through education, angling achievements, innovations and communications will join 32 previously inducted men and women into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame, Feb. 21.

The class of 2008 includes Charlie Campbell and Virgil Ward both of Missouri, Nick Crème of Texas and Buck Perry of North Carolina, as the seventh group of inductees. Crème, Perry and Ward will be inducted posthumously.

Induction ceremonies

Thursday, Feb. 21 will take place at the Hyatt Hotel in Greenville, S.C., the evening before the start of the 40th Bassmaster Classic's three days of championship fishing on Lake Hartwell. The reception will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the induction banquet and ceremony in the main ballroom at 7 p.m.



The four honorees and their contributions include:

Charlie Campbell as a Missouri educator and celebrated coach for over 15 years would spend after-school hours and summers guiding nearby lakes. Multi-dimensional he later owned a marine dealership, developed the "Charlie Campbell

CC Spinner Bait,” and was instrumental in the design of the Bass Tracker boat for Bass Pro Shops. He won a B.A.S.S. Federation National Championship, fished five Classics and won a total of 67 tournament trail events. Among his many honors he’s been inducted into two other halls of fame.

Nick Crème in 1949, created the first rubber worms on his kitchen stove which made a huge impact as it revolutionized bass fishing with artificial lures in the 1950s and ‘60s. When professional anglers began winning early B.A.S.S. tournaments on Crème Scoundrels and Shimmy Gals, the founder and owner of Crème Lures saw his business take off. Crème became one of the first tackle companies to sponsor a pro angler when, in 1967, Nick offered John Powell of Alabama an \$18,000 contract.

Buck Perry is widely acclaimed as the "father of structure fishing," as he opened up America’s lakes and rivers to a different style of fishing than anyone had ever enjoyed. Before sonar, Perry was using his Spoonplugs and trolling tactics to catch deep water and offshore bass that others did not even know existed. Perry spent his life educating others about bass migrations, habitat and deep water methods. Even though he passed away in 2005, his Spoonplugging school is still a serious educational institution for anglers.

Virgil Ward had one of the most popular TV showcases of bass fishing techniques for 27 years with his very successful *Virgil Ward's Championship Fishing Show*. Syndicated nationally for 20 years, Ward’s show in 1985 was rated No. 1 overall. Millions of fishing fans followed his weekly shows on 253 radio stations and his advice in 450 newspapers. In 1955 Virgil and his son Bill, started the Bass Buster Lure Company, designed the feather jig and patented the fiber weed guard still used today by jig manufacturers.

"This group of four along with the other men and women inducted before them are among the true legends and innovators of the great sport of bass fishing," said BFHoF president Sammy Lee. "Their contributions and efforts have rippled through the waters of time and we applaud their inclusion into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame."

Among the currently enshrined Hall of Fame members are Ray Scott, Johnny Morris, Bill Dance, Cotton Cordell, Denny Brauer, Stan Fagerstrom, Roland Martin, Bob Cobb, Guido Hibdon, Jimmy and Chris Houston.

Northeastern Region Fishing Report

CLEVELAND RESERVOIR: There's no lakeside parking, due to a wall of snow on either side of Highway 31. Anglers need to snowmobile in from the Miller Flat parking area. Try chartreuse PowerBait, molded onto a cheese hook for best results. Suspend the bait about five feet from the bottom.

GIGLIOTTI POND: DWR personnel Casey Olsen and Roy Marchant fished over the weekend. Using Velvetta cheese, they caught five trout. Through their underwater camera, they observed a lot of trout. Unfortunately, the fish seemed uninterested in most baits.



HUNTINGTON CREEK: The adventurous angler might try Montana nymphs, San Juan worms or hares ears in open water stretches. Baitcasters will do best with worms.

HUNTINGTON RESERVOIR: (also known as Mammoth Reservoir) Sergeant Stacey Jones

described a 10-foot wall of snow on each side of the highway bordering Huntington Reservoir. There's very limited parking by the restroom, where the snow may be two feet deep. A week ago, a 1/8 ounce chartreuse jighead, tipped with half a nightcrawler, was effective. Keep the bait moving and watch carefully for a light bite. This reservoir is closed to the possession of cutthroat trout or trout with cutthroat markings.

JOE'S VALLEY RESERVOIR: About two weeks ago, fishing was described as very good. One party, fishing near the dam, caught a bunch of smaller trout with hot pink octopus jigs, hooked onto chub meat. Another group did well with jigs, tipped with mealworms or salmon eggs. A third party did well, using gold attractor spoons.

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

LASAL MOUNTAINS: All mountain lakes are snowbound. Access is limited to snow machines. Aquatics Biologist Darek Elverud fished Ken's Lake last weekend, and reported slow to fair fishing for trout, which were biting on small jigs, tipped with a nightcrawler. Darek landed four trout in two hours. They ranged from eight to 16 inches.

SAN JUAN COUNTY: No recent report. Two weeks ago, good fishing was reported at Blanding #3 and #4 with PowerBait or worms.

SCOFIELD RESERVOIR: Sergeant Stacey Jones reported slow fishing at Scofield last weekend. Early morning anglers, who fished the north end in 12 to 15 feet of water, reported the best action. They used ice flies and bait, suspended about a crank off the bottom. Stacey estimated that anglers creeled about one fish per hour. Lake access was difficult. Stacey said that 4-wheelers didn't have a chance. Snow machines had to maintain enough speed to keep from bogging down. Foot travel was so exhausting that most anglers stayed within 50 feet of the shoreline.



The editors of *National Wildlife*[®] magazine invite photographers from all levels of expertise to enter *National Wildlife's* 2008 Photo Contest, its expanded 38th annual photography competition.

[Enter Now!](#)

- \$18,000 in Cash Prizes
- \$5,000 Grand Prize
- Pro, Amateur and Youth Divisions
- Submit up to 20 Photos
- 6 Categories
- One-Year NWF Membership and Subscription to *National Wildlife**



Let us showcase your work! We invite you to submit your favorite nature images to our 2008 Photo Contest-our biggest photography competition in 38 years. Cash prizes totaling \$18,000 plus camera equipment and other gifts will be awarded to the winners in three separate divisions: professional, amateur and youth. The grand prize winner will receive \$5,000. Plus, a portfolio of award-winning entries will be published in the 2008 December/January issue of the magazine.

In return for your \$15 entry fee, you will receive a one-year membership in the National Wildlife Federation, including a subscription to *National Wildlife**, and

you can submit as many as 20 images in any combination of the following six categories:

- Mammals: Portraits and Behavior
- Birds: Portraits and Behavior
- Other Wildlife: Portraits and Behavior (includes underwater life, reptiles, amphibians, insects and more)
- Backyard Habitat: Wild Creatures, Native Plants and Natural Settings in Your Yard
- Connecting People and Nature: People Enjoying the Outdoors
- Landscapes and Plant Life: Scenic Views and Native Plants in Wild Settings

The deadline for all submissions: July 1, 2008. For more details about the categories, how to submit your photos and other information, read the official rules at: <http://www.nwf.org/photozone>



National Park Service budget emphasizes park operations to prepare for NPS Centennial

WASHINGTON – President Bush today proposed \$2.4 billion in fiscal year 2009 for the National Park Service, including \$2.13 billion for operation of the National Park System. This \$160.9 million increase over the FY 2008 request for park operations will bolster visitor services and protect park resources and facilities. National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar lauded the budget proposal saying, “This increase will help the National Park Service prepare for our centennial in

2016 by focusing resources on vital aspects of our mission.”

The request includes increases of nearly \$45 million for targeted park base core operations, \$36 million for parks’ fixed costs, \$22.8 million for cyclic maintenance, \$20 million for natural resource health and \$ 8.0 million for Service-wide training and professional development programs. The natural resource projects will work to restore natural lands by controlling invasive plant species and reintroducing native plants. The training and development program will prepare a new generation of park managers to guide the National Park Service into the next

century.

A \$5.2 million increase for five southwest parks will be used to increase law enforcement staffing levels in multi-agency border operations as part of Interior's Safe Borderlands Initiative. The funding will be distributed to Amistad National Recreation Area, Big Bend National Park, Coronado National Memorial, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Padre Island National Seashore.

This funding increase includes \$1 million to restore resources in these five parks and in six other border parks that have suffered significant environmental damage due to drug traffickers and undocumented persons traversing the parks. The additional parks are Chamizal National Memorial, Chiricahua National Monument, Ft. Bowie National Historic Site, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, Saguaro National Park and Tumacacori National Historical Park.

The FY 2009 budget includes \$10 million for Preserve America and \$15 million for Save America's Treasures. President and First Lady Laura Bush launched Preserve America in 2003. This initiative encourages states and local communities to partner with the federal government to preserve the fabric of the American story. To date, 521 communities in all 50 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been designated as Preserve America communities.

The National Park Service will also coordinate and provide grants at the state level to establish a national inventory of historic properties. The initiative is one of the recommendations of a 2006 Preserve America Summit. The FY 2009 proposal includes an increase of more than \$1 million for Civil War battlefield grants. The grants are used with matching state or local funds to purchase land or acquire permanent, protective interests in land at Civil War battlefields listed in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's 1993 Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields.

In addition to a promising FY 2009 budget, the National Park Service could benefit from another \$200 million as the result of President Bush's Centennial Challenge. President Bush last year called for an annual account of up to \$100.0 million of federal money to be matched each year by \$100 million of donations from the American people to engage people with their parks and to prepare national parks for another century of preservation, conservation and enjoyment.

The 2009 budget includes a mandatory funding request for a Centennial Challenge

fund and requires legislation to create it. Director Bomar said, “The potential power of the Centennial Challenge is unprecedented in the history of our organization. We are hopeful that Congress will seize this opportunity to be part of an historic moment. Our partners are committed to this effort, and we are thankful to the President and Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne for their visionary leadership.”

In FY 2008, the National Park Service received from Congress an appropriation of nearly \$25 million for Centennial Challenge projects and programs. Director Bomar said, “We are ready to double Americans’ money on centennial projects and programs by leveraging this \$25 million into more than \$50 million of benefits across the United States.”

The National Park Service FY 2009 budget reduces funding for land acquisition, Land and Water Conservation Fund state grants, National Recreation and Preservation, and the Historic Preservation Fund, largely as a result of reducing congressional increases. The construction account is reduced by \$46.0 million below the 2008 enacted level; however, overall asset management for the national parks is funded at \$989 million, \$10 million above the 2008 level.

The National Park Service FY2009 budget is at www.nps.gov/budget

Snowbasin Resort Continues the Tradition with Needles at Night Valentines Dinner

It’s special, without a doubt, the drive up to Snowbasin, the gondola ride to Needles Lodge, the beautifully prepared meal just for you. Celebrate Valentines Day with us at Needles Lodge at the top of the mountain. A full bar and wine menu will be offered for the evening.

Enjoy live entertainment with the vocal styling’s of Steffan accompanied by John Wright on the piano and take in the ambience while you enjoy your dinner. We look forward to seeing you up on the mountain for Valentines Day!

\$85.00 per person 4 Seating’s available 5:00 to 5:30 7:00 to 7:30.

Please arrive at the gondola loading zone 20 minutes prior to your seating.

Reservations are required. Please call 801-620-1021 for reservations and further information.

Westminster team up with The Addictionary in an open contest to coin a word for 'skiing and snowboarding'

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (February 4, 2008) - Is there one word out there that describes both skiing and snowboarding? Because, we'll be honest with you, the industry is lazy and they're looking for an alternative to the three-word, 21-letter standard.

In an effort to coin this new term, Ski Utah and Winter at Westminster have teamed with The Addictionary (www.addictionary.org), an online dictionary of made up words, for the 2008 Ski/Snowboard Lingo Contest.

There are two goals and two chances to win. The goals? To add to the general glossary of skier and snowboarder lingo and name the best new word for 2008; and to come up with that one word - the mighty catch-all, the great equalizer, the big peacemaker - that describes both skiing and snowboarding in one fell swoop. There will be one winner in each category.

The Ski/Snowboard Lingo contest runs from February 4 - March 4, 2008. The winners will be chosen by a panel of celebrity judges.

What: The Ski/Snowboard Lingo Contest

When: February 4 - March 4, 2008

Prize for the best new word for "skiing and snowboarding"

A Spring Ski Trip to Utah for two in April '08 sponsored by Ski Utah and participating Utah resorts

Prize for the best new general ski/snowboard word:

Two day passes at The Canyons Resort in Park City, Utah and 10 T-shirts featuring their winning word

Celebrity Judges:

Annie Fast, Executive Editor, Transworld Snowboarding magazine

Derek Taylor, Editor of Powder magazine

Nathan Rafferty, Ski Utah President

Kendall Card, "powstash"

Kristin Ulmer, professional skier

Julian Carr, professional skier

"For years people have had to classify 'skiing and snowboarding' as two separate words," said Nathan Rafferty, Ski Utah president, "We hope this contest might help us find one single word which describes both of these great downhill snow sliding sports."

For more information or to enter the contest, visit <http://addictionary.org/Browse/ContestWords/19>.

The Addictionary

The Addictionary was created by a bunch of skiers and snowboarders in Park City, Utah, who aren't as much into slang as they are genuine wordplay - not words, but werds. They built The Addictionary on a whim and continue their labor of love, providing lifestyle and niche versions to those who have their own lingo and want to share it: moms (<http://moms.addictionary.org>), pet owners (<http://pet.addictionary.org>), gamers (<http://gamer.addictionary.org>), politics (<http://political.addictionary.org>) and more. What's your werd?

Winter at Westminster

There is no other college semester-away program in the world like Winter at Westminster-a winter program with the perfect balance between the rigors of college and the passion for skiing and snowboarding. College students from all over the country enroll at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah as full-time visiting students. They earn 12-16 transferable credits while riding 70+ days at seven world-class resorts located within 30 minutes of campus. Winter at Westminster allows students to arrange the ultimate class schedule, balancing mid-week skiing and snowboarding with earning transferable credits that will keep them on track for graduation from their home colleges or universities. For more information, visit www.winteratwestminster.com.

License Plate Poker Winner Still Stands

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH - Orval Dorius of Murray, Utah still holds the highest hand in the Ski Utah license plate poker competition with A03 0AW, full house - aces and 10s (W = wild card). While this hand has proven tough to beat, many other Utahns have been joining in the fun by submitting some fantastic ski related vanity plates. Some notable entries include "SKI ON" and "SKI FMLY." Pictures of new ski or snowboard related vanity plates may be submitted to Ski Utah for the chance to win Ski Utah swag. The best vanity plate at the end of the competition will win a new helmet and goggle

set provided by Smith Optics.

"Vanity plates are a great way for people to express their personalities," said Ski Utah president Nathan Rafferty, "We have been very pleased by the number of locals who identify themselves with skiing and snowboarding."

License plate poker is simple to play and all Utah vehicle owners are eligible to enter. Contestants must email a picture of their new plate with their name and city to poker@skiutah.com in order to enter. License plate letters and numbers are scored like poker hands. The player with the highest plate will hit the slopes next winter with a brand new pair of Rossignol skis and bindings or a Burton snowboard with bindings. Ski Utah will accept new contestants throughout the 2007-08 winter season.

For more information or to enter, visit www.skiutah.com.

BLM Announces the Availability of the Draft EIS for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan

The Bureau of Land Management's Price Field Office announces the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development proposal is available for public review and comment. The draft document evaluates a plan by Bill Barrett Corporation and other operators to conduct full field development of natural gas resources on the West Tavaputs Plateau in the northeast portion of Carbon County.

This long-term development proposal includes drilling up to 807 new natural gas wells on 538 locations over a period of approximately eight years. As each well has the potential to produce gas for up to 20 years, the total life of the project could be approximately 28 years. Most surface locations would be designed to accommodate more than one well using directional drilling techniques to minimize overall surface impacts. Project infrastructure would include roads and pipelines, gas compression stations and other facilities to accommodate delivery of natural gas to markets.



The BLM is evaluating five alternatives in detail in an effort to address the full range of environmental issues and uses in the area. The range of alternatives

includes applying best management practices for oil and gas development, optimizing opportunities for directional drilling and other mitigation measures developed to address issues specific to this project.

A decision on full field development could require the BLM to amend its current land use plan.

Issues considered in this analysis include impacts associated with transportation and the effects on cultural and historic resources; visual resources; habitat for mule deer, elk and sage grouse; threatened and endangered species; vegetation; and recreational opportunities. In addition, the project proposes some development within the Desolation Canyon and Jack Canyon Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Oil and gas leases within these areas predate their establishment as WSAs, and are recognized by Congress as valid existing rights.

Benefits from the natural gas development include increased royalty and tax revenue to local, state and federal governments, employment opportunities at the local and regional level, and helping to meet the demand for domestic energy while reducing dependence on foreign sources.

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

Comments on the Draft EIS for the West Tavaputs Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan will be accepted through May 1, 2008. Written comments should be sent to BLM Price Field Office, Attention: West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan DEIS, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah, 84501.

Comments may also be submitted online by accessing BLM's website for this project at: www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/energy/Oil_Gas.html. Members of the public should be aware that their entire comment, including personal identifying information such as name, address and phone number, may be made publicly available at any time.

Utah Friends of Paleontology Great Basin Chapter News February, 2008

Great Basin Chapter Meeting

Thursday, February 14th 7:00 pm

Department of Natural Resources Auditorium, 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Speaker: Jennifer Cavin

Utah Geological Survey Doelling's Bowl – The 2007 Field Experience

Other upcoming meetings, lectures, and events:

Tuesday, February 12, 2008: Darwin Day Celebration. The Humanists of Utah is hosting a Darwin Day Celebration at the University of Utah. We will have a UFOP Booth. For more information see: www.darwinday.org or www.humanistsofutah.org



February 15-18, 2008: WAVP (Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontology) Annual Meeting, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff Arizona.

Thursday, March 13, 2008, 7:00 pm: UFOP, GBC Meeting. Speaker: Jerry Harris

Thursday, April 10, 2008, 7:00 pm: UFOP, GBC Meeting. Speaker TBA

April 10-12, 2008: Petrified Forest National Park Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium, Holbrook, Arizona. For more information see the

website:

<http://www.nps.gov/pefo/naturescience/fossil-prep-symposium.htm>

May 2-3, 2008: Utah Friends of Paleontology Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City. Hosted by the Great Basin Chapter. Location and other details TBD. Host committee volunteers needed.

Petrified Forest National Park Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium
A Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium will be held at Petrified Forest National Park near Holbrook, Arizona from April 10-12, 2008.

The symposium will include both invited and volunteered platform and poster presentations. Fossil preparators and collections professionals will present papers regarding care and preservation of fossil resources, to compliment a day of workshops and field trip through the park and collections facilities. Conference attendees will receive a copy of a proceedings volume, including papers generated by the meeting.



Petrified Forest National Park was established in 1906 to protect petrified wood and other fossils from the Upper Triassic Chinle Formation in

northeastern Arizona. These fossils have been researched for over 100 years resulting in the publication of hundreds of papers, forming a cornerstone for Late Triassic paleontological studies in North America.

Registration Fee: \$65. Covers all events and includes a copy of proceedings volume.

Conference Events April 10 Paleontological Resources field trip

Evening: Welcome Reception in Holbrook, Arizona

April 11 Preparation and Collections Symposium, Petrified Forest National Park

Evening: BBQ Social, Petrified Forest National Park

April 12 Choice of Morning and Afternoon Workshops Evening: Dinner Reception, Holbrook, Arizona For more information contact: Matthew Brown, Fossil Preparator, Phone: 928-524-6228 ext. 281,

or William Parker, Park Paleontologist, Phone: 928-524-6228 ext. 262

SHOT Show Shatters Records in 30th Year

LAS VEGAS -- SHOT Show, the shooting, hunting and outdoor industry's largest trade show, smashed all-time records in its 30th year, posting new highs in attendance, exhibition space, exhibiting companies and media turnout.

"What better way to celebrate the SHOT Show's 30th anniversary than with a turnout that not only broke, but shattered, all previous records for attendance and exhibit space," said Doug Painter, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, owner and sponsor of the SHOT Show. "The buying activity reported is a strong indicator of a good year to come and reflects the strength of the shooting, hunting and outdoor industry."

The show, held Feb. 2-5 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, comprised 715,000 square feet of exhibit space, a gain of nearly 60,000 over last year, with 1,950 exhibiting companies, up from last year's 1,870.

With a total registered attendance of 58,769, the show eclipsed last year's attendance record of 42,216. The show attracted 30,686 buyers, 1,725 members of the press, 25,854 exhibiting personnel and 504 guests.

Before the closing bell had rung, exhibitors had already booked 700,000 square feet of exhibit space for next year's show in Orlando, Fla.

Business was better than ever at this year's show, according to exhibiting companies and retailers.

"I've been coming to the SHOT Show since 1982 and this is the busiest one I've ever worked. We didn't even lose booth traffic during the Super Bowl," said Randell Pence, Sturm, Ruger & Co.'s executive director of sales and marketing.

Ruger is one of 80 companies that have exhibited at every SHOT Show since the first in 1979 in St. Louis. Aimpoint, another 30-year exhibitor, echoed Pence's remarks.

"Traffic was non-stop at both our law enforcement and hunting booths. In fact, it was so busy that it was tough for anyone working the booths to even take a break," said Steven Giordano, Aimpoint director of commercial sales.

Retailers were also impressed.

"This is my first show, and it's bigger than I expected," said Chris Dunn, owner of Cheylon Canyon Guns Co. in Queen Creek, Ariz. "I've spent all four days here, and I have found some products that I think will really be a big seller for me."

For first-time exhibitors, the show was eye-opening.

"The key customers and the key decision makers in the industry are under one roof and that's great for anybody," said Matt Kriesel, chairman of Impact Jel, a first-time exhibitor. "A phenomenal show. I don't see how it can get better with the connections we received."

Retailers, exhibitors and media from outside the United States continue to flock to the show each year. Attendees came from 75 countries.

"I have been to all of the large European shows, but they can't compare to the SHOT Show. This is the best. Everything is here. I have found five or six

companies for which I will be their exclusive dealer in Spain," said Rico Cabezas Roca, a dealer specializing in law enforcement from Madrid.

Press attendance at this year's show increased nearly 30 percent. Each year, the show is the largest gathering of outdoor media in the world.

"When it comes to media, there is nothing like SHOT where nearly 2,000 members of the press are in one place," said Tom Taylor, Smith & Wesson vice president of marketing. "This year was great. Press attendance was up, and, since our company has expanded, we were able to meet with many other publications that we hadn't in the past."

Other News

A capacity crowd attended the show's annual State of the Industry Dinner & Concert Gala. The night included positive words from Painter, NSSF Board of Governors Chairman Robert Scott, other industry executives and a performance by country music superstar Randy Travis.

NSSF's SHOT Show University -- a series of seminars for firearms retailers -- experienced a record year, attracting a sell-out crowd.

NSSF presented its annual Achievement Award posthumously to Ken Sedlecky for his efforts in promoting the shooting sports and helping others get started in them. Sedlecky's wife, Kathy, accepted the award on his behalf.

NSSF and the Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA) honored veteran journalist Jim Carmichel with the POMA/NSSF Grits Gresham Shooting Sports Communicator Award. The award was developed in 2005 in honor of legendary outdoor communicator Grits Gresham. It recognizes communicators within the firearms/shooting sports/Second Amendment arena who grasp the ideals, foster the commitment and display the talent Gresham has shown during his storied career.

SHOT Show, owned and sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), is the world's largest showcase of firearms, hunting and outdoor products. It provides a forum like no other for the industry to show off its newest products that will adorn the shelves of gun and sporting goods shops in the coming year.

Are you ready to RUMBLE! Well okay not really rumble, but are you ready to have your voice heard on Utah's Capitol Hill? The Utah Shared Access Alliance (USA-ALL) is formally inviting you to attend our second annual rally at the

Capitol. The event will take place on Friday Feb 15th at 12:30 P.M. It will be held just outside of the capitol building in the north courtyard by the reflecting pool. If the weather is bad we will bring it indoors. It will last 30-45 minutes. We will hear a brief summary of the relevant legislative items that affect you and you will have a chance to hear from a couple of state legislators and others. And if you haven't had a chance to see the newly renovated capitol building you really should come and see it. It is beautiful.

This is your chance to unite your voice with ours and many others and send a loud and clear message to Utah legislators, Governor Huntsman, and our federal congressmen and senators. That message is that we are tired of politics as usual where there are always excuses for sidestepping issues regarding public land and the public's access to it. There are a number of state bills and resolutions and one federal bill that if passed will be beneficial to the entire motorized community.

We want our elected officials to realize we are a serious block of voters and our issues need to be taken seriously. A strong showing will reflect our resolve and strength; a poor showing would be very detrimental. This is one event that is worth taking the day off of work, bring your ENTIRE family, and check your kids out of school. We can't stress enough the importance of showing what a family oriented activity motorized recreation truly is. USA-ALL and others will be on hand before and after the rally to meet with anyone interested in helping our efforts or who have questions about legislative items. PLEASE UNITE with us and let's make a difference. We wouldn't ask you to come if it wouldn't truly have a positive impact on achieving our goals of protecting public access to public land in Utah. Spread the word, and we will see you on the 15th. If you need additional info please call our office at 801-798-6996.

6 Water Companies Listed as Non-Compliant

Salt Lake City, Utah – Six water companies are being called out as non-compliant with the Water Conservation Plan Act (WCPA). The Utah Division of Water Resources (DWRe) says one company, West Corrine Water Company, has never submitted a water conservation plan, as required by the WCPA. The other five, Brian Head Water Supply, Escalante Culinary Water, North Logan Culinary Water System, South Salt Lake Culinary Water, and Saint George City, have failed to file their required five-year update plans.

WCPA requires water conservancy districts and retailers with more than 500 drinking water connections to prepare water conservation plans and submit to the

DWRe. This requirement covers systems that provide water to about 93 percent of Utah's population. The Act also stipulates water conservation plans are to be updated and resubmitted every five years, and non-compliance is to be made public information.

“Water conservation plans are strongly emphasized as part of the statewide goal of reducing per capita use by at least 25 percent through 2050. The plans are meeting their intended goals,” said Dennis Strong, Director of the Division of Water Resources. “State, municipal and individual water agencies are meeting their water conservation goals through education and implementation of water-wise practices and through conservation-minded ordinances.”

West Jordan is one of the communities noted for its multi-faceted plan, which was submitted three years ago. Management Analyst Stephen Glain says it includes 13 programs, ranging from the creation of a permanent funding mechanism, to a commercial landscape ordinance, to a toilet replacement program. “We give a water credit of \$50 to people who replace their old toilets with new, low-flow toilets. So far, we've given out several hundred water credits.”

To date, 145 of 151 agencies have submitted water conservation plans and are compliant with the WCPA. “They are to be commended for establishing conservation protocol and understanding the demand on their supply systems,” says Strong. The 96 percent rate of compliance in 2007 is up from 86 percent in 2005 and 72 percent in 2004, but down from 99 percent compliance in 2006.

Contact has been made with all non-compliant agencies, and the DWRe offers expertise to assist agencies in fulfilling the requirements of the WCPA.

The WCPA has created an increased emphasis on water conservation among many water providers and a foundation upon which the state can build a successful water conservation framework. By reaching the goal of reducing the per capita use, the state will decrease the yearly water demand by more than 130 billion gallons, which is enough water to fill Jordanelle Reservoir beyond its full storage capacity, or fill the Energy Solutions Arena floor to ceiling 11,500 times on a yearly basis.

Since 2000, the state's residents have achieved a 14 percent reduction in per capita use.

North Idaho Off-Road group applauds extension of public comment period for Clearwater National Forest Travel Plan

(February 4, 2008) The Panhandle Trail Riders' Association (PANTRA), a North Idaho Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) club, today claimed their collaborative work with other outdoor enthusiasts was a factor in convincing the Forest Service to re-open public comment regarding future restrictions on motorized and mountain bike use proposed by the Clearwater National Forest.

On Monday February 4, the Clearwater National Forest announced a new public comment period on a draft forest-wide Travel Plan that would close many currently popular motorized trails, mountain bike trails and snowmobile areas. The new comment period ends February 29, 2008. PANTRA believes an avalanche of user comments convinced the Forest Service that soliciting additional comment was prudent.

Joe Dowd, PANTRA's Clearwater Task Force Chairman said; "we think the Forest Service was surprised by the volume and passion of user comments asking that recreation friendly options to be considered."

Lori Jordan, PANTRA'S President said; "We hope the additional comment period will help land managers consider other management options. Our group understands and appreciates the need to protect the fragile resources on our National Forests, but management by closure does not serve the public. The agency needs to strike a balance."

The group indicated that OHV and mountain bike riders were concerned about policies developed at the Regional Office in Missoula, Montana that could be interpreted as forcing local District Rangers to eliminate virtually all OHV, mountain bike and snowmobile use on vast areas of the Forest. PANTRA believes the Regional Headquarters is out of step with the recreating public. Given the popularity of trail based recreation, the last thing the agency should be doing is closing existing, legal, classified, trails.

Background information: <http://www.sharetrails.org/uploads/PL/PANTRA/>

Dear action alert subscriber,

Hang on to your hats the Utah 2008 General Legislative Session is well underway. USA-ALL is actively participating in a variety of bills this year. We are excited to be working on your behalf and keeping tabs on our elected officials. USA-ALL has

made real progress over the last few years in this area and it has proven a very effective use of our time. If you would like to help USA-ALL in our efforts at the capitol send us an email we can always use some help.

Here is a list of Bills that have some affect on USA-ALL Members.

Link	Short Title	Sponsor	Attorney	Fiscal Anaylst
HB0205	Street Legal All-Terrain Vehicle Amendments	Noel, M.	SCH	
HB0291	Off-highway Vehicle Amendments	Noel, M.	SCH	IDD
HB0362	Motor Fuel Tax - Off-highway Vehicle Refund Amendments	Ferry, B.	SCH	AW
SB0181	Off-highway Vehicle Use on Public Highways	Jenkins, S.	SCH	TEY

Here are the resolutions that USA-ALL has interest in

HJR010	Joint Resolution Opposing Designation of Public Lands Currently Urged by Congress and the Bureau of Land Management	JLW
HCR005	Concurrent Resolution Urging Congressional Approval of R.s. 2477 Rights-of-way Recognition Act	JLW

USA-ALL is supporting HB 205 and it's sister bill SB 181. But we prefer the House version. We are supporting HB 362 but we feel that State Parks and Recreation needs a higher percentage of our fuel tax somewhere in the neighborhood of 2-3% , but this bill is a good start.

We are emphatically supporting both resolutions.

As these bills and measures progress we will update you on their progress, status, and what you can do to help their passage. So far there are not any bills that we are

against, but we'll keep watching.



President Proposes Budget for BLM in FY 2009 to Protect Resources and Manage Uses of Public Lands

With a focus on the protection and sustainable development of public land resources, the Administration today requested a \$1.002 billion gross budget for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management in Fiscal Year 2009.

The FY 2009 budget proposal includes a \$10 million increase for the BLM's role in implementing Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne's Healthy Lands Initiative, which supports landscape-level restoration work in key areas across eight Western states. These targeted areas have experienced numerous pressures – such as population growth, energy development, wildfire, and the spread of weeds – that affect the health of the land.

“Today's budget proposal supports the BLM's commitment to managing for healthy public lands in today's fast-growing, fast-changing West,” said BLM Director Jim Caswell. “This funding will enable the BLM to address the key challenges facing our agency in the years ahead.”

Director Caswell said the BLM's top priorities in 2009 and the coming years are to protect the health of public land resources, including wildlife habitat; to conserve resources in the management units comprising the National Landscape Conservation System, which includes Wilderness Areas and other sensitive resource areas; and to protect natural and cultural resources on public lands affected by illegal immigration on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The bureau also will promote America's energy security through environmentally sound development on public lands; deal with increased recreational use of public lands and other impacts resulting from population growth; ensure visitor and employee safety; and maintain working landscapes by ensuring timely renewals of grazing permits and making forest woodland products available for commercial production.

Besides the increase requested for BLM's role in the Healthy Lands Initiative,

operations funding for the BLM increases by \$10.2 million, including funding most of the 2009 fixed costs increases. Other highlights in the Administration's proposed BLM budget for 2009 include the following:

An \$11.2 million increase in the oil and gas program to continue remediation of the Alaska North Slope legacy wells that pose significant threats to the Arctic environment.

An increase of \$1 million for continued mitigation of resource damage resulting from illegal immigration and drug smuggling on public lands along the Southwest Border in support of the Safe Borderlands Initiative. This builds on a significant funding increase for Southwest border law enforcement provided in 2008.

Stable funding for the wild horse and burro management.

A re-direction of some funding to areas experiencing rapid growth, where there is a greater need for the protection of resources from off-highway vehicle impacts.

The budget consolidates funding for the National Landscape Conservation System into a line item in the Management of Lands and Resources account and one line item in the Oregon and California Grant Lands account. This presentation will provide greater visibility and transparency to funding for the system of national monuments and other areas of special designation. The 2009 budget includes \$22.3 million for the System and maintains \$3 million of a \$4.9 million increase provided by Congress in 2008.

In order to focus on operational funding needs, the budget reduces funding for land acquisition by \$4.5 million and construction by \$1.9 million. Funding for deferred maintenance is also reduced by \$10 million.

The proposed \$1.002 billion gross budget for BLM represents a net decrease of \$5.8 million from the 2008 enacted funding level. The 2009 budget also proposes a cancellation of unobligated balances of \$24.7 million, which results in a total net budget of \$977.4 million. In the current fiscal year, BLM-managed lands will generate an estimated \$5.1 billion in revenue, including royalties from oil and gas leases.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate

throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

In a break from past budgets, the Department-wide Wildland Fire Management appropriation – starting in FY 2009 – will be reassigned from BLM to the Office of the Secretary. The change will facilitate better fire-management coordination among four Interior agencies (BLM, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs).

The BLM's proposed FY2009 budget is online at www.BLM.gov.