

## Field Trips scheduled for Utah Museum of Natural History

**May 5** - Utah Museum of Natural History field trip. **Rock and Gem Hunting at Topaz Mountain.** Located in Juab County is Topaz Mountain, which boasts topaz crystals that rival those from sites anywhere in the world. On this trip, you will learn how to read the rocks to find amazing samples of topaz and other high-quality materials. We will make a brief stop at Baker Hot Springs on the return trip. Recommended for adults and children age 8 or older. The fee is \$115. For information, call (801) 581-5567.

**May 25-28** - Utah Museum of Natural History field trip. **Camping, Hiking, and Photography at Muddy Creek, Horseshoe Canyon, and Goblin Valley.** Join us for a tour around Goblin Valley. Hike from Tomisch Butte into the backcountry of the San Rafael area and through the Chute of Muddy Creek, an area with natural arches, slot canyons, and overhangs. Hike into Horseshoe Canyon to view rock art, including the Great Gallery. We will conclude with a side trip to Little Wild Horse Slot Canyon. Recommended for adults and teens age 15 or older. Cost is \$350, which includes transportation and campground fees. For information, call (801) 581-5567

**May 27** - Utah Museum of Natural History field trip. **Oceanography on the Great Salt Lake.** Be an oceanographer for a day while conducting experiments on the Great Salt Lake. Take a 2 1/2- hour Catamaran yacht tour on the lake while investigating its salinity, dissolved oxygen and nutrient concentration levels. Recommended for adults and children age 6 or older. The fee is \$80 and includes state park admission, yacht tour, and a buffalo burger lunch. For information, call (801) 581-5567.

## Get involved with Bowhunters of Utah

We have a lot of things going and I am really excited to tell you.

First, We will be having our 2007 Bowhunters of Utah Convention on April 14th. It will be at the Lee Kay Center (6000 W. 2100 S. Salt Lake City). The cost will be \$5 for individual or \$12 for the family. We have all kinds of activities planned for the event that you can get your whole family involved in or if you just want to pop in for a couple of hours that would be great as well. We will have a small 3d course to shoot for fun with a different scoring system that I think you will find challenging and fun. Anis Aoude (new big game coordinator) and Craig McLaughlin (his boss) from the DWR will be speaking to us. We also have some other irons in the fire for speaking as well. Damon Stone from Moment of Truth Productions will be giving a seminar on how to film your hunts. We will have hamburgers and hot dogs and we will be selling raffle tickets to kick off our spring membership drive. These items include a new Hoyt Bow, A Missouri Pre-rut hunt, An elk hunt for 2 on the North Slope and much more. If you have anything that you might potentially like to donate please get a hold of Gordy and we will add it to the list. It will be a great time so be sure to mark your calendars and plan on attending with the whole family.



strong.

Second, Our Spring membership drive will be kicking off. We will be doing this in conjunction with our raffle for the items above. This will entail some time at booths at various sporting goods stores selling raffle tickets and gathering memberships for BOU. We need your help to man these booths. I am asking each one of you directly as a member if you can help even if it is only for an hour or two here or there. I will have more information on exact dates and times. Please help if possible. Our organization has a place for everyone. That is what will help us be

Third, Attached to this e-mail are the 2006 Bowhunting survey results. I wanted you to be the first to see them so here they are. They will be appearing on our Website in the next few days. I want to take just a moment to thank Brian Brinkerhoff for all of the work that he is doing on our website. I hope you listen to his back-country radio program - go to <http://www.bowhuntersofutah.org> to see a schedule for the times of his show. He is the man!

4th, Brian has also completed our membership page. You can now renew your membership or buy a life-time membership on-line with a credit card. Also this is meant as a tool to help sign up your other bowhunting friends. Just

get them to look at our site and with a little guidance from you we hope to have them involved bringing about great things for bowhunters in Utah. Our strength is in the activity of our members.

5th We are also beginning another Survey. It is already on our website <http://www.bowhuntersofutah.org> (Thanks again Brian) This survey is called the 2007 Bowhunting Questionnaire. We are trying to determine how best to serve you and all of the bowhunters of the state by finding out where your highest priorities are for future hunts. This will help us stream-line our efforts to better serve you. Our software allows us to separate member answers from those who are not members so by all means please encourage your friends to get on to the site and take the survey as well. Again, this is a great opportunity to encourage them to become a member and involve them in working for a better bowhunting tomorrow.

6th We are looking for articles for our 2nd quarter newsletter. If you have ever wanted to be published, this is your chance! Please include at least one picture (two is better and 3 is the bomb). Please keep the length to around a page. Mike Anderson is heading this up. I will have deadlines available for you next time.

7th We would like to highlight you on our website. We would love to display your pictures on the web and give you all of the credit for your great hunts. Please send myself or Gordy your pictures with a brief overview of what is in the picture.

8th We are setting up a place on our website for new bowhunters to get information on how to be a better bowhunter. We need you to do some write-ups for these segments to go on our website. Pictures will again be helpful. The areas we would like to cover include but are not limited to; Choosing a Bow to fit you, Choosing your equipment, Scouting techniques, Effective practice methods for Bowhunting, Back-country hunting, etc. etc. If you have a particular expertise in any of these areas we would love to have you write us up something so that we can provide these resources to other bowhunters. Again, our strength is in our service to our brothers of the bow.



9th We need help competing/updating the Wasatch front map for 2007. The areas where we need some help checking and re-checking public access points by calling police depts. and city offices are as follows; Brigham to Perry, Willard to N. Ogden, Ogden to Weber Canyon, Weber Canyon/Davis County to North Salt Lake, Salt Lake County. The areas will need to be marked on a map and directions or an address will need to be given for the access point. John Wester will be in charge of this project. In order to coordinate our efforts so that we don't have people doing the same thing please respond to this email indicating what area you can help us out on. It is the little things that each of us does that will turn into the big difference!

Well, Have I given you enough areas to become involved? We have a lot going and look forward to working along side you. Please e-mail me back about where you can help out. More particularly we want to coordinate our efforts to achieve the maximum success.

## **UTAH STATE PARKS RESERVOIR AND LAKE REPORT, MARCH 12**

Ice is melting at many lakes and reservoirs, please use extreme caution. Utah State Parks encourages all boaters to wear their life jackets.

Bear Lake State Park Marina - Frozen, 10 inches of ice

Deer Creek State Park - Frozen

East Canyon State Park \* Frozen, 6 to 8 inches of ice, parts of lake melting  
Wide Hollow at Escalante State Park \* Launch ramp open, 45 degrees  
Great Salt Lake State Marina \* Launch ramp open, 26 degrees  
Gunlock State Park - Launch ramp open, 46 degrees  
Huntington State Park \* Open water, 30 degrees  
Hyrum Lake State Park \* Mostly ice, melting at shoreline  
Jordanelle State Park \* Mostly ice  
Millsite State Park \* Open water, 30 degrees (dock not accessible)  
Otter Creek State Park \* Open water, 30 degrees  
Palisade State Park \* Mostly ice, 36 degrees  
Piute State Park \* Frozen  
Quail Creek State Park \* Open water, 40 degrees  
Red Fleet State Park \* Frozen, 16 inches of ice  
Rockport State Park \* Mostly ice, 36 degrees  
Sand Hollow State Park \* Launch ramp open, 41 degrees  
Scofield State Park \* Frozen, 12+ inches of ice  
Starvation State Park \* Mostly ice  
Steinaker State Park \* Frozen, 16 inches of ice  
Utah Lake State Park \* Frozen  
Willard Bay State Park \* North Marina launch ramp open, 32 degrees  
Yuba State Park \* Frozen, very thin ice  
Strawberry \* Frozen, 12-15 inches of ice  
Flaming Gorge \* Mostly ice

## **UTAH STATE PARKS SNOWMOBILE GROOMING REPORT, MARCH 12**

### Hardware Ranch:

March 11 \* No grooming from Hardware Ranch for remainder of season.

### Monte Cristo:

March 6 - 53" of snow at Dry Bread Pond and 68" at Monte Cristo

#### Grooming completed:

March 5 - Arb's Basin, Wasatch Ridge, SR-39 to mile 52, Ant Flat to Sheep Creek

March 4 - Wasatch Ridge, Arb's Basin, Mile 52 on SR 39, Ant Flat to Rocking C

March 3rd \* Arb's Basin, SR-39

March 1st \* Loop

February 28 \* Wasatch Ridge, Millies Spring, Ant Flat to Lazy S

February 26\* Red Spur

### Bear Lake / Logan Canyon:

March 11 \* Sinks Area groomed, snow is mushy. Grooming season ends April 1 or before if snow melts completely.

#### Grooming completed:

March 11 \* Sinks Trail, Swan Flat

March 10 \* Amazon, Beaver Creek

March 5 - Franklin Basin, Tony Grove

Garden City - Done for the year

### Wasatch Mountain:

#### Grooming Completed:

March 1 - Snake Creek, American Fork Canyon from Pole Line Pass

February 27 \* Cummings Parkway to Cascade Springs

Alpine Loop, Cascade Springs Road not groomed due to lack of snow  
Pine Canyon groomed last week, little snow near trailhead

Mirror Lake / Mill Hollow:

March 2 \* Two to four feet at upper elevations. Beware of avalanche danger. Nobletts area groomed Friday and Saturday.

Bear River Service to Whitney:

As nighttime temperatures stay cold enough, groomers will continue to work trails.

Uintah Basin:

Grooming completed:

March 3 \* All trails groomed, except 191 to East McKee due to lack of snow. Snow melting rapidly.

Scofield / Joe's Valley / Skyline Drive:

Grooming completed:

March 13 - North Skyline has 18-24" trailhead at Fairview top, last groomed February 28; Fish Creek Ridge has 18-24" and was last groomed on February 23; Tucker/Starvation/Pondtown has 8-12" at trailheads and 16" on top, last groomed February 28. Pondtown has dangerous hazards about three miles up from trailhead. Parts of Starvation/Tucker not groomed due to lack of snow.  
March 15 - Miller's Flat has 18-24" and last groomed March 7; Joe's Valley has 10-12" at lower trailhead and 18-24" of Middle Mt., trail last groomed March 7.



Mt Nebo:

New snow up on the very top, but very little after Payson Lake. Nine new inches at the towers and across to the Santaquin Road. Many drifts, but entire trail was groomed this week.

Ephraim / Manti / 12 mile:

February 25 \* Two to three inches at trailhead, 10 inches at Bluebell. Heavy drifts - avalanche danger is very high. Please use extreme caution. Twelve-mile is rough.

Fish Lake:

Grooming completed this past week on Fish Lake Mountain, but won't be groomed again until more snow falls.

Cedar Mountain / East Fork:

March 10 - Midway, Cedar Breaks and Brian Head (no new snow on mountain and existing snow is melting)

March 1 - Midway, Sage Valley, and part of Duck Creek (also know as Lava Flow run) were groomed.

Strawberry:

March 9 \* Much new snow and ideal snowmobile conditions, but be aware of dangerous avalanche conditions.

Grooming ends April 1.

## **Outdoor News Life Beyond the City Limits.**

Outdoor News is a 30 minute weekly news program featuring items of concern to sportsmen of all interests. **Outdoor News** will be broadcast three times a week, fifty-two weeks a year to viewers on Dish Network and DirecTV on the basic service tier. **Outdoor News** will present original content each week with no reruns.

Outdoor News will present stories of importance to all fans of the outdoor side of life. In addition to hunting and fishing news, **Outdoor News** viewers will also be presented with news of note concerning wildlife and their habitat, shooters and shooting sports, dog trials and canine health, game and fish laws and federal legislation. **Outdoor News** will also feature outdoor technology news and new product reviews as well as important product recalls.

Outdoor News invites conservation organizations, wildlife advocacy groups, sportsman's organizations, and all other outdoor-related groups to submit news items and stories of interest. Video content to be considered should be broadcast quality and submitted on BetaSP, DVCPPro, or Mini DV. Material may be digitally submitted on DVD if in an uncompressed movie format. Please contact us if there are questions regarding the format of submissions. Audio files may be submitted on cassette tape or digitally in .mp3, .wav, or .aif format. Complete news stories are encouraged and 90 to 120 second items are the perfect size for consideration; although longer items will also be considered. Please submit only hi-resolution graphics and photographs (preferably 600 dpi, but no smaller than 300 dpi) so that they may be resized and manipulated in various manners for broadcast. **Outdoor News** reserves the right to edit submissions to fit time constraints. All submissions may not be aired. Submissions regarding a pending event should be made at least sixty days in advance. Please include contact information (phone numbers, email addresses or website links) as it will be aired where appropriate. Submissions will not be returned unless clearly requested by the provider.

The members of the production staff of **Outdoor News** are no strangers to the fields and streams of our country. We are passionate about the outdoors and proud to bring Outdoor News into the homes of America. Please assist us in our quest.

## YOUTH ATV AND OHM CLASSES AVAILABLE STATEWIDE

Utah State Parks has scheduled ATV and OHM education classes in Weber, Salt Lake, Utah, Summit, Duchesne, Carbon, Emery, and Iron counties.

Youth, age eight to 16 (who are required by state law to take a safety class prior to operating off-highway vehicles on public lands or trails), can register one week prior to the class. For registration materials, please call (801) 538-7433 in the Salt Lake calling area or toll free, 1-800-648-7433 (1-800-OHV-RIDE).

## UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

March 20 Iron Mission State Park Museum - Cedar City

50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM- Utah State Parks: Preserving Utah for Future Generations Join Goblin Valley State Park Assistant Manager Megan Blackwelder at 7 p.m. for the engaging presentation. The event is open and free to the public. For more information, please call (435) 586-9290.

March 21 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding

Celebrate the first day of spring with a field trip with Vaughn Hadenfeldt from Far Out Adventures and Edge of the Cedars Archaeologist Rebecca Stoneman. Come explore the hidden archaeological treasures of Cedar Mesa, the highest density of Ancestral Puebloan sites in the Southwest. Cost is \$115 and includes lunch and transportation. This event is a fundraising activity for the Edge of the Cedars Education Fund. For more information please call (435) 678-2238 or visit [www.edgeofthecedars.com](http://www.edgeofthecedars.com)

March 22 - 23 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding

Pottery Demonstration by Gregory Holiday: Join talented potter Gregory Holiday from 1 - 5 p.m. for a demonstration on all the stages of pottery making. This program is in conjunction with Holiday's Colors From The Earth exhibit on display until mid-May. Pottery and effigy figures will be available to purchase. This special event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (435) 678-2238.

March 24 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway

50th Anniversary Celebration of Spring- Night Noise: Join the park naturalist at 7 p.m., to discover the park at night along the three-mile Visitor Center Trail. Night sounds challenge us to give up our dependence on sight, and rely on its lesser-developed cousin, our hearing. Meet at the Educational Yurt near the visitor center, dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For more information call (435) 654-1791.

March 30 Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum - Fillmore

Carol Nielson gives a presentation on a pioneer quilt created in 1857 by the women of the Salt Lake 14th Ward beginning at 6 p.m. Carol's family inherited half of the quilt and her presentation is on her search for the other half. She talks about the lives and stories of the women who created and stitched this heirloom. For more information, please call (435) 538-7433

(435) 527-4631.

## **FISHING REPORT FOR SOUTHEASTERN UTAH**

**ABAJO MOUNTAINS** Sergeant J Shirley reports good fishing at Blanding #4 Reservoir. Fishing has been slow at Recapture Reservoir.

**CLEVELAND RESERVOIR** Deep snow around the shoreline makes access difficult. Very little fishing pressure.

**ELECTRIC LAKE** Fishing has been fair. The lake remains iced over.

**GIGLIOTTI POND** The pond is ice-free. Conservation Officer Chris Pugliese says that fishing with nightcrawlers was good over the weekend.

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

**HUNTINGTON NORTH STATE PARK** Ice is off. The water level is very low and will remain that way until work on the dam gates and spillway is completed in April. Jerry Jones fished last night and caught 8 rainbows and a bass on a gold Jake's Spin-a-Lure. Over the weekend, fishing was fair with a worm dangling 4 feet below a bobber. Conservation Officer Chris Pugliese says that crawdad fishing has been good.

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

A blanket of snow covers a thick ice pack. Bring a snow shovel and auger extension. Fishing success has been sporadic, ranging from slow to fair. Try a chartreuse or white jig tipped with a nightcrawler and salmon egg, fished 12 inches off the bottom. Tiger trout range from 12-17 inches. Closed to the possession of cutthroat trout.

**JOES VALLEY RESERVOIR** Fishing is not recommended until ice-off. The ice cap is thinning dangerously. Special regulations apply. Please refer to the 2007 fishing guide.

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

**LASAL MOUNTAINS** Kens Lake has thawed. Tom Ogden fished from a tube on Saturday, but battled high wind. He used a #8 copper-colored wooly bugger and hooked two fish. Brown trout range from 12-15 inches. Mountain reservoirs remain frozen and inaccessible.

**LOWER FISH CREEK** Tom Ogden recommends a #8 beadhead San Juan Worm, a #12 beadhead hares ear, or a #12 beadhead Montana nymph.

**MILLSITE RESERVOIR** State Park Manager Dan Richards reported that the reservoir opened up Over the weekend, he fished with his son and each took a limit of fish, trolling spoons behind his boat. Bait fishing from shore has been fair to good with worms and PowerBait.

**SCOFIELD RESERVOIR** Fishing success has been sporadic, ranging from poor to good, depending on the day and angler expertise. Reports of "slow" fishing far outnumber reports of "good" fishing. Shoreline ice tends to be soft and slushy, although the ice pack itself remains solid. Try a chartreuse tube jig, tipped with a mealworm and salmon egg. Some anglers have been using a nightcrawler tipped with PowerBait.

### **Happenings at the Utah Rivers Council**

Join us at Salt Lake's first annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival! The Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival brings together award-winning environmental and adventure films in a spirit of inspiration and education. This festival sits apart from the hundreds of festivals around the world by leaving you feeling **INSPIRED** and **MOTIVATED** to go out and make a difference in your community and around the world. The festival is this Sunday, March 18; it will



begin at 6 pm at the Patagonia Outlet Store, 2292 Highland Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door; tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.bdel.com/powderkeg> .

News/Events:

Bill says that local governments cannot designate wetlands without agreement from the federal government! Senate Bill 183 says that a municipality can no longer protect property it thinks is a wetland unless the federal government agrees with the wetlands designation. Amy Defreese of the Utah Rivers Council testified in opposition of this bill before the Senate Government Operations & Political Subdivisions Standing Committee. See the Salt Lake Tribune coverage at: [http://www.sltrib.com/utahpolitics/ci\\_5181940](http://www.sltrib.com/utahpolitics/ci_5181940) . More recent coverage since the bill has passed through the Senate and the House is available at: <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/1%2C1249%2C660199073%2C00.html>

Neffs Canyon debris basin concept reviewed by the Mount Olympus Community Council. On Tuesday, February 20, the Mount Olympus Community Council held a public meeting to discuss the pros and cons of constructing a debris retention dam at the mouth of Neffs Canyon in order to protect community members from a potential debris flow event. In attendance were representatives of the Sierra Club, Save Our Canyons, Utah Rivers Council, Salt Lake County flood control, and numerous home owners in the Mount Olympus Community. Utah Rivers Council provided written and oral comments requesting a clear definition of the problem and supporting data before the Community Council or the County make any decisions. Read a copy of that letter at:

[http://www.utahrivers.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=18](http://www.utahrivers.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=13&Itemid=18)

Legislature decided on State Facility Water Conservation **Program** – HB 380 passed the House on its second attempt by a vote of 44-26 on Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Council was strongly supportive of this bill that creates a formal structure for practicing water conservation at State facilities and appropriates money to implement changes. This bill has a fiscal note of \$500,000. Unfortunately, the bill did not receive funding with and did not pass. For more information read the op-ed in the Deseret News at: <http://www.deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,660197941,00.html> or a short blurb in the Salt Lake Tribune at: [http://www.sltrib.com/search/ci\\_5296234](http://www.sltrib.com/search/ci_5296234)

Whirling disease in Duchesne River – State officials have found the whirling disease parasite in brown, rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout and whitefish in the Duchesne river in Duchesne County. State officials are very concerned that it may spread to the State's most popular fishery, Strawberry reservoir, which receives over 500,000 angler days every year. The reservoir is connected to the Duchesne through the Central Utah Project series of pipelines. There is no health risk to humans, but poses a severe biological threat. Read two articles at: [http://www.sltrib.com/search/ci\\_5313126](http://www.sltrib.com/search/ci_5313126) or [http://www.sltrib.com/search/ci\\_5308395](http://www.sltrib.com/search/ci_5308395)

### Utah Anglers Coalition Meeting Agenda set

Just a Reminder...March meeting of UAC will be at the DNR building on N. Temple, Room 1010, at 4 PM on Wednesday March 21.

Tentative Agenda

1. Review of ISE show....what worked what did not.
2. Drew Cushing.....potential changes to bass regs. Update on his new job and community fishing program replacement.
3. Danny Potts.....Mercury contamination. Uintah Mountains Fishing Working Group.
4. Walt Donaldson.....Update on Mercury contaminated fishing waters.
5. Roger Wilson....Update on rumored reg. change at Strawberry.
6. Employee of the year.

If anyone has an issue or discussion topic that needs to be added to the agenda, please let us know.

## Refuge System Photo Contest Results Announced

### Dragonfly Alights on 1st Place

Washington, DC – The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Refuge Photo Contest, a digital photo contest showcasing America's national wildlife refuges and the diverse wildlife that depend on them. With these photos and in celebration of the 104th anniversary of the establishment of the first National Wildlife Refuge on March 14, 1903, NWRA is adding over 200 images to its searchable online Refuge Image Library.



More than 2,200 images from 196 refuges from 49 states and territories were submitted to this second annual Refuge Photo Contest, undeniable evidence that refuges are outstanding places to view wildlife and experience America's diverse heritage. Images were submitted by upload through the contest website from November 2006 until January 31, 2007.

“The contest results are testimonial both to the wealth of talent possessed by amateur outdoor photographers across the nation, and to the spectacular beauty that can be found at our national wildlife refuges,” said Evan Hirsche, President of the NWRA. “These photos will help us illustrate why it's so important to protect and strengthen our more than 547 national wildlife refuges.”



The top 4 prize winners are Richard Henry of Bemidji, MN (First Place); Brett Breeding of New Castle, DE (Second Place); Daniel Kaiser of Columbus, IN (Third Place); and Mark B. Bartosik of Houston, TX (Fourth Place). The 20 Fifth Place winners are: Theresa Baldwin, Mack Barham, Ed Bustya, Wade Dowdy, Jim Fenton, Jan K. France, Rebecca Hamilton, Deborah C. Lewinson, James McIntyre, Judd Patterson, Jack Rogers, Michael Rubin, David Schoen, Colin Smith, Ted Steinke, Matthew Studebaker, John Van de Graaff, Pamela Wells, Roger Windemuth, and Les Zigurski. The two winners of the special recognition People Category are David A. Blohm and Judy Wantulok.

To view the winning images and Image Library, visit:

<http://www.refugenet.org/contest/2007ContestStatus.html> .

The top prize includes a pair of 8x24 Merlin binoculars provided by Refuge Photo Contest sponsor Steiner Binoculars. Swarovski Optik of North America (SONA), Trek Technologies, Wild Bird Centers of America, and Houghton Mifflin also provided prizes.

The NWRA Refuge Image Library, a gallery of high quality images showcasing the rich and varied wildlife and habitat protected by our country's National Wildlife Refuge System, will now feature the more than 220 semi-finalist images from this year's contest in addition to the 200 semi-finalists from last year's contest. The collection is searchable by subject category and state, and provides contact information for each photographer. All 420 images will be available by the end of the month.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, nationwide membership organization, established in 1975. The NWRA's mission is to protect enhance and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System, lands and water set aside by the American people to protect our country's diverse wildlife heritage. Over the years we have worked to make the Refuge System stronger and better able to address the growing challenges of conserving wildlife in our country. For more information, visit <http://www.refugenet.org> .

**Ligety Rockets to 4th in Finals Downhill One-tenth separates top six skiers**

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland (March 14) - Ted Ligety (Park City, UT) was a surprise fourth-place finisher in a crash-marred downhill Wednesday at World Cup Finals as the top six skiers were just one-tenth of a second apart. Bode Miller (Bretton Woods, NH) was ninth in the race won by DH world champion Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway.

[Http://WCSN.com](http://WCSN.com) will broadcast same-day video streaming from World Cup Finals at noon ET.

Svindal closed ground on World Cup overall leader Benjamin Raich of Austria as he won with a time of 1:18.97 over the 2.55K Beltrametti speed run. Swiss Daniel Albrecht was second in 1:19.02, Austrian Christoph Gruber third (1:19.04) and Ligety fourth in 1:19.06 while Didier Cuche of Switzerland, who was crowned World Cup downhill champion last weekend in Norway, tied with Austrian great Hermann Maier for fifth place (1:19.07).

Miller's time was 1:19.46 and Steven Nyman (Provo, UT) finished 15th in 1:19.86 on a sunny day with temperatures in the mid-30s.

Svindal earned 100 points for winning and got an extra boost when Raich finished 13th, giving him just 18 points. With three races remaining, but two of them tech events where Raich is a standout, Raich has 1,075 points to 1,052 for Svindal. Cuche is third (1,008) Miller, the 2005 overall champion, is fourth overall with 772.

"It went pretty well," Ligety said. "It's a turner's downhill course, so that bodes well for me. But it's also one of the most challenging downhill courses I've skied."



DH Head Coach Chris Brigham agreed. "It's a good course for Ted. We started from the women's start, which was our super G start two years ago when Bode and 'D' [Daron Rahlves] tied for the super G win. It turns all the way down, which plays to Ted's technical strengths."

The downhill also served as a nice warmup for Miller, who looks to hold onto his super G points lead. With only Thursday's SG remaining, he has 254 points with Canadian John Kucera second at 178 and Austrian Mario Scheiber No. 3 at 170.

"He skied well and this should have been a good help for Bode. He's doing well and tomorrow should be quite a race," Brigham said.

There were two crashes, which caused long course holds. Swiss Bruno Kern, running No. 17, went down and was helicoptered off the mountain; Svindal skied 19th and took the lead and Pierre-Emmanuel Dalcin of France, No. 20, crashed, causing another long hold - this one with Nyman in the start gate. Dalcin also was chopped off the hill; there was no immediate word on either injury but officials said they were not life-threatening.

The men ski first again Thursday for their super G. Brigham said that also should help Miller "because the course is hard and fast early on; it gets extremely warm in the afternoons - +11 C.[about 51 F.] yesterday - but they've done a really good job of preparing the course."

The race is set to begin at 4:30 a.m. ET with live interval timing available at <http://livetiming.uskiteam.com> while <http://www.WCSN.com> will broadcast streaming coverage again at noon ET.