

PREVENT ZEBRA MUSSELS FROM ENTERING INTO UTAH WATERS

What are Zebra mussels?

Zebra mussels are a small, two-shelled animal similar to a clam. Their size is microscope as larvae, and up to two inches in shell length as adults. The shells have an alternating dark and light striped pattern like a Zebra. A close cousin to the Zebra mussel is the Quagga mussel, which was recently found in Lake Meade and Lake Havasu in the lower Colorado River drainage in Arizona and Nevada.

Where do they come from?



Zebra and Quagga mussels are not native animals from Utah. They come from eastern Russia in river drainages near the Caspian and Black Seas.

How did they get to the United States?

They were first discovered in the Great Lakes area in the mid-1980's. They have since spread to drainages throughout the upper Mississippi River and St. Lawrence River. Initial efforts to stop them from spreading to the west were started several years ago. Unfortunately, these mussels were found by divers in Lake Meade, just below Lake Powell, in January 2007.

Have they been found in Utah?

No. But Utah Department of Natural Resources employees are fearful that due to their proximity to Lake Powell and other southern reservoirs in Utah, they could be spread to state waters.

How is it spread?

Usually it is transported on commercial or recreation boats. It also is spread through canal systems and other water delivery mechanisms.

Why are they so bad?

- One female produces up to a million eggs a year. With no predators, they quickly spread throughout a lake or reservoir, and attach to any hard surface in large clusters.

- They seriously clog inlet pipes and screens for culinary water, sanitation, intakes to power plants and irrigation.
- They impact the habitat needed to grow sport fish in large lakes, reservoirs and streams.
- These mussel shells attach in clusters, and are sharp. They have been documented to cut swimmers and boaters on beaches.
- According to infested states, the cost to unclog piping systems and change fisheries management after they become established runs into the millions of dollars annually.



What is the State of Utah doing to prevent infestation of Zebra mussel into our waters?

The Department of Natural Resources has prepared a policy on preventing the spread of Zebra mussels into our state. This policy will guide us on preventing the spread of this unwanted animal in Utah, and educate the public how to avoid transporting it on their boats.



Photo Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Some of the prevention work being done is to train our biologists and conservation officers on identify the mussels. Our enforcement officers will be stopping and inspecting boats for mussels during the year, particularly those coming from the southern Nevada area. These boat checks will be done in cooperation with officers from the National Park Service.

Our conservation outreach people are already developing signs near boat ramps and sending out brochures on how to keep your boats clean; thereby not transporting this mussel to other waters. The best way to keep these mussels off your boats is to wash them with 140 degree water or to let them totally dry out in the hot sun for a minimum of 5 days prior to going out on the next trip.

“Fly” to Utah’s GeoSights

Salt Lake City, Utah -- You can now “fly” to 15 different geological wonders in Utah from your computer. The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) has created a way to see some of the most interesting and unique places in the state, via Google Earth technology.

“Utah is geologically awesome,” says Lucas Shaw, UGS GIS Analyst. “We hope that by putting images of some of these places on the web, people will be prompted to actually get out and visit them.”

UGS has published GeoSights in its magazine, Survey Notes, since 2000. The sights must have unique features, and be interesting, educational, informative, easily accessible, and identifiable by a non-geologist.

The GeoSights include a wide variety of geologically interesting areas such as: Big Rock Candy Mountain, Spiral Jetty, Devil’s Slide, Little Sahara Sand Dunes, Thistle Landslide and Devil’s Playground.

To access the information, users can log onto: www.geology.utah.gov. Then under “Places To Go” click on “Geosights”. Users will have to download Google Earth if they have not previously done so. A map of Utah will come up with icons marking the various GeoSights. There is also a list from which to select a sight. Double-clicking a selection will “fly” the user to the sight. By clicking on the UGS icon, users will link to the full article about the sight.

“For teachers, this capability will help them visually explain their concepts,” said Larry Madden, Science Specialist, Salt Lake City School District. “Plus, technology is something that kids really tune into and grabs their interest.”

UGS plans to add about three GeoSights to the list each year.

The Utah Geological Survey is an applied scientific agency that creates, interprets, and provides information about Utah’s geologic environment, resources, and hazards to promote safe, beneficial, and wise use of land.



USDA Announces New State-Specific Conservation Practice

New practice will initially benefit up to half million acres for wildlife

Portland, Ore. - March 23, 2007 - Last night at the 72nd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency announced a new Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) practice called Conservation Practice 38 (CP-38). A new state-specific wildlife conservation practice, CP-38 will give states the flexibility to design conservation programs to fit their own specific wildlife needs.

The CP-38 announcement is significant news for Pheasants Forever (PF) and Quail Forever (QF) members and conservationists across the United States. "We applaud the USDA for initiating this," said Dave Nomsen, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's Vice President of Government Affairs, "This new conservation practice will give us the ability, on a daily basis, to work with wildlife-conscious farmers, ranchers and landowners in developing beneficial programs for wildlife in tandem with state wildlife and natural resource agencies. This is significant in terms of strong Conservation Reserve Program policy for wildlife."

Initially, CP-38 will affect up to 500,000 acres, with those acres allocated to states based upon cropland acreage in each state. Individual states are expected to receive several thousand acres upwards to nearly 30,000 acres. States in turn will design conservation practices and policies specific to their habitat and wildlife. "One of the great things about this country is the varying landscape from state to state," Nomsen said, "With CP-38, the USDA has developed a progressive new practice that recognizes the diverse wildlife needs across this mosaic landscape."

Last month, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the USDA would offer no new CRP general signups in 2007 and 2008. While the CP-38 practice is not a complete replacement for general signups, the new practice does signify a strong step in the right direction. As a CCRP

practice, CP-38 will be available for landowner enrollment despite the lack of a general signup. USDA officials expect the practice to be available for landowner enrollment by December 2007.

"Coming on the heels of the 20th anniversary of the CRP program, CP-38 is a stepping stone for the next 20 years of CRP, and beyond," Nomsen said, "CRP has been the most successful conservation program in U.S. history, not only improving pheasant populations, but improving water quality, preventing soil erosion and creating habitat for a variety of wildlife species. CP-38 will continue to strengthen CRP's legacy in the 21st century, with pheasants, quail and other wildlife as the beneficiaries."

Another major development announced at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference was the reallocation of Conservation Practice 33 (CP-33). Commonly referred to as Bobwhite Buffers, CP-33 is a conservation practice targeted at improving bobwhite quail habitat through the creation of habitat buffers along row crops. These transitional, or edge, areas provide important habitat for quail, grassland birds and other wildlife. The news means states that have used up existing allocations will be allowed to continue to enroll acres in CP-33. "This is especially important news, as CP-33 is vital to the resurgence of the bobwhite quail population nationwide," Nomsen said.



In addition to the conservation practice announcements, Secretary Johanns last week directed the Farm Service Agency to adjust CRP rental rates nationwide. This is also positive news for PF and QF members and conservationists. As a voluntary program, the adjustments are needed to help the CRP program remain viable and competitive.

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are active supporters of the CRP program. Originally established in 1985, CRP offers annual payments for 10-15 year contracts to participants who establish grass, shrub, and/or tree cover on environmentally sensitive lands. CRP also helps stabilize farmer's incomes through annual payments and contributes billions of dollars to the economy annually from hunting expenditures; much of which benefits rural communities. CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency and is a part of the Federal Farm Bill, which the current version of expires at the end of 2007.

For additional information about Pheasants Forever, please visit www.PheasantsForever.org

TRCP Partners to Testify Before House Committee on Natural Resources on Energy Development Impacts, Lost Public Access to Public Land

WASHINGTON – Four partners of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) will testify Tuesday, March 27 at 10:30 a.m. before the House Committee on Natural Resources. The hearing, entitled, "Access Denied: The Growing Conflict Between Fishing, Hunting, and Energy Development on Federal Lands," will be broadcast live* on the Web at: <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>, and will be held in Longworth House Office Building Room 1324.

Scheduled to appear are:

Dr. Rollin Sparrowe, Chair, Fish, Wildlife, and Energy Working Group, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Mr. Steve Williams, President & CEO, Wildlife Management Institute

Mr. William Hite, General President, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices in the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry

Mr. Kinsey M. Robinson, International President, United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Workers

Each of these partners will voice concerns about the detrimental effects on sportsmen caused by accelerated energy development on western public lands. They and the people they represent have seen declining numbers of sage grouse, elk, mule deer and pronghorn as drilling rigs – often cleared by federal agencies without proper environmental studies or wildlife protection plans – proliferate across the landscapes they treasure.

- Please note: The live webcast will be your only chance to listen in on this hearing. There will be no archived version of the proceedings available.

Demong Sweeps Nature Valley U.S. Champs *Van wins again with normal hill victory*

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. (March 25) - Completing a gold-medal sweep of the weekend, nordic combined Olympian Bill Demong (Vermontville, NY) cruised to his third national title by winning the normal hill Sunday at the Nature Valley Ski Jumping Championships.

Demong, who is a skiing ambassador for the Olympic Regional Development Authority in Lake Placid, won the large hill (HS127) and nordic combined titles Saturday. Sunday, he jumped 98 and 98.5 meters, good for 261.5 points.

Fellow combined skier Johnny Spillane (Steamboat Springs, CO) was silver medalist with jumps of 90 and 89.5 meters (225.0) while up-and-coming junior Nick Fairall (Andover, NH) was bronze medalist in the contest on Howelsen's 100-meter hill.

"It was outstanding: finish the season in the sun...in Steamboat...with a win...and my mother and sister out here. I've been very lucky in my life, but this has been a great streak. I'm really pleased, really proud," Demong said. "Good to have Johnny on the podium, of course, but good for Nick, too. He's an eastern guy, and he's a really hard worker. This is a big step for him."

The victory brought Demong his sixth U.S. championship and closes a sizzling month of March that also saw a World Championships silver medal and World Cup victory in combined, thanks to a generous boost from his jumping. He has won three jumping titles and three nordic combined gold medals.

"It's special to sweep the weekend like this. I've got some goals. I hope I'm not done yet in winning titles."

Demong said the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club crew at Howelsen Hill "deserve lots of credit for keeping the hill so good. It was awesome. We've had a lot of nationals in Steamboat and we're usually fighting the sun. It was mostly cloudy but I'm not sure it never got below 40, maybe 45 this weekend, and they kept pumps going all night, kept salt on the hill and the in-run to keep things stable...and did just an outstanding job."

In the women's ski jumping, Lindsey Van (Park City, UT) again led the field, collecting the 12th U.S. title of her career. She jumped 91 and 92 meters, receiving 234.5 points. Brenna Ellis (also Park City) earned the silver medal with jumps of 83 and 83.5 meters while high school student Avery Ardonino (also Park City) was bronze medalist.

2007 NATURE VALLEY SKI JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Howelsen Hill Steamboat Springs, CO - March 25, 2007 (Jump distances in meters)

Normal Hill (HS100)

Men's Jumping

1. Bill Demong, Vermontville, NY, (98, 98.5 meters) 261.5 points
2. Johnny Spillane, Steamboat Springs, CO, (90-89.5) 225.0
3. Mick Fairall, Andover, NH, (89.5, 90.5) 223.5
4. Brett Camerota, Park City, UT, (91, 88.5) 222.5
5. Davis Miller, Steamboat Springs, CO, (89.5, 89) 221.5

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Women's Jumping

1. Lindsey Van, Park City, UT, (91, 92) 234.5
2. Brenna Ellis, Park City, UT, (83, 83.5) 192.0
3. Avery Ardonino, Park City, UT, (82.5, 91.5) 187.0
4. Alissa Johnson, Park City, UT, (81, 80) 182.5
5. Brittany Rhoads, Park City, UT, (54, 57) 71.5

The Monolithic Dome Institute Roundup -- Extra, Extra - March 23, 2007

Domes for the World Foundation (DFTW) Builds Model Village – New Ngelepen is a model



village of Monolithic EcoShells in Indonesia. In May 2006, a 6.2 earthquake struck the Island of Java. Result: 1.5 million survivors were left homeless, and Indonesia became one of the most needy areas on our planet.

To help remedy this situation, DFTW was asked to design, direct and reconstruct the village of Ngelepen. Thus, construction of New Ngelepen began. In addition to 72 safe, clean, Monolithic EcoShell homes, this

village includes potable water, a septic system, public buildings and roads.

See and listen to an excellent, 7-minute video about New Ngelepen's development. Click on <http://dftw.org/downloads.html>

New Ngelepen is a prime example of projects DFTW undertakes. But this nonprofit foundation needs your help. DFTW's mission "is to improve the lives of people worldwide through the introduction and construction of Monolithic Domes and EcoShells for personal and public use" (www.dftw.org).

Please donate online now! <https://shop.dftw.org/>

Check It Out - For the latest on Monolithic Domes and related topics, check our website. New articles, profiles and discussions, as well as updates of old ones, are posted often.

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

News blog from SAWS Idaho

It has been a long and winding journey down the road against the Wild Sky Wilderness, a proposal for approximately 106,000 acres of public land within the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest near Index, Washington. Unfortunately it appears now that this journey may soon come to an end.

The other day, I was having a conversation with Brian Hawthorne, the Public Lands Director for the BlueRibbon Coalition, and Craig Osterman, the Executive Director of the Treasure State Alliance. Brian was interested in knowing where the motorized organizations in Washington State currently stood regarding Wild Sky. Due to the leadership changes that occurred in the 110th Congress, Wild Sky would now have a much better chance of being approved. I promised to look into it and also told him that I would provide him with some of the history behind Wild Sky. I reiterated that the Snowmobile Alliance of Western States is still vehemently opposed to Wild Sky. Our organization was opposed to this proposal even before we were officially formed in August 2004. Of course, since SAWS is opposed to ALL new wilderness proposals, this wasn't any big surprise to Brian. The history laid out below is just from my involvement and perspective.

As promised I contacted the other major pro-motorized organizations in this state to see where they currently stood on this issue. I heard back from the Northwest Motorcycle Association, the Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association, and the Washington Off Highway Vehicle Association. NWA and PNW 4WDA said their organizations were still opposed to Wild Sky as they have been in the past. WOHVA stated that their "*wilderness position in general is absolutely no more Wilderness, period*". I did not receive a response from any of the other Washington State pro-motorized organizations that I contacted, so I can not report their current positions and I will not make any statements or assumptions as to their current or past positions on this issue.

Reflecting back on when I first became aware of Wild Sky being proposed, I can still recall the day - Thursday, September 6, 2001. I left work early to attend a Wild Sky public meeting at Monroe High School that was sponsored by Senator Patty Murray's Office. I had just recently heard about this proposal and I wanted to give her staff an ear full of my opinions on their wilderness plan. From the very get go, Patty Murray's office had slick answers with false promises, which allowed them to lure in many in support of her proposal.

I spent the next several months trying to convince my representative from the 8th congressional district, Jennifer Dunn, along with many others, to oppose the Wild Sky Bill that had been introduced in the House by Rep. Rick Larsen. Yet on June 7, 2002, the Seattle Times reported that Rep. Jennifer Dunn co-sponsored the Wild Sky bill. Her support for this bill was a big blow to motorized recreationists in Washington State. We had felt that without her opposition to this bill, due to the fact that a portion of this proposed wilderness was located within her district boundary, there was a good chance that this bill would become law.

As I continued to investigate this proposal, on January 4, 2003, I discovered a United States Forest Service document dated July 30, 2002, with a statement from Abigail Kimbell. At the time, Ms. Kimbell was the Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System (you may recall that she is now the Chief Forester), where she stated in part that “*The Department has significant concerns with approximately 36,000 acres of the 106,000 acres proposed for wilderness designation. These acres would not be considered suitable for wilderness designation under the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act or under existing Forest Service regulations and planning direction*”. She also stated “*The lands that would help meet the goals of the Wilderness Act, approximately 70-75,000 acres....*” To sum up her report, she stated that only 70-75,000 acres of the proposed 106,000 acre wilderness meet the definition as spelled out in the 1964 Wilderness Act.

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/ocr/download/FS-Kimbell-7.30.02.pdf>

On Saturday June 28, 2003, several hundred pro-access individuals held a “Just say NO to Wild Sky” rally in Index, Washington, right across the street from the pro-Wild Sky rally. There were many concerned individuals, including motorcyclists, 4-wheelers, snowmobilers, and farmers, that attended the protest rally that day.

<http://www.sharetrails.org/index.cfm?page=42&story=263>

Sometime late in 2003, I heard about another Wild Sky report. This time by Mark Rey, Under Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture, which was dated June 4, 2003, where he repeats much of the same concerns stated by Abigail Kimbell that I reference above. Secretary Rey also stated that “*The lands that we believe are appropriate for designation under the Wilderness Act, approximately 90,000 acres....*” What did he say? It appears that somehow, in about one year’s time, 15,000 to 20,000 additional acres within Wild Sky now qualify for wilderness, which did not previously qualify when Ms Kimbell spoke.

http://energy.senate.gov/hearings/testimony.cfm?id=775&wit_id=137

Then in July, 2004, a group known as Forest for People held a letter writing campaign to encourage people to write letters to House Resources Committee Chair, Richard Pombo, requesting that he oppose and block the Wild Sky bill. The bill would soon be up for a hearing in his committee. I sent out our first SAWS alert on this letter writing campaign (approximately a month before we officially launched SAWS). This letter writing campaign was successful, and the Wild Sky bill was blocked by Mr. Pombo.

[Wild Sky Wilderness Action Alert](#)

In March, 2005, SAWS sent out our second alert regarding Wild Sky, requesting that our members write their representatives in Congress and requesting that they oppose Wild Sky. Rep. Dave Reichert had just recently been elected to replace retiring Rep. Jennifer Dunn. We had hoped that Rep. Dave Reichert would not support this bill, but on July 28, 2005, Mr. Reichert became a co-sponsor in support of the Wild Sky bill just as Ms. Dunn had previously done. This put another nail in the coffin for those of us that wanted this area to remain open to motorized use.

[Wild Sky Wilderness \(S 152 and HR 851\) in Washington State](#)

Thankfully, due to Richard Pombo being the Chairman of the House Resources Committee, Wild Sky and several other wilderness bills, would never make it out of his committee for a full house vote during the 109th Congress (FY 2005 – 2006). This angered the extreme environmental organizations to no end. In the fall of 2006, Mr. Pombo, along with several other representatives

supportive of snowmobile access issues were targeted by several of these extreme green organizations, including the Defenders of Wildlife (DOW). Many of these targeted representatives, including Mr. Pombo, lost their bid for re-election to the 110th Congress. DOW not only supports Wild Sky, but DOW has also opposed snowmobile access in Yellowstone National Park. They were also a plaintiff in the recent lawsuit to ban snowmobiles from approximately 300,000 acres around Priest Lake, Idaho, centered on the Caribou recovery issue.
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2003386512_envirofallout.html

Shortly after the elections the first week of November, 2006, I wrote an editorial regarding the leadership changes in the U.S. House and Senate, and how these changes could affect bills that are negative to snowmobile access to our public lands. I stated in my SAWS editorial, “*It is my opinion that the Wild Sky Wilderness bill WILL be voted into law in the 110th Congress without Mr. Pombo as the gatekeeper in this committee*”.

[SAWS Editorial: The climate in D.C. regarding anti-snowmobile access issues is beginning to heat up](#)

On February 7, 2007, Rep. Rick Larsen once again introduced a Wild Sky bill (HR886) in the House with the full support of all Washington State representatives from the western side of the state. Senator Patty Murray also submitted her Wild Sky bill (S 520) the very same day. The new Chairman of Pombo’s former Committee, Nick Rahall, stated “*Wild Sky is the top wilderness bill priority for the committee*”. And sure to his word, on March 7, 2007, the Wild Sky bill was ordered out of this committee favorably to the House by voice vote. What this means is that sometime during this session, the full House will vote on Wild Sky and most likely it will be approved. The Senate will in turn vote on their Wild Sky bill, where it should easily pass. The Senate has already approved three previous Wild Sky bills over the past several years. Then my friends, all that is left is for President Bush to sign the final bill and Wild Sky becomes law; the first new designated wilderness in Washington State since 1984. Not only will this area be designated as wilderness, but Wild Sky will still contain many miles of inventoried roads, and thousands of acres of land, which do not meet the definition of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/opinion/304274_edit1.asp

http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/11/13/100loc_a1wildsky001.cfm

Of course there were many other individuals and organizations involved in the fight for or against the Wild Sky Wilderness that I did not mention above for various reasons, but mainly due to time and space considerations. I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to ALL of those that have been involved in opposing the Wild Sky wilderness throughout the years.

I do believe unfortunately that the Wild Sky bill will be signed into law this year and I felt it was important to reflect on some of the history behind this battle. I certainly hope I am wrong, but I am not very optimistic that it won’t become law. I am sure that SAWS will receive some emails over the next few months as Wild Sky moves forward in Congress with some individuals asking SAWS “*what are you doing to stop Wild Sky from becoming a reality?*” My answer will be that I don’t believe that there is anything left we can do to stop it. It may also be time to ask these individuals “*where were you these last 5 years?*”

Dave Hurwitz

[Snowmobile Alliance of Western States](#)

Peterson, Cook Win Sprint U.S. Aerials Titles

Second straight win for "Speedy" at Killington

KILLINGTON, Vt. (March 24) - Jeret "Speedy" Peterson (Boise, ID) made it two U.S. aerials titles in two years at Killington Resort while New England native Emily Cook (Belmont, MA) also won her career second U.S. gold medal on Day Three of the Sprint U.S. Freestyle Championships.

Versus will broadcast coverage of the U.S. champs Sunday April 1 at 3 p.m. ET with the Nature Valley Freestyle Challenge dual moguls at 4 p.m. ET, same day.

Peterson slapped back a bit on his final jump, but his lead from the first round of jumping when he did a full, double-full, full (a quad-twisting-triple with four twists, three flips) at Bear Mountain, gave him his third U.S. title

with 186.15 points. Silver medalist was Dylan Ferguson (Amesbury, MA), who was also silver last week at Junior World Championships with 166.99 points and Zac Amidan (Ogden, UT), who had 166.52, was bronze medalist. Ryan St. Onge (Steamboat Springs, CO), expected to be Peterson's chief competition in the aerials meet, did not compete, nursing a sore back from World Championships earlier this month.

"I'm really excited. I wasn't planning on going for the 'Hurricane' [five twists, three flips - the most difficult jump in aerials], but I need to get as many of these under my belt as I can," said Peterson, the 2005 World Cup champion who finished No. 2 in aerials standings on the World Cup. At Utah's Deer Valley Resort in January, he nailed the Hurricane in a snowstorm and set records for highest points on one jump (140.38) and for a World Cup contest (268.70).

Peterson, coach agree: do the Hurricane

Coach Matt Christensen chuckled at Peterson's reflection on defending the title he won a year ago when the Sprint U.S. championships came to Killington for the first time. "I knew he'd say that, but he doesn't back down. And there's a big crowd here and he loves to put on a show." The gasps and ovation from the crowd of hundreds at the base of Bear Mountain were their own reward.

"I wasn't going to go for it but I talked with my head coach, Matt, and we decided it would be the



best thing for me to do," Peterson said.

"That wasn't the jump I was looking for, by any means, but it worked...

"Killington's a great hill. They take care of us and make it a great jumping venue. And the crowd has been great both years, too. When it's warm, the snow gets really soft - anywhere we compete it's that way - and that makes it difficult to jump, but you have to take it as it comes," Peterson said.

The first round of jumping began at midday in bright sunshine but about halfway through the women's second round, the lights went out. Clouds rolled in and the competitors jumped in flat light, making it tricky - even with all the pine boughs course workers threw onto the snowy slope, to help athletes spot the landing.

"It ended up being pretty good. They did a great job with the venue," Christensen said. "I'm psyched for Emily - her personal best score, 185 points, and then the men had it a little tougher. But it was good for Speedy to get another quint [five twists] under his belt in competition."

Cook loves New England

Earlier, in the women's competition, Cook had 185.04 points for a full, double-full (three twists, two flips) and full, full (two twists, two flips) with near-perfect landings. Second place went to Lacy Schnoor (Draper, UT) at 146.59 while Jaime Myers (Boise, ID) earned the bronze medal with 143.39 points.

An enthusiastic delegation from the Boston area cheered Cook's performance; her previous title came in 2001 at Waterville Valley, NH. "Yeah, I love competing in New England. I really do,' said Cook, who graduated from Maine's Carrabassett Valley Academy. "It's so good to be back...and Killington gave us another beautiful event."

She had to compete in the tricky, flat light conditions but, calling on the experience of the 2006 Olympics and three World Championships plus the World Cup, she was calm. "I think it may have been a little more difficult for the men because the wind picked up, but we've always got some kind of conditions to deal with, and you have to do the best you can.

"We rely on our coaches a lot to help us set our speed and to make the right call when we're in the air. My coaches, Matt and Curdog [2002 Olympian Brian Currutt], are amazing. They're so good. They set my speed and I trust their call, so then I can go do my jump."

Cook said taking down time during the season to rest a back problem, and then returning in time for the World Championships two weeks ago - where she was sixth, has her energized instead of being tired as the season ends. She and Schnoor will be training together early in the preseason to get a jump on next season, she said.

The Nature Valley Freestyle Challenge Sunday, featuring dual moguls at Bear Mountain, will be the final event of the Sprint U.S. Freestyle Championships.

Multimedia:

Photos from the 2007 Sprint U.S. Freestyle Championships are available at
<http://ussa.smugmug.com>.

Audio of Peterson, Cook and other U.S. aerialsts is available at www.usasmedia.com.

2007 SPRINT U.S. FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bear Mountain - Killington Resort

Killington, VT - March 24, 2007

Men's Aerials

1. Jeret Peterson, Boise, ID, 186.15 points
2. Dylan Ferguson, Amesbury, MA, 166.99
3. Zac Amidan, Ogden, UT, 166.52
4. Scotty Bahrke, Tahoe City, CA, 162.26
5. Matt Flesher, Chagrin Falls, OH, 148.65
6. Matthew Depeters, Hamburg, NY, 143.14
7. Ross Falcone, Ketchum, ID, 138.20
8. Evan Kreps, Lakeside, MT, 124.54
9. Lucas Constenius, Whitefish, MT, 121.93
10. Tim Chamberlain, Waitsfield, VT, 112.64

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Women's Aerials

1. Emily Cook, Belmont, MA, 185.04
2. Lacy Schnoor, Draper, UT, 146.59
3. Jaime Myers, Boise, ID, 143.39
4. Allison Treleaven, Fort Wayne, IN, 121.25
5. Allison Lee, Manchester, CT, 112.62
6. Sarah Goldman, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 112.47
7. Sami Palmer, Sandy, UT, 106.71
8. Katie Sciuto, Park City, UT, 101.53
9. Rachel Hatch, Park City, UT, 99.50
10. Siena Palmacci, Park City, UT, 89.37

BLUERIBBON COALITION ACTION ALERT!

Dear BRC Action Alert Subscriber,

Attention Colorado and Utah Recreationists!

BLM INITIATES TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) has kicked off a travel planning effort to amend the Uncompahgre Basin and their portion of the San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plans. A 45-day public scoping comment period is intended to provide information about the project and to gather input from the public in identifying issues and concerns to be considered during the environmental review process, which is anticipated to take about 18 months. Travel Management is becoming an important tool to public land managers as more people make public lands their destination of choice.

"The BLM will be working closely with interested publics throughout this planning process, with ample opportunities for everyone's involvement," Field Manager Barb Sharow said. "It's important that we get the word out now that changes are necessary to protect resources that are seeing increased use."

The UFO proposes to change the existing "Open" designation to "Limited to Existing" for motorized and mechanized use within the entire field office, excluding the North Delta OHV Open Area as well as designated open areas within the planning boundary of the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. Additionally, a transportation system of designated roads and trails is being proposed within the Dry Creek area, which is defined by the USDA Forest Service boundary on the west, private land on the east, 25 Mesa Road on the north, and Dave Wood Road on the south. Travel planning in this area addresses all modes of travel including motorized, mechanized, equestrian and hiking routes. The entire planning area encompasses approximately 578,000 acres of BLM-administered public lands located in Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Mesa, and Gunnison Counties.

"If we don't act now, the places we enjoy recreating in could be negatively impacted for decades to come," added Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Stotler. "The public counts on BLM to protect their public lands for the use of future generations."

Three open houses are scheduled during the public scoping comment period:

Tuesday, March 27, 2007 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Hampton Inn
1980 North Townsend
Montrose, CO 81401

Thursday, March 29, 2007 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Delta-Montrose Technical College (VoTech)
1765 Hwy 50
Delta, CO 81416

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Community Center
Naturita, CO

The public may also submit written comments to:

BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, ATTN: Travel Management, 2465 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, Colorado 81401; by fax to (970) 240-5368; or by e-mail to cotmpufo@blm.gov.

Planning documents may be reviewed at the Uncompahgre Field Office or on-line at www.co.blm.gov/ubra. For additional information, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Julie Stotler at (970) 240-5310.

PLEASE, IF YOU RECREATE IN THIS AREA OF COLORADO, GET INVOLVED NOW!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact BRC.

Thanks in advance for your involvement,

Brian Hawthorne
Public Lands Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
208-237-1008 ext 102

Reserve Pit Leak on Rock House Gas Project Stopped

Enduring Resources, Inc., notified the Bureau of Land Management today of a leak from a reserve pit for a gas well being drilled on School & Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) land in the Rock House gas field. Though the leaking reserve pit is not located on BLM managed-land, the drilling fluid was flowing across BLM managed-land in Atchee Wash.

Hazardous material protocols were immediately executed. BLM, State, and Enduring Resources personnel are on the scene to assess the clean-up effort and to minimize any impacts from the leak. The leaking drilling fluid appears to have been stopped a few hundred feet from the White River. Water samples of the drilling fluid were taken from the leaking pit, immediately outside of the pit, where the fluid was stopped, and at the White River.

The reserve pit is used to store drilling fluids during well drilling operations. The reserve pit is a fresh water mud system that could contain barite. There is no danger to public health. Barite is used in the drilling fluid to add weight and minimize fluid loss into fractured underground formations.

DELORME ADDS COLOR AERIAL IMAGERY FOR USE WITH ITS MAP SOFTWARE AND NEW HANDHELD GPS

YARMOUTH, Maine, March 21, 2007—DeLorme, the innovation leader in mapping and GPS technologies, today announced the availability of recent color imagery for 26 U.S. states, with more on the way. The imagery can be viewed either on a PC screen or the new DeLorme Earthmate(r) GPS PN-20 receiver.

Downloading the color imagery is easily accomplished via the NetLink tab found within DeLorme mapping software, including Topo USA(r) 6.0, Street Atlas USA(r) 2007, Street Atlas USA 2007 Plus DVD, and XMap 5.0.

This color imagery release significantly broadens the amount of aerial data available from DeLorme. The above-mentioned mapping software packages already offer users the ability to download DeLorme Aerial Data Packets, comprised of recent color satellite imagery and black and white aerials, as well as U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute quads.

The timing of the color imagery release dovetails with the recent introduction of the Earthmate GPS PN-20 handheld receiver, which comes with Topo USA 6.0 software included at no extra charge. Users can easily toggle back and forth between the new color imagery, Aerial Data Packet views, and the Topo USA 6.0 maps they've loaded on the device.

What makes DeLorme aerial imagery unique is that users can actually use it in their planning and navigation. On the desktop PC, the imagery can be used to enhance the map detail with total accuracy — for example, to pinpoint the precise location of a man-made feature, the exact line of a forest boundary, different types of land use (e.g., agricultural or residential) and much more.

"This is aerial imagery you can actually use," said Caleb Mason, Marketing Director for DeLorme. "Unlike the imagery you find online, this can be put to use with the Earthmate GPS PN-20 and with DeLorme software on your desktop to improve both your travel planning and your GPS navigation."

Depending on the location, the color imagery is at either one- or two-meter per pixel resolution. The download price is \$1.00 per square kilometer, with a \$9.95 minimum purchase.

Currently, the color imagery is available for the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Additional states will be made available shortly.

ABOUT DELORME

DeLorme is the longtime leader in innovative mapping and GPS solutions for both consumer and professional markets. The company's trailblazing Street Atlas USA(r) and Topo USA(r) consumer software have set the standards for GPS, routing, and travel-planning capabilities. DeLorme XMap(r) software is expanding the GIS market through its advanced capabilities, affordable pricing, and ease of use. A longtime GPS leader, DeLorme Earthmate(r) receivers pioneered the concept of GPS for laptop PCs and PDAs when first introduced in the early 1990s. Today, the innovation continues with the Earthmate GPS PN-20 handheld receiver, the Earthmate GPS BT-20 with dual Bluetooth and USB connectivity, and the DeLorme GPS2056 Receiver Module for OEM electronic systems. Located in Yarmouth, Maine, DeLorme is home to Eartha(tm), the world's largest rotating globe.