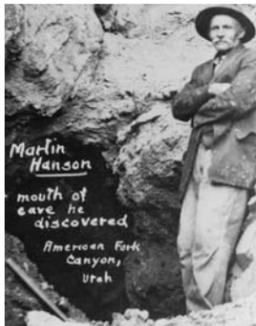




Timpanogos Reflections

Ninety Memorable Years

Timpanogos Cave National Monument turns 90 this year. It's been a wild ride from cave discovery to today's Introduction to Caving Tour and everything in between. Here are a few moments that share the story of this special place.



Martin Hansen

Discovery

The Timpanogos Cave System story begins with the discovery of the first cave, later named Hansen Cave, by Martin Hansen in October 1887. Hansen discovered the cave entrance by following mountain lion tracks in newly fallen snow.

In 1913, fourteen year old boys, James W. Gough and Frank Johnson discovered Timpanogos Cave. The boys were exploring near Hansen Cave

when they cleared an area around a rock with mineralization on it and the rock fell into the void that was the entrance to Timpanogos Cave. However, the entrance location was lost until rediscovered by Vearl J. Manwill on August 14, 1921. After exploring the cave with his group, they formed the Payson Alpine Group that evening around the campfire, resolving to protect the cave.

In October, 1921 Middle Cave was discovered by Heber and Wayne Hansen, the son and grandson of Martin Hansen while exploring the area around the known caves. After finding the cave, they reported their discovery to the family, including Martin Hansen, who accompanied the group on their next visit.

Becoming a National Monument

The U.S. Forest Service was well aware of Hansen Cave, but it wasn't until 1921 when Timpanogos Cave was rediscovered and Middle Cave discovered that something to protect the caves had to be put into place. Forest officials and others had toured Hansen Cave, noting the damage caused by uncontrolled access and were concerned about the future of the other caves. President Warren G. Harding issued the proclamation creating the monument, which included all three caves on October 14, 1922. Government reorganization in 1933 led to the transfer of the monument to the National Park Service in 1934, and the agency still manages the caves today.

First Cave Tours

The first cave tours were given by Martin Hansen from 1888-1891 for a nominal fee, but only of Hansen Cave. Much of Hansen Cave was closed to the public until 1998 when the Introduction to Caving Tour began. Still available today, for the same price per person-\$15, reservations are required, but this is the tour to see how and why Hansen started it all.



Visitors at the entrance to Timpanogos Cave

Cave Tour Turn-around

Tours of Timpanogos Cave began in May, 1922 and were led by guides hired by the Timpanogos Cave Committee. Because the connecting tunnels did not exist yet,

all tours made a loop through the lower passage off of Chimes Chamber.

One-Way Cave Tours

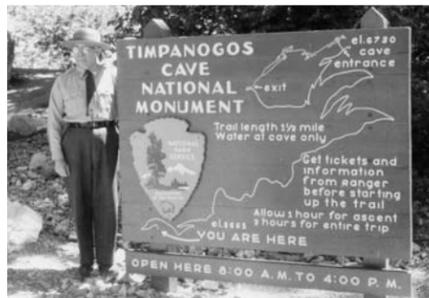
The first one-way cave tour through all three caves was given on April 30, 1939. The construction of connecting tunnels from 1936-1938 forever changed cave tour operations. Also at this time the Last Chance Restroom at the entrance to Hansen Cave was completed.

Talking to Each Other

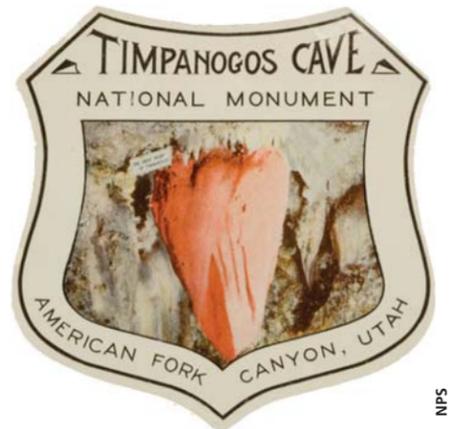
Communication between rangers at the caves and the canyon floor ticket sales staff has always required ingenuity. In the 1920s, a system of car honking alerted rangers that visitors were on the way. Soon, this gave way to a handcrank telephone, known to give a shock to the caller during bad weather. In 1976, the telephone was taken out and radios allowed for monument wide communication. Today, radios are still in use, as well as a landline phone and cell phones.

First Superintendent's Legacy

Tom Walker, from American Fork, Utah, and longtime monument employee, was the first Superintendent of the monument from 1946-1969. In fact, signage from his time still exists-look closely at the cave trail signage just above the Visitor Center. That wooden background, though painted over many times, still shows evidence of the old routed cave trail orientation sign.



Superintendent Walker at cave trail sign



NPS

Emergency: 911
Sheriff: (801) 375-3601

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The first Visitor Center was dedicated under Walker's tenure in 1964. It was a Mission 66 structure that contained a museum, auditorium, office space, ticket sales, restrooms and adjoining snack bar and gift shop. On February 3, 1991 an overloaded extension cord and heat tape on the roof started a fire that destroyed most of the building. Today, the Visitor Center is still housed in a modular building installed in 1991. West of the Visitor Center, the snack bar and bar gift shop

Continued on page 2

What's New 3



Visitors enjoy cross-country skiing

Go Underground 5



Cave Tour in Chimes Chamber, 1958

Lend A Hand 6



Volunteers repair sections of trail

Thank You!

Wherever you see this symbol, you'll know your recreation dollars are hard at work helping to fund this project. Thank you for helping to make a difference in your parks and forests.



Timpanogos Reflections is published yearly by the National Park Service, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, and the U.S. Forest Service, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, to enhance visitor experience.

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 Help preserve natural resources. Please return this paper to a fee station or Visitor Center.



Sylvia Clark



Jim Ireland

Welcome! Bienvenue! Bienvenidos! Willkommen!

to Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Timpanogos Cave National Monument!

Over 300,000 acres await your exploration and enjoyment in American Fork Canyon. From an elevation of 4,500 feet at the entrance to the 11,750 foot summit of Mount Timpanogos, American Fork Canyon offers an experience of unmatched sights, sounds, and solitude. We trust that you will have a wonderful time as you explore and experience this great canyon. While you are here, take time to relax and set aside your cares for a while. As you drive through the canyon, hike to the cave, ski or snowshoe a wintry trail or watch wildlife foraging in the brush, we hope you will lose yourself in the power of this beautiful landscape.

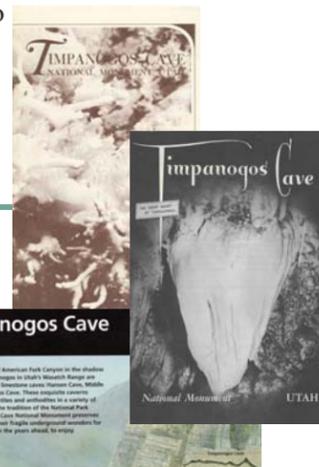
Famed naturalist John Muir once noted that “change is the only constant in the universe”, and American Fork Canyon is not immune. As the population of the Wasatch Front grows each year, so does visitation to the canyon and the surrounding lands. As public land managers, we are challenged every day to provide for as much appropriate use and enjoyment of these lands as we can while still ensuring their protection today and in the future. It’s a difficult balancing act, and we cannot do it without your help. Timpanogos Cave National Monument and the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest belong to us all, and as such, we have a shared stewardship role.

There are many ways to help, from sharing the financial costs through your recreation fees to volunteering your time on a trail restoration project, the county search and rescue team or the Timpanogos Cave trail patrol program. Stay informed and engaged as we develop plans and seek public input. The easiest, and most important, is simply to be responsible and respectful of the land and other people while you are here. So again, Welcome! These are your public lands to enjoy, protect, and pass on to future generations. We hope you will be refreshed and restored during your visit, and stay connected to this magnificent landscape long after you have returned home.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Clark
 Sylvia Clark
 Pleasant Grove District Ranger
 Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF

Jim Ireland
 Jim Ireland
 Superintendent
 Timpanogos Cave NM



Monument brochures: 1965 in back, modern in middle and 1954 in front.

90 Years of Memories (cont.)

are all that is left of the original facility.

Staffing

During WWII school teachers and students were hired as cave tour guides out of necessity. Today that tradition partly continues because of compatible schedules. Sherma E. Bierhaus became the first female superintendent in the National Park Service at Timpanogos Cave National Monument from 1974-1982. Think you could bring something to the monument staff? All openings for the monument are posted on www.usajobs.gov.

Price of A Cave Tour

You might think that the first cave tour fee increase probably happened pretty quickly. In fact, ticket prices were the same for 60 years! That’s right, starting in 1922 an adult cave tour ticket was fifty cents. Prices rose for an adult cave tour ticket in 1982 to \$1. Learn more about how your fees have been hard at work on page three.

Partners for the Future

We all have a role in the future of Timpanogos Cave National Monument. Visitors, volunteers, staff, and other agencies all can help protect and preserve the legacy that the discoverers and caretakers left in these

first 90 years. Children can become Junior Rangers, teenagers can become volunteer Behind A Tour Specialists (B.A.T.S.), and adults can become trail patrol volunteers or numerous other roles. All of us working together and caring for the monument will leave a resource to be treasured for many years to come.

Feature story photos from NPS.

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Law Enforcement

- EMERGENCY 911
- Division of Wildlife Resources (801) 491-5678
- Highway Patrol (801) 374-7030
- Poaching Hotline (800) 662-3337
- Utah County Sheriff Dispatch (801) 851-4100

Ranger Stations

- Timpanogos Cave National Monument (801) 756-5239
- Pleasant Grove Ranger District (801) 785-3563
- Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center (801) 756-5238
- Wasatch Mountain State Park (435) 654-1791

Nearby National Parks

- Arches (435) 719-2299
- Bryce Canyon (435) 834-5322
- Capitol Reef (435) 425-3791
- Glen Canyon (928) 608-6200
- Golden Spike (435) 471-2209
- Grand Canyon (928) 638-7888
- Grand Teton (307) 739-3300
- Great Basin (775) 234-7331
- Yellowstone (307) 344-7381
- Zion (435) 772-3256

Other

- Avalanche Information (888) 999-4019
- Recreation Reservation Service (877) 444-6777
- Road Conditions (866) 511-8824
- Utah County Convention & Visitors Bureau (800) 222-8824
- Utah Travel Council (800) 200-1160
- Weather (801) 524-3057

WEB SITES

National Park Service

- Timpanogos Cave National Monument www.nps.gov/tica
- National Park Service www.nps.gov
- Western National Parks Association www.wnpa.org
- NPS Campground Reservations www.recreation.gov
- National Park Foundation www.nationalparks.org

Forest Service - U.S. Department of Agriculture

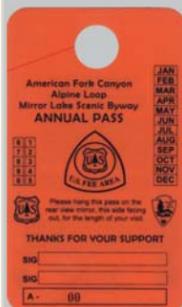
- Uinta National Forest www.fs.fed.us/r4/uwc/
- Forest Service www.fs.fed.us
- Forest Service Campground Reservation www.recreation.gov
- National Forest Foundation www.natforests.org
- Smokey Bear www.smokeybear.com

Other

- Public Lands Information www.recreation.gov
- State of Utah www.utah.gov
- Utah Department of Transportation www.udot.utah.gov
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources www.wildlife.utah.gov
- Utah State Parks www.stateparks.utah.gov

Canyon Passes

The majority of fees collected remain in American Fork Canyon/Alpine Scenic Loop Area to improve visitor services, maintain recreation facilities, enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural and cultural resources. The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Timpanogos Cave National Monument and our partners appreciate your support. The following passes are available at the fee stations and Forest Service and Park Service offices. Cave tour fees are additional.



Canyon Recreation Fee

Allows recreating and use of facilities in American Fork Canyon, along the Alpine Loop and at Mirror Lake. May be purchased at the fee stations or the Pleasant Grove Ranger District Office.

- Three-day pass - \$6.00
- Seven-day pass - \$12.00
- Annual Pass - \$45.00



America the Beautiful—National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass- \$80.00

This pass is available to the general public and provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity Fee for a year, beginning from the date of sale. Non-transferable.



Interagency Senior Pass - \$10.00

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity fee. Non-transferable.



Annual Pass for Military - Free

This is an annual pass available to active military personnel and their dependents. A Department of Defense ID (CAC card or DD Form 1173) is required to obtain the pass and must be obtained in person. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity fee. Non-transferable.



Interagency Access Pass - Free

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Documentation is required to obtain the pass and must be obtained in person. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity fee. Non-transferable.

All Golden Access and Golden Age Passports will continue to be honored according to the provisions of the pass. Only paper Golden Age and Access Passports may be exchanged free of charge for new plastic passes.

For more information or to purchase the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, Senior Pass or Access Pass online, visit the Internet at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass> or call 1-888-ASKUSGS, Ext. 1.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Your Canyon Fees at Work

American Fork Canyon offers a wide array of diverse recreational opportunities. Whether you prefer fishing, hiking, camping, cycling, or taking leisurely drives along the beautiful winding roads—American Fork Canyon has it all. Many of the amenities that make this canyon so appealing to 1.2 million recreationists annually are made possible by your canyon fees. The majority of canyon fees are applied directly toward projects within American Fork Canyon. Keep reading to find out where your fees have been hard at work.

Historic Highlight: Theater-in-the-Pines Amphitheater Cared for by Your Fee Dollars

Youth and student groups from Brigham Young University began the use of Aspen Grove as a staging area for hikes up Mt. Timpanogos beginning in 1906. By the 1910s, 10,000 hikers a year ventured up the long and difficult trail to the peak. A wooden platform built in the 1910s served as the only meeting place for the large groups hiking up to Mt. Timpanogos. With the help of Forest Service architect George Nichols who created the blueprints for the theater, young men with the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration constructed the 2,000 seat amphitheater you see today.

Theater-in-the-Pines amphitheater was built between 1934 and 1936, at the height of America's Great Depression. The unique starburst design overlooking the stage does not appear in other Forest Service amphitheater designs. After the designation of the area as the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness in 1984, the Forest Service set group size limits to 15 people in order to protect the fragile environment of the area.

The Forest Service continues to maintain this historic theater, and completed stabilization efforts in 2010. Visitors are encouraged to experience this piece of canyon history.



Theater-in-the-Pines in the 1930s.

Extreme Snowfall and Wet Spring Lead to Multiple Campground and Road Repairs

Record snowpack that was 172% above average for Northern Utah set the stage for potential American Fork Canyon flooding. The Forest Service and Utah Department of Transportation initiated preventative mitigation projects to protect SR-92 and canyon facilities. Riverbanks were reinforced, log jams that inhibited water flow were removed and sand bags were prepared.

Summer heat arrived in July, bringing down torrents of water into the canyon as the upper elevation snowpack quickly melted. The Forest Service, Utah County Sheriff's Department and volunteers placed walls of sandbags to keep riverbanks intact, protect facilities and direct water off of SR-92. Mount Timpanogos Campground campers were evacuated as the river overflowed its banks severely damaging a campground bridge. Mitigation efforts prior to the flooding and multiple repairs following the flooding and were made possible by fee revenue. Thanks to your support, all the damage from 2011 flooding has become a memory.

Cave Tours and Ranger Programs

Timpanogos Cave National Monument hired 3 National Park Service rangers with support from fee revenue to increase visitor safety and programming options. These rangers provided additional cave tours throughout the season. The increased staffing also provided free guided walks at Cascade Springs and the Timpanogos Cave Canyon Nature Trail. Enhanced safety messaging was also implemented on the cave trail with the addition of a new safety stop for all trail hikers. Finally, local school children continued to be the focus of free outreach programs with rangers being provided for classroom presentations.

Maintenance and Improvements Made Possible by Your Fees in 2011

- Maintained 90 miles of trails open to: hiking, biking, equestrian use, and motorized vehicles.
- Operated and maintained 7 picnic areas, 2 interpretive sites, 2 fishing sites, 1 observation site, 7 dispersed camping sites, 2 cross country ski trails, and 14 trailheads.
- Conducted security, compliance, education and information patrols.
- Completed slurry seal and asphalt repair at Granite Flat Campground.
- Completed re-routing the Tibble Fork Trail.
- Initiated a one-mile re-route along the South fork of the Little Deer Creek Trail to protect resources.
- Installed a new "Smokey Fire Prevention" sign near the Aspen Grove Information Station.
- Provided winter snow plowing, trailhead and facility maintenance, and grooming of cross country ski trails.
- Repaired and installed new signs at trail junctions and trailheads that were damaged during the winter.
- Replaced or repaired ~200 linear feet of post and rail fence throughout the canyon.
- Installed ~200 linear feet of barrier rock all over the canyon to protect forest resources.



The Theater undergoing rehabilitation in 2010.

- Supplemented an extensive volunteer program in American Fork Canyon.
- Maintained and fostered the recreation fee partnership with the National Park Service, Utah County Sheriffs and Utah Country Search and Rescue, Utah Department of Transportation, and Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation.
- Provided interpretive tours twice a week at Cascade Springs in partnership with Timpanogos Cave National Monument.
- Groomed 35 miles of snowmobile trails in American Fork Canyon and the Alpine Loop Recreation Area in partnership with Wasatch Mountain State Park.
- Conducted 4,171 cave tours during the season for 59,869 visitors.
- Presented 58 evening programs for 1,011 visitors.
- Conducted 21 guided walks at Cascade Springs for 2,200 visitors.
- Led 2 guided walks on the Canyon Nature Trail for 54 visitors.
- Presented 30 educational outreach programs for 3,250 people.
- Presented 33 Junior Ranger programs for 1,725 children.



A backhoe at Mount Timpanogos Campground removes debris from clogged culverts during Spring 2011 flooding.

Upcoming for 2012

Timpooneke Trailhead Reconstruction

The Timpooneke Trailhead is one of the main starting points for hiking Mount Timpanogos. For years it has been a goal to reconstruct this trailhead in order to accommodate increased visitor demand for parking capacity. Through a state of Utah non-motorized trail grant, recreation fee dollars and volunteer assistance this project will be implemented this year.

Construction to expand trailhead parking will begin in mid-August to early September. The construction will impact access to the Timpooneke trail and other popular trails in the area. In a typical year, the Timpooneke Trailhead cannot accommodate the high use that occurs on Saturdays and holidays. We recommend planning your hike Monday through Friday or Sundays to avoid the extra congestion. More information on where to park during construction will be available at canyon information booths and at the Pleasant Grove Ranger District office.

Ranger Programs

Junior Ranger programs at the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center will continue this year every Saturday and holiday from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Meet at 10:00 a.m. for this free, one-hour program. Free evening ranger program presentations will continue to be offered every Friday and Saturday evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day. Free ranger guided walks at Cascade Springs will be offered at 10:00 a.m. beginning in mid-June through mid-August.

Thank you for your support. For additional information or comments, please contact:

Pleasant Grove Ranger District
390 North 100 East
Pleasant Grove, Utah 84062
(801) 785-3563

Timpanogos Cave National Monument
RR 3, Box 200
American Fork, UT 84003
(801) 756-5239

Free Ranger-Guided Tours of Cascade Springs

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June-August 2012

Where: Meet at the Gazebo in the lower parking lot

All ages are invited to attend this free accessible program. Be prepared with water, sunscreen and walking shoes. Please call (801) 756-5238 or visit www.nps.gov/tica and click calendar of events for details.



Learn about Cascade Springs with a ranger.

Make the Most of Your Canyon Visit

A Few Hours

Explore the Canyon Nature Trail. Start this easy, paved trail at Swinging Bridge Picnic area or across from the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center. Along the 1/4 mile trail, new waysides highlight the habitats, plants and animals found in the Canyon.

Take in an Evening Program or Junior Ranger Program. Join a Ranger at the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for presentations about the park and surrounding area.

Pack a Lunch. Picnic areas with tables, grills, water, and restrooms are available at Swinging Bridge Picnic Site at Timpanogos Cave, along Highway 92, and Route 144 to Tibble Fork Reservoir.



Evening Program at Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center

A Half Day

Drive the Loop. The 20-mile Alpine Loop offers terrific views of Mount Timpanogos and other glacier-carved peaks. The narrow, winding route connects American Fork Canyon to Provo Canyon. A drive during autumn colors is truly breathtaking. Motorhomes and trailers longer than 30 feet are not recommended.

Visit Cascade Springs. This beautiful site is located 7.5 miles off the Alpine Loop on Forest Service Road 114, and consists of boardwalks over springs cascading down the mountain slope in a series of limestone terraces and pools.

Hike to the Cave. Stop at the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center and purchase your tickets to an underground wonderland. The Timpanogos Cave System is a series of three caves connected by two man-made tunnels. Panoramic views of the valley dazzle you as you climb the 1,092 feet to the cave entrance.

Ride a Bike or a Horse. Enjoy the multiple use trails available in the National Forest and enjoy a bike ride or horseback ride where no cars can go.

A Whole Day

Sleep Under the Stars. American Fork Canyon has four developed campgrounds. Each site offers a table, grill, and access to water and restrooms during the summer.



Mt Timpanogos Wilderness

Take a Hike. Over 50 miles of hiking trails in the canyon range from level and easy to steep and arduous. Stop and ask a Ranger at the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center or Pleasant Grove District Office for recommended hikes, maps and guides.

Volunteer. Numerous opportunities are available to volunteer your time for a day to help other visitors out, maintain trails and facilities, and protect our natural and cultural resources.

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is the term used for camping anywhere in the National Forest outside of designated campgrounds. Dispersed camping means no toilets, no treated water, and no fire pits are provided. Dispersed camping is not allowed in the vicinity of developed recreation areas such as campgrounds, picnic areas or trailheads. There are extra responsibilities and skills that are necessary for dispersed camping. It's your responsibility to know these before you try this experience.

Regulations:

- Dispersed camping is allowed up to 150 feet from a designated Forest Service Road



Good dispersed campers would never leave a site like this!

- Dispersed camping is not allowed within 100 feet of water (we recommend 200 feet)
- Certain locations in the American Fork Canyon-Alpine Loop Recreation Area are not open to dispersed camping. Pay attention to signs that explain where dispersed camping is allowed.
- For dispersed camping you may occupy any general undeveloped area of National Forest Land for 14 consecutive days in any 30 day consecutive period.

Responsible Dispersed Camping Includes:

Having a plan to deal with the disposal of human waste:

Slow Down, Save a Life

Over 1.2 million visitors annually recreate in American Fork Canyon. It is a wonderful area for visitors to enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, rock climbing, fishing, cave tours and a myriad of other activities. However, the narrow, winding road, heavy traffic and limited parking in the canyon presents some challenges for land managers and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT).



Take a tip from a turtle—slow down!

Many Timpanogos Cave National Monument visitors have to walk across the highway or along the road shoulder to access the visitor center and cave trail. Pedestrian safety for canyon users is vitally important to all of us. In order to better protect our canyon visitors Timpanogos Cave is working with UDOT to increase driver awareness of pedestrians on the roadway, posted

speed limits and congested areas.

Timpanogos Cave has increased enforcement of the posted speed limits throughout the park. Speed-display trailers will be used to notify drivers of their current speed, solar powered driver feedback signs may be installed, and active enforcement implemented. We hope that through a variety of methods drivers will slow down in the canyon and be more aware of the heavy pedestrian use along the roadway.



A perfect site to try out dispersed camping! Please leave all sites better than you found them.

- Use a self contained system (portapotty, trailer, camper etc.) or,
- Follow the Leave No Trace principle of burying human waste in catholes 6-8" deep at least 200 ft from water, camp or trails and then cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Using already established fire rings instead of creating your own.
- Using sticks and logs found on the ground for your fire instead of snapping branches off of live, dead or downed trees or cutting live trees.
- Camping on bare soil if possible, to avoid damaging or killing plants and grass.
- Avoiding the leveling or digging of trenches in the ground at your campsite. Select a campsite with good natural drainage.
- Packing out all of your trash, and leaving your campsite better than you found it.

Wonders of Wasatch Mountain State Park

Wasatch Mountain State Park lies just east of American Fork Canyon and although only an hour drive from the valley, people are pleasantly surprised when they stumble across it.

Wasatch Mountain State Park is proud to offer four 18-hole golf courses. But that isn't all we offer. The 23,000 acres of Wasatch Mountain offers something for everyone in every season.

Enjoy the alpine terrain, rich landscapes and picturesque views while hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing on its 29 miles of non-motorized trails. The park has 30 miles of motorized trails connecting to National Forest Service land where visitors can ride four-wheelers and snowmobiles.



Fall scenery is especially stunning.

To top off your experience, the park offers camping, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing and an opportunity to pick apples in the fall from the 1880's historical homestead site all within a mile of the visitor center.

Call (435) 654-1791 or visit www.stateparks.utah.gov/parks/wasatch for details on the apple harvest and

other activities you can enjoy at the park.



Bird's eye view of a golf course at the park. UTDNR



Visiting Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Cave Tours

Tours of the 3 adjoining caves are offered from early-May through early-October, weather permitting.

Guided by National Park Rangers, these 1-hour tours are limited to 16 people. Plan on spending about 3 hours round-trip to hike up, tour the caves, and hike back to the Visitor Center. For your safety and the safety of others, pets and wheeled vehicles (baby strollers, etc.) are NOT allowed on the cave trail.

Bring plenty of drinking water, as no water is available along the trail or at the caves. Come prepared with hiking shoes and a light jacket (cave temperatures average 45°F [7°C]). Cameras and flashlights are welcome.

Inside the Caves

The three highly decorated limestone caves are known for their abundance of helictites—spiral, worm-like formations. Along the 1/3 mile tour deep inside the mountain, you'll discover many other interesting, colorful features. Anthodite crystals, stalagmites, stalactites, cave drapery, and flowstone are among other formations that adorn the rooms and winding passages.

Cave Access Trail

To reach the Timpanogos Cave System, which is located 6,730 feet above sea level, visitors must hike the 1.5 mile (2.4 kilometer) hard-surfaced cave trail. The trail, which rises 1,092 feet (325 meters), is considered a strenuous hike. Anyone with heart trouble or breathing problems should not attempt the hike. Those under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Introduction to Caving Tour

The Introduction to Caving Tour takes visitors back to Hansen Cave Lake. This off-trail tour is a strenuous hike that requires bending and crawling through tight passages. Group size is limited to 5. Participants must be at least 14 years old. Call (801) 756-5238 for details.

Junior Ranger Program and Patio Talks

Children who visit the caves can earn a Junior Ranger certificate and badge at the Visitor Center. Patio talks are on Saturdays and holidays, Memorial Day through Labor Day at the Visitor Center. These free ranger programs are for kids of all ages!

Cascade Springs Walks

Meet a ranger for a free guided walk June-July 2012 at the gazebo in the lower parking lot at Cascade Springs. Call (801) 756-5238 or visit www.nps.gov/tica and click calendar of events for specific days and times.



Junior Ranger program

Evening Programs

Join a park ranger every Friday and Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center for free evening programs. These informative programs are educational and entertaining. Activities range from the study of local wildlife to canyon history and campfire singing. Call (801) 756-5238 or visit www.nps.gov/tica and click calendar of events for details.

Visitor Center Hours

The Visitor Center is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily during the cave tour season (May through Labor Day). Hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. after Labor Day until the visitor center closes for the winter.

Picnic Area and Nature Trail

The Swinging Bridge Picnic Area is 1/4 mile west of the Visitor Center. A self-guided 1/4 mile Canyon Nature Trail will lead you there. Cooking grills, drinking water, and fire rings are available at the picnic sites. Parking is also available. A small, shaded, streamside picnic area is also located directly across the road from the Visitor Center.

Parking

Because of the limited parking and congestion in the canyon on Saturdays, we strongly encourage visitors to see the caves other days of the week for a more enjoyable visit. Please do not park along the narrow highway 92 roadway.



Take a cave tour.



Curly helictites are found throughout Timpanogos Cave. NPS

Gift Shop and Snack Bar

Food, snacks, beverages, film, clothing, souvenirs, a shaded eating area and parking are located next to the visitor center. For more information call (801) 756-5702.

Planning A Visit?

For more information on any of the activities offered at Timpanogos Cave National Monument, please call the Visitor Center at (801) 756-5238, visit www.nps.gov/tica and click calendar of events or follow us on Twitter or Facebook. Check our Twitter feed for the latest updates on ticket availability, parking and emergency closures.

White-nose Syndrome Screening Procedures

Do your part to protect bats from a deadly fungus. Though it has not been found in this region, we want to keep it this way. All visitors taking a cave tour this season will be asked, "Are you wearing or carrying articles taken into ANY cave or mine at ANY time?" If a visitor has, they will be asked to see a ranger to discuss decontamination options. If not, enjoy your cave tour!

Cave Tour Pricing

Tickets are sold at the Visitor Center and may be purchased up to 30 days in advance with a credit card by calling (801) 756-5238.

Ages 16 & older	\$7.00
Ages 6 to 15.	\$5.00
Ages 3 to 5.	\$3.00
Ages 2 & under.	FREE
Senior/Access Pass	50%
Introduction to Caving Tour	\$15.00

New! All Cave Tours are 100% Reservable

Timpanogos Cave tours are now 100% reservable, up to 30 days in advance. Every spot on every tour can be pre-purchased, making planning your visit easy. Visitors who purchase their tickets in advance will also have the added advantage of the monument being able to contact them if conditions change and their tour needs to be rescheduled. Interested? Please call 801-756-5238 to purchase advance tickets and have a credit card handy.

Didn't get your tickets in advance? All available tickets for the day will go on sale at the Visitor Center fifteen minutes after opening. Check our Twitter feed for the latest updates on ticket availability, parking and emergency closures. Rangers are happy to review availability for you, and assist you with purchasing tickets for another date if necessary.

We've Gone Social! Like/Follow Timpanogos Cave



Like us today! www.facebook.com/timpanogoscavenps
Follow us today! @TimpCaveNPS

Friends Group Start-up

A local group is forming a non-profit "Friends of Timpanogos Cave" organization. Friends help parks in many ways, including organizing special events, sponsoring research, volunteering, and fund raising. In return, they often enjoy member only activities and a special connection to these amazing places. We invite you to join at www.friendsoftimpanogoscave.org!

Monument Bookstore

You'll find many interesting materials to enhance your canyon experience at the Western National Parks Association Bookstore in the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center. We offer books, posters, postcards, maps, gift items, and a whole lot more. Be sure to come see us while you're here!



The Western National Parks Association is a nonprofit cooperating association of the National Park Service. Through book sales the association helps support the interpretive activities at Timpanogos Cave National Monument. For more information please visit the Western National Parks Association web site at www.wnpa.org.



Please contact the Visitor Center for hours of operation at (801) 756-5238.

Cave Research Update

Middle Cave Lake Restoration

In 2011, Timpanogos Cave National Monument began a three year project to restore Middle Cave Lake. The majority of this 5 x 60 ft lake runs beneath a bridge that is crossed by approximately 70,000 visitors annually. Decades of accumulated debris has filled the lake floor with several feet of "muck". Debris included not only mud and lint, but blasting rubble from tour development in the 1930s. Rangers and volunteers worked to pull buckets of the debris out of the lake. They sifted through buckets to find lots of surprises that visitors had left behind including: flashlights, baby bottles, and even a pocket watch! With each successive year of the project, visitors will see the lake water getting clearer, the color of the formations becoming more vibrant, and a healthier cave overall!



Top: Cleaning debris from Middle Cave Lake. Right: Close up of cave "muck."

Tectonic Monitoring

While following a tour at Timpanogos Caves, it is difficult to miss the prominent faults that helped create the caves. This summer, a seismograph will be installed in the visitor center and crackmeters on the cave faults, this will help rangers not only see when the nearby Wasatch Fault moves but how and if it has any influence on the cave faults. Stop by later in the summer and see if you can make the seismograph move!

Ground Water Study

TICA is undertaking a project with the support of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana to understand the scope and characteristics of the watershed that feeds into the many cave pools. Anytime you visit the caves, water is apparent everywhere- in pools, pouring off stalactites and even dripping on your head. And while it is easy to guess that the water comes from the surface, rangers want to know exactly where it is coming from.



Lend A Hand

The Pleasant Grove Ranger District and Timpanogos Cave National Monument have hundreds of volunteers who come out and make a difference each year. Volunteers help reduce the cost of managing public lands, improve visitor facilities, and protect natural resources and recreational opportunities.

In 2011, volunteers helped accomplish a variety of projects including: finishing the Tibble Fork Trail #041 reroute, rerouting a section of the South Fork of Little Deer Creek Trail #252, installing a flag pole at the information station at the mouth of American Fork Canyon, removing sand bags from flooded picnic sites, installing fences to block illegal motorized routes, litter removal, clearing down trees off of trails, general maintenance of trails, support and education of Mount Timpanogos hikers and repairing fences.

Lone Peak 4-Wheelers

The Lone Peak 4-Wheelers Club adopted the Mary Ellen Gulch Road #111 in the North Fork of American Fork Canyon in 2009. They have helped out annually with litter removal, signing, and inventorying their adopted road, as well as other roads



Volunteers made the South Fork Little Deer Creek Trail reroute possible.

in the North Fork of American Fork Canyon. In 2011 alone they contributed over 250 hours of volunteer work in the Canyon.

Timpanogos Cave Trail Patrol

Two groups of volunteers help ensure the trail to the caves is safe every day. First thing, early morning hikers sweep the trail, alert the monument to any issues such as trail damage or rockfall and they get a nice workout! Throughout the day, trail patrol volunteers answer visitor questions, offer encouragement, remind visitors of safe practices and assist rangers during emergencies. Some of our trail patrol volunteers are known to hike the cave trail several times in one day.



Trail patrol volunteers offer help along the cave trail and throughout the monument.

Trail patrol volunteers list fitness and helping people as perks of the job and receive training every year. More trail patrol volunteers are always welcome! Call Timpanogos Cave and ask to speak with the volunteer coordinator to set up a training day.



Top: Dye is dropped on Mt. Timpanogos by helicopter. NPS Right: Preparing to drop dye is messy work. NPS



In April 2012, researchers will be placing dyes in various locations on Mt Timpanogos above the caves, then wait and watch for when those dyes reach the caves. This will not only tell us where it is coming from but how long it takes to seep through the mountain to reach the caves. This will also be extremely helpful for cave managers should pollutants be identified in the cave or are accidentally spilled in the cave watershed, or even if a wildfire should occur changing the forest ecosystem above the caves.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- June 2nd, National Trails Day
- September 15 (trail project) and September 29 (North Fork 4x4 project) volunteer projects for National Public Lands Day

If you see any of our great volunteers out working, please take the opportunity to pass on a big thanks. Thank you to all 2011 volunteers, your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

For more information about how to get involved please call: Pleasant Grove Ranger District 801-785-3563

Timpanogos Cave National Monument 801-756-5239

Stop In for a Fill Up!

Water bottles have grown in popularity in the United States for more than a decade. Americans are increasingly relying on them due to their convenience and portability. However, due to concerns over the safety, environmental impact, and cost of disposable plastic water bottles, more and more Americans and national parks are choosing other options such as multi-use water bottles.

Ever wonder where most of those plastic water bottles go that we knock back from every day? Into landfills, where they live on and on and on and on. Exempt from many state deposit laws, and most often used away from home many bottles are not recycled.

Teacher's Tips

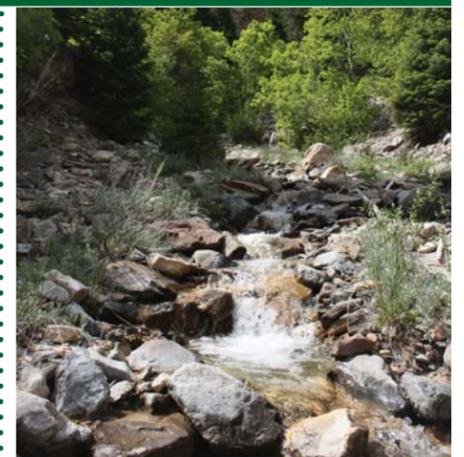
Cave tour fees may be waived for schools or other bona fide educational institutions. For more information and the application for educational waivers check out our website filled with helpful tips for planning your visit at www.nps.gov/tica or call the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center at (801) 756-5238.

Find Options for Your Class

Click the **for teachers** link on the left side of the homepage.

The right side menu links to the educational fee waiver application, Timpanogos Cave classroom packet, webranger activities, and more.

- Apply for fee waivers early; they are extremely popular.
- The classroom packet can supplement lessons all year long. Consider using these activities to prepare your class prior to visiting.
- Webranger on-line activities are fun games about the National Park System and those that complete required activities earn a patch! Visit www.nps.gov/webrangers
- Ranger visits to your classroom may also be arranged. Please call (801) 756-5239 to find out more.



Swinging Bridge Canyon spring water supplies the water bottle filling station. NPS

Not only do they accumulate and stress landfills, they are made from petroleum products and their manufacturing process uses oil, a non-renewable energy source, and increases CO2 emissions. So kick the plastic water bottle habit. Timpanogos Cave National Monument installed a water bottle filling station in front of the visitor center in 2011.



Remember to fill up at the Timpanogos Cave water bottle filling station and keep plastic water bottles out of landfills. NPS

We invite all canyon users to stop in for a cool drink of mountain spring water. That way you can save resources by drinking from refillable container when you are on the go.

Canyon Kids

Timpanogos Cave Turns 90!

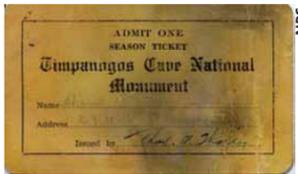
Can you imagine celebrating that many birthdays? This calls for a big party! Test your cave history knowledge below by matching the museum collection items to the descriptions.

1) Discovered Hansen Cave in 1887



A) James W. Gough and Frank Johnson

2) Once sold at the cave entrance



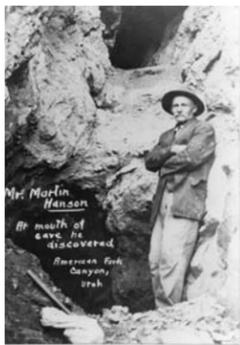
C) Early cave tour ticket

3) 14-year old boys who discovered Timpanogos Cave



B) Soda bottle

4) This cost 25 cents per child in 1922



E) Martin Hansen

5) Early souvenir sticker



D) Sticker

Remember...

Only you can prevent wildfires!

- Always be careful with fire.
- Never play with matches or lighters.
- Always watch your campfire.
- Make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving it.



Thank You,
Smokey



Play it Safe Outdoors

Hint: Discoveries are more fun when shared with others!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
22			4	15							12		16					10				5	8	25	

N	E	E	E	X	L	E	A	L	N	E	-	S	A	Y	W									
16	15	26	15	1	15	8	18	12	13	1	15	22	12	13	16	15	10	24	22	25	5	14	24	2



Become a Junior Ranger

At Timpanogos Cave

Earn your choice of a badge or patch while you learn! Stop by the Timpanogos Cave National Monument Visitor Center and pick up your free Junior Ranger booklet.

Take a cave tour, watch the monument video, ask a ranger for help and work with your friends, brothers, sisters, parents or guardians to complete the booklet. Bring your completed booklet back to the Visitor Center for a ranger to review and sign. Take the Junior Ranger pledge and receive your badge or patch.

Junior Ranger Programs

Every Saturday and holiday from Memorial Day through Labor Day, free Junior Ranger programs are held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on the Visitor Center deck.

At Wasatch Mountain State Park

Earn your badge and certificate while you learn!

Stop by the Wasatch Mountain State Park visitor center, call them at (435) 654-1791 or visit www.stateparks.utah.gov/parks/wasatch for details.



Junior Ranger Programs

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Junior Ranger programs are offered. Check with the park for more information.

Help Bat Get to the Cave



Fun Fact:

Townsend's Big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) are known for their large, pink ears. To keep them warm, they role up their ears, and tuck them under each wing.



Funny Bone

Q: What runs but never walks?

A: A river.

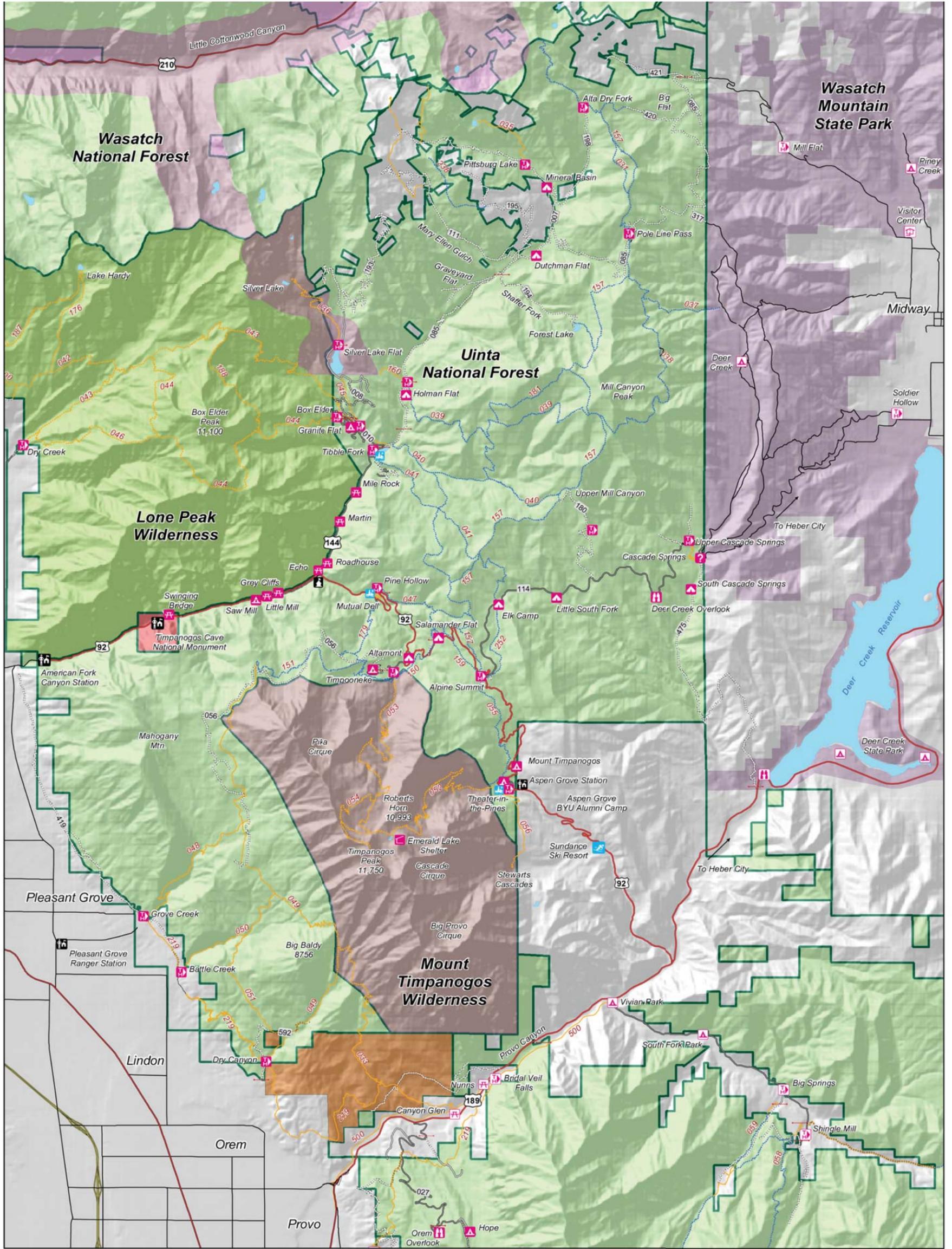
Q: How do trees access their email?

A: They log in.



Play it Safe Outdoors: Never explore alone-stay with a buddy.
Museum Match: 1=E, 2=B, 3=A, 4=C, 5=D.

Answers:



American Fork Canyon - Recreation Map

Ownership

- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF
- Wilderness
- National Park Service
- State Wildlife Management Area
- No Camp Fire Area
- State Parks
- Private

Recreation Sites

- Information
- Campground
- Dispersed Camping
- Picnic Area
- Trailhead
- Scenic Overlook
- Snowmobile Parking

Roads

- Highway
- Other Paved Road
- Passenger Car - Gravel
- Passenger Car - Dirt
- Not Suitable for Passenger Car
- Gate - Seasonal Road Closure

Trails

- Trail (foot, pack, bicycle, or as signed)
- Trail (foot, pack, or as signed)
- Single Track Trail (motorcycle OK)

Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget. For specific data source dates and/or additional digital information contact the Forest Supervisor, Uinta National Forest, Provo, Utah. This map has no warranties to its contents or accuracy.