



All Aboard the Iron Horse

The Grandest of All Railroad Scenes

“The rival of the Yosemite!” wrote a visitor from London, England after traveling the American Fork Railroad in American Fork Canyon. The Pacific Tourist, a popular guidebook of the time, hailed the ride as “the grandest of all railroad scenes.”

What? There was a train in American Fork Canyon? Today’s visitors know the scenery is grand but are often astonished to learn the canyon was once served by railroad.

From 1872-1878 the American Fork Railroad Company, owned by the Aspinwall Steamship Company, operated a narrow-gauge (3 feet from rail to rail) line between American Fork City and Tibble Fork Reservoir.

In those days the need for a railroad in such a remote area was obvious. Prior to 1872, American Fork Canyon’s vast mineral wealth was moved by wagon teams 45 miles to Sandy, Utah, where it was loaded onto the Utah Southern Railroad. The Miller Mine’s productivity attracted investors from New York and England who had the money necessary to build a narrow-gauge railroad, connecting the mines to other nearby railways so ore could be moved quickly and efficiently.

In the spring of 1872 Colonel E. F. Wilkes of Salt Lake City advertised for 500 men to begin grade work for the railroad, offering them \$2.75 per day. By September, the roadbed work had finished and track had been laid six miles from American Fork City to the mouth of American Fork Canyon, and another three miles into the canyon itself.

It was not a simple task. The canyon was steep and narrow, and sheer, grey cliffs slowed progress. The American Fork River was unpredictable and meandered often, requiring sixteen bridges in the first five miles! With the

rate of ascent often approaching 200 vertical feet per mile the railroad was hailed as “the steepest grade in the United States.”

The railroad also provided a more stable economic base for the surrounding communities. Both railroad construction and subsequent increases in mining efficiency brought jobs to the area. The train also brought milled lumber out of American Fork Canyon which was used to supply the increasing demand for homes in the valley.

The engine and several flatbed cars faced a major hurdle after arriving in Salt Lake City in July, 1872. The Utah Southern Railroad had only extended track a few miles south of Sandy, Utah leaving a 30 mile gap between there and American Fork City. Engineers decided on an ingenious but labor-intensive solution. Laborers would lay down three lengths of track and move the train to the southern edge.

After the train had stopped, the two lengths of track now behind it would be pulled up and laid down again in front of the engine, allowing it to creep forward at a snail’s pace. This process was repeated until the engine reached the existing rail in American Fork City, seven days later!

In August of 1872, the people of American Fork City gathered in excitement to watch as “The American Fork #1” was placed on its narrow-gauge tracks. In the presence of an astonished crowd, some of whom had never seen an engine before, the train successfully pulled five cars up the canyon completing its inaugural run.



Locomotive in American Fork Canyon ca 1870s

Emergency: 911
Sheriff: (801) 375-3601

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IT’S UP TO YOU
National Parks and Forests have been described as the crown jewels of the United States. While enjoying the beauty of American Fork Canyon, please remember that few other nations have parks and forests that can compare to those of the United States. They are something to be proud of. They are something to preserve.



The protection of American Fork Canyon is ultimately in the hands of the people who visit it. Your cooperation with park and forest rules

is one way to help ensure American Fork Canyon’s beauty.

Please treat your canyon with care so that future generations may enjoy these lands.

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Thank You!

Wherever you see these symbols, you’ll know your recreation fees are hard at work helping to fund those projects. Thank you for helping to make a difference in your parks and forests.

UserFee

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



Welcome!



Pam Gardner



Kit T. Mullen

For over a century, our National Forests and Parks have been places where people can take a break from the rigors and routine of daily life, places to recreate and share, and places that help us mold and express our individuality. Here you can explore miles of mountain trails, pass through a living cave system, view wildlife among spectacular mountain vistas, and enjoy your favorite recreational pursuits.

There are as many ways to enjoy American Fork Canyon, as there are people who visit. The diversity of recreational opportunities here offers something for almost everyone. While many people enjoy American Fork Canyon from the comfort of paved scenic drives, others prefer the challenge and remoteness of the canyon's many unimproved roads and trails.

While vigorous activities can be fun and stimulating, some of the finest things American Fork Canyon has to offer can only be enjoyed by slowing down. Take some time, walk quietly, look, listen, and the landscape will open up to you. The mountains have their own mystical voice, the forests and meadows a potpourri of fragrance, the air is cool and clear, and the scene is a backdrop for lifetime memories.

We hope that as you walk the trails or drive the mountain roads you will reflect on the importance of these areas and the responsibility we all share to care for them. All that is here is yours to enjoy. It is also part of a great national legacy to be proudly passed to future generations. Take a moment to celebrate this magnificent canyon, and embrace the beauty and wonder of our heritage.

Sincerely,

Pam Gardner
District Ranger, Pleasant Grove
Uinta NF

Kit T. Mullen
Superintendent
Timpanogos Cave NM

Safely Enjoy American Fork Canyon

The natural wonders of mountains, forests, lakes, and streams create an incomparable outdoor experience in American Fork Canyon. Prepare yourself well to enjoy your visit safely.

Rockfall

There is little soil cover on the precipitous slopes of American Fork Canyon, and bare rock ledges are common. The highly fractured, exposed limestones are subject to extreme weathering conditions, thereby, increasing the possibility of rockfall throughout the canyon. Be aware of the increased potential of rockfall on windy or rainy days, or during spring snow melt off. Kicking loose rocks off the trail may cause injuries to people below you.

Slips/Falls

Slip/fall hazards are present on many trails within the canyon, especially during cooler weather when the trails are moist.

Watch your children. Your hand and voice may be too far away once your child leaves your side.

Use extra care near waterfalls, ridges, over-looks and wildlife.

Floods/Avalanches

Flash floods and snow avalanches occasionally occur in American Fork Canyon.

Avalanche release zones may be well above you and not within your sight.

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.....	(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
Nearby National Parks	
Arches.....	(435) 719-2299
Bryce Canyon	(435) 834-5322
Capitol Reef	(435) 425-3791
Glen Canyon	(928) 608-6404
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	(801) 378-4333
National Recreation Reservation Service	(877) 444-6777
NPS Campground Reservations.....	(800) 365-2267
Road Conditions.....	(800) 492-2400
Utah County Travel.....	(801) 370-8390
Utah Travel Council.....	(800) 200-1160
Weather	(800) 882-1432

WEB SITES

National Park Service	
National Park Foundation	www.nationalparks.org
National Park Service	www.nps.gov
NPS Campground Reservations	http://reservations.nps.gov
Timpanogos Cave National Monument.....	www.nps.gov/tica
Western National Parks Association.....	www.wnpa.org
USDA Forest Service	
National Forest Foundation	www.natlfoundation.org
USDA FS Campground Reservation	www.reserveusa.com
Uinta National Forest.....	www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta
USDA Forest Service	www.fs.fed.us
Smokey Bear	www.smokeybear.com
Other	
Public Lands Information.....	www.publiclands.org
State of Utah	www.utah.gov
Utah Department of Transportation.....	www.udot.utah.gov
Utah Division of Wildlife Resource	www.wildlife.utah.gov
Utah State Parks.....	www.stateparks.utah.gov

Canyon Passes

Participation in the Recreation Fee Program allows fees collected at the fee stations to remain in the American Fork Canyon to improve visitor services, maintain recreation facilities, enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural and cultural resources. The Uinta National Forest and Timpanogos Cave National Monument appreciate your support of ongoing efforts to improve American Fork Canyon. The following passes are available at the fee stations and Visitor Center. Cave tour fees are additional.



Recreation Fee

Allows recreating and use of facilities in American Fork Canyon and the Alpine Loop.

Three-day Pass **\$3.00**
Fourteen-day Pass **\$10.00**
Annual Pass **\$25.00**



Golden Eagle Passport \$65.00

Allows entrance to most national forest and park areas and some other federal fee areas for 12 months from date of purchase; non-transferable.



National Parks Pass \$50.00

Allows entrance to most national parks for 12 months from date of purchase; non-transferable.



Golden Eagle Hologram \$15.00

Affix the Golden Eagle Hologram to your National Parks Pass to cover entrance fees at national parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service,

and Bureau of Land Management sites. This upgrade is valid until expiration of the National Parks Pass to which it is affixed.



Golden Age Passport \$10.00 (one-time fee)

Especially for seniors, the Golden Age Passport allows lifetime entrance to most national forest and park areas to American citizens 62 years of age and older; non-transferable.



Golden Access Passport FREE

The Golden Access Passport allows lifetime entrance to most national forest and park service areas to American citizens who provide proof of permanent disability; non-transferable.

For your convenience, buy your National Parks Pass online! Gain access to a wealth of information about your National Parks and Monuments all from your own PC. To learn more, log on to www.nationalparks.org today!



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Make the Most of Your Canyon Visit

A Few Hours

Take in an Evening Program or Junior Ranger Program. Join a Ranger at the Timpanogos Cave Visitor Center on Friday, Saturday, and Monday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. for presentations about the park and surrounding area. Topics change daily.

Pack a Lunch. Picnic areas with tables, grills, water, and restrooms are available at Swinging Bridge Picnic Site inside Timpanogos Cave National Monument, along Highway 92, and Route 114 to Tibble Fork Reservoir.



A Half Day

Drive the Loop. The 26-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 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 1,065 feet to the cave entrance.

Ride a Bike or a Horse. Enjoy the multiple use trails available on the Uinta 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.



Take a Hike. Over 200 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 and look at 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.

Iron Horse (cont.)

Eventually, the rail line extended to Silver Lake City, a small town eight miles up American Fork Canyon, where Tibble Fork Reservoir now lies. The original plan called for tracks to be extended another four miles up the canyon to the Sultana Smelting Works at Forest City, but steep grades and interminable switchbacks deterred further construction.

The first engine proved too small to pull many cars, and for a time mules were used to pull extra ore cars up the canyon. The mules would then be loaded onto the cars and brought back down using only gravity and skilled brakemen. Eventually, a larger engine replaced the small one and productivity increased further.

The mines eventually began to play out and productivity dropped. In an effort to increase revenue, the rail company began to advertise sight-seeing trips nationwide and abroad. Tourists flocked to

beautiful American Fork Canyon and rode on flat rail cars trimmed neatly with evergreen boughs. A Salt Lake City newspaper reported: "An excursion over the American Fork Railroad, with Brigham Young, D.H. Wells, and sundry others on it, went up



Railroad tracks at smelter at Tibble Fork ca 1870s

the canyon about 12 miles." A London periodical noted the "American Fork Railway Company is running daily trains into the headquarters of romantic scenery..."

Although tourism was popular in its day, it was not enough to pay the mounting bills of the rail company and by 1878 the tracks were torn up, the iron sold, and the American Fork Railroad ended its reign in the canyon. The Salt Lake Tribune noted, in a now ironic epitaph: "The scenery in American Fork Canyon, for rugged grandeur, is surpassed by few spots in the country. However, it is not likely to be visited in the future, to any extent by tourists."

Today, American Fork Canyon receives over one million visitors and the number continues to increase steadily. As you visit the canyon, try to imagine where railroad tracks were laid over one hundred years ago, carrying families and sightseers into the heart of this "grandest of all scenes."

Bats Aren't Creepy

Often just the mention of bats causes people to wrinkle their noses or shiver. A conspicuous presence in decorations and costumes every year around Halloween, they add to the creation of a scary and creepy mood. There is an air of mystery around the animals because they are nocturnal and not often seen by humans.

Tales of vampire bats and the fear of contracting rabies foster a dislike for the creatures. In reality, only one species found in parts of Mexico, Central, and South America feeds on the blood of large birds and mammals, and seldomly prey on humans. And fewer than 1 in 1,000 bats carry rabies. Bats are actually gentle and passive, biting



Bat-friendly gate on Timpanogos Cave

only if they feel threatened or when sick. They are very clean animals, spending much of each day grooming.

Most bats are insectivorous, consuming more than their body weight in mosquitoes, moths, beetles, and grasshoppers in each night! Bats reduce the toll that these pests take on farmers' crops each year. You can see why they are so valuable to humans for insect control.

Bats are expert fliers and have been clocked at 12 to 20 miles per hour. They have normal vision, but rely mostly on sounds emitted from their nose or mouth to "see" their environment. Sound waves are bounced off prey or other objects to determine direction, distance, size, and velocity. The animal's flight path is generally straight, becoming erratic when in pursuit of prey. If you see a wobbly, night-flying creature, you can bet it is a bat. They may swoop close to you in pursuit of a meal, but they will not fly into you or bite you.

A bat's wings are made up of long arm bones, with extralong finger bones. A thin skin called a membrane stretches between the bones, connecting the wing bones to the bat's legs and body. Using these webbed "hands," bats can alter the shape of the long finger bones, allowing them to turn, dive, land, or hover.



Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

Bats congregate or "roost" together in caves, old mines, cliff faces, tree hollows, and openings in buildings that are inaccessible to humans, such as roofs and attics. The female bat usually bears one, sometimes two, "pups" each year and tends them in special nursery caves. The pups literally "hang out" closely together, and are nursed for five or six weeks. Survival rate of the young is quite low mainly due to accidental falls and collisions in flight. If a bat survives to adulthood, life expectancy may be 10 years or more.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument has installed special metal gates across the natural openings to the caves. These structures allow bats to enter and exit, while also protecting the fragile, non-renewable cave resources.

Preserving the Canyon's Hydro-electric Past

The American Fork Canyon Hydroelectric Project was completed and put into operation in 1907. In the early years, the Upper American Fork Project, as it was then known, served the electrical needs of the Utah communities of Lehi, American Fork, and Pleasant Grove. It also served the Timpanogos Cave System and supplied power to the initial cave lighting system. The history of the project even predates that of Utah Power, since the project was constructed by the Utah County Light and Power Company, which was eventually absorbed by Utah Power.

The American Fork Hydro Project could generate up to one megawatt of power, enough energy to support about 500 households. Today's modern facilities have a generating capacity of over 8,000 megawatts of power.

When the American Fork Hydro Project was constructed, no special land designations were established for the project's location. Today, the project's footprint extends from inside the Uinta National Forest, including portions of the Lone Peak Wilderness, and into Timpanogos Cave National Monument. Occasional pipeline ruptures

and high-volume spills have eroded the hillsides and muddied the stream. Pipeline repairs often required the use of machinery in the Lone Peak Wilderness, a nonconforming activity in a designated wilderness. The project is no longer compatible with the increasing recreational demands on the public lands surrounding it.



CCC carrying power cable to Timpanogos Cave in 1938

PacifiCorp, parent company of Utah Power, negotiated a settlement for decommissioning the project with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Department of Transportation, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Trout Unlimited, and American Whitewater. Under the agreement, PacifiCorp will close the power plant in September 2006, and remove the diversion structure and pipeline by the end of 2007. This may reduce traffic to one lane or cause temporary road closures along Highway 92 during the process. However, the history of the project's operation and contributions to the development

of Utah Valley will be retained with the transfer of the penstock and powerhouse to the Forest Service.

Removal of the diversion dam and pipeline will also offer many benefits to the natural resources and to canyon visitors. Fish, particularly the im-



Historic Powerhouse

periled native Bonneville cutthroat, will be able to move more freely and with less disruption in water quantity and quality. The pipeline removal will also enhance the canyon viewshed, and offer a more natural setting for canyon visitors.



Penstock's run to Powerhouse

Watchable Wildlife

We've all had it happen. You hear a sound or see a flash and look up from the trail just in time to see an animal dive out of sight. Most animals see, hear, and smell us. They size us up and decide whether to stay or flee long before we see them. American Fork Canyon is home to a great diversity of species that can be seen and observed throughout the year. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats, Moose and Mule Deer

are some of the large mammals found in the canyon year-round.

Becoming a wildlife watcher provides Utah's citizens and visitors alike a new opportunity to enjoy and better appreciate one of their greatest heritages—the wildlife. American Fork Canyon offers many opportunities for observing wildlife. Deer browse alongside the Alpine Loop Road,

songbirds dart through the forests of aspen and fir trees; raptors circle high overhead.

The Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, *Ovis canadensis canadensis*, is native to rugged mountainous areas of western North America. In

Utah, a great deal of effort has gone into re-establishing Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, and the species can now be found in a number of mountain ranges. The first re-introduction of Bighorn Sheep

on Mount Timpanogos was in 2000, when 25 sheep were released. Ten additional sheep were released in 2001 and nine more in 2002. There

Always Keep a Safe Distance When Viewing Wildlife

are currently no plans to introduce any additional bighorn sheep in the area, and the current population stands at 55 sheep. Most

sheep are spotted near the mouth of American Fork Canyon.

The mountain goat, *Oreamnos americanus*, was likely native to Utah in the past, but did not occur in the state during recent times until the late 1960's, when the species was first re-introduced to the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Mountain goats prefer extremely steep and rugged areas above the timberline, and are excellent rock climbers. Interestingly, young are able to follow their mothers through rocky cliffs shortly after birth. Mountain goats are often spotted across from the Timpanogos Cave National Monument visitor center on the high rocky slopes.

The moose, *Alces alces*, is popular with hunters and wildlife watchers alike. In Utah, the species can be found in the mountains of the northern and northeastern portion of the state. Moose prefer forest habitats, especially those locations with a mixture of wooded areas and open areas near lakes or wetlands. Some moose make short migrations between summer and winter habitats. Moose usually occur singly or in small groups. Moose are active both day and night, but peak activity occurs near dawn and dusk.



Bighorn Sheep

Mountain Goat

Moose



Visiting Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Whether for a cave tour, an evening program, a picnic, or just to hike or walk around, Timpanogos Cave National Monument is a wonderful place to visit. With spectacular canyon vistas, magnificent evergreens, a babbling mountain brook, and lots of things to see and do, the monument is the perfect place for a memorable summertime outing!

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 20 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.

We strongly recommend bringing 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 that are rare in most other caves throughout the world. Along the 3/4 mile tour deep inside the mountain, you'll discover many other interesting, colorful features. Anthodite crystals, stalagmites, stalagmites, 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 km) hard-surfaced cave trail. The trail, which rises 1,065 feet (325 m), 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.

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
Golden Age/Access Pass	\$3.50
Introduction to Caving Tour	\$15.00

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, crawling, and squeezing through tight passages. Group size is limited to 5. Participants must be at least 14 years old. For more information please call (801) 756-5238.

Junior Ranger Program and Patio Talks

Children who visit the caves can earn a Junior Ranger certificate and badge at the Visitor Center.

Impromptu patio talks are often given on Saturdays and holidays at the Visitor Center. These ranger-presented programs cover a variety of interesting topics for kids of all ages!



Evening Programs

Join a park ranger every Friday, Saturday, and Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Visitor Center for some very special evening programs. These informative programs are educational and entertaining. Activities range from the study of local wildlife to campfire singing. (See Page 7 of this guide for details.)



Anthodite crystals

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.

Gift Shop and Snack Bar

Food, snacks, beverages, film, clothing, and souvenirs, and 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 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/tica> to learn more.

Lend a Helping Hand

Would you like to get to know your forest and park better? Consider becoming a Volunteer In Parks (VIP)! Your skills and enthusiasm are needed in a variety of areas from greeting visitors, maintaining facilities and trails, to monitoring resources. VIPs can work part time or full time, year round, or for a few weeks.



NPS volunteer helping visitors

Timpanogos Cave National Monument has two special volunteer programs for youth and seniors. The Behind A Tour Specialist (BATS) program is for youth 16 years of age and older and the Volunteer Senior Ranger Program is for adults. Please stop at the Visitor Center for more information on these two special programs and other volunteer opportunities.

Contact the volunteer coordinator at Timpanogos Cave National Monument at (801) 756-5239 to find out about VIPs, BATS, and More.

To find out about volunteer opportunities on the Uinta National Forest, visit the Uinta's volunteering website at www.fs.fed.us/r4/uinta/volunteering. We'd love to have you join us.

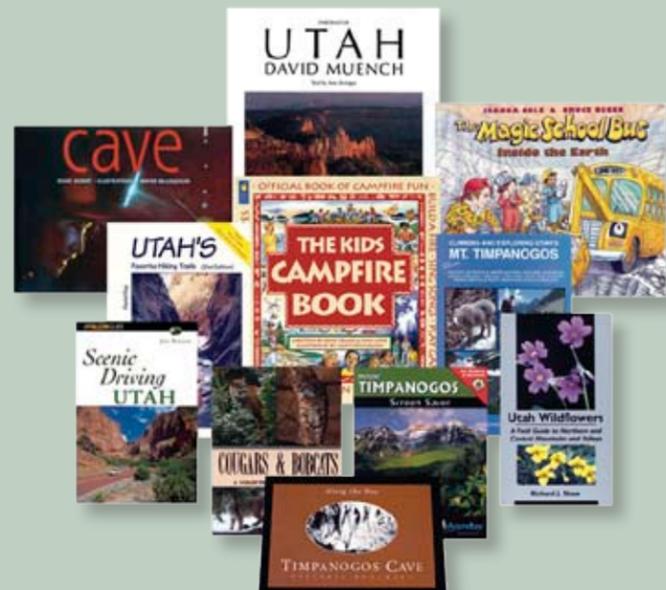
Teacher's Corner

Timpanogos Cave National Monument welcomes all school groups to experience Nature's classroom. Discover geology millions of years old, ancient sea life, and a series of caves deep underground. 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.

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.



Nature's Calendar

AMERICAN FORK CANYON HAS BEAUTIFUL FLORA AND FAUNA THAT REFLECT THE SEASONAL CHANGES.

Every month of the year, plants and animals are busy doing something. Unlike people, who are here to relax, plants and animals can rarely afford leisure time. Look closely, and you will see a world of activity taking place inches from where you're standing.

January

Cold temperatures are hard for many animals to be outside, but *White Fir* trees can endure temperatures down to -40 degrees F. Although the surface may be cold, many animals, such as *Deer Mice* and *Montane Vole*, are still running around in tunnels beneath the snow.

February

Great Horned Owls can occasionally be heard at night during the winter. They are keeping their eyes sharp for small rodents that might emerge from beneath the snow. *Ring-tail Cats* also prowl at night in search of berries or small rodents for dinner.

March

Watch for *Robins* and other signs of spring. Snow is melting and many trees are beginning to bud. *Rocky Mountain Goats* are now easily seen climbing canyon cliffs as the snow melts away.



Summer's Hummingbird

Spring Lupine

April

Spring is often the time for animals to deliver their young. As the month ends you may begin to see *raccoons*, *coyotes*, and other animals emerging from their dens with their new babies.

May

Each day the green foliage of the canyon is creeping higher and higher up the mountainside, and along side the patches of remaining snow the *Mountain Goats* are grazing with their newborn kids. In the lower canyon, look for the snowy blossoms of the *Chokecherry Tree* and the white blossoms of the *Western Serviceberry Tree*. Flitting from fir tree to fir tree the *Stellar's Jay* is probably heard before it is seen! Its call is loud and raucous.

June

It's often mistaken for *Indian paintbrush*, but that is actually *Firecracker Penstemon* blooming along the gravelly roadside. Birds have young in their nest, with most chicks leaving by the end of the month. *Townsend's Chipmunks* are busy and their familiar "chip-chip" sound can be heard. It's also fawning time. *Mule Deer* give birth in May and June, and the spotted fawns stay hidden in the tall grass for several weeks before venturing out with their mothers. Do not disturb!

July

The meadows are covered with blooming purple-blue *Lupine* and white *Jacob's Ladder*. Watch and listen for hummingbird activity. The *Broad-tailed Hummer* is the most common for this region. *Elk* and *Bighorn Sheep* will be grazing in the high alpine meadows.

August

Snakes may be encountered when least expected; they are often seen in dry, warm, and sunny spots. *Gopher Snakes* are harmless; however, often confused with the *Great Basin Rattlesnakes*! The groves of *Quaking Aspen trees* along the Alpine Loop are growing from soil accumulated by decaying trees from year's past. Birds preferring to live here are the *woodpecker* and *flycatcher*. Could a *bobcat* or *mountain lion* possibly be watching you from its perch on a cliff?

September

Moose may be spotted in their magnificence in meadows and streamside areas. Careful not to get too close; they are unpredictable! *Mule Deer* are shedding their summer coats. As leaves begin to color, remember that the red is seen primarily in the *Big-tooth Maple* and *Gambel's Oak* leaves, while the bright yellow is seen in the *Aspen*, *Cottonwood*, and *Box-elder Maple* leaves. *Red-tailed Hawks* and *Turkey Vultures* may be spotted overhead, taking advantage of air currents.

October

While the deciduous trees shed their leaves, the lovely conifers remain evergreen: the *White Fir*, the *Douglas Fir*, the *Limber Pine*, and the *Blue Spruce* (Utah's state tree). It is mating season for *deer*. Bucks may wrestle each other for territory, clashing antlers until one gives up and leaves the area. Bucks are very unpredictable at this time, so keep your distance. When food is abundant, *Black Bears* will eat up to 45 lbs. and put on 5 lbs. per day in preparation for winter.

Winter's fresh snow



Fall-colored Aspen



November

North American Elk mate in late fall which often leads to stags challenging opponents. *Red Foxes* are hunting gaining weight in preparation for winter; foxes being opportunistic eaters will comb the canyon looking for rodents, worms, insects, and even fruit. Without its leaves, the red branches of the *Red-osier Dogwood* are easily spotted on the banks of the American Fork River.

December

Many animals are changing the color of their fur for winter camouflage. *Snowshoe hare* and *Long-tail weasel* now have beautiful white fur coats for hiding in the snow. Many animals hibernate throughout the winter such as *Black Bears* and *Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel*.

Ranger Programs

Timpanogos Cave National Monument and the Uinta National Forest offer a variety of Ranger guided activities for everyone from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The following programs may be offered throughout the summer. All programs are subject to change; please call the Visitor Center at (801) 756-5238 for current information.

Junior Rangers:

Saturday, 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the visitor center.

Make new friends while learning about the special wonders of American Fork Canyon. If you're between the ages of 4 and 12, ask how you can become a Timpanogos Cave Junior Ranger.



Junior Ranger Certificate presentation

Evening Programs:

Fridays, Saturdays, & Mondays
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Programs presented either at Timpanogos Cave National Monument Visitor Center or at Swinging Bridge Picnic Area (located 1/4 mile west of the Visitor Center).

Birds of Prey

Visitor Center

Learn about the birds of prey that can be found throughout American Fork Canyon. Live birds may be in attendance.

Nature's Music in the Canyon

Visitor Center

Enjoy an evening of sights and sounds while viewing a slide show of scenic American Fork Canyon and surrounding areas. Live acoustic guitar accompaniment provided.

Bats! Flying Creatures of the Night

Visitor Center

Afraid of bats? Or do you love those furry little flying creatures? Either way you'll have fun as you discover the truth behind bat myths and folklore.

Reflections: A History of Mining in American Fork Canyon

Visitor Center

Learn about the colorful history of mining in the canyon through slides and stories. Hear tales of fortunes gained and lost in days gone by.

National Parks: One of America's Best Ideas

Visitor Center

The National Park Service preserves some of the country's most impressive treasures. Learn the history of the National Park Service and what it means to Americans and the world.

The Charm of Ssnakes

Visitor Center

Get up close and personal with live snakes as a National Park Service Ranger introduces you to snakes found right here in American Fork Canyon.

Singing in the Canyon: Songs of the Summer

Swinging Bridge Picnic Area

In the good ol' summertime families gather around the campfire and sing nostalgic ballads and rousing rounds. Rangers will nourish you with songs and s'mores.

Legends of the Giants

Visitor Center

Imagine Mount Timpanogos shrouded in mist, silently waiting to reveal its hidden mysteries. Join a National Park Service Ranger as you are led into the past through slides, legends, and local folklore.

Let's Make Tracks

Visitor Center

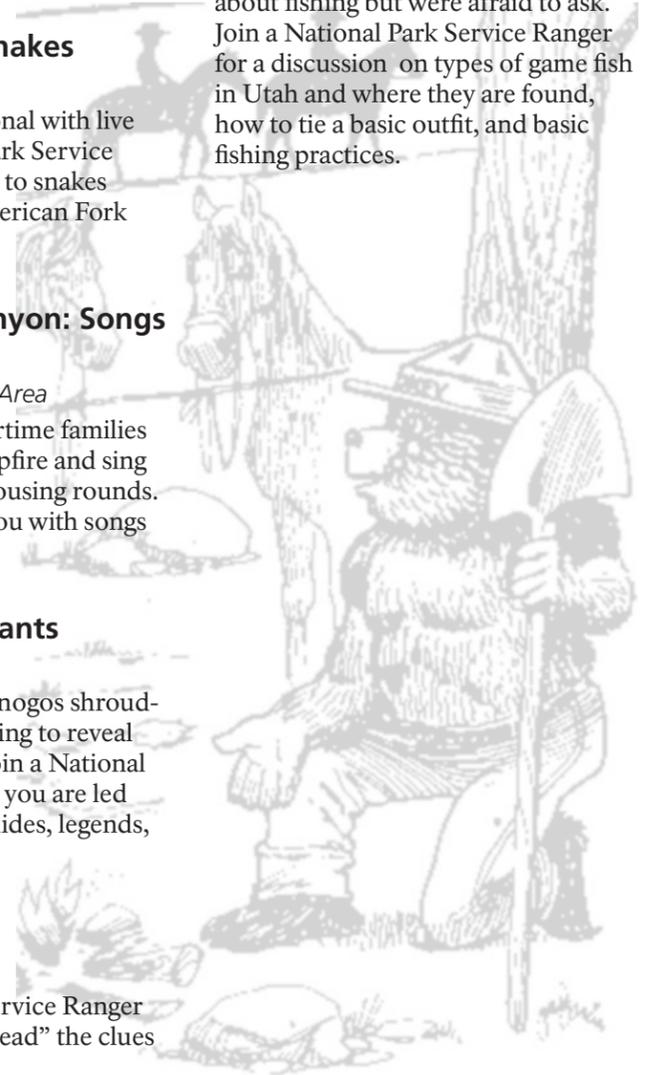
Join a National Park Service Ranger and discover how to "read" the clues

that animals leave behind. Have fun making your own animal tracks as you learn how to look for these and other animal signs.

One Whoppin' Big Fish Story

Visitor Center

Everything you wanted to know about fishing but were afraid to ask. Join a National Park Service Ranger for a discussion on types of game fish in Utah and where they are found, how to tie a basic outfit, and basic fishing practices.



Kids Kopter



Dear Jr. Visitor,
It's fun to explore America's National Forests, Parks, and Monuments. While you're enjoying these beautiful places, we hope you will help us to keep them safe and beautiful too. Many animals and plants call these places home, so please remember to pick up any litter, take only pictures, and leave behind only footprints!



Did You Know?

An average forest of trees is about 70-100 years old – older than your grandparents. And trees in some forests can be 4,000-5,000 years old.

One large tree can provide a day's oxygen for four people!
Source: www.smokeybear.com



Smokey Bear has been teaching us how to prevent forest fires for sixty years! His friend, Woodsy Owl, has been helping us care for the land for over thirty years. What messages are they each famous for saying?

Smokey Bear: "Only YOU can prevent wildfires!"
Woodsy Owl: "Give a hoot. Don't pollute!"

Help Cricket find his way through the cave.

Can you find these words?

S	B	C	A	V	E	D	E	R	L
Q	U	N	G	D	S	K	L	I	A
U	B	N	F	G	E	S	L	B	K
I	K	J	S	C	R	W	B	Q	E
R	R	V	T	H	O	C	L	K	J
R	I	F	D	I	I	A	D	C	V
E	V	M	L	K	J	N	E	R	T
L	E	A	F	Y	G	Y	E	H	R
I	R	O	C	K	O	O	R	Q	E
C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K	F	E

Funny Bone

Q: What do skunks do when they get angry?
A: They raise a stink.

Q: When do squirrels chase people?
A: When they think they're nuts!

Eye Spy!

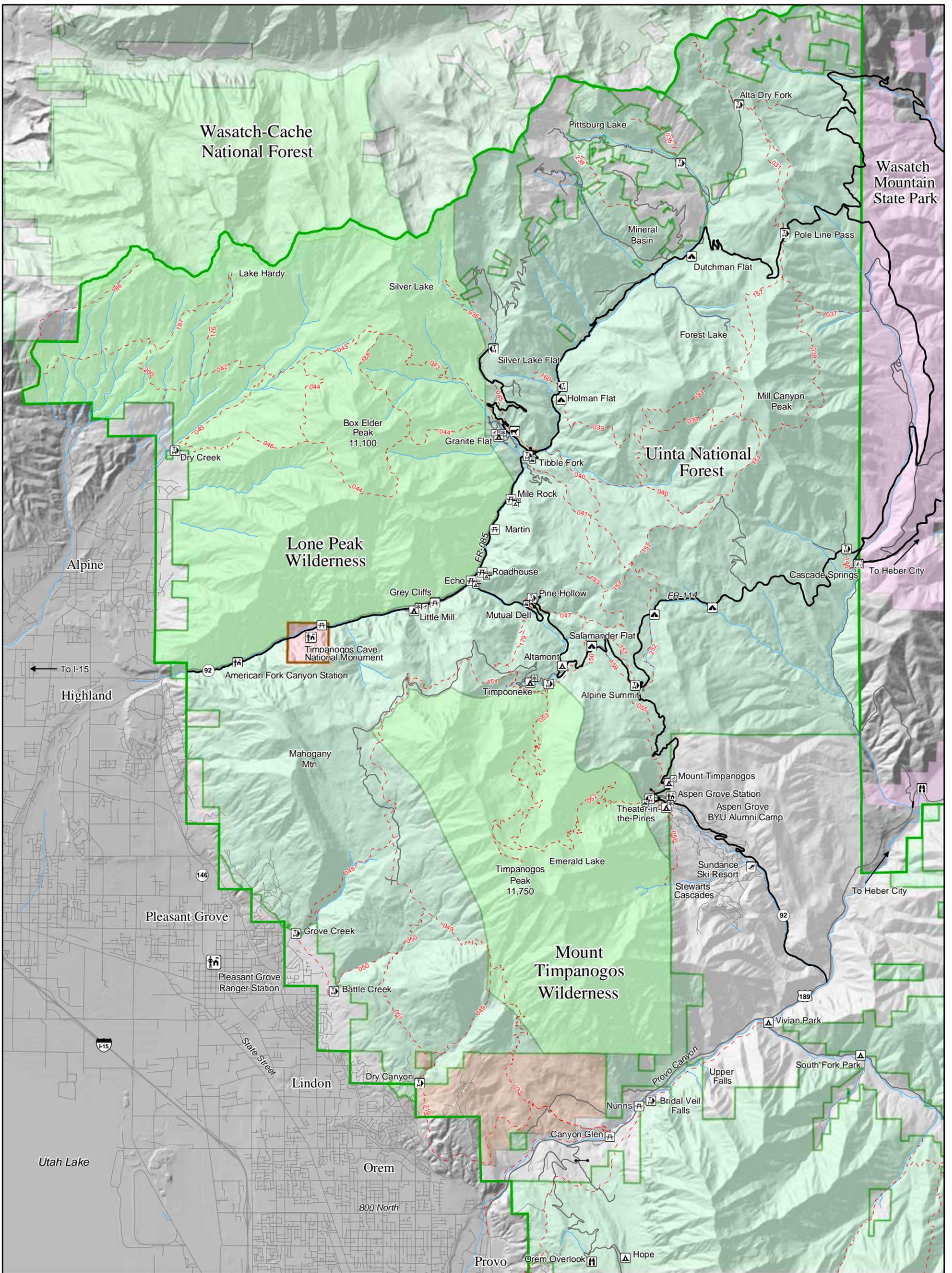
Can you spot these things in the canyon?

Making Tracks!

Match the animal to the tracks it leaves behind.

answers: 1e, 2c, 3d, 4a, 5b

Hey kids! Be sure to ask at the visitor center about our Junior Ranger program and activities!



American Fork Canyon - Recreation Map

Ownership

- Uinta National Forest
- National Park Service
- Private
- Utah State Wildlife Management Area
- Wilderness
- Wasatch Mountain State Park
- System Trails

Recreation Sites

- Information
- Campground
- Dispersed Camping
- Picnic Area
- Trailhead
- Horse Transfer Station
- Scenic Overlook

Winter Recreation

- Gate - Winter Road Closure
- Winter Camping
- Cross Country Ski
- Snowmobile Parking



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

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.



cb: fj 04/07/06