



Timpanogos Reflections

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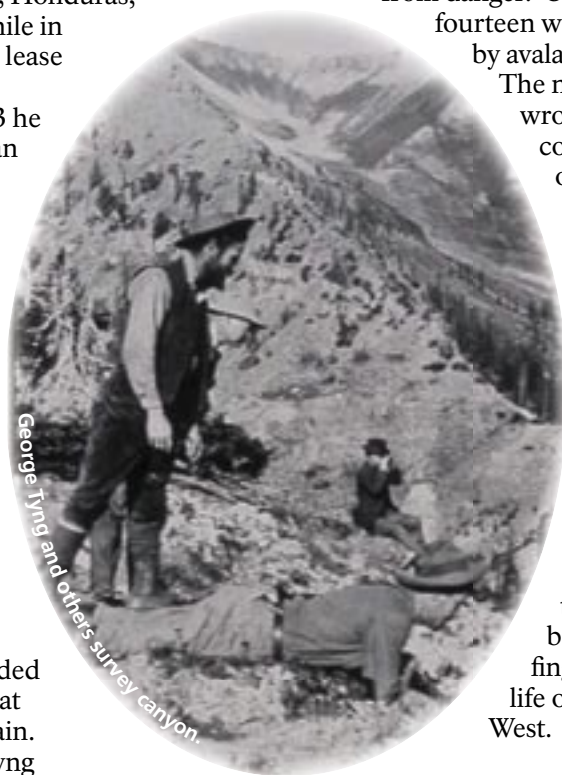
Mountains, Mining & Men

The Amazing Life of George Tyng

The Silver Bell, Whirlwind, Live Yankee, Queen of the West, Wild Dutchman, Pittsburg, and Globe...these were some of the mines that produced wealth from lead, silver and gold in mining's glory days in American Fork Canyon. In those days the canyon was alive with a railroad line, horse teams and miners who believed that with the next swing of the pickaxe, they just might become the next George Tyng!

Who was George Tyng? Perhaps the most fascinating historical figure of American Fork Canyon.

George Tyng was a world traveler and entrepreneur; he held mining interests in Mexico, Honduras, Canada, Arizona, and Utah. While in New York City, Tyng bought the lease for the Miller Brothers Mine in American Fork Canyon. In 1903 he arrived at Miller Hill in American Fork Canyon to begin mining operations. After months of mining with no results and dwindling funds, the lease of the Miller Mine was due to expire at the end of 1904. A dejected George Tyng had concluded that enough capital had been plowed into the bleak hillsides of Utah and left for American Fork City, 20 miles away, to collect the last payroll for his crew and then shut down operations. Upon returning, however, he discovered that his crew had at last made a lucky strike that yielded high grade silver and lead ore that literally flowed from the mountain. The bonanza was on! George Tyng hustled to New York City to obtain a lease extension for the Miller Mine.



George Tyng and others survey canyon

He was popular with employees and townspeople alike.

Toward the end of the year snowfall was exceptionally high, but the Tyng camp was set among the pines away from danger. On January 14, 1906 it was reported that fourteen wagon teams hauling Tyng ore were trapped by avalanches high in American Fork Canyon. The next day from Victoria, Texas Elena Tyng wrote to her husband: "I have come to the conclusion that you are either snowbound or too sick to write. I have made up my mind that once I get to the mine, you will have hard work in getting rid of me. I shall not be away from you if I can have anything to say about it."

George Tyng never read the letter. Four days later while Tyng was in his office at the mining camp, a tremendous cascade of snow suddenly swept over the building, crushing it down on top of him and burying him under 15 feet of packed snow. The entire mining crew searched for Tyng throughout the night, finally finding his body with a pencil still clasped between his fingers. An avalanche had snuffed out the life of one of the most intriguing men of the West.

Citizens of American Fork were grieved to learn of the tragedy. Tyng was loved by the miners, not only because of the generous wages he paid, but also because of his interest in their families. And Tyng had fallen in love with American Fork Canyon. He recognized its unique beauty. George Tyng had often remarked: "What grander monument could a person wish for than to be surrounded by these beautiful hills and scenery?"

During 1905 the prosperity of George Tyng dramatically increased, and the Tyng mining operation was in full swing. Tyng had a large crew of miners working from morning until night, teams of horses, stables, bunkhouses, dining halls, and offices all just past the current Tibble Fork area.

What Can I Do in the Canyon?

What a great time to visit American Fork Canyon! As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begin to drop, it is a time of change. Each season brings opportunities for hiking and wildlife watching. Below are some of the more popular activities you may want to try.

Autumn

Visitor activities during fall include photography, wildlife watching and hiking. Favorite locations for viewing or photographing fall colors and new snow on the mountains include the Timpanogos Cave Trail, the Pine Hollow parking area, and the Summit parking area. Before snow persists in the mountains, cool weather allows a variety of hiking opportunities. Hiking the Timpooneke, Silver Lake, and Ridge trails offers scenic views and vibrant fall colors.

Winter

Activities for winter visitors revolve around snow. There are winter camping areas. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling attract a growing number of visitors each winter. Photography, fishing, and wildlife watching enhance the winter experience. The Pine Hollow and Tibble Fork parking areas offer a chance to photograph the snow-clad Wasatch Range. For those who are adventurous and prepared, the wonders of an American Fork Canyon winter await!

Emergency: 911
Sheriff: (801) 375-3601

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Timpanogos Reflections is published twice yearly by the National Park Service, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, and Forest Service, Uinta National Forest, to enhance visitor experience.

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 Help preserve natural resources. Please return this paper to an entrance station or Visitor Center.



Welcome!



Pam Gardner



Kit T. Mullen

For over a century, our National Forests and Parks have been places to recreate, sanctuaries for people seeking peace from the turmoil of daily life, and places to learn about and enjoy their natural environment. Here you can explore miles of trails by snowmobile, skis, snowshoes, or on foot.

Any ranger will tell you that the mountains will not truly reveal themselves to a motor vehicle. To experience the best of American Fork Canyon, you should get out on foot, if only for a short time, and become part of the landscape. Listen to the mountain silence, watch the wildlife, and gaze towards a distant mountain range, and you will soon realize how special this canyon is.

So as you snowmobile, ski, snowshoe or walk the trails, or drive along the mountain roads, reflect on the importance of these areas to the broader landscape and our responsibility for maintaining them to fulfill the needs of future generations. Also, remember to take a moment to celebrate the magnificence of this protected canyon and experience one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Sincerely,

Pam Gardner
District Ranger, Pleasant Grove
Uinta NF

Kit T. Mullen
Superintendent
Timpanogos Cave NM

Your Fee Dollars at Work

In 1996, Congress authorized a pilot fee program to demonstrate the feasibility of spreading some of the costs of managing public lands among those who use them. Timpanogos Cave National Monument and the Uinta National Forest are among the units that participate in this pilot fee program. The additional funds generated by the fee increase are being used for projects that the agencies have been unable to fund through yearly Congressional allocations.

The Uinta National Forest and Timpanogos Cave National Monument, in partnership with the Utah Department of Transportation and Utah County, began collecting use fees to American Fork Canyon in August 1997 under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Use fees are dedicated to projects that increase the quality of the visitor experience and enhance the protection of Canyon resources. One hundred percent of the fees collected stays in this area to help fund and maintain facilities, trailheads and trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, lake and river access, and interpretive programs.

One project completed with fee demonstration funds was the reconstruction of Timpooneke Campground. Fire rings, picnic tables, and restrooms were replaced, campsites were hardened and equestrian troughs and corrals were installed.

This project, and many others like it, is possible because of your support for the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. For further information on the fee demonstration program or other projects please contact the Pleasant Grove Ranger District or Timpanogos Cave National Monument.

Canyon Passes

Participation in the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program allows 100% of the fees collected at the entrance stations to remain in 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.

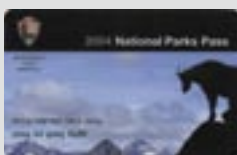
The following passes are available at the entrance stations and Visitor Center (cave tour fees are additional):



Use 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 to American Fork Canyon **\$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



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.



months from date of purchase; non-transferable.
Golden Age Hologram \$15.00
Affix the Golden Eagle Hologram to your National Parks Pass to cover entrance fees at national parks, U.S.



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 system 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.gov today!

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED TELEPHONE NUMBERS

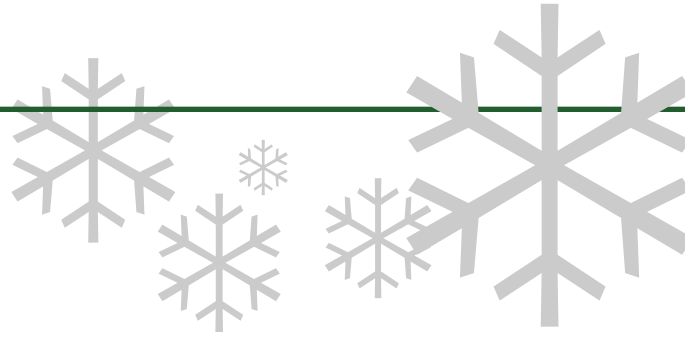
| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Law Enforcement | |
| EMERGENCY | 911 |
| Division of Wildlife Resources | (801) 491-5678 |
| Highway Patrol | (801) 374-7030 |
| Poaching Hotline | 1(800) 662-3337 |
| Utah County Sheriff | (801) 851-4100 |
| Ranger Stations | |
| Timpanogos Cave National Monument | (801) 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 | 1(800) 365-2267 |
| Road Conditions | 1(800) 492-2400 |
| Utah County Travel | (801) 370-8390 |
| Utah Travel Council | 1(800) 200-1160 |
| Weather | 1(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 | |
| 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 |

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Winter Safety Tips



Weather

American Fork Canyon's weather is unpredictable and changes suddenly. Temperatures in the canyon are often 10-15 degrees colder than in the valley because of the lack of sunlight reaching the canyon floor. Be prepared for a range of conditions, whether you are out for several hours or overnight. Plan your trip and follow your plan.

Skiers & Snowboarders

- ✿ Evaluate your party's capabilities. Plan your outing so that everyone will enjoy it.
- ✿ Beware of icy conditions on downhill grades. Side-step or walk down the hill rather than risk losing control.
- ✿ Do not approach wildlife. Wild animals are unpredictable; if they charge, you cannot outrun them in deep snow. If they run, you are forcing them to use energy they need to survive.
- ✿ Exertion in dry mountain air can dehydrate you. Drink plenty of water.
- ✿ Follow basic ski etiquette: skiers going uphill yield to those going downhill.
- ✿ Let someone know where you are going.
- ✿ On groomed roads used by snowmobiles, keep to the right.
- ✿ If you venture into the backcountry, carry a USGS topographic map and a compass or GPS unit and know how to use them.
- ✿ Even on a well-marked trail, you can become easily lost in a whiteout or blizzard.
- ✿ Obtain avalanche information from the Avalanche Forecast Center before any outing into the canyon.
- ✿ Most of American Fork Canyon is above 5,000 feet. If you are coming from lower elevations, acclimate yourself and test your capabilities by

taking short day trips before considering longer excursions.

- ✿ Little Mill Campground and Granite Flat Campground offer groomed cross-country ski trails when snow conditions allow.

Snowmobilers

- ✿ Dress for extreme cold. Essential items: helmet, face mask, heavy insulated gloves or mittens, felt-lined boots, and a heavy insulated snowmobile suit. Avoid tight-fitting garments; they restrict circulation and increase the possibility of frostbite.
- ✿ Carry extra food for 12 hours beyond your planned trip, extra fuel, drive belt, spark plugs and appropriate tools, plus extra parts that frequently break down or wear out. Always include a flashlight, matches and a first aid kit. Repair services are not available in American Fork Canyon.
- ✿ Before starting your trip, check on road and weather conditions. Blowing and drifting snow can be especially hazardous in the canyon.

Avalanches

- ✿ Much of the terrain in American Fork Canyon is prone to avalanches. Hazards may exist throughout the winter and into spring in some areas.
- ✿ All winter travelers should be familiar with the terrain they will be traveling in and should be trained in avalanche self-rescue techniques. Remember, the most important factor is prevention – the probability of rescuing someone who has been buried in an avalanche is low.
- ✿ Avalanche release zones may be well above you and not within your sight. Do not travel below steep open slopes, especially where avalanches

have already occurred and during warming periods or times of heavy rain or snowfall.

- ✿ Avalanches most commonly occur on hillsides or in canyons with slopes of 30-45 degrees but can happen on any slope.
- ✿ The most dangerous time for avalanches is during heavy snowfall (rates of one inch or more per hour) and warming periods with heavy rains or sunshine.
- ✿ Check the Utah Avalanche Information Center, 801-378-4333, for current avalanche advisories.

Winter Camping

- ✿ Winter camping is allowed in the Day Use Picnic Sites along Route 114 from November 1 to April 1. Free camping permits are required. Obtain permits and further information from the Uinta National Forest Service.

Road Closures

- ✿ State Route 92 is closed in winter at the Pine Hollow parking area, and Route 114 is closed at the Tibble Fork parking area, due to heavy snow conditions and avalanche danger.
- ✿ Snowmobiling is allowed beyond both of these maintained road closures.
- ✿ Be aware of icy, snow-packed conditions and the possibility of avalanches.
- ✿ American Fork Canyon can be closed at times due to avalanches or rock slides.



NPS Photo

Surviving Winter

Summer is a comfortable time in American Fork Canyon: wildlife raise their young, and they use their energy for growth. But the seasons here are very distinct. During winter, wildlife directs all energy toward survival. Wild animals have three main methods of dealing with winter: they can leave by migrating, they can avoid it by hibernating, or they can live with it by confronting and adjusting to severe conditions.

Migration is a tactic that many animals use. More than 100 kinds of birds nest in American Fork Canyon. Most of these birds leave northern Utah before winter sets in and return in spring. Many song birds, from swallows to warblers, fly to western Mexico for the winter.

Spending the winter in sunny Mexico conjures up images of lazing on a balmy beach. For birds, however, winter is no vacation. Birds of all sizes fuel their long-distance flights by burning fat, so they must store up body fat prior to migration and must eat enough to replenish this fat. Travel to and from birds' nesting areas is fraught with perils, including storms, predators, obstacles like radio towers and power lines, and finding food in unfamiliar landscapes. Human alteration or destruction of habitat in migration corridors and wintering sites compounds the risks of migration. Birds tend to be more concentrated in wintering areas, adding competition for food and living space to the problems migratory birds face.



Moose in American Fork Canyon, NPS Photo

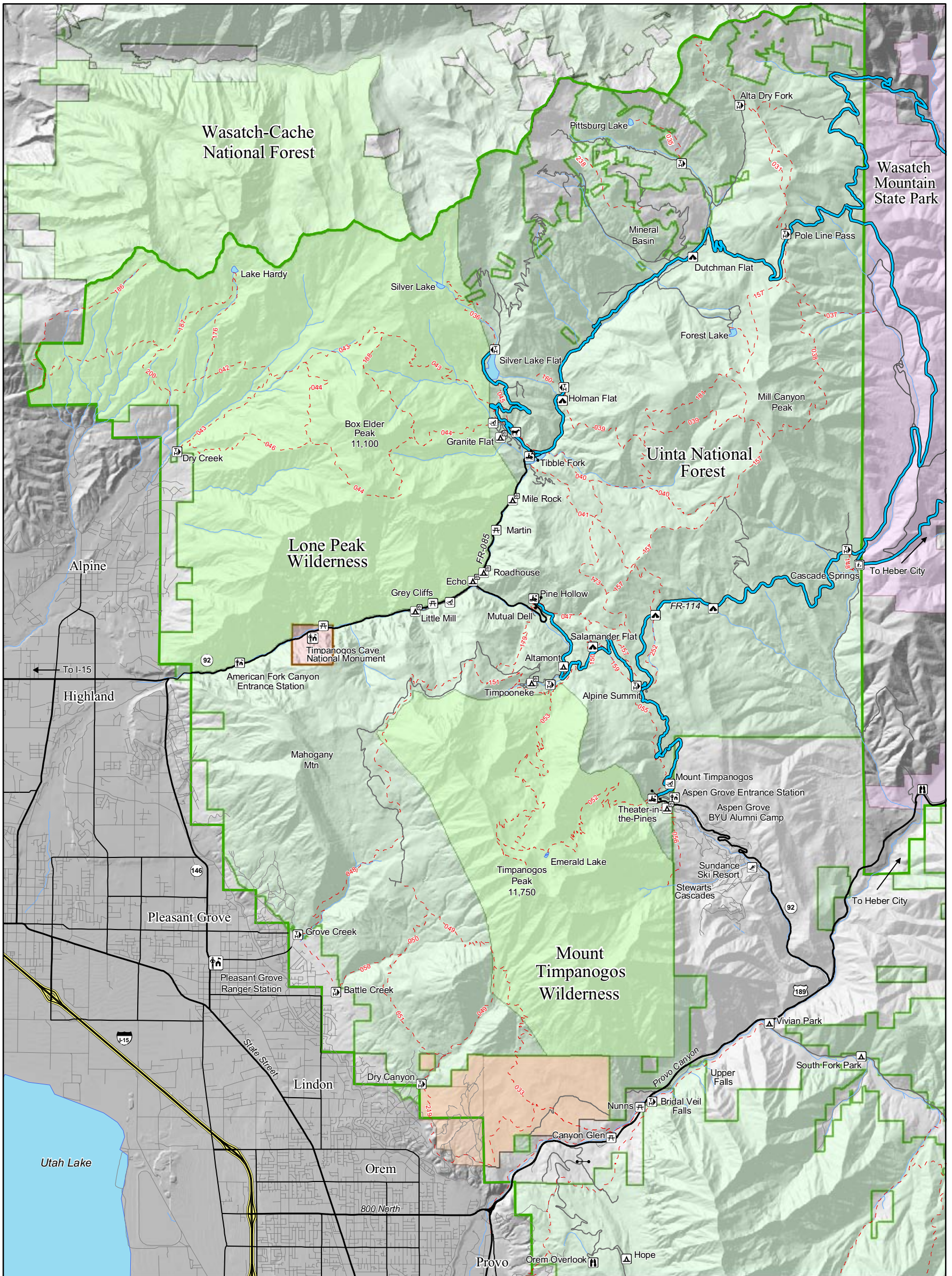
Hibernation is a strategy employed by animals including bears, bats, Uinta and golden-mantled ground squirrels, chipmunks, and yellow-bellied marmots. While bears are denning, their temperatures drop from 101 F to 86 F, and their bodies slow down to reduce energy consumption. Bears, however, are light hibernators. True hibernators include bats and ground squirrels. Bats increase their body

weight 25-30% by eating insects before hibernation. During hibernation bats lower their body temperature from 104 F to 35 F, and their heart rate slows from 350 beats per minute to 24 beats per minute. Uinta ground squirrels engage in a hibernation marathon—adults hibernate as long as seven months!

Animals that confront winter have a wide variety of behavioral and morphological adaptations. Storing food is a common behavioral adaptation: beavers stash twigs underwater where they will be available all winter. Squirrels store large amounts of cones and seeds and place mushrooms in tree branches to dry. Pikas, the "haymakers of the mountains", dry grasses all summer for consumption under winter's blanket of snow.

Morphological adaptations are related to the way an animal is built. Moose are equipped with very long legs that allow them to walk

in deep snow. Their musculature allows them to lift their legs straight up out of the snow before taking another step, avoiding dragging, and saving them energy. Moose hairs are hollow and offer good insulation. Small animals could not support the thick, heavy fur of a moose; instead, many take advantage of the insulating value of the snow itself by digging snow tunnels to travel and find food.



American Fork Canyon - Winter Recreation Map

Ownership

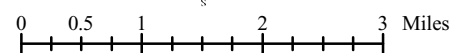
- Uinta National Forest
- National Park Service
- Private
- Utah State Wildlife Management Area
- Wilderness
- Wasatch Mountain State Park
- System Trails

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
- Snowmobile Route



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cb: fw 9/16/04