

In this issue:

Another big poaching case

Free fishing events

Buy deer and elk permits

Applications for big game permits accepted soon

Two Men Charged in Big Poaching Case

Tip received on poaching hotline

Panguitch -- Two men are in jail and the heads of 11 deer and pronghorn have been recovered in a recent poaching case.

The case is one of the biggest poaching cases in southern Utah in recent memory. And it happened because someone was concerned enough to call Utah's Turn-in-a-Poacher (UTiP) hotline.

"We're so grateful for the information we received from a concerned citizen," says Micah Evans, a Division of Wildlife Resources conservation officer. "Without that initial tip, we never could have put this case together."

Evans says the tip was received on Utah's Turn-in-a-Poacher hotline (1-800-662-DEER [3337]) or wildlife.utah.gov/law/poaching.php on the DWR's Web site.

"We were able to take that tip and get the original search warrant," Evans says. "The whole thing just mushroomed from there."

Lots of antlers

Over the Memorial Day weekend, DWR officers and deputies with the Garfield County Sheriff's Office served search warrants on a home and a shed near Panguitch. They found the heads of eight mule deer bucks, one mule deer doe and two pronghorn bucks inside the two buildings.

"The antlers from two of the buck deer measured over 24 inches in width," Evans says. "That qualifies them as trophy class under Utah state law. And that means the two men charged in the case might be facing felony charges."

In addition to the antlers the officers recovered, the two men they arrested—Gary Lyndyl Harp, 35, and Gavin Smith, 19, both of Panguitch—admitted to killing another mule deer buck and a mule deer doe.

Two juveniles were also implicated in the case.

Officers booked Harp and Smith into the Garfield County jail.

Evans says the men killed the animals in 2008 and 2009 in the Panguitch and Mount Dutton areas in south-central Utah.

(more)

page 2

“I can’t say enough about the help we got from the Garfield County sheriff,” Evans added. “It was great to work with Sheriff Danny Perkins and the other professionals who work for him in the sheriff’s office.”

###

Contact: Lynn Chamberlain, DWR Southern Region Conservation Outreach Manager
(435) 680-0059 or (435) 635-6100

Free Fishing Events

June 6 is Free Fishing Day

Free fishing events will be held across Utah on June 6.

The free events are part of Free Fishing Day in Utah. You don’t need a license to fish in the state on June 6.

Special fishing events

Several free fishing events will be held on Free Fishing Day. Among those the DWR will be involved with are the following:

NORTHERN UTAH

LOGAN

The Bear River Celebration and Free Fishing Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Willow Park, 419 W. 700 S.

People of all ages can enjoy free fishing at Skylar’s Pond. Volunteers will be on hand to check out fishing equipment. They’ll also be available to help first-time anglers.

Activity booths, for those ages 4 to 18, will also be offered. The first 250 kids and teenagers who visit the booths and complete their “passport to fun” will receive a free t-shirt. The interactive booths will give young people a chance to discover the joys of fishing and learn the importance of good water quality. Kids and teenagers can tie their own wooly bugger, experience how rivers and streams are formed, explore the life cycles of fish, go “buggy over bugs,” make fish prints, learn to cast a fishing lure and learn more about Leave No Trace fishing and camping!

A variety of local, state and federal agencies are sponsoring the activity. The activity promotes water quality and fishing.

(more)

page 3

For more information, e-mail Marni Lee with the Division of Wildlife Resources at marnilee@utah.gov.

NORTH-CENTRAL UTAH

MIDWAY

“Kid’s Fishing Event,” Wasatch Mountain State Park pond, about two miles west of Midway.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Space is limited. If your child would like to participate, please register in advance by calling Wendy Wilson at (435) 654-1791.

The DWR will stock the pond with rainbow trout before the event. The kids who participate will be taught about fish and how to catch them starting at 9 a.m. Once the training is done, the kids are free to fish at the pond. If your child needs help, volunteers from the DWR’s Dedicated Hunter program will be available to help them fish and clean the fish they catch.

Fishing poles and bait will be available for children who don’t have their own equipment.

PROVO

The Fourth Annual Utah Lake Festival will be held at Utah Lake State Park, 4400 W. Center St.

Fishing equipment will be available for use at no charge. The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., but you can use the fishing equipment as early as 7 a.m.

Festival activities include free boat rides; a sail-boat regatta; a canoeing workshop and excursions; a fishing simulator; vendor booths; and face painting and art activities for the kids. Free hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn, apples and water will be provided by Provo, American Fork, Orem, Springville and Santaquin cities.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there is no fee to visit Utah Lake State Park and the festival. The festival offers a chance to get outside and enjoy Utah Lake, experience its many recreational opportunities and offerings, and learn about the lake’s ecosystem and the native fish species that live in the lake.

(more)

NORTHEASTERN UTAH

Three Free Fishing Day events for kids of all ages will be held in northeastern Utah:

- Pelican Lake in Uintah County, 8 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management, XRQ 94 Radio and the DWR.

- Moose Ponds in Daggett County, 9 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the Flaming Gorge National Scenic Byway partnership and the DWR.

Note: Moose Ponds is a popular spot along the scenic byway. The ponds have been improved over the past few months. A ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony will be held on June 6 to celebrate the improvements.

- Lower Stillwater Ponds on Rock Creek in Duchesne County. The event should run from 9 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the DWR.

If you have your own fishing pole, you're encouraged to bring it to these events. A limited number of poles will be available at the Pelican Lake and Moose Pond sites for those who don't have a pole but would like to try fishing. Fishing demonstrations will also be provided at the Pelican Lake and Moose Pond events.

The sponsors of the three events have arraigned for prizes and other give-aways for the younger children that drop by. These events should be fun for the whole family!

For more information, contact any of the sponsors or the DWR's Vernal office at (435) 781-9453.

(more)

SOUTHWESTERN UTAH

CEDAR CITY

The Division of Wildlife Resources will sponsor a fishing event at Duck Creek Pond from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children 12 years of age and younger are invited to come to the pond and fish for free. A fishing license is not required, and fishing equipment will be available for kids who don't have their own equipment. DWR personnel and volunteers will also be available to help the kids fish.

Duck Creek Pond is about 24 miles southeast of Cedar City on Route 14.

For more information, call the DWR's Cedar City office at (435) 865-6100.

TROPIC RESERVOIR

A free Kids Fishing Derby will be held at Tropic Reservoir from 9 a.m. to noon.

The DWR will stock the reservoir with fish before the event. Each child who attends the event will receive a prize. Refreshments will also be provided.

Tropic Reservoir is just west of Bryce Canyon National Park. To reach the reservoir, travel southeast from Panguitch on Route 12. Five miles before you reach the park, turn south on a gravel road and travel 10 miles to the reservoir.

For more information, call Jake Schoppe with the U.S. Forest Service at (435) 676-9300.

###

Contact: Mark Hadley, DWR Relations with the Public Specialist (801) 538-4737

Buy Deer and Elk Permits

Permits available starting June 11

If you don't have a permit to hunt buck deer in Utah this fall, your next chance to get one begins June 11. That's when permits not taken in this year's big game draw go on sale.

Most of Utah's buck deer permits were taken in the draw, but more than 6,200 Northern Region rifle and muzzleloader, and 2,300 statewide general archery permits, are still available.

Bull elk permits to hunt during Utah's general season also go on sale June 11.

You can buy a permit starting at 7 a.m. at the DWR's Web site (wildlife.utah.gov) and from DWR offices and more than 300 hunting license agents across Utah.

The Web site will be busy

"The morning of June 11 will be a busy morning on our Web site," says Judi Tutorow, wildlife licensing coordinator for the DWR. "If the site reaches the maximum number of people it can serve, a message will pop up indicating the site has reached its full capacity.

"If that happens, be patient," she says. "The planned downtime should last only a few short minutes."

When did permits sell out in 2008?

Buck deer permits to hunt during Utah's general archery hunt were the first permits to sell out last year. They sold out on June 19.

Northern Region rifle and muzzleloader permits were the next to go. They sold out on June 29.

General bull elk permits sold out on Sept. 25.

For more information, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

###

Contact: Mark Hadley, DWR Relations with the Public Specialist (801) 538-4737

Apply for Antlerless Big Game Permits

Applications available starting June 1

You might have a better chance at drawing a permit to hunt cow elk, doe deer or doe pronghorn in Utah this fall.

More permits will be offered for each species to try and balance the number of animals with the amount of habitat that's available to them.

Most of Utah's antlerless big game permits are taken in the state's annual draw. You can apply for a permit starting June 1 at www.wildlife.utah.gov or by calling the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office.

To get your application into the draw for permits, you must submit it through the Web site no later than 11 p.m. on June 25. Applications will also be accepted over the phone until 6 p.m. on June 25.

The following are the number of permits available this year:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of permits</u>
Cow Elk	11,146
Doe Deer	1,775
Doe Pronghorn	1,107
Cow Moose	30

In addition to hunts on public land, many of Utah's private Cooperative Wildlife Management Units offer antlerless permits to Utah residents. Applications for CWMU permits will also be accepted from June 1 through June 25.

"The chance you'll take an animal during an antlerless hunt is usually higher than it is during a hunt for an animal with antlers," says Anis Aoude, big game coordinator for the DWR.

"Antlerless hunts are great," Aoude says. "They give you a chance to get out and enjoy nature, and they provide you with a good chance to take an animal."

For more information, call the nearest Division of Wildlife Resources office or the DWR's Salt Lake City office at (801) 538-4700.

###

Contact: Mark Hadley, DWR Relations with the Public Specialist (801) 538-4737