

Please find below, Utah State Parks news for December 2:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 2010

Contact:

Hollie Brown, (801) 537-3477

Deena Loyola, (801) 538-7347 / cell (801) 554-5199

stateparks.utah.gov

- Limited Access to Snowmobile Trails Near Monte Cristo/Hardware Ranch
- Snowmobile Maps, Safety and Avalanche Information Available Online
- Upcoming Utah State Parks Events

LIMITED ACCESS TO SNOWMOBILE TRAILS NEAR MONTE CRISTO / HARDWARE RANCH

Salt Lake City – Due to pipeline work, Ant Flat Road between Highway 39 and Hardware Ranch will be plowed now until December 15. From December 15 through January 1, Ant Flat Road between Hardware Ranch and Scare Canyon will be plowed.

Until January, it is not possible to make a complete circuit of Curtis Creek Loop. If you plan to ride this loop, be sure to take extra gas for a two-way trip. After January 1, Ant Flat Road will be allowed to fill in with an 18-inch base of snow, then, snowmobile grooming will begin.

###

SNOWMOBILE MAPS, SAFETY AND AVALANCHE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

Salt Lake City - Two snowmobilers have lost their lives in Utah already this year, prompting Utah State Parks and Recreation to remind all riders to know their riding areas, carry proper safety equipment and check avalanche and weather conditions before their trips.

Maps of Utah's nine groomed snowmobile complexes are available for download at stateparks.utah.gov or by calling 1-800-OHV-RIDE.

Remember these snowmobile safety tips:

- Check avalanche conditions for the area you plan to ride. Conditions are updated daily at utahavalanchecenter.org or on the Utah State Parks hotline at 1-800-OHV-RIDE.

- Wear and/or carry avalanche equipment including a beacon, shovel and probe. Be sure everyone in your party has this equipment and knows how to use it. Classes are available from the Utah Avalanche Center.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you'll return.
- Always wear proper safety equipment, which includes a helmet.
- Make sure your sled is in top condition before hitting the trail head. Take a small tool kit, and extra spark plugs and belts.
- Bring extra food, water, and first aid kit.
- Never ride under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Youth between the ages of eight and 15 and those without a driver's license must take the Know Before You Go! online snowmobile safety education course to obtain a snowmobile safety certificate before operating a snowmobile on public land. Visit stateparks.utah.gov for access to the course.

###

UPCOMING UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

December 18 Jordanelle State Park - Francis
 Animal Adaptations: Join the park naturalist from 10 a.m. to noon to learn about animals that live in the park. Snowshoe through the park and learn how to identify animal tracks. Bring snowshoes or borrow a pair from the park. Pre-registration is required. Day-use fee is \$7 per vehicle with up to eight people or free to Utah State Parks pass holders. 435-782-3030 or 435-649-9540

December 29 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway
 Heber Valley Christmas Bird Count: Join park staff and other bird and wildlife lovers at Audubon's 111th Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC is one of the largest citizen science efforts in the world. Beginner, intermediate, and expert birders are welcome. Meet at the visitor center at 8 a.m. and dress warmly. For more information or to register, please call 435-654-1791 or visit www.audubon.org/bird/cbc.

-utah state parks-