Celebrating a Centennial

100 years of dedication to caring for the land and serving people

In 2005, the Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service celebrates a century of service to our nation. President Theodore Roosevelt established the Forest Service as part of the Department of Agriculture in 1905. The first Chief of the Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, was tasked with ensuring that “all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people”.

The creation of the Forest Service initiated a century of change in managing public forests and grasslands, with introduction of a new conservation ethic and professional workforce to carry it forth. The Forest Service has now upheld this noble charge for 100 years, and America’s forests and grasslands remain vibrant because of the hard work and dedication of Forest Service employees.

Beyond serving as places for recreation, our forests are also sources for wood products, livestock forage, minerals, and many other resources that drive our economy. Over the last century, the Forest Service has combined this ethic of good stewardship with sound science and a spirit of innovation to cultivate and sustain our forests and grasslands in ways that benefit our entire society. Today, Americans continue to be responsible stewards of national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service is working with State and local governments, tribes, and other Federal agencies to help prevent destructive wildfires, return forests to a healthier, natural condition, and maintain a full range of forest types. The Forest Service is also providing important work, education, and job training to citizens in need. This commitment to “Caring for the Land and Serving People” contributes to our country’s success in conserving our environment and ensuring that our natural resources remain sources of pride for our citizens, our communities, and our Nation. We ask that you join us in reflecting on the organization’s proud history and traditions and explore ways to move into a new century of “caring for the land and serving people.”

Then and Now – Forest Service accomplishments over the past 100 years

From Gifford Pinchot’s first concept of forest preservation, the Forest Service’s National Forest idea has evolved into 155 National Forests, 20 National Grasslands, 20 National Recreation Areas, and 6 National Monuments. After nearly a century, what do we have to show for our conservation principles?

Clean water: A century ago, most watersheds were unprotected. Today, the most and the cleanest water in the country comes from our forests. More than 60 million Americans get their drinking water from watersheds that originate on our national forests and grasslands.

Wildlife and fish habitat: A century ago, many species were severely depleted or on the brink of extinction. Today, many have made remarkable comebacks after finding refuge on our national forests and grasslands. For example, our national forests provide 80 percent of the habitat in the lower 48 States for elk, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep. We maintain 28 million acres of wild turkey habitat and half of the country’s blue-ribbon trout streams.

Fire protection: Seventy years ago, wildland fires burned tens of millions of acres annually. Today, thanks to the best wildland firefighting force in the world, less than 5 million acres burn in most years. We stop 98 percent of our fires during initial attack—what an achievement! Past fire...
Welcome!

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 build 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 a paved scenic drive, some 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 appreciate 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

America the Beautiful Pass
Coming Soon

Federal lands have provided Americans and visitors from around the world with special places for recreation, education and reflection. Currently, four national passes exist. The Act creates an interagency national pass called the America the Beautiful Pass, which will consolidate the Golden Passport program and the National Parks Passport program into an interagency pass to decrease visitor confusion. This new pass is expected to be available in Spring, 2006.

The Recreational Fee Demonstration program, authorized by Congress in 1996, has given the Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management an opportunity to test a user-generated recovery program, where fees are collected and expended onsite to provide enhanced services and facilities. New authority - The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act - was enacted by Congress as part of the 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill and signed into law by President Bush on December 8, 2004. The Act provides agencies with recreation fee authority for 10 years, which will allow the agencies to provide better facilities and services to visitors and employ greater use of technology, and enter into fee management agreements with counties and other entities to provide additional services to visitors. Funds from American Fork Canyon have been used for: the installation of 10 new restrooms, hiking trail improvements, additional cave tours and evening programs at Timpanogos Cave National Monument, and horse-friendly campsites.

Canyon Passes

Participation in the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program allows 100% of the fees collected at the entrance 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 agree to support your efforts to improve American Fork Canyon.

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

Entrance Fee
Allows recreating and use of facilities in American Fork Canyon and the Alpine Loop.
$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
Allows entrance to American Fork Canyon and 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 affiliated.

Golden Eagle 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 and programs at National Parks for 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.nps.gov and www.nationalparks.org today!
Planning for the Future

Most people seem to enjoy asking the question, “What do you want to do?” Well, Timpanogos Cave National Monument is planning on asking visitors that question and a whole lot more this summer. The monument will be participating in the National Park Service Visitor Survey Project. Our goal is to learn as much as we can about your visit to the monument and American Fork Canyon. Why did you come up American Fork Canyon? What facilities did you use? What did you do in the monument? What did you like most about your visit? What did you like least?

Teams of independent researchers will be distributing the visitor survey to 300 or more visitors during a ten-day period in July. We’ll only collect some brief information when we contact you in the monument. You’ll be given a copy of a questionnaire that you can fill out at your leisure once you get home. We’ll even send you occasional reminders! It should not take more than a half-hour of your time, but the information that you provide will be extremely valuable to us. Your individual response and information will not be shared with anyone, and no names will be used in any publications that result from the study.

Why do we need this information? We do have a genuine interest in knowing what our visitors think, and your opinion is used in deciding management direction. We also need this information to guide us through our next two major planning efforts. In the fall of 2003 we hope to complete our Comprehensive Interpretive Plan. This is the monument’s first long-range interpretive planning tool in its 83-year history. This planning document provides the interpretation and education vision that we will follow for the next 10 years or more. In addition, the Uinta National Forest and Timpanogos Cave National Monument are in the initial planning and design stages for a new interagency visitor center and administration office to be located just outside American Fork Canyon in the city of Highland. We expect development of the new center will take 3 to 5 years. We intend the new center to benefit the public with easy access and available information on the forest and monument. We also intend the center to complement the planning and development of Highland, and to provide a sense of arrival and entry to American Fork Canyon. There will be public opportunities to meet with monument and forest staff and provide input. When the process really gets moving, we will issue press releases and post information on our websites, so anyone interested should watch for that information.

What do you want to do at Timpanogos Cave National Monument and in American Fork Canyon? What’s your vision for the monument and the forest? We encourage you to participate in the visitor survey this summer. Then stay involved by attending public meetings and by sending us your comments. Together we can plan a promising future for Timpanogos Cave National Monument and American Fork Canyon.

Connecting to the past . . .
Building for the Future . . .
Winning the War on Weeds

Non-native plants, also called exotic or alien, are plant species that have been introduced into an area in which they did not originate. Many thrive in disturbed areas, such as along roadsides and trails, and usually do not have natural enemies to help control their populations. When this type of plant spreads quickly, or crowds out native plants, we refer to it as an invasive species.

Invasive plants can quickly take over native landscapes, robbing wildlife of their natural food and shelter. Some of the most troublesome weeds found in American Fork Canyon include Dalmatian Toadflax, Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Cheatgrass, and Sweet Vetch. The Forest Service and the National Park Service use many tools to limit the spread of invasive plants. This includes biological control (insects that are specific plant's natural predator), manual removal, mulching, and the use of chemical herbicides. As exotic plants are removed, natives are planted to help restore the natural landscape.

One good area to see this process first hand is the Timpanogos Cave National Monument. Invasive plants have been removed from a meadow along the trail for the past two years, and native plants are now being planted in their place.

Examples of native plants found in American Fork Canyon can be seen in the planters outside the Timpanogos Cave National Monument Visitor Center. These include Colorado Columbine, Firecracker Penstemon, and Richardson’s Geranium. Common native trees in the area are the Cottonwood, Douglas Fir, Quaking Aspen, and Choke Cherry. Beautiful native wildflowers such as asters, penstemons, buttercups, violets, and lupines can be seen in American Fork Canyon in the spring and early summer months.

Wildlife, wind, water, and people spread both native and non-native plants when seeds or plant parts are moved from one area to another. You can help reduce the spread of exotic plants by not taking wildflowers from natural areas, and by checking your shoes and tires for attached plant parts to prevent unintentional transport of exotic species. Many thistles are infamous for transporting themselves by sticking to the bottom of hiker’s boots. In many places people have deliberately introduced non-native species.

A big part of the war on weeds is in your own backyard! Consider planting native species rather than exotics the next time you landscape your yard or update your flowerbed. Many natives are just as easy to grow, require less watering, and can be obtained through the local chapter of the Utah Native Plant Society. We stand a better chance of winning the war on weeds when we work together.
What’s That Cat?

Over the years, mountain lions have been called many different names. There are about 40 English words for mountain lion, and roughly 60 more in Spanish and Indian languages. In Mexico, this large, wild cat is called a puma or leon. In the Eastern United States, they are called panthers or catamounts (the word “catamount” comes from “cat of the mountain”). In the west, they may be called cougars.

Native Americans described these cats well when they called them “ghosts of the wilderness” or “ghost walkers.” That’s because mountain lions are very secretive and quiet. A mountain lion will see and hear you long before you ever catch a glimpse of it. This is why very few people get to see them.

Mountain lions are carnivores, or meat-eaters. To eat, lions must hunt other animals for food. They feed on deer and small mammals. Does this mean that mountain lions are dangerous? They can be. Like all forest and monument animals, the cats are wild. However, you are not likely to even see one. When provided enough space to roam and hunt for food, most cougars are happy to keep their distance from humans.

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 passageways. 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.

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, as cave temperatures average 45º F [7º 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, stalactites, cave drapery, and flowstone are among other formations that adorn the rooms and winding passages.

The Cave 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 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

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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.

Age: $15.00

Free: Ages 16 & older, Ages 6 to 15, Ages 3 to 5, Ages 2 and under

Golden Age/Access Pass: $5.50

Introduction to Caving Tour: $15.00

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.)

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/tima to learn more.
**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.

**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 (yet to fir) the Stellar’s jay is probably heard before it is seen. Its call is loud and raucous. Other birds to watch for include the canyon wren, the western white-throated swift, and the cliff swallow.

**June**

It’s often mistaken for Indian paintbrush, but that is actually firecracker penstemon blooming along the gravelly roadside. It is also the time to look for blazing star, a spectacular yellow-flowered plant, western larkspur, tufted evening primrose, and Richardson’s geranium. 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. Look for other native plants including the sego-lily (Utah’s state flower), spreading dogbane, and scarlet gilia. Many blooming plants are non-native, such as toadflax, Queen Anne’s lace, wooly mullein, chicory and several varieties of thistle. Watch (and listen) for hummingbird activity. The broad-tailed hummer is the most common for this region. Also look for the Townsend’s solitaire and the American dipper. 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, steer clear of the Great Basin rattlesnake! 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. Goldenrod, shrubby cinquefoil, and asters are blooming, and the blue elderberry, thimbleberry, and black twinberry are producing great fruit for the wildlife! Could a bobcat or mountain lion possibly be watching you from its perch on a cliff?

**September**

Moose may be spotted in their magnificent splendor in meadows and streamside areas. Careful not to get too close; they are unpredictable! Male deer are shedding their summer coats. Their winter fur is thicker and a dull gray-brown. 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. Whom food is abundant black bears will eat up to 45 lbs and put on 5 lbs per day in preparation for winter. By November, many will have curled up in the dens they picked out earlier in the spring. The golden-mantled ground squirrel will also soon be hibernating.
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.

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 Sssnakes
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 of 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.

Your Forest Heritage
Visitor Center
Join us for a nostalgic look at the Uinta National Forest over the last 100 years through slides and stories.