

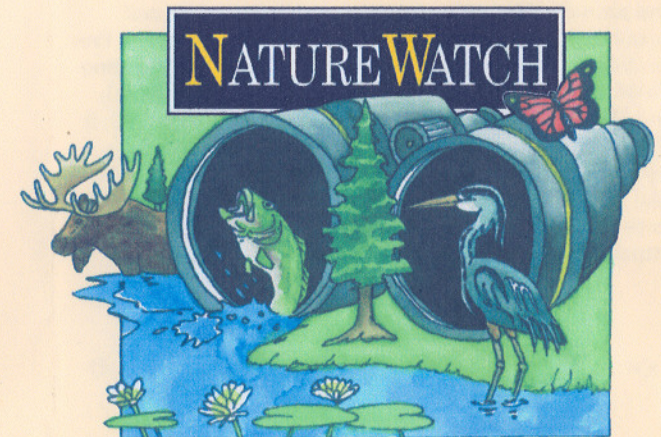
THE NORTHERN UTAH NATUREWATCH TOUR

U.S. Forest Service
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Ogden Ranger District
507 25th Street, Suite 103
Ogden, Utah 84401
(801) 625-5112

Welcome to the Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Wasatch, a Native American word, meaning "high mountain pass." "Cache, French for "hiding place," comes from Cache Valley, where trappers cached their furs in the early 1800s.

The Northern Utah NatureWatch Tour has been developed to educate the public about fish and wildlife and about the partners involved to improve habitat. This tour will guide you through a variety of habitats, each with different kinds of plants, mammals, birds, and fish. The tour showcases joint management of fish, wildlife, and plant resources through partnership participation. The NatureWatch Tour consists of eleven interpretive sites that are located from Hardware Ranch near Logan in the north to Causey Reservoir near Huntsville in the south.



NOTE: Conditions change with the weather and the seasons. Certain roads may be closed, either temporarily or for the season. Be sure to check on conditions before heading out.

Partners Protect the Range

Deadwood for Wildlife

Magnificent

Partners

From Conflict to Conservation

Something for Everyone at East Fork

Partners Protect

Connections

Our Changing Environment

The left page of the brochure features a vertical strip of decorative icons: birds in flight, paw prints, and footprints. The main content area is a collage of eleven informational panels, each with a title, illustrations, and text. The panels cover topics such as deadwood's role in wildlife habitat, the importance of partners in conservation, the transition from conflict to conservation, and the impact of a changing environment. The illustrations include a tractor, various birds, a moose, a fish, a heron, and a butterfly.

WHERE TO START

The Discovery Center at Snowbasin and Union Station in Ogden are two of the visitor locations and are starting points for the Northern Utah NatureWatch Tour. These locations provide additional information about the tour and details about specific interpretive kiosk sites. The Discovery Center also introduces people to the diversity of fish and wildlife species through interpretive displays, an educational slideshow, and beautiful intricate carvings of a variety of species (e.g., Cooper's hawk and flammulated owl) that inhabit the local area. Additional information related to wildlife and activities in the local area can also be found at the Bear River Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and the Logan Ranger District.

THE NATUREWATCH PROGRAM

is a cooperative effort of federal, state, and private partners to conserve fish, wildlife, and wildflowers and their habitats by providing enhanced recreation opportunities for the public; teaching about wildlife, fish, and wildflowers and their habitats; and encouraging active public support for resource conservation. NatureWatch is managed and administered by the Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plant Program of the USDA Forest Service, in cooperation with program sponsors and partners.

NatureWatch helps people experience nature. Through this tour and thousands of other activities, NatureWatch helps you see and understand wildlife, fish, and flowers in their natural settings; facilitates learning about the environment; and promotes the wise use and conservation of natural resources. NatureWatch is comprised of emphasis areas: Eyes on Wildlife (wildlife viewing and appreciation), Celebrating Wildflowers (native plant appreciation and conservation), and FishWatch (viewing and appreciation of fish species). It also provides linkage to other integral programs, such as Get Wild!, Rise to the Future, and Every Species Counts. To find out more about NatureWatch or the Forest Service and its partners, visit the World Wide Web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch>.

THE LAY OF THE LAND

As you explore northern Utah and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, you'll encounter many kinds of habitat. Each is home to different kinds of plants and wildlife. The major habitats associated with the Northern Utah NatureWatch Tour are:

Shrubland

The most extensive upland shrubland area along the Northern Utah NatureWatch Tour is located just south of Hardware Ranch, along Ant Flat Road. The most common shrub associated with the area is mountain big-sagebrush. Other sagebrush varieties include the Basin big-sagebrush at lower elevations, silver sagebrush at the wetter sites, and low sagebrush in areas with rocky or poor soil conditions. Other shrubs include rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, snowberry, serviceberry, chokecherry, birch-leaf mahogany, and curl-leaf mahogany.

Forest

Conifer forests associated with the Northern Utah NatureWatch Tour typically occur at mid-high elevation and primarily include Douglas fir, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce stands that may be pure or intermixed. Occasional pockets of individual limber pines occur on ridgelines. Also, large stands of lodgepole pine are common in the eastern part of the forest, though they are not common along the NatureWatch Tour. Aspen is the most common deciduous tree and exists in pure stands or may be intermixed with conifers. Much of the historic aspen on the Wasatch-Cache NF has been replaced by subalpine fir or spruce. At middle to low elevation (5,000-8,000 feet, or 1,525-2,440 meters), Rocky Mountain juniper (conical in shape) and Utah juniper (rounded) are common at dry sites. The famous Jardine juniper of Logan Canyon is estimated to be approximately 3,000 years old. Gambel oak, sometimes referred to as oak brush, can be found on the dry foothills and in canyons between 4,000 and 8,000 feet (1,220-2,440 meters) and is common in the southern part of the tour. Rocky mountain and big-toothed maple are also common at these elevations, but are more common in the northern part of the NatureWatch Tour. Rocky mountain maple tends to grow in areas with moist fertile soils, while big-toothed maple is associated with canyon walls and bottoms. In the fall, these maples can be very colorful, especially along Highway 89 from Brigham City to the town of Wellsville (northwestern part of the tour).

Riparian

Many of the NatureWatch sites are associated with riparian areas—the areas adjacent to streams and rivers. Common tree and shrub species are narrowleaf cottonwood, box elder, river birch, red-osier dogwood, and a variety of willows. In the arid west, riparian habitats cover less than one percent of the land, yet their role in the landscape is very important. Within Utah, approximately eighty percent of the bird species are either totally or partially dependent on riparian habitat. Big game, such as moose, can be observed in these areas using red-osier dogwood and a variety of willow species.



NATUREWATCH INTERPRETIVE KIOSK SITES

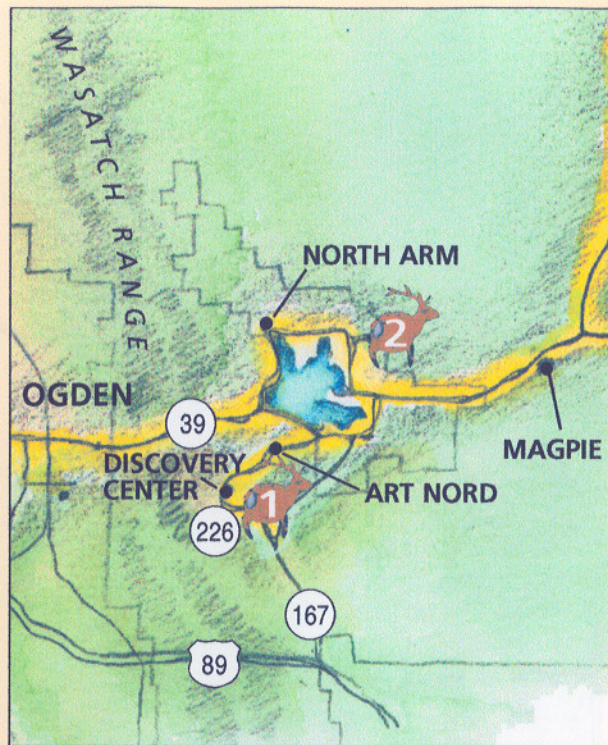
Recommended Tours

When visiting the Northern NatureWatch Kiosk sites, three tours are recommended based on the amount of time available for your group to visit and enjoy nature and its associated wildlife. All three tours start from the Discovery Center at Snowbasin; this is recommended but not a necessity. The full tour includes visiting all eleven kiosk sites in the order they are arranged in the pamphlet (sequence for driving the tour). The moderate tour includes all the kiosk sites from the City of Ogden to Causey Reservoir (sites 1-5, 10, and 11). The short tour includes all the kiosk sites located near Snowbasin and Huntsville (sites 1-3 and 11).

NOTE: Conditions change with the weather and the seasons. Certain roads may be closed, either temporarily or for the season. Be sure to check on conditions before heading out.

Recommended Maps

In addition to this pamphlet, it is highly recommended that other maps be obtained. Suggested maps are the Forest Service Travel Plan Maps for the Ogden and Logan Ranger Districts and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Map for the Ogden and Logan Ranger Districts.



1 East Fork: Oak, Maples, and Wildflowers

East Fork has many distinct habitats and vegetation types. Gambel oak, maple, aspen, Douglas fir, and subalpine fir forest stands are interspersed with wetlands, meadows, and shrub openings, and are intersected by the riparian habitat. These interconnected habitats support richly varied life. East Fork's diversity also produces many types of wildflowers from early spring through fall.



The major vegetation type within the area consists of stands of Gambel oak, commonly referred to as oak brush. Gambel oak, maple, and aspen form a dense, multi-layered forest. Each layer is a miniature ecosystem providing homes and habitat for different species. Wildfires are an important part of the Gambel oak cycle. After a fire, the oak re-sprouts and

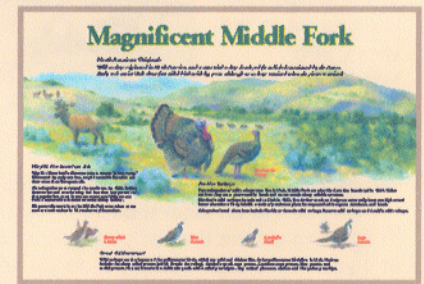
spreads quickly, creating a forest that combines new dense brush and unburned mature growth with a more open understory.

In the East Fork area you will likely observe soaring red-tailed hawks or hear their distinctive cry. When visiting from dawn to dusk, you may hear the call of the flammulated owl. You may also see moose in some of the openings, browsing on willows or oak brush.

Visit East Fork and smell the "roses"—wildflowers—and in the fall, enjoy the color of turning leaves.

2 Middle Fork: Wild Turkey and Wintering Wildlife

The Middle Fork Wildlife Management Area is a unique area that consists of lands managed by both the USFS and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resource. The area was created to



reduce elk-and-landowner conflicts by providing a wintering area for elk and other big game. When food becomes scarce at higher altitudes during winter, the elk come here. Middle Fork changes rapidly from sagebrush shrubland to lush riparian habitat along the river, where wild turkeys thrive. Wild Rio Grande turkeys live in the dense brush near the river. They were introduced to Utah in 1984. They're one of six subspecies of wild turkeys found in North America. Subspecies are distinct groups within a species. Although subspecies have some unique traits, they can still interbreed with other groups of their species. Rio Grande and Merriam's turkeys have been introduced to Utah. Merriam's turkeys have nearly white feathers on their lower back and at the margins of their tail feathers, while the Rio Grande subspecies tail feathers are a dark buff-brown.





North Arm: Neotropical Migratory Birds

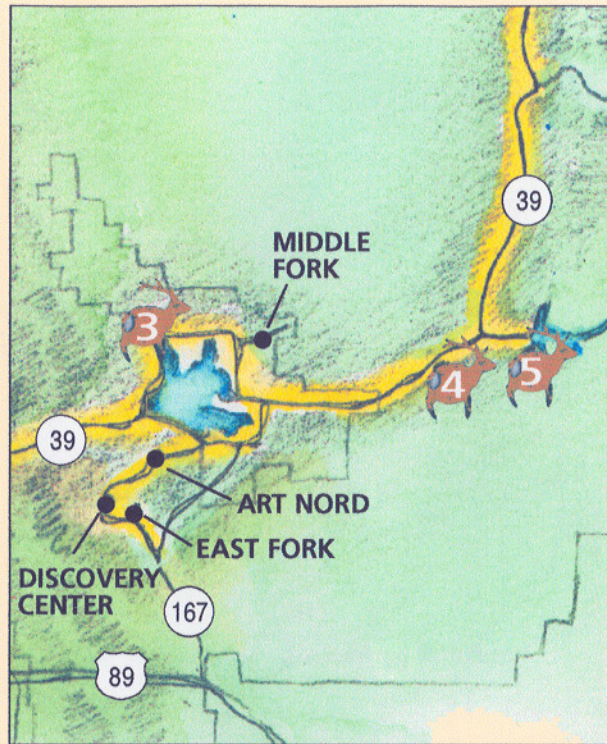
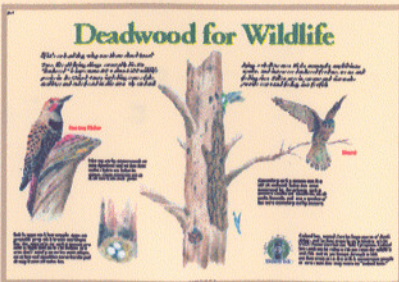
North Arm lies on the north side of Pineview Reservoir, where the North Fork of the Ogden River flows into the reservoir. The habitat consists of low-elevation riparian and wetland habitat. North Arm has a wheelchair-accessible wildlife-viewing trail that allows one to explore the dense riparian forest and enjoy the numerous songbirds that inhabit the area.

Several neotropical bird species—birds that migrate as far south as Argentina in the winter and come north in the spring and summer—mate and raise their young at North Arm. Dense vegetation, abundant water, and plenty of insects and other food make this an ideal spot for birds—and bird watchers. Depending on the time of year, you may see gray catbirds and yellow warblers above you in the trees; ospreys and American white pelicans on or near the reservoir; and raptors soaring high overhead. If you have a hard time spotting birds, stop and listen.



Magpie: Creeks and Cottonwoods

Numerous USFS campgrounds and recreational facilities are located along the banks of the South Fork of the Ogden River. Magpie is one of these sites. Magpie is named after the black-and-white bird that is closely related to the jays and crows. Magpies usually construct their large bell- or ball-shaped stick nests in the center of a cottonwood tree. Within this area, cottonwoods and other riparian vegetation are abundant, as are snags (standing dead trees) that provide homes for wildlife. At Magpie you will see several cavity-nesting bird species, as well as bats if you are there between dusk and dawn. Most birds are easier to spot than bats! Some of the



most common birds here are the swallows. You may see tree and violet-green swallows nesting in the trees; bank and cliff swallows near cutbanks along the river; and barn swallows under bridges and roof overhangs.

For hiking, it is recommended that you explore the trails at Perception Park, a short distance farther up the canyon. A visit may change your whole image of snags and life in a dead tree.



Causey Reservoir: Kokanee Salmon

The area to the east of Causey Reservoir is one of the more rugged and remote areas of the Ogden Ranger District. There are trails for hiking and horseback riding located nearby that lead into the deep canyons and also traverse the shoreline of the reservoir. Wheat Grass Canyon, Dry Bread Hollow, Bear Hollow, and the right and left forks of the South Fork of the Ogden River drain into Causey Reservoir.

Causey Reservoir has been stocked with kokanee salmon, the land-locked (and much smaller) form of sockeye salmon. Like the ocean-migrating sockeyes, kokanee have a dark blue back with silvery sides. As spawning season (September)

approaches in the fall, kokanee turn from silver to orange to deep red, and the male develops a hook jaw. Kokanee usually spawn in the small tributaries that feed the reservoir, or near the reservoir's edge. Other fish species include the Bonneville cutthroat trout, splake, rainbow trout, and brown trout.





Hardware Ranch: Wonderful Wapiti

Wapiti (Shawnee for "white rump") were named elk by early European settlers, who thought they were related to European elk. In fact, wapiti more closely resemble Eurasian red deer.

About 90 years ago, elk were being re-introduced throughout the west from populations maintained at Yellowstone Park. Hardware Ranch's 14,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat began as part of a winter feeding program for Rocky Mountain elk to reduce landowner-elk conflicts and to maintain a healthy re-introduced population of elk. Hardware Ranch is operated and managed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.



Today, the mission at Hardware Ranch has expanded to include protecting habitat for many other species of wildlife, scientific research, and wildlife education. Approximately 500 to 600 elk migrate to Hardware Ranch, where they feed on grass hay that is grown here over the summer. In the fall, you may hear elk bulls bugle their challenges to one another. During the winter, you can learn more about elk at the visitor center and enjoy a sleigh ride among the elk.

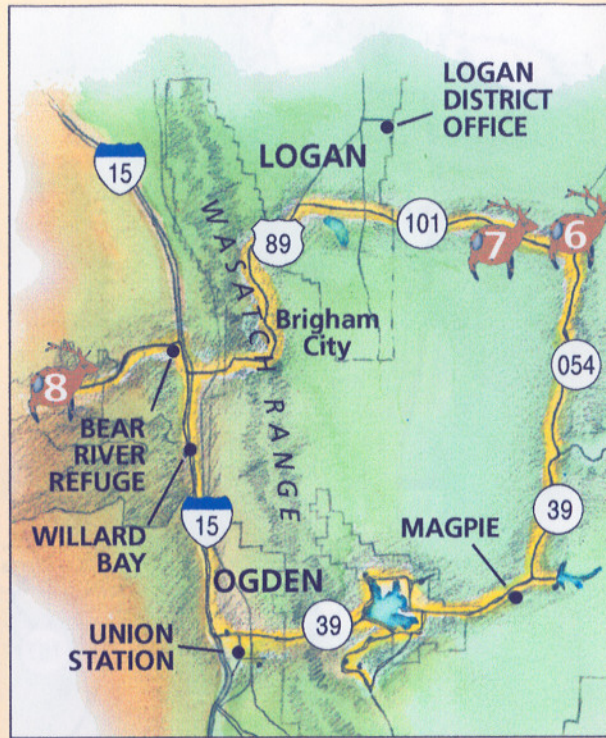
For 10,000 years, elk occupied most of North America. But by 1900, because of habitat destruction and overhunting, only 1 percent of the population remained, primarily in hard-to-reach places like the Rocky Mountains. Today, due to conservation efforts, North America contains about one million elk, or roughly 10 percent of the estimated population before European settlement.



Blacksmith Fork: Deer Winter Range

Blacksmith Fork cuts through steep rugged canyon walls and open shrublands. The Blacksmith Fork River is a favorite for anglers fishing for trout and is also a favorite home to wintering big game, especially mule deer.

Deer winter range in the local area consists of the low-elevation benches running north and south, the lower elevation canyon bottoms, and south-facing hillsides. Winter



range is highly dependent on winter snow depth. In a mild winter, big game will stay at higher elevations, while in severe winters big game will be concentrated lower. Range varies by the species of big game, primarily due to adaptations for dealing with snow depth, such as longer legs. Deer winter range is the most constricted, while moose range is the broadest.

Deer utilize a variety of shrub species for forage. Species such as bitterbrush, mountain

mahogany, and serviceberry can be found throughout Blacksmith Fork Canyon. Survival on winter range is highly dependent on the quality, quantity, and availability of forage. During the winter of 2001-2002, a winter with extremely cold temperatures and above-average snow



depths, an estimated 50% of the deer herd did not survive within the Cache Unit.

Deer can be seen throughout the year, especially at daybreak or at dusk. You may also hear the drum of a male ruffed grouse establishing a territory during mating season in late spring and early summer. Males drum by rapidly beating their wings in the air while standing on rocks, logs, or mounds of earth.



Bear River: Waterfowl and Wetlands

Bear River National Wildlife Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is one of the jewels of the national wildlife refuge system. Bear River is the largest river in the western hemisphere that does not flow into an ocean; it flows into the Bear River Bay of the Great Salt Lake. Surrounded by desert, this wetland habitat includes lowland marsh with numerous fresh-water ponds and canals. In the 1980s, rising waters of the Great Salt Lake caused salt-water flooding of the area and impacted several sections of marsh. Restoration efforts are occurring to restore and improve this valuable habitat.

Bear River is one of the most important resting areas in North America for migrating waterfowl. Over 200 species—totaling more than a half-million waterfowl—find sanctuary here during peak autumn migrations. Waterfowl species you are likely to see include the mallard, gadwall, pintail, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, redhead, canvasback, lesser scaup, ring-necked duck, Canada goose, snow goose, and tundra swan. In spring and summer, it's an extremely productive nesting area for over 62 species, including Clark's and western grebes, American avocet, Wilson's phalarope, black-necked stilt, snowy egret, and white-faced ibis.



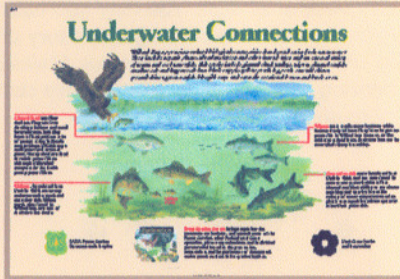


Willard Bay: Eagles Soaring High and Fish Down Below

Willard Bay State Park consists of a 9,900-acre body of water and adjacent shoreline that was created in 1964 on the Great Salt Lake flood plain. This Utah State Park provides a home for

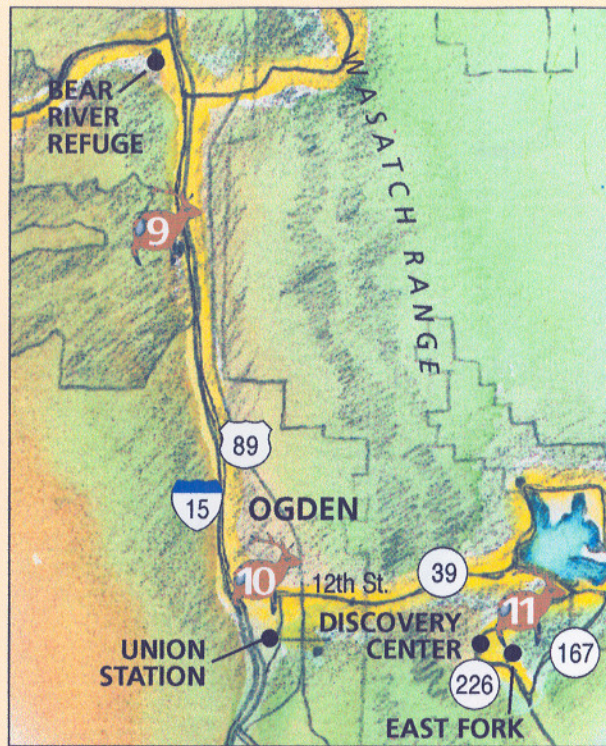
raptors, waterfowl, and a variety of fish. The cottonwoods are a favorite perch site for bald eagles in the winter, osprey in the summer, and a variety of other raptors at various times of the year. Fish species include the gizzard shad, walleye, wipers, channel catfish, small-mouth and large-mouth bass, black crappie, yellow perch, log perch, emerald shiner, spottail shiner, green sunfish, bluegill, carp, and even the occasional brown and brook trout.

In 1776, there were between 25,000 and 75,000 bald eagles nesting in what was to become the lower forty-eight states. In the 1960s, there were fewer than a thousand. Today, bald eagle populations are growing and they are one of several successful recovery programs.



Ogden Nature Center: Education and Urban Wildlife

The Ogden Nature Center is an urban oasis—152 acres of wildlife habitat tucked alongside a rapidly growing and changing cityscape. The Ogden Nature Center, Utah's first nature center, was created to unite people with nature and to nurture appreciation and concern for the environment. From its founding in 1975, hundreds of volunteers worked to rehabilitate the land, planting thousands of trees, establishing fruit-bearing shrubs, and spreading grass and wildflower seed. They created an environmentally friendly visitor center for education, nature trails to link people with nature, and ponds as aquatic homes and wildlife watering holes. Volunteer ideas and



energy continue to support the Center's many programs through gardening, fundraising, trail-building, bird-feeding, and in-kind donations. The Center's bird rehabilitation program cares for over 500 injured and orphaned birds every year and strives to release them back into the wild.



Art Nord: Streams of Trout

The trail that follows the abandoned road along Wheeler Creek is named for Art Nord, a Forest Service employee who worked to rehabilitate this area from the exploits of man.

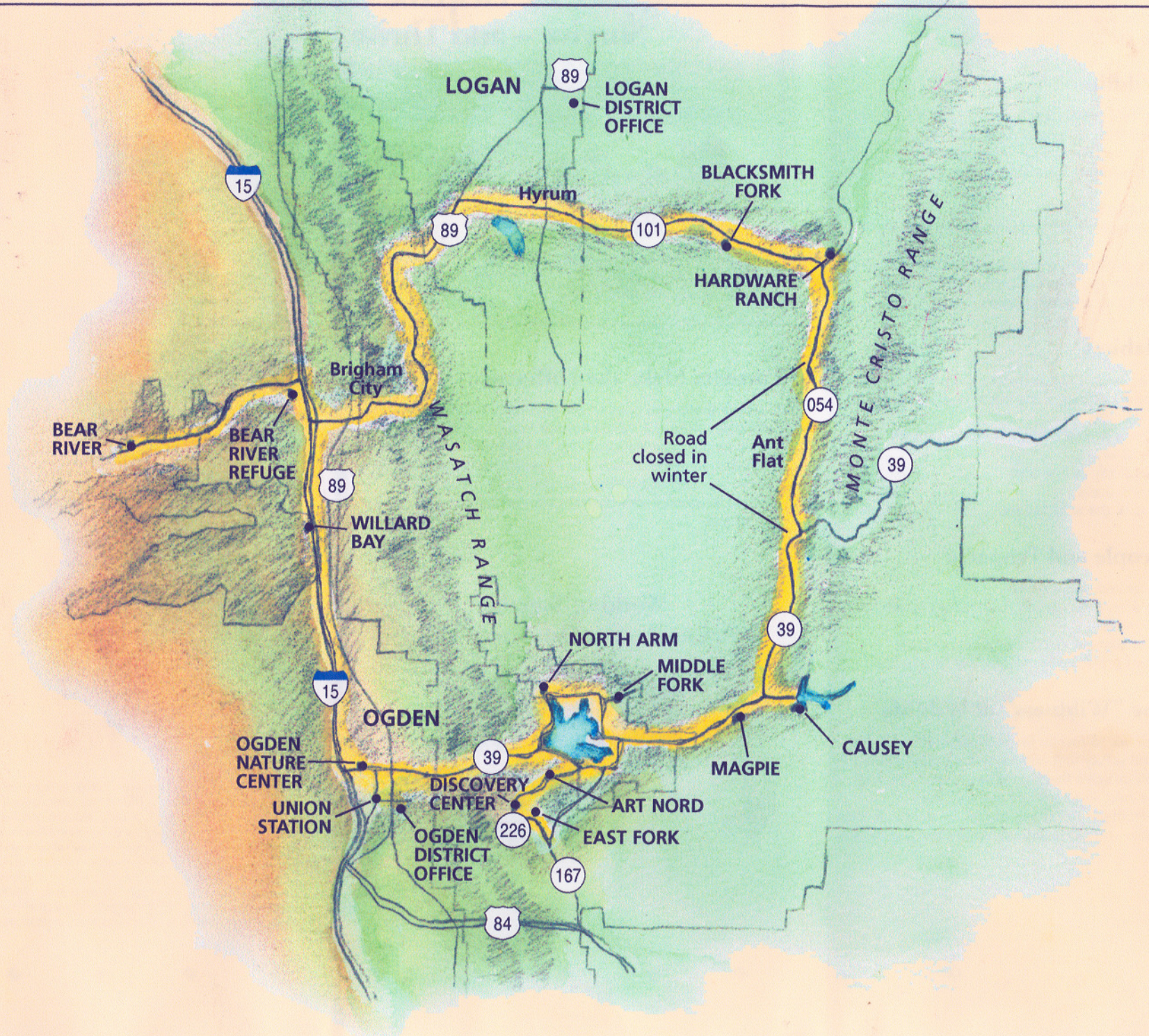
The riparian habitat fed by Wheeler Creek's flowing water supply provides a home for native Bonneville cutthroat trout. Trout require adequate stream flow and spawning habitat, controlled streambank erosion, a diverse food supply, and cold, clear water—all of which rely on a healthy riparian habitat. Trout eat insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and smaller fish, and they strike quickly when the current carries a meal past.



Like bird-watching, fish-watching takes patience. Unlike bird-watching, you probably won't need binoculars. Stand quietly and you're likely to see Bonneville cutthroat trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and mottled sculpin lurking in the protection of logs and boulders and under banks.



THE NORTHERN UTAH NATUREWATCH TOUR



Wildlife Watchers' Guidelines!

The remarkable lands you are about to explore are beautiful, complex, and diverse. Please join us in protecting and maintaining them for future generations.

Respect Wildlife

Mammals, birds, fish, snails, and bugs—they're all wildlife!

- Observe animals from a distance safe for both you and the wildlife. For a closer look, stay in your vehicle or a viewing blind and use binoculars, a spotting scope, or a telephoto lens.
- Avoid nests and dens.
- Recognize and respect wildlife alarm signals. Are you too close?
- Take memories and photographs; leave natural features as you found them. If you look for critters under a rock, return the rock to its original position.

Respect Habitat

- If you pack it in, pack it out. Littering, even of little things like gum wrappers and cigarette butts, degrades habitat and can harm wildlife.
- If you didn't bring it, don't take it away (unless it's someone else's litter).
- Tread lightly and stay on the trail.
- Stay out of closed areas.
- Please do not pick the wildflowers.

Respect People and Property



- Observe all rules and regulations.
- When sharing a viewing area, wait your turn to view or photograph animals.
- Don't disturb or damage signs, structures, or trails.
- Respect adjacent private property; do not trespass.

Respect the "Wildness" of Wildlife

- Allow wild animals to forage for their natural foods. Put their health and safety first and resist the impulse to offer a handout (this includes feeding "cute critters" you may not think of as wild, like squirrels and chipmunks).
- Never stress wildlife; don't chase, harass, or startle animals.
- Leave baby birds and other animals where they are found.

Together We Help the Oasis Survive – and Thrive

Over 100 million birds are at risk of disappearing as we change our lives. The United States alone has lost over a third of its bird species and each year we lose 100 million additional birds. The loss of birds is a tragedy because birds are a vital part of our ecosystem. They are the only animals that can fly. They are the only animals that can see through the air. They are the only animals that can see through the sky. They are the only animals that can see through the clouds. They are the only animals that can see through the rain. They are the only animals that can see through the snow. They are the only animals that can see through the ice. They are the only animals that can see through the darkness. They are the only animals that can see through the light. They are the only animals that can see through the world.

Helping Wildlife
Please do not feed wild birds. Feeding wild birds is illegal in many states and can be harmful to their health. It can also make them dependent on humans and reduce their ability to find their own food. Please do not feed wild birds.

Partners for Wildlife
The U.S. Forest Service works with many partners to protect and restore wildlife habitat. These partners include state and local governments, private landowners, and the public. We work together to protect and restore wildlife habitat and to ensure that wildlife can thrive in our forests.



Partners Make the Difference

A special thank you goes to the following partners who have helped the U.S. Forest Service make this NatureWatch Tour a success: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Job Corps, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ogden Nature Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation.

For more information contact:
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Ogden, Utah 84401
(801) 625-5112

Working Together We Can Accomplish Great Things



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