

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Photos Available upon request

OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT HUNTING & FISHING HERITAGE EXPO

CASPER – The benefits and fun of the great outdoors are as close as the Casper Events Center and surrounding shooting complexes Sept. 7-9 when the Wyoming Game and Fish Department hosts the 10th annual Hunting & Fishing Heritage Expo.

The Expo is a free educational event for all ages and skill levels featuring outdoor activities like shooting, fishing, canoeing and archery. The event provides more than 150 hands-on activities, exhibits, and demonstrations designed to help more people understand and participate in Wyoming's hunting, fishing and wildlife watching heritage.

New to the Expo this year are free youth memberships in the National Wild Turkey Federation's JAKES program (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship), a special raffle for students who attended the kids' day on Friday and return with their parents on Sunday; and a free pancake breakfast, sponsored by Halliburton, for all Expo visitors on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. On Saturday, from noon to 2:00p.m., will be the first Expo Media/Celebrity pentathlon, pitting members of Wyoming's outdoor media against local celebrities and Game and Fish commissioners and personnel.

Expo goers can enjoy demonstrations by the USA Shooting Team, Randy Oitker, a Precision Archer, participate in the moose-calling contest, dance with members of the Northern Arapaho Dance Youth Group or learn more about the outdoors by heading indoors and viewing films from the 2007 Wildlife Film Festival. Representatives from conservation organizations and local, state, and federal government will also be on hand to share their expertise in more than 100 informational booths.

Two noteworthy events are the Youth Hunter Challenge and Women's Shotgun Clinic at the Stuckenoff's Public Shooting Complex. The challenge tests the skills of young hunters 12-18 in trap shooting, .22 marksmanship, firearms and ammo identification and a hunting ethics and identification written exam. The event gets underway at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 8. Women can get an easy-going introduction to shotgunning including a classroom presentation and ample shooting beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 9.

“There’s free fun and learning opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, skill level or physical ability,” says Wendy Hayes, Expo Coordinator for the Game and Fish. “We hope everyone will join us at the 10th annual Expo and help us celebrate this important milestone in conservation education and outdoor ethics.”

For more info about the activities and events, contact the Game and Fish at (800) 842-1934 or (307) 777-4600 out of state. Expo schedules are included in the latest issue of Wyoming Wildlife News available at free of charge at license selling agents, or online at <http://gf.state.wy.us>.

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WYOMING EXPO CITED FOR HELPING SPUR NATIONAL OUTDOOR EDUCATION MOVEMENT

CASPER –In its first decade Wyoming’s Hunting & Fishing Heritage Expo has become a national model for educational efforts to preserve America’s outdoor heritage. Its role in advancing this cause will be praised at the Expo Award's Banquet on Saturday, September 8th by board members from Weatherby Foundation International (WFI).

“We are grateful to the Wyoming Fish and Game Commission for their work in helping pioneer the expo as an educational event for youth and families,” said Craig Boddington, WFI board president. “Their work, together with similar efforts in Texas, has been a guiding force in our resolve to foster the growth of expos nationwide.”

Boddington and Weatherby’s Executive Vice-President, Sean Duffy will attend this year’s expo to participate in a media-celebrity pentathlon on September 8th. That evening, the Foundation will present the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with two youth rifles to be used in educational and hunter safety programs.

Each year, the Foundation awards Wyoming with a \$5,000 underwriting grant. Wyoming has received ten such grants since the agency helped introduce WFI to the expo concept in 1998. “Our mission is to educate the non-hunting public on the beneficial role of ethical sports hunting and its contribution to wildlife conservation,” Boddington said, “and helping expos grow has proven to be both a fitting and practical way to do this.” He gave this summary of WFI's current expo program activities:

- In 2008, the Foundation will provide grants and organizational support to outdoor expos scheduled in 18 states.
- As of 2007, more than a one-half million people, primarily youth and families, will have attended expos for which the Foundation has helped organize and sponsor.
- By 2012, projections are that more than 30 states will hold outdoor expos with over one-half million participants, designed to educate youth and families.

- To ensure expo growth nationwide the Foundation has developed a comprehensive planning guide and funds an active workshop program. Dave Lockman, who retired in 2003 as education supervisor for Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and manager of the Wyoming Expo, directs these workshops. Lockman co-authored the expo-planning guide and has been instrumental in the success of WFI's expo program.

Weatherby Foundation International was established in 1988 in memory of Roy E. Weatherby (founder of Weatherby, Inc.). For more information about the Foundation and its support of outdoor expo programs access www.weatherby-foundation.org, write the Foundation at P.O. Box 1027, Turlock, CA 95381, or call (209) 634-4400. The Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible.

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Ultra, Shell and Questar Support Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Heritage Expo

CASPER – In addition to their work to conserve wildlife on the Pinedale Anticline, Ultra Resources Inc., Shell Exploration and Production Company, and Questar Exploration and Production are cooperating in a different arena to benefit wildlife, hunting and fishing by co-sponsoring the Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Heritage Expo.

The Expo, to be held Sept. 7-9 at the Casper Events Center and surrounding shooting complexes, is a free educational event for all ages and skill levels featuring activities like shooting, fishing, canoeing and archery. The event provides more than 150 hands-on activities, exhibits and demonstrations designed to help more people understand and participate in Wyoming's hunting, fishing and wildlife watching heritage. The Expo is hosted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

“The Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo has the power to shape future generations of Wyoming outdoorsmen. Hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation are important to Wyoming's culture and the Game and Fish does an excellent job of promoting responsible stewardship of the land that we all use,” said Diana Hoff, General Manager of the Pinedale Division for Questar.

Ultra, Shell and Questar are energy companies operating on the Pinedale Anticline. Each of the companies donated \$2,000 to the Expo, and will co-host an informational and educational booth at the event.

“Working with the Game and Fish to support this Expo was important to us because the Pinedale Anticline is home to an abundant wildlife population. It's also home to a world-class natural gas resource and we want the public to understand that wildlife conservation and energy development can coexist. This event gives the public an opportunity to learn more about both,” said John Bickley, Development Manger for Shell.

“We want everyone to understand the importance of wildlife and wildlife habitat to Wyoming and to have the chance to learn outdoor skills and stewardship,” explained Wendy Hayes, conservation education manager for the Game and Fish and coordinator of the Expo. “We’re excited that Ultra, Shell and Questar are participating as Expo sponsors, and helping to introduce the outdoor ethic to a new generation of Wyoming residents. This also helps keep the Expo a free event for everyone.”

“Traditionally, energy companies have directed their funds to mitigation efforts and on-the-ground projects to improve habitat or help species directly,” said Hayes. “Those dollars continue to be critical to our wildlife, but Game and Fish is also excited to see increased support for education and outreach efforts such as the Expo. We want to make sure the next generation understands the importance of wildlife and has a chance to become part of Wyoming’s hunting and fishing heritage.”

More than 121,000 people have attended the Expo in the past nine years. Expo hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 8, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 9. For more information, visit the Game and Fish Web site at <http://gf.state.wy.us> or call 1-888-EXPO-WYO.

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