Winter storm barreling toward Tahoe

A winter storm watch has been issued by the National Weather Service in Reno for the Lake Tahoe Basin from Saturday evening through Monday morning.

The storm will start with rain, which is expected to change to snow by late Saturday night.

Accumulations at lake level are expected to be between 6 and 12 inches, with 1 to 3 feet of snow above 7,000 feet.

High winds will also be part of the storm, with ridge gusts of more than 100 mph.

A mix of rain and snow is forecast for much of next week.

Temperatures will be dropping, with the highs on Sunday and Monday not much above freezing.

— Lake Tahoe News staff report

USFS wants input on updating snowmobile guide

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is going to host three open houses regarding over-the-snow vehicle use in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Updating the LTBMU **Snowmobile Guide** will involve taking a comprehensive look at access, parking, and motorized and non-motorized winter recreation opportunities.

The South Shore open house will take place March 29 from 5-7pm at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 35 College Drive in South Lake Tahoe. The Kings Beach open house is April 5 from 5-7pm at the North Tahoe Event Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd. A third open house will be in Sparks on April 19 from 5-7pm at the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor's Office, 1200 Franklin Way. There will be no formal presentation. Forest Service staff members will be available to provide background information and answer questions.

For more information on the project and how to provide feedback, go **online**.

Eagles expanding their habit beyond the wild



A bald eagle is released near Carson Pass in 2009. Photo/ DanThriftPhotography.com

By Gregory Lee Sullivan, Washington Post

If there's a time of year to see a bald eagle, this is it. But

those who spot one during the current nesting season won't be observing quite the same national bird as in decades past.

"The main thing is they just don't really care as much about people anymore" and now can be found nesting in residential areas, said Kevin McGowan of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, based in Ithaca, N.Y.

According to scientists, changes in the behavior of the bald eagle – from a bird once found only deep in the wild to one willing to cohabitate with humans – are the result of laws that protect the bird and have helped the species recover after nearly dying out in the early 1960s. The government is empowered to go after those responsible for the death of bald eagles – even if it's unintentional (such as in the case of a New York farmer who received a fine and probation last year after several eagles died from poisoned meat he had set out to kill coyotes). Federal and state officials are investigating what happened to 13 bald eagles found dead recently near a farm on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The bald eagle's historical range covers most of North America. The bird was hunted for sport before the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 outlawed the practice; that ban was reinforced by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in 1962. The pesticide DDT was found to cause eagle and other species significant difficulties with reproduction. By 1963 America's iconic bird was on the verge of dying out in the nation's 48 contiguous states. But with the banning of DDT in 1972,combined with more federal and state protection and recovery efforts, the species has made a steady rise.

Read the whole story

Tour of California racing teams announced

Teams competing in May's Amgen Tour of California bike race, which includes stops in Lake Tahoe, were announced today.

The 11th annual men's event will include 10 UCI WorldTour Teams, the most in race history, as some of the top cyclists in the world face off across nearly 800 miles of California terrain May 15-22. The four-day Women's Race will showcase some of the best talent in the sport and run in tandem May 19-22.

The 18 professional men's teams confirmed for the 2016 Amgen Tour of California include:

UCI WorldTour:

· BMC Racing Team (USA)

· Cannondale Pro Cycling Team (USA)

· Etixx – Quick-Step Pro Cycling Team (BEL)

· Team Dimension Data for Qhubeka (RSA)

· Team Giant – Alpecin (GER)

· Team KATUSHA (RUS)

· Team Lotto NL – Jumbo (NED)

· Team Sky (GBR)

· Tinkoff (RUS)

· Trek – Segafredo (USA)

UCI Professional Continental Teams:

· Direct Énergie (FRA)

· Team Novo Nordisk (USA)

· UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team (USA)

UCI Continental Teams:

· Axeon Hagens Berman Cycling Team (USA)

· Holowesko | Citadel Racing Team p/b Hincapie Sportswear (USA)

· Jelly Belly p/b Maxxis (USA)

· Rally Cycling (USA)

· Team WIGGINS (GBR).

The full list of confirmed teams for the 2016 Amgen Tour of California Women's Race empowered with SRAM includes:

· BePink (ITA)

· Boels-Dolmans Cycling Team (NED)

· Canyon/SRAM Racing (GER)

· Colavita | Bianchi p/b Vittoria Women's UCI Pro Team (USA)

· Cylance Pro Cycling (USA)

· Drops Cycling Team (GBR)

· Hagens Berman | Supermint Pro Cycling Team (USA)

· Hitec Products (NOR)

· Podium Ambition Pro Cycling p/b Club La Santa (GBR)

- Rabo-Liv Women Cycling Team (NED)
- Rally Cycling (USA)
- Team TIBCO-SVB (USA)
- Twenty16 – Ridebiker (USA)
- UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team (USA)
- USA Cycling (USA)
- Visit Dallas DNA Pro Cycling (USA)
- Weber Shimano Ladies Power (ARG)
- Wiggle High5 Pro Cycling (GBR).

Key Calif. campsite reservations open March 1

By Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle

If you snooze Tuesday morning, you will lose.

A series of target moments arrive at 7, 8 and 9am on March 1 for campsite reservations at state parks across California – including Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin, trail camps in the Santa Cruz Mountains and national forests in the Sierra Nevada – with other key dates imminent for Yosemite National Park.

At many sites across California, Labor Day Weekend is in play starting Tuesday, as well as all dates throughout summer.

Read the whole story

Jitloff top American in GS in Austria

By USSA

HINTERSTODER, Austria – Tim Jitloff (Reno) is getting closer to dialing in the equipment issues he's been struggling with the past few weeks. In Sunday's Audi FIS Ski World Cup giant slalom, he almost found the right combination, finished as the top American in 23rd.

"Today, I knew I wanted to come out and put together a solid day," said Jitloff. "The first run was a step in the right direction."

France's Alexis Pinturault won his second-straight giant slalom – he also won Friday's GS in Hinterstoder – in commanding fashion by 1.14 seconds over Austria's Marcel Hirscher. Norway's Henrik Kristofferson was third.

The past couple of weeks have been a struggle for the 31-year-old, six-time U.S. Champion as he has worked diligently to perfect his equipment set up. However, long training hours have taken a toll, physically and emotionally.

"The difficulties of the last two weeks and the effort that's gone into trying to get things right, I just felt very tired," Jitloff said after finishing 10th in Sunday's first run, only to fall to 23rd after the second run. "It was an extremely

long and turny course, and I just didn’t have the energy in that second run and unfortunately was quite slow.”

Jitloff was the only American to qualify for a second run. Brennan Rubie (Salt Lake City), Mark Engel (Truckee), Kieffer Christianson (Anchorage), Ryan Cochran-Siegle (Starksboro, Vt.) and Samuel Dupratt (Dixon) didn’t make the top-30 first run cut. Tommy Ford (Bend, Ore.), 29th in Friday’s GS, did not finish the first run.

Bowman takes silver in X Games halfpipe

By USSA

OSLO, Norway – It was an American sweep for the men at X Games Oslo Sunday night with Torin Yater-Wallace (Basalt, Colo.) making a triumphant return to the top of the X Games halfpipe podium, followed by good friend Alex Ferreira (Aspen, Colo.) in the silver-medal position and Gus Kenworthy (Telluride, Colo.) in bronze. Maddie Bowman (Meyers) led for the women with a silver medal.

Bowman, who won gold in halfpipe last month in Aspen, used three versions of the 900 (though not on her highest-scoring run) to earn the silver medal. It was her seventh overall X Games medal. Bowman, who also won Olympic gold at Sochi in 2014, said, “I just came out and gave it everything I had. I had a good night and I was happy to get three nines in there.”

Brita Sigourney (Carmel) finished fifth for the ladies. Devin

Logan (West Dover, Vt.) was sixth and Annalisa Drew (Andover, MA) was eighth.

It has been a long trek for Yater-Wallace, widely considered one of the greatest talents of his sport, since he won gold at X Games Tignes in 2013. A series of injuries have kept him sidelined at times throughout the past several years, but it was his recent battle with a life-threatening case of Streptococcus that was the most serious. “It was a hard start to the season,” Yater-Wallace said. “I had to deal with some illnesses, but I’ve been on skis as much as I can and been enjoying time at home riding in Aspen.” Cleared to ski again in January, the Aspen native proved that he was ready to return to the top of the international ranks with a performance in Oslo that featured enormous amplitude and culminated with an alley-oop double flatspin 1080—the trick of the night.

“I don’t even have the words,” Yater-Wallace said of the win. “It’s just an amazing night. I’ve been wanting to do that alley-oop double flatspin in a contest for a while now and it was finally the right pipe. It’s unreal to have three Colorado boys on the podium: Alex, one of my best friends and Gus. We all grew up skiing together so this is pretty unreal.”

More than half of the 20-man field at X Games Oslo was comprised of American skiers: David Wise (Reno) was fourth, Aaron Blunck (Crested Butte, Colo.) seventh, Kyle Smaine (South Lake Tahoe) eighth, Taylor Seaton (Avon, Colo.) ninth, Broby Leeds (Vail, Colo.) 10th, Jacob Beebe (Bend, Ore.) 12th, Lennon Vaughan (Steamboat Springs, Colo.) 13th, Jaxin Hoerter (Breckenridge, Colo.) 16th, Lyman Currier (Boulder, Colo.) 18th and Birk Irving (Winter Park, Colo.) 19th.

Salt Lake Olympic legacy remains on fast track



Skiers during the summer come off the jumps, landing in the pool on the left. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Publisher's note: ***This is one in a series of stories about Park City, Utah.***

By Susan Wood

PARK CITY, Utah – Hurtling down twists and turns at speeds of 80 mph with complete abandon of the danger if the pilot makes a mistake. The centrifugal force to be reckoned with at 4Gs makes a rookie groan, strain to focus, breath heavy and fight back the wind pushing her head down.

I tell myself to sit upright to protect my back, not realizing that after the one minute ride my elbows jammed inside the sled would be the points of my body to have bumps and bruises

while gripping the cables seated directly behind the driver, Olympic silver medalist Shauna Rohbock of Orem, Utah.

At the Utah Olympic Park built for the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, I stepped into her vehicle of choice to partake in the second fastest bobsled track in the world. The fastest is at Whistler, British Columbia.

I held on tight to the confidence my four-member bobsled team thrown together with Rohbock at the helm would come out of the open chute surviving and thriving. Jake (the Olympic Park worker in back) told us how rare it is to experience the track without the shade. The sun can wreck the consistency of the track surface in 15 minutes.



The U.S. bobsled team gets ready for the World Cup event in January. Photo/Kathryn Reed

The U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Team was in town on this January day for World Cup races along with multiple international

teams. Before our run from the top, the chatter on the radios reflected a sense of urgency to keep the practice schedule. The track starts with a 400-foot drop and has 15 curves that make even the fastest roller coaster seem like an E-ticket ride. For $175 a person in winter or $150 in summer, the park provides the public rides on the Comet bobsled that start about a third of the way down from the competition start.

“It’s an experience you don’t have anywhere else,” said Sandy Chio, marketing director for the Utah Olympic Legacy.

The legacy foundation that employs 325 employees (60 year-round) was formed to maintain the Olympic facilities and no host events. Venues include the mega Olympic Park just outside Park City; cross country skiing mecca Soldier Hollow southeast of Deer Valley in Midway; gigantic Olympic Oval in suburban Salt Lake City; Maverik Center for ice hockey in West Valley City; Peaks Ice Arena in Provo; Salt Lake Ice Center in downtown; Utah Jazz Stadium in town; Snowbasin ski area northeast of Salt Lake City; The Ice Sheet at Ogden; Deer Valley Ski Resort; and Park City ski resort.

They are staging grounds for Olympians and wannabes. They also provide entertainment for spectators or those who are enamored with learning about the venues.

In January, *Lake Tahoe News* visited four of the 11 venues, and met with Park City officials and Olympic Legacy staffers to get a glimpse of what it’s like to host the Games, as well as the work involved before and after. Lake Tahoe hosted the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley and the West Shore. For years, a Reno-based group has formed a committee and toyed with the idea of putting on another worldwide event, albeit strategically moving the date every few years to better its chances. The latest quest is for the 2026 Games, of which Salt Lake City has expressed an interest in as well.



The ski jump has different starting points based on one’s skill level. Photo/Kathryn Reed

A park for all seasons

On an estimated $26.3 million investment, the Utah Olympic Park opened with the bobsled-luge track, and ski museum in 1991, four years before the state received the bid to host the 2002 Games. (Salt Lake also bid on the 1998 Games.) Upon winning the bid, plans were quickly put into place that with a $48 million upgrade the park would add chairlifts, storage buildings, roads, bridges and water lines, replace its 90-meter Nordic ski jump and accommodate a new 120-meter jump ramp.

At first glance, one can see from the steepness at the top this isn’t for the faint of heart.



The public may experience a scaled-down version of the Olympic bobsled course. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Tour guide Patrick Rosevear stressed the real slope isn't as bad as one thinks.

"Every day, we see 12- and 14-year-olds jump. It's actually the second safest sport," he insisted, noting jumpers are really only 7 feet in the air despite how it looks on television. Of course, they are flying about 130 feet off a 36-degree ramp at 55mph. If there's an 8- to 12mph crosswind, jumps are canceled.

At 7,350 feet, Utah Olympic Park has the highest ski jumps in the world.

The freestyle aerial ramps send mogul and hot-dogging skiers 50 feet up in the air. The 40-degree landing is so steep a snowcat must be winched to groom there.

During the summer freestyle aerial skiers train in a 10-foot deep, 1.2 million-gallon swimming pool, which opened last year upon the $1 million donation from Olympic skier Spence Eccles

– a philanthropist who also owns the Goldener Hirsch hotel near Deer Valley.

The freestyle venue hosts many after-school programs for children. The park itself boasts more than 400,000 visitors.

Many are fascinated with the bobsled-luge track maintained by a $15,000 cooling system serving 100 miles of pipes. Rosevear noted that even though a participant sits up instead of lying down like the skeleton (considered one of the easiest and safest "by a huge margin") the luge represents one of the most dangerous sports.

"It's the steering. If you come into a turn and you miss by one inch at 91 mph, it can eject you off the sled," the guide said as a hush came over the tour van. In the luge, the riders wear spikes on their gloves to paddle – not to stop.

For a more relaxed experience, guests may peruse the two museums at the park. One is dedicated to the history of skiing and the other to the 2002 Olympic Games. A whole wall displays Park City's Olympic giant slalom racer Ted Ligety. Another exhibit features Olympic bobsledder Steve Holcomb, who brought home a medal in the last Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.



The Oval is used by the U.S. Olympic team to train, but is open to residents as well. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Making the skate world go round

For those who like to get a quad burn on two blades, the Utah Olympic Oval has much to offer for the Olympian, aspiring youth or spectator hoping to catch a glimpse at the next Apollo Ono. The Olympian showed up for an exhibition event last November as part of the Oval's quest to offer events that bring in visitors. There's also "cosmic curling" for others wanting to figure out this mysterious sport.

The Oval was built on a 5-acre footprint in Kearns outside Salt Lake City in 1994, a year before Utah received the bid. Olympic revenues were used to cover the up to 4,000-seat oval and build an ice sheet in the center of the track. This sheet is now deemed "the fastest ice on Earth," Oval Operations Manager Todd Porter told *Lake Tahoe News* on a special tour. It's also the highest, at an elevation of 4,675 feet.



Todd Porter, who oversees the Olympic Oval, stands between the running track and ice for racing. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Porter talks poetically, albeit with a chemist's know-how, about the Oval's massive central cooling system, which seems like it could span the globe with pipes. Depending on the event, the ice changes consistency. It's this control that

attracts Olympians such as Jessica Smith-Kooreman, who trains in Salt Lake. She owns four short-track speed skating World Cup titles and came in fourth in 2014 at the Sochi Winter Olympics.

“I moved here for the facility itself. It’s the best and safest ice because it can be controlled. In the Olympic year, we had the ice switched to what is in Russia. Most places can’t do that. The Oval is good for taking care of its athletes,” she told *Lake Tahoe News* on a break from training. “You’re able to push your limits every day.”

The Oval schedules a host of “learn-to” programs that may spur the next Olympian. It can rent 1,000 skates, but all of the efforts seemed futile in the beginning, Porter admitted.



Olympian Jessica Smith-Kooreman raves about the ability to change the consistency of ice at the oval. Photo/Kathryn Reed

“At first, marketing to people around here was tough because they thought it wasn’t for them,” he said.

But getting the word out is paying off. Porter reported a record week of attendance between the Christmas and New Year's holidays, with 20,000 people taking in the large facility the size of four football fields. The place houses 10 locker rooms and a tunnel taking visitors from one side to the other. The concessions are managed in house.

Even the weight room is an experience, with television cameras set up for trainers to evaluate their athletes' performances.

It's the Europeans who appear to appreciate the facility the most, making it a stop on their U.S. vacation – with Netherlands television blasting skating events on site.

"To them, it's like (visiting) Yankee Stadium," Porter quipped.

The Oval loses about a $1 million year, but "that's the key part of where the (financial) endowment comes in," Porter stressed.

Still, Porter is always thinking of new ways to attract revenue and save money. The Oval has adapted a solar program designed to save the facility $2,000 a month in energy efficiency.



Deer Valley lets

skiers know where the Olympic events were. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Patience, perseverance to put on the Games

It takes good fortune, luck, money and will, according to Park City officials in describing handling the Olympics. After all, the region had tried a handful of times.

“The first challenge was no one believed we could actually do it. At the start, we thought it was a joke,” former city staffer Myles Rodeman, one of the architects of the 2002 Games, told *Lake Tahoe News.*

Rodeman, who was involved with the effort for 13 years, recalled the effort like it was yesterday. Ski racer and then Mayor Brad Olch walked in his office asked, “What do you think of us going in with Salt Lake for the Olympics?” Thus began a transformation of the ski town that was hard to imagine at the time.



The Olympic Oval is located a ways from Park City and Salt Lake City. Photo/Kathryn Reed

This was the 1980s when the ski industry was clawing out of a dismal period, so a boost for the economy seemed like a promising idea if it were to pay off.

Although now it takes at least $20 million to justify the investment of actually staging the Games, the $7 million raised at that time, mostly by private companies, for the bid was a lot of money. A master plan was devised, the local Rotary became a lobbying partner, and the Ski Utah organization discussed who would be best suited to host the ski events. Park City and Deer Valley appeared prime as host resorts – but not without a little power struggle and politics.

“We knew other resorts up the (Big and Little Cottonwood) canyons would be most difficult to serve in terms of transportation and avalanche conditions,” Rodeman said.

The Olympic Oval in Salt Lake seemed a bit problematic with its location being so far out.

There were so many considerations in hosting the Olympics.

Take transportation. During the Games, the Utah Department of Transportation forced truckers to re-route on Interstate 80.

Take parking. It’s no easy task, but up to 3,500 spaces were created in parking lots outside the downtown area of Park City.

“It was an incredible effort. You could not drive a car here,” Rodeman said.



This style of

sign is a signature for the Salt Lake Games that is seen at all the legacy venues. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Take the swag. During the bidding process, a “necessary” amount of generous “gifts” are traditionally given to Olympic Committee board members. In these staged events, one might see an assortment of items that exemplify a host city’s profile. At one event, Salt Lake City brought salt-water taffy, pins and hats but lost the bid. Nagano, Japan, won the 1998 bid using violins, computers and cars. Salt Lake won with rifles from Browning, a local company, Rodeman noted. The stakes for hosting appear high.

“Right there, I thought we lost (the bid),” he said. “In those days, you have to get all the (committee) members to support you.”

These days, regulations surround gifting internationally. Much of this came out of the 2002 Games.

Take hometown rules. Utah suspended all drinking laws for the 25 days surrounding the Olympics.

Take housing – which takes creativity as well. The athlete housing now serves as student dorms at the University of Utah.

Take security. The 9/11 terrorist attacks had occurred five months prior. The celebrations were staged in downtown Park City, making city officials and organizers nervous with the feds slow in coming.

“We needed security, but we didn’t want to look like we were armed for the cameras,” said Rodeman, who was in Atlanta on a

scouting tour during the 1996 Summer Games when the bomb exploded.

City officials and Olympic organizers toured five Olympic towns to see how they fared in the process – the Georgia city, Nagano, Sydney, Lillehammer and Calgary.

Olch, who served as Park City mayor for 12 years during the Olympic endeavor, recalled how the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary were considered as netting a less-than-desirable "Olympic performance" before and after the Games.

So Salt Lake City decided to plan to build facilities under the supervision of the Salt Lake City Olympic Committee ahead of schedule.

"We really stepped up there," Olch told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We had the experience (with ski venues), and the community got behind the sports venues and the whole Olympic thing."

The 40-year Park City resident admitted to spending "a lot of time talking to a lot of people convincing them it's a good thing," and in the end, "it worked out incredibly well." Olch insisted he wouldn't live anywhere else.

"Sure, putting on the Games is always challenging, but it exceeded all our expectations in how well it went and with what it did for our community – the list is quite long," he said.

Park City Public Affairs Manager Phyllis Robinson agreed.

The city put out a communitywide visioning process recently and asked its residents what they were most proud of Park City. The Olympics were mentioned often.

"I remember standing on Main Street. We were having this great party. (Comedian David) Letterman was at the bottom of the hill, and I thought this is something really special. I thought: 'Holy crap, we pulled this off.' With businesses,

everybody put something in the pot to make this happen."

Her colleague, Economic Development Manager Jonathan Weidenhamer, said it's possible in the Lake Tahoe region. He visited Tahoe last year during a South Shore tourism forum on economic and community revitalization and turned it into a tutorial.



Deer Valley immortalizes those who medaled in the events at the ski resort. Photo/Kathryn Reed

He pledged the South Shore would find a way to get the loop road project through if the region gets the Olympic Games.

"When you have the mission to get the Olympics, you can move mountains," he said.

Park City taxpayers faced a slew of bonds and tax measures, while a $70 million endowment kicked off the Utah Olympic Legacy foundation – the driving force behind maintaining the benefit of hosting the Olympics.

The 2002 Games cost $1.6 billion, with a little more than half coming from the state. It ended up netting $100 million. The

profit went into the foundation coffers to run the Olympic facilities, Foundation President Colin Hilton told *Lake Tahoe News*.

While it was an overall winner, Park City businesses lost money during the two-week period. This was expected. The entire Main Street was closed to vehicles the entire time.

“The sole focus is on our continued legacy. We’re not caught up in living in the past. We’re living the legacy with our people and programs, contributing to the Olympic movement,” Hilton said.



The museum focuses on the 2002 Games and Utah’s ski history.

Already, the Salt Lake-Park City region hosts many World Cup events and makes the programs “the fabric of the community.”

Hilton, one of the early architects of getting the Games to the area, was also more than pleased with the outcome. He is thrilled a new generation is carrying on the tradition – from the athletes (with 50 local Olympians living in the region) to those working behind the scenes at city offices who may have worked in other jobs at the time but stepped up to support the effort.

Assistant City Manager Matt Dias worked in a Park City restaurant during the 2002 Games.

“The Olympics are an incredibly important part of our community’s history, story and legacy. We take great pride in all of the hard work done by various community members and stakeholders that made the Games such a tremendous success,” he said. “Unlike other Games, the vast majority of the 2002 venues and infrastructure was either repurposed and returned to their prior uses and/or built new and now house vibrant and robust programs to ensure self-sustainability.”

Dias singled out the Utah Olympic Park for its off-season programs for providing a backdrop for events, boosting the local economy by filling restaurants and hotels and attracting teams to the area.

Fire operations to resume in Tahoe basin

Weather permitting, the Nevada Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service may continue prescribed fire operations beginning Feb. 29.

On the East Shore, operations may take place near Logan Shoals

Vista Point, Camp Galilee, Spooner Summit and Sand Harbor. On the South Shore, operations may take place near Spring Creek, Panther Road, and Lake Tahoe Boulevard near Sawmill Road. To view a map with project locations and details, go **online**.

Residual smoke may be seen in locations where operations have taken place over the last several weeks.

Before conducting prescribed fire operations, agencies post road signs around areas affected by prescribed fire, send email notifications and update the local fire information line at 530.543.2816.

Holland wins Olympic test event

By USSA

BOKWANG, South Korea – The American snowboardcross men dominated at the official Olympic test event for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Games, where Nate Holland (Squaw Valley) took the win and Nick Baumgartner (Iron River, Mich.) was third. Lindsey Jacobellis (Stratton Mountain, Vt.) made the women's final, finishing just off the podium in fourth.

Holland has had great success in his snowboardcross career, including seven X Games gold medals, but it was his first World Cup win in four years, when he won at Veysonnaz, Switzerland. It was a big win for the 37 year old, who was sidelined for the first part of the season with injury.

"This season's been brutal for me," Holland said. "I sprained my pelvis in December and basically sat on a couch for a month

so I’m not the strongest I’ve been and I still have some hip pain. It’s a long injury but I just have to wake up early and get the bones moving—once you’re in the gate all that goes away.”

Baumgartner overcame a low qualifying result to make it all the way to a World Cup podium for the 12th time in his career.

“Today was unbelievable,” he said. “I started out wearing bib 34, so I wasn’t super stoked on my time trial. I didn’t get to pick my lane all day. I only got the outsides, but I think I was winning every heat going down the first straightaway after turn one. I had great starts. Are you kidding me? I’m 34 years old—to beat these young kids at starts? That’s exactly what I wanted. I trained all summer for that and it’s paying off. I couldn’t be more stoked.”

By all accounts the 2018 Olympic event is sure to be an exciting one, as the athletes are very happy with the course, which is big with lots of passing opportunities.

“The slope is perfect, the jumps were big and there are some tactics and strategy involved,” Holland said. “I like courses that are big and wide open with strategy—it makes you think a little more versus a holeshot scenario. And I’m stoked to see that this hill has the DNA of tactics, big jumps and fast speeds.”

American Robert Minghini (Snowshoe, W.Va.) placed 12th out of the small final, Hagen Kearney (Telluride, Colo.) was 18th, Mick Dierdorff (Steamboat Springs, Colo.) was 28th and Jonathan Cheever (Saugus, Mass.) was 32nd.

The American women were very close to making the podium. Though she didn’t get the start she wanted, Jacobellis made the final and was in a good race position until she cased the last double coming into the finish. It looked like Faye Gulini (Salt Lake City) was going to make the final, winning the lead-up heat until she knocked boards with someone. She

finished ninth out of the small final. Meghan Tierney (Edwards, Colo.) finished 12th and Rosina Mancari (Anchorage) was 16th.