

## **Press Release - Spanish Fork Police**

Date 9/14/07

Regarding - Bear sighting

On Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at approximately 6:30pm a black bear cub was spotted in the Utah County area of 6800 South 1050 West. The bear was seen on the road in that area by a local citizen. Officers from Spanish Fork Police Department and Division of Wildlife Services responded to the area. The bear cub was seen by officers but eluded them by entering a nearby corn field. Spanish Fork Officers and DWR Officers continued to search the area throughout the night without success of finding the bear.

On Wednesday morning officers contacted a local Elementary School Principal notifying her of the bear. School officials notified the students and families in the area of the bear. During this same time officers continued to patrol the area for the bear giving special attention to those areas traveled to and from school by the students.

Officers searched the area throughout the night using dogs bred and trained for hunting bear and other wild animals. At around 8:30pm another sighting of the bear was made by citizens of Spanish Fork. They reported that while walking along the walking path near 600 South Spanish Fields Drive they observed the bear following them. Officers responded to the area with the trained dogs and searched until the early morning hours without locating the bear.

On Thursday DWR officials set out bear traps and made further warnings of the bear sighting. At approximately 5:00pm officers were contacted regarding yet another sighting of the bear. The bear was seen in the area of the 2300 East River Bottoms Road. Officers responded to the area and found the bear. The bear was heading northward and climbing the hill from River Bottoms Road towards homes in that area.

DWR Officers determined that because of the bears lack of fear from humans and the locations the bear had been seen the bear should be euthanized. DWR Officers were able to safely euthanize the bear. Officers who had seen the bear on the west side of the City looked at the bear shot by DWR. It is felt that because of the bear's size and markings this was the same bear they had seen on the west side of the City.

DWR indicated that bear was just over a year old and weighed around 70lbs. The bear was taken by DWR. For further information regarding the bear please contact DWR at (801) 491-5678