

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**May 26, 2004**

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**“Wildflowers Make for Colorful Recreation in Utah”**

Early spring rains have resulted in a banner year for wildflowers in Utah according to members of the Utah Guides and Outfitters Association (UGO).

“There are literally fields of globe mallow and primrose this year,” said Denise Oblak, vice-president of UGO.

“Everywhere you go whether you’re hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding or rafting, you’ll see wildflowers. It’s one of the best years we’ve had in recent memory,” she explained.

Kirstin Peterson, a UGO member and mountain bike outfitter in Moab said cyclists have been enjoying an explosion of color in the desert this year.

“Riders love to stop and look at the wildflowers. The cactus are especially gorgeous. It adds a whole different dimension to backcountry trips.”

Oblak said this is also a great year for family adventure on Utah’s rivers.

We had a fantastic snow pack at the end of winter but unusually warm weather in March caused some early melt off. As a result, water levels on our area rivers are peaking slightly earlier than usual. This means that right after school is out, families can head to the rivers for some great rafting fun.

Cataract Canyon in Canyonlands National Park has been running at approximately 15,000 cubic feet per second (CFS). Westwater Canyon is flowing at 8,000 CFS and Desolation Canyon on the Green River at about 6,500. UGO outfitters are reporting strong demand for summer trips, especially during June when river flows are at their best.

Requests have also been brisk for trips where people participate in the action according to Oblak.

“Visitors who are looking for a little more adventure can take a paddle raft trip, which offers an active “hands-on” experience for both the customer and the river guide. Paddle rafts are typically smaller in size, which intensifies the action of each rapid.”

Another way to experience great river action is to rent an inflatable kayak or ask your guide to take along an inflatable “duckie” so you can run some of the rapids by yourself.

“Inflatable kayaks are a very low profile river craft, and when you are paddling one it feels as if you are sitting right on top of the waves,” explained Oblak.

The Utah Guides and Outfitters Association is comprised of 50 Utah outfitters offering a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. If you travel with a UGO outfitter you’ll know the name of every wildflower you see by the end of the trip. UGO guides participate in extensive natural history and safety training before taking guests into the backcountry by river, 4X4, mountain bike, horseback or on foot.

Travelers in Utah can choose from whitewater rafting, jet boat river cruises, scenic flights, rock art tours, hiking & backpacking, mountain biking, or horse pack trips. Members of the Utah Guides and Outfitters also offer customized trips for clients with specific needs such as special populations, youth at risk trips, high-end or corporate charters, family reunions or child-oriented tours, themes such as geology, archeology, or other educational adventures. For more information about Utah Guides and Outfitters visit [www.Utah-Adventures.com](http://www.Utah-Adventures.com) or call the message information request line at (435) 260-2870.

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