



*Utah residents' quality of life relies on the active management and protection of diverse natural resources. The **From the Field** newsletter by the Department of Natural Resources provides a snapshot of current department initiatives, developments and trends impacting Utah.*

New funding for reservoir in Toquerville



Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton announced funding for a new reservoir while in Toquerville, Utah on Wednesday, March 27. The Utah Department of Natural Resources joined Touton, Toquerville City, Washington County Water Conservancy District and Congresswoman Celeste Maloy at the celebration of nearly \$12 million in funding for the project.

Touton participated in a tour of the construction of Chief Toquer Reservoir in southern Utah, where the Washington County Water Conservancy District's Ash Creek Project is receiving approximately \$7 million to construct a new pipeline to run from the Ash Creek Reservoir to the Chief Toquer Reservoir. At full capacity, the new reservoir will hold 3,638 acre-feet of water, and is expected to provide approximately 1,760 acre-feet annually. The funding announced builds on \$4.7 million announced for the project last year.

[Read more >>](#)

Over 20,000 miles of safe, enjoyable snow trails, thanks to DNR's dedicated groomers



Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation's dedicated team of winter trail groomers work tirelessly to maintain over 20,000 miles of snow trails, ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the state's backcountry enthusiasts. Each season, the team devotes approximately 10,000 hours to grooming trails, tackling potential hazards such as snow drifts and ensuring trails are well-marked and navigable, even during storms. "We'll work on certain areas that there may be hazards or dangers, like drifts. We'll make sure the trails are still marked properly so that they can be found during a storm," said Chris Johnson, a Snowcat Operator with the DNR. "I think that any of the groomers would tell you they just do it because they love

it." The video offers an inside look into the essential work of Utah's trail groomers.

[Watch the video >>](#)

FFSL and Compass Minerals come together to protect Great Salt Lake



Compass Minerals has agreed to a preliminary term sheet with Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) to voluntarily reduce their water use which will be aimed at helping to improve the Great Salt Lake.

The term sheet will be memorialized in a Voluntary Agreement between FFSL and Compass Minerals.

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Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation to host first-ever Mountain West Trails Conference



In a landmark move, the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation is excited to host the inaugural Mountain West Trails Conference, slated for May 13-15, 2024, in Vernal, Utah. This event, a first of its kind, symbolizes a significant advancement in trail development and stewardship, drawing participants

and new partners from eight Mountain West states. The event builds off of the success and momentum of the DOR's Utah Trails Forum and marks an unprecedented convergence of ideas and community spirit. Over three days, the event will feature engaging Trail Talks, interactive field workshops and numerous networking opportunities to help foster a rich exchange of insights and experiences for attendees.

[Read more >>](#)

Biologist Steve Bates receives Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award



Antelope Island Biologist Steve Bates was presented with the Utah Wildlife Federation Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award. Bates started his career in 1981 as a technician with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. After attending the College of Eastern Utah, he received a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management at Utah State

University. He then received his master's in Wildlife and Range Resources at Brigham Young University. Bates returned to BYU in 2021 and capped his

education with a Ph.D. in wildlife and wildlands conservation. "Steve's accomplishments and work at Antelope Island extend nearly 25 years. He took a rag-tag herd of bison, with low and sporadic birth rates, to one of the nation's most productive and healthy public herds," said Antelope Island State Park Manager Wendy Wilson. "He is absolutely deserving of this recognition."

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One Utah Summit: Connecting leaders, business and community



The Utah Office of Energy Development (OED) was proud to partner with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, World Trade Center Utah and the Salt Lake Chamber for the 2024 One Utah Summit. This biannual event brings together thought leaders, established and emerging businesses, and community organizations for networking, sharing and learning, and connecting people to opportunities.

This year, OED hosted Dr. David Gattie, Associate Professor of Engineering, University of Georgia's College of Engineering; Senior Fellow, University of Georgia's Center for International Trade and Security, and School of Public and International Affairs to discuss energy and its critical in national security.

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Utah State Parks spring events guide

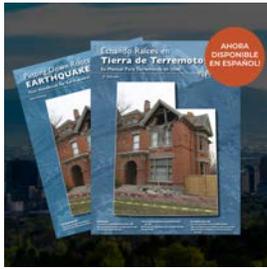


Join Utah State Parks in celebrating the arrival of spring, where the sun shines brighter, the great outdoors beckon with open arms. From scenic hikes to tranquil moments surrounded by nature's wonders, let's make this spring a season to remember at Utah's state parks. View the guide at the link below and remember, you can check back as we will update it throughout the season.

[Read more >>](#)

Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country Handbook, now available in Spanish

Are you living in earthquake-prone Utah? Prepare yourself with essential tips and insights from the first-ever Spanish edition of Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country. About 14% of Utahns identify as Hispanic or Latino, the largest minority group in Utah.



The guide has been available in English since 2008. Translation and printing of this long-standing, critically-acclaimed, earthquake preparedness guide were conducted through a joint effort by the Utah Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management, Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Utah Department of Natural Resources' Utah Geological Survey, and the Utah

Seismic Safety Commission.

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Hunter orange changes and other wildlife-related laws passed during 2024 legislative session

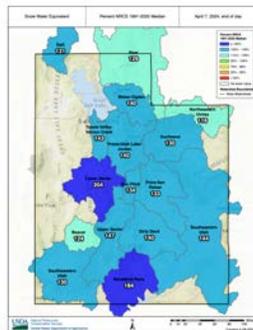


A lot of bills were passed during the 2024 legislative session, and March 21 was the deadline for Gov. Spencer Cox to sign or veto them. There were several bills related to wildlife management that were signed into law this legislative session — here are

just a few to know about.

[Read more >>](#)

Utah water conditions update from Division of Water Resources



Reservoirs statewide are currently holding strong at 84% capacity — a remarkable increase of 30% compared to this time last year. Our snowpack is measuring at 18.8 inches, exceeding the typical peak of 16 inches, with all basins around 119% or higher of normal snowpack. Last winter's record-breaking snowfall coupled with our current above-normal snowpack means our water situation is robust.

We're hopeful that the snowpack melts gradually, preventing flooding while simultaneously replenishing groundwater, vegetation, and the Great Salt Lake. While our water situation appears promising, it's crucial to emphasize the importance of continuous prudent water usage, especially considering that approximately 95% of Utah's water supply originates from snowpack.

[Read more >>](#)

Virgin River Program: How the DWR, partnering agencies are helping species recover



The Virgin River Basin in Washington County is home to several fish and wildlife species that are found nowhere else in the world, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and several partnering agencies are helping these rare species to recover through a unique cooperative partnership.

[Read more >>](#)



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