



*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.*

Great Salt Lake receives \$50 million from the Bureau of Reclamation



The Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner and the Department of Natural Resources have received \$50 million from the Bureau of Reclamation through the Inflation Reduction Act to implement a water delivery program designed to lease new water for the lake and for ecosystem restoration projects. The federal funds will complement the significant financial commitments the state of Utah has made in recent years to protect the Great Salt Lake.

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New study recommends property taxes and tiered rates to fund water projects



A newly completed study on water infrastructure funding evaluated how property tax revenue is currently utilized in the supply, delivery and water infrastructure needs of Utah and neighboring states. It also explores best practices for the procurement

and management of infrastructure funding and makes recommendations for promoting equity among water users. This study is a resource for policymakers and water suppliers.

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Kenilworth coal mine fire mitigation efforts



There is an underground coal seam fire associated with the historic Kenilworth Coal Mine in Carbon County. Starting the week of November 25, contractors began work in an attempt to manage and dampen the fire. The mitigation plan involves sealing surface openings connected to the mine workings

with expanding foam. This process will help restrict airflow to the fire, aiming to slow its spread and reduce smoke emissions.

[Watch the video >>](#)

DWR Director J Shirley announces retirement



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources director Justin "J" Shirley announced his retirement on Nov. 12 after 22 years of service with the division. His retirement will be effective Jan. 1, 2025. A resident of Stockton, Shirley joined the DWR in 2002 and became director in 2021 after serving as law enforcement chief since 2019. During his time as director, he also served as...

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Utah's outdoor recreation economy breaks records, reaching \$9.5B



The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has released economic data for 2023, showcasing outdoor recreation's significant economic impact on Utah. According to the BEA, Utah's outdoor recreation economy grew to an impressive \$9.5 billion in value-added, now contributing 3.4% of Utah's GDP and supporting 71,898 jobs.

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George Humphreys named the FFSL Warden of the Year



Beaver County Fire Warden George Humphreys was awarded with the Warden of the Year award by the Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands fire leadership for his work within his community this year. In addition to this achievement, George also serves as the Beaver Fire Chief, where his dedication and leadership continue to make a meaningful impact.

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Public meetings cover groundwater plans in Pahvant Valley, Emery/John's Valley



In November, public meetings were held to educate residents and gather public input related to developing a groundwater management plan in the Pahvant Valley and the groundwater resources and appropriation policy for the Emery/John's Valley area. Representatives from the Utah Geological Survey went over its recently published groundwater hydrology study that included the area between McCornick and Kanosh as well as the east-west section between the Pahvant Range and the Cricket Mountains, excluding Deseret, Delta and Cove Fort.

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Nearly 300,000 boats inspected for quagga mussels during 2024 boating season



The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and other partnering agencies worked hard inspecting and decontaminating boats across the state this year to prevent the spread of invasive quagga mussels in Utah.

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DNR 2024 annual report released



Over the past year, the Utah Department of Natural Resources has dedicated its efforts to innovating, researching and investing in protecting Utah's natural resources. The 2024 annual report showcases notable achievements within our divisions and offices while also serving as a comprehensive directory of services.

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Celebrating over 500 miles of trail work and 126 completed projects during 2024 trail crew season



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation recently celebrated the successful completion of the 2024 trail maintenance season. Statewide trail crews completed 126 projects and improved more than 500

miles of trails across Utah.

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From lake to table: \$3M investment helps track Great Salt Lake's future



Thanks to a new \$3 million monitoring program announced by the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, the Utah Department of Natural Resources and the Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner, scientists will enhance their ability to measure water levels and study salt concentrations in this massive saline ecosystem that helps supply salt across America.

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Summit County honored for top firefighting support and prevention in Utah



Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands recognized Summit County as its 2024 Cooperator of the Year for at its annual Fall Fire Management Meeting. Summit County played a crucial role on multiple wildfires in the county this summer and assisted with fires in neighboring counties.

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2023 Utah Mining Report



The Utah Geological Survey recently published the 2023 Utah Mining Report. The estimated combined value of Utah's extractive resource production in 2023 totaled approximately \$10.1 billion, including production of metals and industrial minerals (\$4.0 billion), natural gas and natural gas liquids (\$2.1 billion), crude oil (\$3.8 billion),

and coal (\$314 million).

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