

*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.*

## Riley Peck named new Division of Wildlife Resources director



Utah Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Joel Ferry named Riley Peck as the new director for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, effective Monday, Jan. 13. A resident of Eagle Mountain, Utah County, Peck started working for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 2006 as a native aquatics technician. In 2009, he transitioned to working as a wildlife biologist before...

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## Utah receives \$2.75 million to fund two Forest Legacy projects

The USDA awarded \$2.75 million in Forest Legacy funding to the state of Utah that will preserve 379 acres of land in Kane County bordering Zion National Park.



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## Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation to unveil Every Kid Outdoors Adventure Challenge



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation invites the public to a kickoff event and community celebration for its new Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Adventure Challenge, a year-long initiative encouraging Utah's youth to explore nature and engage in outdoor recreation. The free event will feature ice skating, a scavenger hunt, exciting activities, special prizes and hot cocoa. Attendees can enjoy interactive booths

hosted by over 20 outdoor and nature-focused organizations, including the Utah Hockey Club, Teton Sports, US Forest Service, Ski Utah, Wasatch Adaptive Sports, Natural History Museum of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources and many more.

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## Over 168,000 acres restored through Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative in 2023-24



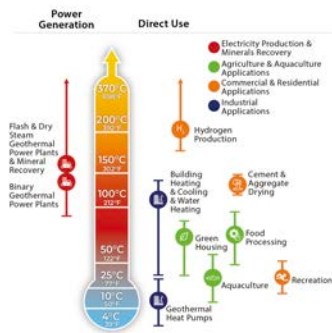
Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative works to improve and restore high-priority watersheds and habitats throughout the state. During this past fiscal year — between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 — a whopping total of 168,882 acres were improved

across Utah through this unique and innovative program.

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# Resurging interest in Utah's geothermal energy resources

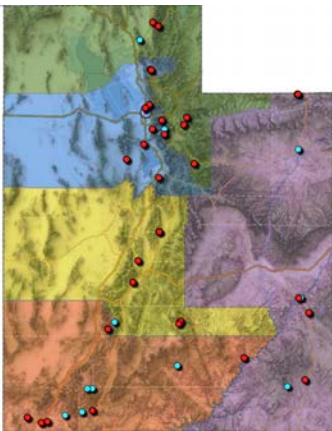


Utah is a state naturally gifted with bountiful geothermal energy resources. Our location along the eastern boundary of the Great Basin, a physiographic region defined geologically as having abundant geothermal heat close to the Earth's surface, is fortunate for our population since geothermal energy is a renewable, mostly carbon-neutral, domestic resource that can produce electricity 24 hours per

day, seven days per week.

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# Utah's new Outdoor Recreation Initiative Awards over \$20M to enhance outdoor recreation



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) recently announced the awarding of more than \$20 million to 31 outdoor recreation projects across the state. The funding, made possible through legislative appropriations and the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Fund, marks a significant investment in the state's outdoor amenities, ensuring access, sustainability and enhanced experiences for all Utahns and visitors. The awarded projects include a

variety of initiatives, including new infrastructure development, restoration efforts, land acquisition, feasibility studies and long-term recreation planning. The funding reflects the mission of the Outdoor Recreation Initiative, recently created by the Legislature and overseen by DOR, to champion stewardship, sustainable visitation, safety, education and community engagement across the state.

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## Ice age fox found in cave in Uinta Mountains



A team of scientists from the Utah Division of State Parks and the USDA Forest Service Ashley National Forest, along with a group of Utah cavers, have recovered the nearly complete skeleton of a red fox dating back to the Ice Ages in a cave in the Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah.

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## DWR stocks more than 12.8M fish throughout Utah in 2024



In an effort to enhance fishing and boost native fish populations, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources stocks a variety of fish species throughout Utah every year, and in 2024, over 12.8 million fish were stocked into waterbodies across the state.

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