



FROM THE FIELD

*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 Road Show hits Brigham City



The Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner and the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council teamed up to meet with and hear from the public in an open forum in Brigham City. The first stop of the Great Salt Lake Road Show allowed state officials to collaborate and learn from those impacting Great Salt Lake. Brian Steed, Tim Davis and Tim Hawkes will continue to meet with the public in various counties, with the next stop planned for late July in Salt Lake County.

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Two Utah companies receive over \$800K in Wood Products Grants



Two companies in Utah, Blazzard Lumber Co and Thompson Sawmill, were awarded over \$800,000 from the U.S. Forest Service as a part of the Wood Innovations Program. Blazzard Lumber and Thompson Sawmill received funding through the Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance Grant.

This funding was part of a bigger \$73.9 million investment from the U.S. Forest Service to support the wood products economy and healthy forests.

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DNR agencies receive award for Utah Energy Resources Web Experience



The Utah Office of Energy Development (OED) and the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) received a Utah Information Technology (IT) Excellence Award from the Utah Department of Government Operations Division of Technology Services for the Utah Energy Resources Web Experience. The sister agencies

were recognized for the Best Use of GIS.

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Division of Outdoor Recreation announces Recreation Summit in Bryce Canyon



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation is excited to announce the 2024 Utah Outdoor Recreation Summit, slated for Aug. 27-28 at Bryce Canyon's Ruby's Inn. This year's Summit theme, "From Sunrise to Sunset," captures the entire journey of outdoor recreation in Utah, celebrating its rich history and

envisioning a sustainable future. The two-day Summit serves as a pivotal gathering point for outdoor enthusiasts, industry leaders, policymakers and stakeholders to engage in important dialogues about outdoor recreation's role in Utahns' daily lives and the economy. It provides a platform for reconnecting, discussing critical issues, forging new partnerships and enjoying the great outdoors together.

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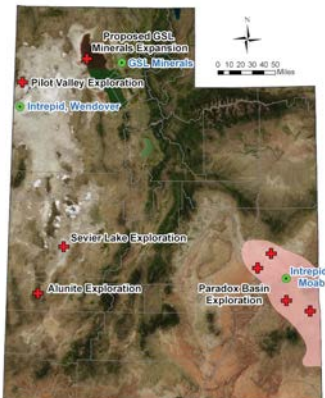
Blue Ribbon Fisheries program allocates \$440K to enhance some of Utah's best fishing spots



Blue Ribbon Fisheries are waterbodies that provide some of Utah's most exceptional, high-quality fishing experiences. The program that designates and helps fund these fisheries recently allocated over \$440,000 toward 11 projects aimed at enhancing these waterbodies so they retain their elite status.

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OGM to provide recommendations to Legislators on brine mining



In 2024, the Utah Legislature passed House Bill 433 to address brine mining, which involves extracting valuable compounds or elements from groundwater. HB 433 mandates the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to conduct a study and make recommendations to the legislature on multiple mineral development of brines, excluding those in Great Salt Lake, and solution mining of salt to create subterranean cavern space for storing liquids or gas.

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State, local and federal partners encourage Fire Sense this summer



As the summer starts to heat up, state, federal and local fire officials spoke at a press event to encourage Utahns and visitors to exercise good Fire Sense as they head outdoors to enjoy the state's natural wonders. These are small, simple steps we

can take while recreating outdoors, and they can go a long way in keeping Utah wildfire-free this summer.

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Utah delegation unearths the potential of geothermal in visit to Iceland



Utah is one of just seven states producing utility-scale energy from geothermal, and estimates show that the state has another 2,166 megawatts of geothermal potential. A visit to Iceland, the world's geothermal energy powerhouse, helped legislators, policy makers and regulators learn how to best

capitalize on this clean, renewable and underdeveloped resources. Acting Office of Energy Development Director Dusty Monks, a key member of the delegation, is committed to advancing state energy policies that will support geothermal development in Utah.

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Colorado River riparian habitat restoration receives funding



A multi-year project by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to address the impacts of invasive species along 384 acres of the Colorado River has become a fully funded project in the latest round of funding through Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative. The project was ranked 8th out

of 121 candidates statewide, showing its priority to the state and surrounding communities.

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Inaugural One Utah campout brings families together in Utah's great outdoors



In celebration of 'Great Outdoors Month' in June, the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation hosted the One Utah Campout from June 20-22. The inaugural event introduced the benefits of camping to 15 families from underrepresented communities eager to embark on their first camping adventure at the scenic Tifie Ranch near East Canyon Reservoir. The campout's primary goal was to remove barriers previously preventing these families from participating in outdoor activities. By providing hands-on experiences and essential skills training, the event empowered families to continue exploring the great outdoors. Participants learned how to set up tents, build campfires, and enjoy classic American camping traditions such as making s'mores. Additionally, several of Utah's leading outdoor companies generously donated gear to ensure these families can continue their camping journeys in the future.

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Construction underway on Loa Fish Hatchery; rebuild to be completed in 2027



Construction on the new Loa Fish Hatchery is underway, and an event was held May 30 to allow local residents, legislators, county commissioners, angling organizations and other groups to learn more about the project and construction timelines. During the 2023 legislative session, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources received the necessary funding to rebuild the Loa Fish Hatchery.

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A brief history of the Utah Geological Survey

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Utah Geological Survey (UGS). In 1949, the Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey was created within the



University of Utah's State School of Mines and Mineral Industries. Today, the UGS is a state executive branch applied science agency within the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

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Utah's Navajo Nation receives funding for water infrastructure



Recently, \$2.67 million was delivered to support the Navajo Nation with continued water infrastructure development within Utah, including things like drinking water distribution pipelines, water storage and pump stations.

This funding is part of an \$8 million water infrastructure allocation that was set aside for the Navajo Nation by the Utah State Legislature in 2021. The first amount was transferred in 2022, and this \$2.67 million is the second of three installments. The final transaction will be conveyed after the Division of Water Rights concludes its area adjudication process, during which water rights are researched, quantified and evaluated.

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FEMA Allocates \$7.2M to Utah for dam safety upgrades



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently announced that it has allocated \$185 million to 32 states and one U.S. Territory for the rehabilitation of high-hazard dams. Utah is among the states receiving an initial award, and will

likely receive \$7.2 million.

"Aging dam infrastructure and the requirement to meet the minimum dam safety standards make this initial award a welcome sight," said Candice

Hasenyager, director of the Division of Water Resources. "Dam improvements are imperative to the safety of Utahns, and they are also costly. We are grateful for FEMA's support." The Utah Division of Water Resources and the Utah Division of Water Rights (which encompasses the Office of the State Engineer) work together to identify high-hazard dams, prioritize needs with dam owners, and pursue potential funding sources.

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