



*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 will keep you informed on current department initiatives, developments and trends impacting Utah.*

Gov. Cox appoints Rep. Joel Ferry to lead DNR

Gov. Spencer Cox announced Rep. Joel Ferry will be joining his administration as director of the Department of Natural Resources. This appointment is subject to approval from the Utah Senate. “From water conservation to air quality to public lands, Joel has been an effective voice for wise stewardship of the rich natural resources in our state,” Gov. Cox said. “His legislative experience as well as his foundation as a farmer and rancher will help shape our vision around natural resources and I’m grateful he’s willing to take on this new challenge.”

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Great Salt Lake reaches new record low

On July 3, the level of Great Salt Lake dropped below the October 2021 historic low elevation. This average daily surface water elevation, 4,190.1 feet, was measured at [USGS station 10010000](#), located on the southern end of the lake and is associated with a data record dating back to 1847.

Goblin Valley State Park triples in size

In a historic ceremony hosted on Friday, June 17, the Bureau of Land Management conveyed over 6,300 acres of federal public land to the Utah Division of State Parks, which will be used to expand Goblin Valley State Park. The land was conveyed at no cost to the state or county. Included in the land transfer is a site for a new Emery County Sheriff's Office Substation and improved space for historical exhibits at the Buckhorn Information Center.

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Utah's fire program contracts 'Type 1' helicopters for wildfire suppression

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands has contracted with Croman Corporation, adding two Type 1 helicopters to the state's wildfire suppression resources. This is the first time Utah has had an exclusive use contract for type 1 helicopters. Type 1 helicopters are the largest and fastest in wildfire suppression.

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Why a building full of rocks is so important to Utah

Established in 1951, the Utah Geological Survey's Utah Core Research Center contains the region's only publicly available and most complete collection of geologic core and cuttings from Utah. The current 15,000-square-foot facility was built in 1997 and presently holds core from over 1,500 drill holes totaling about 400,000 feet of material and cuttings from nearly 5,000 drill holes representing over 57 million feet of subsurface data.

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Team Wildlife: A look at the ways DWR is conserving habitat and helping species

As passionate stewards of our state's fish and wildlife, the Division of Wildlife Resources works with community partners and outdoor enthusiasts to ensure our ever-changing landscape will support healthy fish and wildlife habitats for generations to come. We are dedicated to keeping Utah's wildlife wild. Here's a look at DWR's current marketing campaign to educate the public and stakeholders about the ways we are helping Utah's fish, wildlife and habitats.

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Outdoor recreation & destination development projects in Washington County continue to grow

Destination development projects in Washington County are chugging full steam ahead, thanks in part to tourism dollars, prioritizing assets for residents and visitors alike, and more than half a million dollars of grant funding from the Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant.

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Abandoned mines scheduled for closure in Salt Lake, Summit and Wasatch counties

The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is planning to safeguard 33 abandoned mine openings in Big Cottonwood Canyon and outlying areas in Salt Lake, Summit and Wasatch counties. The existing mines are located on U.S. Forest Service and private lands. Given the prominent location and large increase in recreation use along the Wasatch Front, the closures are a priority to protect public safety.

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expand understanding

While several bills from Utah's latest legislative session received significant attention for their potential to help address the issues facing Great Salt Lake, one bill provided funding for a small but critical project that has the potential to provide significant long-term benefits in understanding the hydrology of this important body of water.

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Second application period now open for secondary meter grants

The Board of Water Resources received \$250 million from the State Legislature to provide grants for the purchase and installation of secondary meters on existing, unmetered connections. Education provided by meter data has been shown to reduce water use, and conservation of any water, including secondary, protects our culinary water resources. To date, the Board has received around 70 applications, totaling around \$200,000,000 in grant requests, which would help pay for about 130,000 meters. The second application period closes July 31, and if there are funds remaining after that deadline, another period will be scheduled.

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Utah's Energy Plan

The Office of Energy Development recently completed a State Energy Plan that serves as a framework for guiding energy development in the state for the coming years. Through our efforts and commitments, which are outlined in an active document hosted online, we plan to keep Utah's energy affordable, reliable and sustainable. Check out our energy commitments to the state in tile two, labeled "Energy Commitments."

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