



*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.*

DNR Executive Director to Lead New USU Land, Water & Air Institute

Brian Steed, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, has been named as the first executive director of Utah State University's institute for [Land, Water, and Air](#). He will assume the new position on July 1.

"We're all very sorry to lose Brian as a valued member of our cabinet, but I'm thrilled he's headed to my alma mater to lead this important new institute," Gov. Spencer Cox said. "I'm grateful for the intellectual rigor and leadership he's brought to state government, and I wish him all the best in this new role."

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WRI Announces Funded Projects for FY 2023

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) and its partners are funding 103 of the 148 submitted projects for the upcoming FY 2023 project implementation season. The projects will be implemented between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, and were either fully or partially funded. These projects will improve

another \$4.6 million of in-kind support.

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Wear Your Life Jacket: Make Sure You're Safe While Having Fun on the Water

Did you know 85% of drowning deaths are preventable by wearing a life jacket? According to the Division of Outdoor Recreation, there are a few simple things you can do to be safer while enjoying [water recreation](#), like wearing a properly fitting life jacket. Please be safe and recreate responsibly on the water this summer!

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4,496 boats inspected for quagga mussels during Memorial Day weekend

Law enforcement officers and technicians with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and other agencies had a busy Memorial Day weekend working to inspect and decontaminate boats across the state. Their efforts focused on preventing the invasive quagga mussels in Lake Powell from spreading to other Utah waterbodies.

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Southeast Area and Interagency Partners Honored with Pulaski Award

The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands Southeast Area, their interagency partners and the Bureau of Land Management Green River District were selected as the winner of the 2022 Pulaski Award by the National Interagency Fire Center.

Drought Update

The Division of Water Resources continues to monitor drought conditions across the state. Spring runoff is dwindling. Soil moisture is decaying faster than usual this water year, which could mean heightened fire danger this summer. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 99% of the state is in severe and extreme drought. Eighteen of Utah's largest 45 reservoirs are below 55% of available capacity. Overall statewide storage is 63% of capacity. This time last year, reservoirs were about 67% of capacity. Utahns are urged to use less water to stretch this limited resource.

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What's Next for the Navajo Water Rights Settlement?

A major milestone toward providing running water to homes on the Navajo reservation was reached last week with the signing of the Conformed Agreement for the Navajo Utah Federal Reserved Water Rights Settlement. But for Utah's Division of Water Rights, much of the real work has just begun.

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Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program Recognized with Award

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining is one of nine joint winners of the 2022 Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Pulaski Award, recognizing outstanding interagency efforts to successfully manage the Bear and Bennion wildfires of June 2021.

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Water Safety Event Kicks Off Swimming and Boating Season

Utah State Parks, Heber Valley Hospital, and Wasatch County Search and Rescue hosted an event at the Deer Creek State Park to raise awareness about water safety prior to the Memorial Day weekend – which usually kicks off swimming and boating season in Utah. The group spoke to community members about safety, handed out life jackets, and answered questions. The event was well attended by both the media and the public.

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