



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 levels impact boat launch and Saltair Gage



Prolonged drought and water use continue to negatively impact Great Salt Lake water levels. Levels at Great Salt Lake Marina are now too low to launch rescue boats, however, rangers have identified additional locations to launch from should search and rescue efforts be needed. Levels are also too low for the Saltair Lake Elevation Gage to

measure water levels in the south arm.

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### October 1 marks beginning of the New Water Year

The Utah Division of Water Resources is starting the New Water Year with some good news: Despite a 25% deficit in snowpack, our reservoirs are about

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link to see the latest drought update.

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## Protecting Watersheds: How invasive species removal benefits Washington County



For the last three years, Southwest Area forester Carrie Howard has been working with private land owners to remove invasive tree species along the Virgin River. This project has focused on allowing the river to take a more natural course at high water

events and improve the quality of the watershed.

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### Division of Water Rights important part of recovery from 100-year flood



While this year's monsoonal rains have largely been celebrated for raising soil moisture and reducing water demand, Moab, Castle Valley and areas of Eastern Utah have suffered as streams and rivers overflowed their banks damaging homes and businesses and threatening lives. To help mitigate

damage from flooding and make it possible for areas to implement solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in the future, the Division of Water Rights works with organizations and individuals to allow emergency stream alterations.

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# Millard County partners with DWR to prevent potential flooding, debris flows after wildfire

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of several debris basins in an effort to prevent debris flows and possible flooding damage after the Halfway Hill Fire in Millard County earlier this year.

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State Park

# 2-ton granite tortoise unveiled at Snow Canyon



A massive surprise is waiting for you at the end of the brand new Tortoise Walk Trail at Snow Canyon State Park: a 2-ton tortoise carved out of granite! The grand opening for the trail was officially held Friday, September 23, 2022, at the Upper Galoot Picnic Area. The new trail is a short .3 miles, but visitors are

encouraged to walk a (figurative) mile in the tortoise's shoes and "take it slow."

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### Utah Geological Survey hosts Earth Science Week activities



Utah Geological Survey (UGS) staff and volunteers will host approximately 700 fourth-grade students now through October 13 to celebrate Earth Science Week. Hands-on activities include learning about earthquakes and discovering where and how they happen, examining dinosaur and ice age fossils in

the paleontology lab, and panning for pyrite (also known as fool's gold) and other minerals.

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Recently, the Utah Division of Water Resources joined Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and Central Utah Water Conservancy District on site visits for Localscape Rewards. The division learned valuable information about what qualifies for rebates,

best irrigation practices and how the water district conducts these site visits and what technology staff are using to evaluate properties. The Localscape approach is a series of landscaping patterns and practices that takes into account Utah's unique climate and is another tool for Utahns to become drought resilient as the state experiences ongoing drought.

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