



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.*

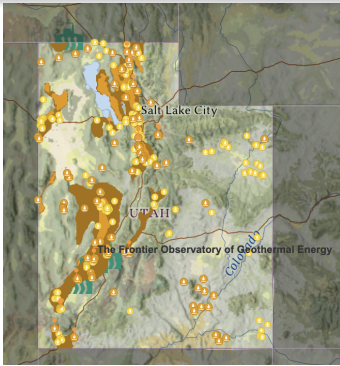
Utah Division of Water Resources honored with EPA WaterSense Excellence Award



We are proud to share news that the Utah Division of Water Resources has earned the esteemed award for excellence in promoting Watersense-labeled products at the WaterSmart Innovations conference in Las Vegas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented 47 awards to WaterSense partners for their support of WaterSense and water efficiency. This recognition highlights Utah's leadership in water conservation efforts.

As legislators, your support and advocacy play a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices. Visit utahwatersavers.com to explore the array of Watersense-labeled products that contribute to the state's water efficiency goals. Your continued dedication to water conservation aligns with our collective responsibility to ensure a resilient and sustainable future for Utah. Thank you for your commitment to environmental stewardship.

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Geothermal energy is making the news lately, and with good reason: Our state is just one of seven in United States harnessing utility-scale electricity from geothermal sources, securing the third spot nationally in geothermal energy production as of 2020 (EIA). This achievement not only highlights our state's commitment to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy but also emphasizes the immense potential

that lies within our borders.

With vast untapped geothermal resources capable of generating renewable baseload electricity, geothermal energy has emerged as a pivotal player in Utah's energy landscape. It currently holds the fourth-largest share in utility-scale renewable energy generation, making it a key component of our diverse energy mix. In 2018 alone, Utah's three utility-scale geothermal power plants contributed significantly, accounting for approximately 10% of the total utility-scale renewable generation, amounting to an impressive 446 gigawatt-hours (Vanden Berg). We invite you to explore our interactive maps, showcasing the abundant geothermal resources scattered across our state, as we continue to harness the power of the earth for a secure energy future.

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Ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Utahraptor State Park



A highly anticipated new state park is finally getting off the ground. On Sept. 25, Utah Division of State Parks hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking for Utahraptor State Park. Along with being a hub of outdoor recreation options, the park is rich in

historical, cultural and paleontological resources. We're excited to have dirt moving.

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Bear Award



The interagency fire prevention campaign Fire Sense was honored by the US Forest Service, the Ad Council and the National Association of State Foresters with the bronze level of the Smokey Bear award at the NASF annual meeting in Baton Rouge, La., on Sept. 20.

In 2020, Utah experienced an unprecedented high fire year due to ongoing drought conditions. With the state being in severe drought conditions for nearly a decade, 1,143 human-caused wildfire starts were recorded that year, burning over 100,000 acres of land in Utah.

Fire Sense was started the following year with funding from the Utah State Legislature and support from Governor Spencer Cox to help raise the public's knowledge regarding their role in the state's wildfire issue.

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Geologic diagnostic: An "MRI" for the Earth



Critical minerals refers to commodities that are important to the country's economy or national defense, but have a supply chain that faces potential risk for various reasons. The most recent critical mineral list generated by the US Geological Survey (USGS) includes 50 commodities such as lithium, rare earth elements (REEs), beryllium, vanadium and aluminum, to name just a few. In many cases, the United States produces little or none of these

important minerals. In 2019, the USGS kicked off the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI) with the goal of identifying new domestic critical mineral deposits. The USGS and many state surveys, including the Utah Geological Survey, have been collaborating to identify the most important areas in each state that have or may have critical mineral deposits.

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Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Director John Baza receives award



Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Director John Baza received the 2023 Service Award from the Energy & Geoscience Institute (EGI) at the EGI annual conference in Salt Lake City. Mr. Baza has been the director since 2005 and administers the division's efforts in the areas of petroleum, coal mining, and mineral mining, along with abandoned mine reclamation.

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Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation invites public input on recreation plan survey



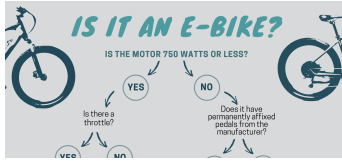
The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation is launching the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) survey, open for public input until Dec. 1. Available in both English and Spanish, the survey aims to collect valuable insights from Utah residents

and recreation providers. The survey feedback will help state and local officials prioritize Utah's diverse recreation needs and interests.

The survey is divided into two categories. The Recreation User Survey targets individuals who participate in outdoor activities in Utah, while the Recreation Provider Survey aims to collect insights from professionals and organizations offering recreational opportunities to the public. Input from these surveys will be vital in guiding Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) investment priorities as SCORP is a requirement of the LWCF.

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Popularity of electric motorcycles causing confusion on Utah's roads and trails



A recent surge in the popularity of electric motorcycles has left many residents and visitors confused. As these streamlined and silent electric two-wheelers become a more common sight, new owners are unaware of their classification and where they are permitted to be ridden.

Some individuals have assumed that electric motorcycles can freely navigate the same pathways as bicycles and E-bikes, leading to a pressing need for clarification on the rules and regulations governing their use. The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation — in collaboration with the Utah Division of Motor Vehicles, St. George Police Department and PeopleforBikes — is working to address the rising confusion by clarifying existing laws and encouraging proper education, including required off-highway vehicle courses, and responsible use.

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Utah Cloud Seeding Symposium a success



Last week marked the commencement of the highly anticipated Utah Cloud Seeding Symposium at Snowbird Resort. The landmark event proved to be a pivotal moment in the realm of weather modification, bringing together leading experts, researchers and stakeholders to explore the multifaceted world of cloud seeding.

The symposium underscores the critical role of weather modification in addressing our state's water resource challenges. By bringing together experts, researchers and policymakers, we are fostering a collaborative environment where innovative ideas can thrive. Cloud seeding is not just a science. It's a crucial tool for ensuring water sustainability in our arid region.

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