



*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.*

## UGS paleontologists find a bonanza of fossil footprints in Canyonlands National Park



The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) is partnering with the National Park Service to inventory fossils in Canyonlands National Park. Most work has focused on the Island in the Sky District, which contains accessible Triassic-age fossil-rich rocks. As expected, we discovered fossil sites in the Chinle

Formation, but it seems that fossils are not as common here as in some other regions.

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## 2,600 acres added to the East Canyon WMA in recent land purchase



An area that provides important habitat for deer, elk and sage grouse recently grew in size: The East Canyon Wildlife Management Area now totals 6,200 acres after more than 2,600 acres were added to the WMA after a recent land acquisition earlier this year.

At one point, the property was being considered for development. However, thanks to funding from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Utah Division of State Parks, the Utah Legislature...

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## Officials tour \$81 million seismic resilience project



Last week, state and local officials toured the Davis County Aqueduct seismic resilience project, a critical \$81 million effort aimed at securing the water supply for over 650,000 residents in the event of a major earthquake.

The project, funded in part by a \$24 million grant from the Utah Division of Water Resources, is being led by the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD). WBWCD's design team, with the help of the Utah Geological Survey and Envision Utah, identified the funding needed to upgrade the major aqueducts throughout the state.

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## Experience the best of fall at Utah State Parks



Fall is the perfect time to explore Utah State Parks. With the vibrant colors of changing leaves and the crisp, refreshing air, the parks come alive in a whole new way. Whether you're looking for adventure or relaxation, there's something for everyone this

season.

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## Explore, learn and connect at the DOR's 2025 Utah Trails Conference in Kanab



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation is excited to announce the 2025 Utah Trails Conference, on April 23-24, in Kanab, Utah. This event invites Utah's trail enthusiasts, builders and advocates to come together for two days of hands-on learning, collaboration and inspiration, all centered on maintaining and expanding Utah's vast trail systems. The first day will feature outdoor workshops, immersive training sessions and activities aimed at sharpening trail-building skills, culminating in a kick-off dinner at Jackson Flat Reservoir. The second day offers a deeper dive into trail building, maintenance and the latest laws impacting outdoor recreation.

[Learn more and get tickets >>](#)

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## Wild episode 60: Chronic wasting disease



In this podcast episode, DWR Wildlife Veterinarian Ginger Stout takes a deep dive on chronic wasting disease: what it is, how it's spread, where it is currently found in Utah and how hunters can help decrease its impacts to deer populations in the state.

[Listen to the podcast >>](#)

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## Office of Energy Development staff light up STEMFest



Early last month, the Office of Energy Development (OED) took part in STEMFest — an educational event for K-12 students, parents, and educators. The team engaged students with hands-on, interactive activities focused on energy education. The

Resource Wheel and Energy Bike were crowd favorites, making the OED booth a popular stop! In fact, our Finance Director, Debi Carty, even gave a live TV demonstration of the Energy Bike, showcasing its appeal and educational value.

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## Forestry, Fire and State Lands opens new wildland fire cache



The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands and their federal interagency partners opened a new wildland fire cache on Thursday in Richfield. The cache will logistically support the interagency wildland firefighting efforts across central Utah. The new fire cache was built with help from the state legislature, which worked to secure \$3 million in funding for the new building. The cache will be the central location for...

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## Division of Water Rights staff donates time and resources to assemble crisis kits



The Utah Division of Water Rights staff diverted some of their money on Oct. 3 to support Salt Lake City-based nonprofit, Ruff Haven Crisis Sheltering. For the project, staff members contributed money and time to assemble 100 emergency supply kits Ruff Haven uses to help unsheltered pets and their families. Kits include a bundle of essentials — from food to blankets — for pets for their owners.

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