



*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.*

'We've got to find answers and then take the action,' Romney says of Great Salt Lake

Sen. Mitt Romney recently met with legislators and staff from the Department of Natural Resources to talk about the challenges facing Great Salt Lake and the actions underway to preserve this natural resource. Sen. Romney toured the wetlands and spoke with business leaders and ranchers about the lake's importance in their industry.

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Carbon Utilization Storage Partnership of the Western United States

The Carbon Utilization Storage Partnership of the Western United States (CUSP-west) is a Department of Energy-funded regional initiative established to accelerate onshore carbon capture, utilization and storage technology deployment in the Western Region of the United States. The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) and the Energy & Geoscience Institute, University of Utah,

is charged with assessing possible CO2 sequestration injection reservoirs across the state.

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DWR launches website to help boaters gauge traffic at quagga inspection stations

While boaters should call to schedule a quagga mussel decontamination for their watercraft, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has released a new online dashboard to help the public gauge how busy the state's inspection stations are.

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Great Salt Lake Basin study update

The Utah Division of Water Resources is partnering with water users to apply for a grant to undertake a Basin Study of the Great Salt Lake watershed. If awarded, the study will magnify funding provided by the Legislature in HB429 and enhance the effort to complete the GSL integrated assessment. The GSL basin study will combine water resource management tools from across the basin to complete a state-of-the-art, comprehensive water supply and demand study. It will collaboratively explore options to address water supply imbalances, increase supply reliability and avoid environmental disasters. Finally, it will complete a trade-off analysis of strategies within each river basin and the entire GSL basin of the costs and benefits of meeting water resource-related goals.

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More boat ramps close at state parks

Water levels at many state parks are experiencing extreme lows. When reservoirs reach these levels, some parks are forced to close their boat launch

under an advisory that indicates they may be closing in the future. Before loading your boat and heading to your favorite state park reservoir for a day on the water, please check the Utah State Park's boat ramp conditions webpage to ensure your plans to launch are good to go. If not, we recommend visiting another park that you may not have visited before.

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Gov. Cox appoints Gregory Todd as energy advisor and director of the Office of Energy Development

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox has tapped Duchesne County Commissioner Gregory Todd as his new energy advisor and director of the Office of Energy Development, an agency within the Department of Natural Resources.

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Utah challenges unlawful designation of national monuments

On Aug. 24, Utah Attorney General Sean D. Reyes filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah against President Biden's unlawful designation of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. The lawsuit argues that the size of the two national monuments, covering vast landscapes of a combined 3.2 million acres, violates the Antiquities Act of 1906, which limits U.S. presidents to create monuments "confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

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Division of Outdoor Recreation to host ninth

The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation will host the ninth annual Utah Outdoor Recreation Summit in Kamas on Sept.12-13. This is the nation's largest state-based outdoor recreation conference.

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Utah's State Engineer helps protect underground aquifers

In 2005, then-State Engineer Jerry Olds asked the state legislature to provide guidance on a growing problem. Groundwater levels in Iron County near Beryl had dropped more than 40 feet in less than 10 years and areas of the land were starting to subside. The resulting legislation modernized groundwater management in Utah.

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