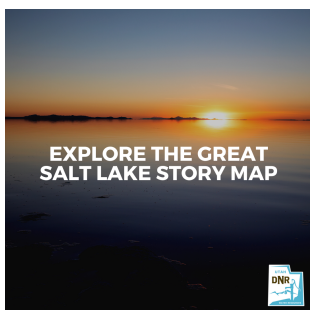




# FROM THE FIELD

*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.*

## Great Salt Lake Strategic Plan and Story Map released



The Great Salt Lake Commissioner's Office released the state of Utah's [first strategic plan](#) on Monday, Jan. 15, to get the Great Salt Lake to a healthy range and sustain it. As an additional resource, the Utah Division of Water Resources produced a [new dynamic story map](#) to educate and define the processes that dictate the health of the Great Salt Lake. We encourage everyone to explore the story map to continue learning about this complex water system, the challenges we face and what we can do to tackle those challenges together.

[Read more >>](#)

## Utah Shared Stewardship holds two Forest Product Industry meetings



In January, Utah Shared Stewardship hosted two Forest Product Industry meetings in Richfield and Heber City to discuss challenges impacting the existing industry in Utah and opportunities for financial and technical assistance that will encourage wood utilization. These meetings mark the third year

[Read more >>](#)

## DWR, UDOT and other partners complete 7 structures to help wildlife and fish safely migrate



The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Department of Transportation, as well as other partners, are working hard to reduce wildlife/vehicle collisions around the state and to make it easier for wildlife and fish to make important annual migrations. In 2023, the agencies and other partners installed

seven different structures that help fish and wildlife migrate safely in various areas throughout Utah.

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## Utah Office of Energy Development announces funding opportunity



The Utah Office of Energy Development offers resources for various financial opportunities in the energy sector, including grants and research funding. The office recently launched a new site for the State Research Grant program, which will provide matching funds for research projects that align with and further advance the state's energy goals. Applications open May 1, 2024.

[Read more >>](#)

## Where Does Utah's Kings Peak Rank on the list of U.S. highpoints?



Utah has nearly two dozen mountain summits higher than 13,000 feet. The highest of these, Kings Peak in Duchesne County, reaches an elevation of 13,528 feet. How does Kings Peak's elevation stack up

Mountains? Finally, what 'King' was the mountain named after?

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## Wildfire officials celebrate 3 years of decreased wildfires in Utah



Instead of facing a wildfire-prone season fueled by substantial growth in vegetation from a snowy year, state and federal authorities marked the conclusion of three successive years with decreasing wildfire numbers.

Fire officials with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands held a ceremony at the Utah State Capitol to recognize the efforts of state and federal leaders who have played a vital role in guiding Utah residents to exercise Fire Sense when they recreate outdoors, use fireworks, burn debris and use firearms.

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## Water conditions update from Division of Water Resources



As we enter mid-February, Utah's water supply exhibits promising signs of resilience and abundance. The state's snowpack, consistently above normal levels for most regions, sets an optimistic tone for water conditions.

Statewide, reservoirs are currently at an impressive 82%, marking a stark contrast to a regular year, where levels would be around 20% lower. Compared to last year, the increase is more notable, with reservoirs currently standing 32% higher. This reinforces the resilience of our water storage infrastructure.

January storms have played a vital role in boosting the state's snowpack, with southern Utah experiencing particularly significant benefits. Soil moisture

winter season. As noted in NRCS's Feb. 1 Water Supply Outlook Report for Utah, every major watershed in Utah received above normal precipitation for the month of January.

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## Utah unveils inaugural Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation, in partnership with the Utah Outdoor Adventure Commission and Utah State University's Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, has released the state's first Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan.

Developed in collaboration with recreation stakeholders from across the state, the landmark plan aims to guide the future for accessible, high-quality outdoor experiences while balancing economic growth with preserving Utah's natural landscapes. The plan, reflecting insights from comprehensive studies and stakeholder workshops, sets forth both immediate and long-term objectives. It emphasizes the importance of responsible stewardship of natural resources and prioritizes community engagement in outdoor recreation development to continue to enhance Utahns' quality of life as more people get outdoors.

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## Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation to award over \$350,000 to boost youth outdoor programs



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) announced the successful conclusion of its 2023 Utah Children's Outdoor Recreation and Education (UCORE) Grant cycle. An impressive \$357,147 was awarded to 29 programs across 16 counties in Utah,

with a significant focus on rural areas. This funding is set to impact more than 16,000 youth and contribute to programs with a combined value exceeding \$2 million. In addition to the UCORE Grant cycle, the DOR announced the recent opening of the 2024 Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant (UORG) application cycle that runs through Friday, March 15, as well as the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Grant (OHVR) cycle that is open Thursday, Feb. 1 through Tuesday, April 2. These two programs represent the immense commitment coming from



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