



# DWR UPDATE

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING | AUG. 17, 2023



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

- Fall general-season turkey permits will be available online and over the counter, starting Sept. 7 at 8 a.m.
- The next application period is for sportsman permits. You can apply from Oct. 18–Nov. 8, 2023.
- The big game permit sales days in July went very smoothly. Our systems handled the traffic well!



# A CLOSER LOOK: ELK PERMIT SALES

- General-season any bull elk (early):  
15,000 permits, sold out in 13 days
  - 80% any legal weapon, 20% muzzleloader
  - 95% residents, 5% nonresidents
- General-season any bull elk (late, unlimited permits)
  - 2,687 permits issued (as of Aug. 14)
  - 94% residents, 6% nonresidents
- General-season spike bull elk: 15,000 permits, sold out in 19 days
  - 98% residents, 2% nonresidents
  - Multi-season: 4,492 permits



# ELK PERMIT SALES (CONT.)

- General-season youth elk permits (unlimited):
  - 3,677 permits, including 45% first-time elk hunters (as of Aug. 14)
  - 99% residents, 1% nonresidents
- General-season archery elk permits (unlimited):
  - 8,218 permits (as of Aug. 14)
  - 91% residents, 9% nonresidents



# AQUATIC SECTION

We've received feedback from anglers about slow kokanee salmon fishing at Flaming Gorge Reservoir:

- Our data shows the fishery has **not** collapsed.
- Last year's drought, water withdrawals for Lake Powell, and warm fall temperatures all reduced kokanee spawning success.
- Most kokanee in Flaming Gorge (50-82%) are born naturally in the reservoir. Their spawning was particularly impacted by water conditions.
- Last winter's snowfall brought water levels up. This will help increase the survival and growth of all kokanee in the reservoir, and the fishery should improve in the next few years.



# HABITAT SECTION

- Installed a bridge at the Bicknell Bottoms WMA to improve access for pheasant and waterfowl hunters as well as anglers.
- Decided on FY24 habitat restoration projects to benefit mule deer — 99 funded projects over 159,899 acres.
- Contracted to purchase 658 acres of Great Salt Lake wetlands using \$6 million from a 2023 legislative appropriation.
- Worked closely with UDOT to submit three Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program grants. The projects are all focused on increasing motorist safety and reducing roadkill, which will benefit deer herds.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

- Since the Utah Deadhead Reporter app launched May 1, **456 deadheads** have been reported:
  - Central: 94
  - Northeastern: 50
  - Northern: 191
  - Southeastern: 30
  - Southern: 91
- We hosted two international conservation law enforcement conferences in July, and both were highly successful.
- A new conservation officer just started in the Sanpete County district.



# OUTREACH SECTION

- The 2023 Utah State Fair will take place September 7-17. Come visit us at the Wildlife Building to learn about how wildlife matters to everyone!
- A visiting artist from Argentina recently painted a new wildlife mural in the conservation hall here at the education center. It's helping us teach visitors about unique bird species that migrate through the Great Salt Lake.





# WILDLIFE SECTION

- Our studies of neonate (newborn to 6 months) deer and elk are going well.
- We're tracking **200 deer** neonates and **25 elk** neonates in the following areas:
  - Deer: La Sal, San Juan and Range Creek
  - Deer and elk: Nebo
- These studies help us learn more about neonate survival rates, and the timing and causes of mortality.
- We're also working with local universities and conservation groups on studies and counts of our chukar and grouse populations.



# HUNTS START THIS WEEKEND

- Find details about hunting units and boundaries in the Hunt Planner at [hunt.utah.gov](http://hunt.utah.gov)
- Know the new rules this year — read through the **Utah Big Game Field Regulations Guidebook**
- Report suspected poachers by calling **800-662-3337** or texting **847411**
- Stay safe and have fun!



# THANK YOU



Utah Division of  
Wildlife Resources