



DWR UPDATE

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING | JAN. 4, 2024



PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Congratulations to Blair Stringham, our new Northern Region supervisor!
 - Blair has extensive experience working with wetlands and waterfowl. He's served in numerous roles, but most recently as coordinator of the Utah Wildlife Migration Initiative.
- Many thanks and farewell to Ben Nadolski — we appreciate your great work and leadership in the region.
- We will be interviewing and hiring conservation officers this month to fill current vacancies.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

- Expect limited-entry turkey results on **Jan. 10**.
- You can apply for black bear hunts from **Feb. 6–20**.
- The Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 passed. We are now issuing electronic duck stamps.
- The big game application period will be **March 21–April 25**.



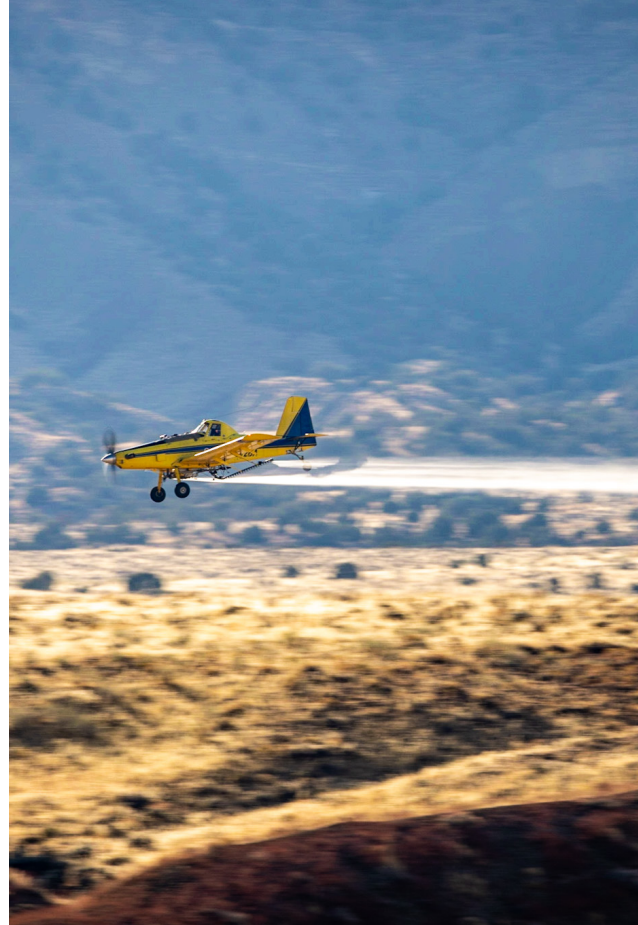
AQUATIC SECTION

- We have finished all of our conservation team meetings, which involve many agency partners and non-profit organizations.
- Together, we **prioritize work for species that need conservation** (e.g., western toad, Columbia spotted frog, least chub, roundtail chub, etc.).
- This work helps ensure the future biological security of these species, which were all petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
- The teams and their work resulted in these species being found **not warranted for listing** under the ESA.



HABITAT SECTION

- Many wildlife management areas are now closed to **protect wintering wildlife**. They will reopen in the spring.
- The annual habitat project funding cycle begins this month through Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative. We're coordinating with our partners on new project proposals.
- We **greatly appreciate all of our partners** — including conservation organizations — who provide funding and in-kind contributions to help wildlife and their habitats.



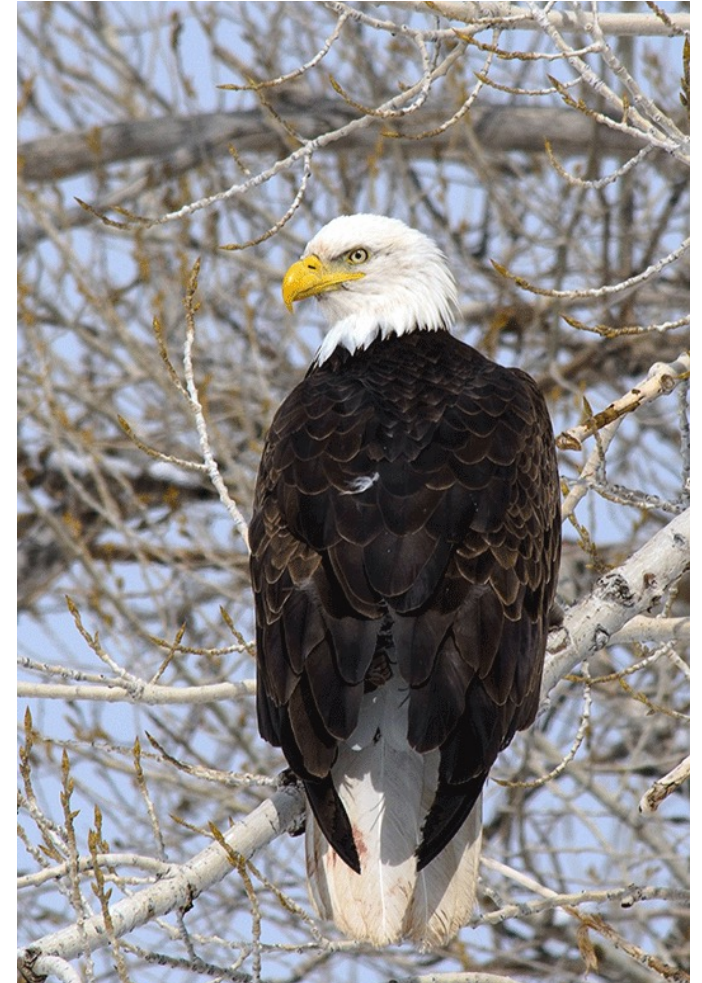
LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

- There were **656 deadheads** submitted via the deadhead app from May 1–Dec. 14:
 - 423 elk and 198 deer
 - Others included bighorn sheep (16), pronghorn (8), moose (5), mountain goats (5) and bison (1)
- In 2023, there were approximately **1,000 calls** to our Turn-in-a-Poacher hotline, and **650 tips** came in via text (to 847411).
- There were **114 K-9 officer deployments** in 2023 — 97 were for DWR, and 17 were to assist other agencies.
 - 80 investigative (i.e., wildlife odors)
 - 34 patrol (i.e., tracking people or finding evidence)



OUTREACH SECTION

- Construction of the shotgun building at the Cache Valley Public Shooting Range is almost complete.
 - It's a big upgrade over the old structure.
 - The building should open in mid-to-late January.
 - We plan to hold a grand opening event this spring.
- There will be several bald eagle viewing events throughout the state in January and February. The **first event is on Jan. 26** in southern Utah. We will post all of the details on *wildlife.utah.gov*.



WILDLIFE SECTION

- Big game captures are going well — **more than 1,050 animals** have been captured, collared and processed so far.
 - Mule deer: Adults and fawns are in great condition and have a lot of body fat.
- In December, Colorado Parks and Wildlife released 10 wolves in north-central Colorado. If any of those wolves enter Utah, we are prepared to trap and return them to Colorado.
- The North American wolverine was listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The 2023 tundra swan season did **not** close early. Only nine trumpeters were harvested, and hunters took a record number of tundra swans.



THANK YOU



Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources