



DWR UPDATE

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING | MAY 2, 2024



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

- The spring general-season hunt for wild turkey began this week (April 29), and the hunt runs through May 31.
- We received 571,394 applications for big game permits, an increase of 2.53% compared to last year.
- Big game drawing results will be available on May 16.
- Hunters can still apply for points during the antlerless application period (June 5–19).



AQUATIC SECTION

- The Panguitch Lake fishing closure has been lifted.
- We successfully produced over 1 million tiger muskie eggs this spring — more than enough to meet statewide quotas this year.
- We also spawned over 8 million walleye this year (double the hatch rate of recent years). Sterilization rates were also higher and more consistent.
- Our Virgin River and Upper Colorado River Recovery programs have started their field seasons, which will last into November.



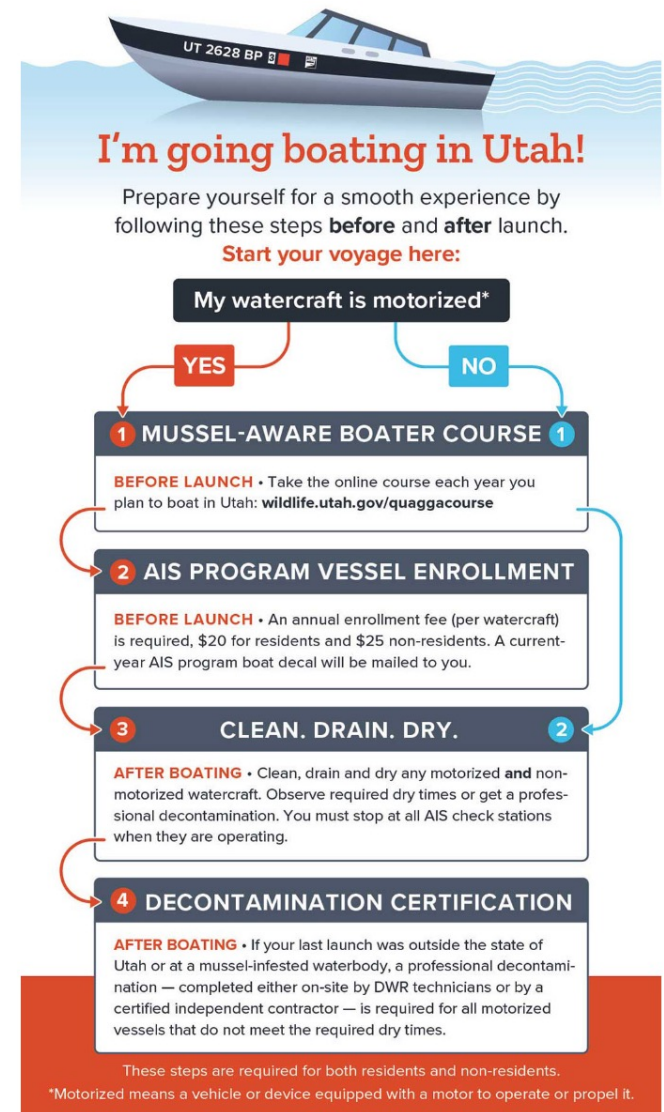
HABITAT SECTION

- Habitat-restoration work is underway, and new funding was recently assigned to FY25 wildlife habitat projects:
 - Conservation Permit Program: **\$4.8 million**
 - Habitat Council: **\$3.4 million**
 - Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative: **\$6 million**
- This funding will help improve approximately **100,000–150,000 acres** of crucial wildlife habitat over the next year.
- Many thanks to all the partners who participate in Utah's WRI program and contribute time and funding to this important effort.



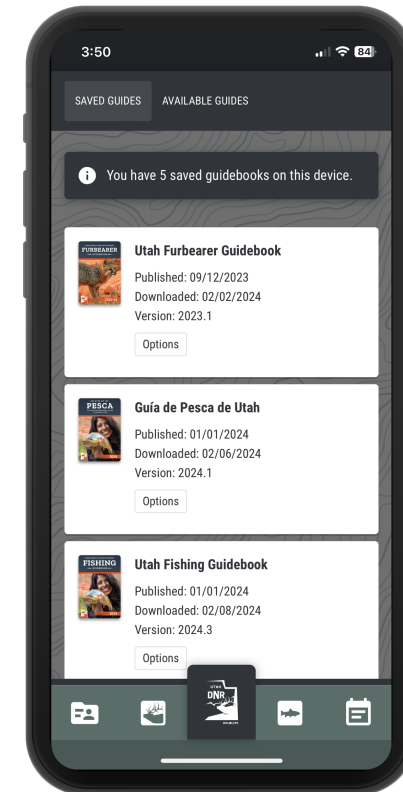
LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

- We are working to clear up questions about aquatic invasive species requirements:
 - Requirements vary based on whether your watercraft is motorized.
 - See complete details at stdofthesea.utah.gov.
- Three new officers will be in their districts on May 11 (Iron, Washington and Salt Lake counties).
- Two additional officers are in POST and will be in the field around July (Cache and Kane counties).



OUTREACH SECTION

- The Utah Hunting and Fishing app was updated yesterday (see wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp).
 - Download the regulation guidebooks to use offline.
 - Search guidebook content for specific keywords.
- Our Cache Valley Public Shooting Range is holding an open house on May 11 to celebrate the new shotgun building.
 - Open house attendees will enjoy free entry to the rifle, pistol and archery ranges, plus discounted rounds on the shotgun ranges.



WILDLIFE SECTION



MULE DEER

We captured and collared over 1,000 deer this past year. Statewide, adult survival is above 90%. In the north, fawn survival was average, but it was high everywhere else.



PINYON JAY

We are starting work on a conservation strategy for pinyon jay.

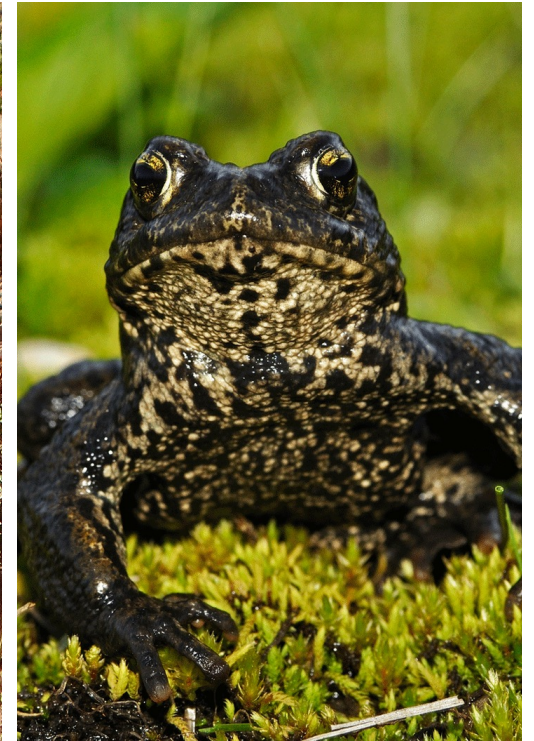
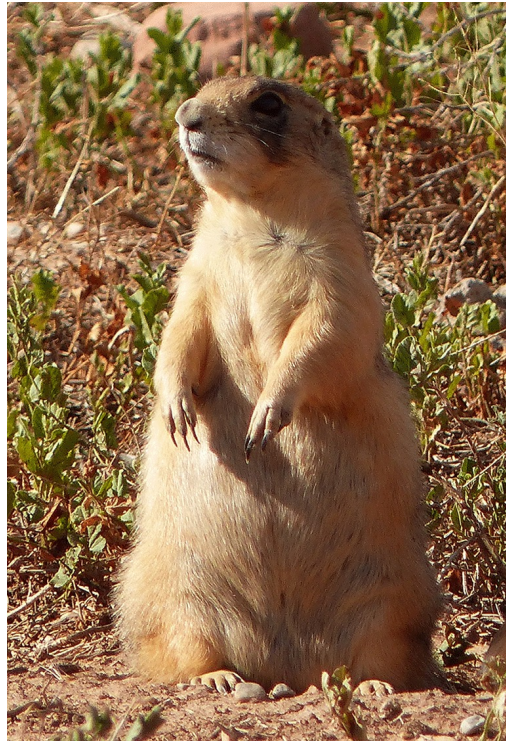


GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Sage-grouse lek counts are up by 15% statewide, and counts will conclude on May 7. The Panguitch Sage Grouse Management Area has the highest increase in lek visitation to date.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: ENDANGERED SPECIES MITIGATION FUND

- This program directs funding toward species and projects that proactively help to prevent Endangered Species Act listings in Utah.
- Last week, ESMF allocated \$5.5 million to roughly 60 projects:
 - Recovery efforts for Utah species that are currently listed
 - Research to improve monitoring and prevent future listing decisions
 - Studies that will lead to habitat improvements for many species



THANK YOU



Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources

