



DWR UPDATE

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING | JAN. 9, 2025



PERSONNEL CHANGES

- J. Shirley retired on Dec. 31, and we wish him all the best!
- As of Jan. 1, all of Utah's conservation officers are part of the new Division of Law Enforcement within the Utah Department of Natural Resources. Methods to report poaching remain the same:
 - Phone: **800-662-3337**
 - Text: **847411**
 - App: **UTDWR**
 - Online: **wildlife.utah.gov/utip**



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

- Hunt drawing results for the spring limited-entry turkey hunt came out yesterday (Jan. 8).
- Apply for Utah's 2025 black bear hunts from **Feb. 4–18**.
- Apply for Utah's 2025 big game hunts from **March 20–April 24**.



AQUATIC SECTION

- Congress has reauthorized fish recovery programs in the Colorado and San Juan river basins for the next seven years. This will benefit the following fish species native to Utah:
 - **Humpback chub** (threatened)
 - **Razorback sucker** (endangered but recommended for downlisting to threatened)
 - **Colorado pikeminnow** (endangered)
 - **Bonytail** (endangered)
- There's solid ice at some higher-elevation waterbodies, but ice is still forming at many lower-elevation lakes and reservoirs. **Use caution** if you plan to ice fish.



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.



CONSERVATION OUTREACH SECTION

- February is the best time of year to see bald eagles in Utah. We'll be highlighting spots around the state where you can view bald eagles next month, and we'll also be offering a livestream.
- There will be a couple of ice fishing clinics this month in Price and Springville.
- Details for all upcoming wildlife events and clinics are available at wildlife.utah.gov/events.



WILDLIFE SECTION

- Big game captures are going well so far.
 - We had a 6-month-old fawn that was the heaviest we've seen in 10 years of research. It weighed 110 pounds!
- The 2024 tundra swan season did **not** close early.
- The shed hunting rules the board passed last year (May 2024) are now in effect. If you're going to gather shed antlers or horns from **Jan. 1 to May 31**, you must:
 - Complete the **free**, mandatory ethics course.
 - Carry the course-completion certificate (digital or paper version) while you're out gathering antlers.



A TRUE SPORTSMAN

We were very sad to hear of the unexpected passing of former board member Karl Hirst on Dec. 18, 2024.

Karl was an avid outdoorsman, hunter and wildlife advocate. He served on the Utah Wildlife Board from 2017-2023.

During his years on the board, Karl was extremely fair and thoughtful in his decisions on wildlife-management issues. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.



THANK
YOU



Utah Division of
Wildlife Resources

