



# DIVISION REPORT Q2 2024

UTAH DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

## DIVISION REPORT | STATEWIDE SERVICES

### COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

*Public Affairs Coordinator: Devan Chavez*

Our public affairs program would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our Board members for all their thoughtful service and feedback during their service. We really hope we continue working together to ensure that Utah State Parks have a positive impact on the state, the local communities, and the visitors who enjoy these beautiful areas.

Since our last Board meeting, our program has been heavily involved in assisting with our legislative reports, pushing springtime events, and sharing safety information on items like the Gunlock State Park Waterfalls.

- Springtime is here and our parks are starting to get busy once again. Come visit us at one of our fun [springtime events](#)! These events include egg hunts, National Kids to Parks Day, artisan celebrations, and much more.
- Last we saw each other, the State Parks Board voted in support of Scott Strong being named the new Director of the Utah Division of State Parks. We pushed out a press release which saw numerous outlets run [stories](#) on this exciting update. Congratulations, Scott!
- Antelope Island State Park Biologist Steve Bates was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Utah Wildlife Federation. Our program did a [joint news release](#) on this award and pushed out the announcement on social media. Great job, Steve!
- The waterfalls at Gunlock State Park have been back-and-forth multiple times this season. To help spread the word about current conditions, we have spoken with [multiple news outlets](#) on the importance of checking online before getting on the road.
- We have continued to push out our exciting updates to the annual pass - including the new mobile/digital option. Along with our [website posts](#) and updates on social media, we have also seen some good news coverage on the change - such as [this segment](#) done on Sand Hollow State Park by St. George News.
- Finally, we are working on a big upcoming set of segments with Alana Brophy from ABC4. We will be visiting five state parks, with each park getting both a special packaged segment on the fun things to do, as well as a live segment where Alana will do the weather from the park (or nearby if service is an issue). The current parks

we are planning on are: Dead Horse Point, Edge of the Cedars/Goosenecks, Goblin Valley, Escalante Petrified Forest, and Gunlock. Once we get dates nailed down, we will get in touch with the DMOs.

## DIVISION REPORT | STATEWIDE SERVICES

### HERITAGE PROGRAM

*Heritage, Interpretation, & ADA Resources Manager: Justina Parsons-Bernstein*

- Monica continues to serve our internal and external customers by creating beautiful interpretive graphics and exhibit displays of astounding quality. Since the last quarterly report, Monica has been busy creating exhibits and waysides for Anasazi State Park, Escalante Petrified Forest State Park, Snow Canyon State Park, Wasatch Mountain State Park, Great Salt Lake State Park, and many others. See below her recent rendition of a wall mural and exhibits she is designing for Escalante Petrified Forest State Park's Visitor Center. The mural features a Camarasaurus, a large sauropod that feasted on the trees that grew millions and millions of years ago in the area that Escalante Petrified Forest State Park sits on. Other display elements include cutting-edge research on the park's petrified logs, real dinosaur bones, petrified wood, large-scale maps of the location's interesting geology, and more. The goal is to have the exhibits designed and fabricated in time for the park's grand opening of a new campground this spring.



- In early February, Monica attended a great and energizing three-day audio description training. The training focused on how to do good audio description to make video programming more accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This is accomplished by inserting spoken descriptions during pauses in dialogue of key visual elements that are happening in the video, such as settings and what characters look like and what they are wearing, etc. The sessions also

included tips for creating good interpretive writing. Monica reported that she learned lots of stuff that will benefit Utah State Parks interpretive materials.

- In early February, Justina attended a two-day American Association of State and Local History online training on how history entities can engage in our country's Semiquincentennial (a.k.a. 250th anniversary) programming and celebrations. She shared resources from the training with parks about how they can get involved, such as:

**The Library of Congress' *America's Invitation--Sharing Stories Project***

<https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2023/07/our-invitation-to-you-celebrate-americas-250th-anniversary/#:~:text=In%202026%2C%20just%20three%20years,taking%20part%20in%20this%20commemoration> and

**AASLH's *Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial: Making History at 250***

<http://download.aaslh.org/Making+History+at+250+Field+Guide.pdf>

- In mid-February, Justina attended the public opening for the Museum of Moab's temporary exhibit centering on the Moab Citizen Isolation Center. This was a cooperative project between Utah State Parks and the museum. The partnership we have formed with the museum has been tremendously mutually beneficial. The Moab Citizen Isolation Center was situated on the decommissioned Dalton Wells Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp from January through April 1943. That historic site is contained within the boundaries of Utah State Park. Justina's research, content, and layout ideas were featured in some of the displays in the Moab Museum's exhibit. Attending the exhibit opening allowed Justina the rare opportunity to observe people taking in the displays and being able to ask questions about how they received the information, whether we had missed the mark anywhere, and what they wanted to learn more about. Justina shares a few photos from the opening below.





- Justina coordinated a training in mid-February for all Heritage staff and Administration on the new NAGPRA regulations and how these new regulations may affect our museums and collections. Curator/Archaeologist Liz Nagengast-Stevens from Fremont Indian State Park, Woody Johnson, curator from Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum, and Don Montoya, Utah State Parks NAGPRA compliance coordinator, all gave presentations on the topic.
- In March, Justina helped with an archaeological survey of a historic border fence slated for replacement on Antelope Island (the old cedar posts running out into the lake bed will be left alone). The thrice-rescheduled-because-of-weather survey ended up finally happening on the perfect First Day of Spring! Archaeologist Liz Nagengast-Stevens, from Fremont Indian State Park, led us on the survey with Antelope Island State Park Manager Wendy Wilson and Antelope Island State Park Curator Carl Aldrich rounding out our team. The photos below show the different versions and remnants of the historic boundary fence slated for replacement.





- Lastly, Justina compiles interpretation program stats every year for informational purposes for things like legislator or media inquiries. **In 2023, 29 out of our 46 parks reported holding educational programs of some type. These parks offered a combined whopping total of 12,793 educational programs. An impressive 46,584 adults and 65,332 youths made a total of 111,916 individuals who participated in our program offerings in 2023.**

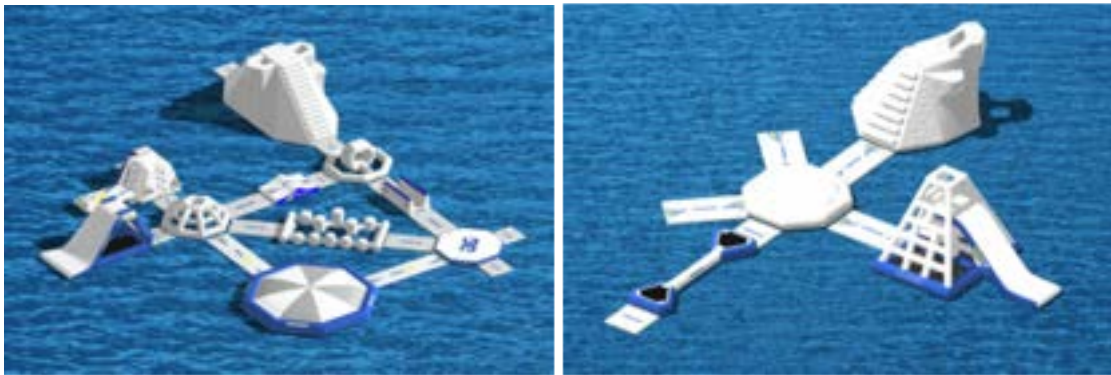
## DIVISION REPORT | STATEWIDE SERVICES

### CONCESSIONS PROGRAM

*Concessions Program Manager: Mike Long*

The Concessions Program has one full-time manager, Mike Long, and one part-time IT coordinator, Bill Jeter. The following highlights what the Concessions Program has been working on since the previous Board meeting:

- State Parks currently has 26 long-term (more than five years) concession contracts in place with a new contract soon to be finalized.
- We awarded a contract to one new vendor for the following services in 2024:
  - Red Fleet and Steinaker – Motorized watercraft rentals and a water park was awarded to SUPCOLO d/b/a Adrift Adventures. See photo below.



- Currently we have two RFPs publicly posted for new contracts to begin in 2024:
  - Utah Lake – jet ski rentals.
  - Anasazi – food services.
- Two different sauna companies reached out looking to begin working with our parks—one that builds the saunas and another that provides barrel saunas for “contrast therapy.” We should have a sauna or two in some parks within the next few months to test out these concepts. See photos below.





- We are having discussions with a company looking to provide an outdoor adventure playground concept at Snow Canyon that will use some portions of the park that are not often visited. See photos below.



- We began the planning process for 2025 summer concessions and will solidify ideas as we move into the early summer months.
  - Three contracts are set to expire before the end of 2024, but all three include renewal options. It is highly likely we will exercise the renewal options for all three contracts.

- We are working with Rockport and Echo to purchase motorized watercraft equipment for rentals and other concession services in 2024.
- We continue to provide ongoing support for procurements, contracts, and IT needs.

**DIVISION REPORT | STATEWIDE SERVICES****LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**  
*Chief of Law Enforcement: Eric Stucki*

- With school spring breaks in full swing, our rangers have been busy. So far this quarter they have recorded 1,661 reports and written 1,136 citations. These rangers have attended to 35 Search and Rescues at the State Parks. Our ranger numbers have decreased slightly to 57 full-time rangers across the state. This is due to some rangers switching to the Division of Outdoor Recreation and a couple others finding employment elsewhere. Our rangers also helped with the first big event of the year at Sand Hollow. This event was called *Matt's Off Road Wrecker Games* and drew in thousands of people. See photos below.



- Our rangers have also been adjusting to T-Mobile service switch over and working through this major change in area reception.
- Our rangers participated in Ranger School that provided 40 hours of hands-on Peace Officer Standard Training (POST) that will be reported to Utah POST. These 40 hours of training are to be reported yearly and must be achieved by each officer to maintain POST certification each year. These 40 hours of training included 16 hours of mental health training for each ranger as required by the Utah Legislature. This provides the four areas of training in Autism, Critical Incident Mental Health, Arrest Control Tactics, and De-escalation. This year we provided role players for de-escalation training and the rangers had to defuse the situation to the instructors' satisfaction.
- The Law Enforcement section is heavily involved with the Division of Outdoor Recreation in tracking rangers' boating and OHV hours and communication with each other for patrols. The Division of State Parks did receive a mental health grant that helped in paying for Peer Support Training for its "Division of Utah State Parks Peer Support Team." This team provides peer support to State Park employees who need to visit with someone that will listen to them after an incident or tragedy. The Law Enforcement program plans to implement a pilot program this summer in Wasatch and Washington Counties. The program will measure and study the combined working efforts of the Outdoor Recreation and State Parks rangers working together to cover State Parks, boating, and OHV areas. We hope this gives us insight to help prepare for the January 2025 switch-over to the Division of Law Enforcement.

## DIVISION REPORT | REGION REPORT

### NORTH REGION

*Region Manager: Chris Haramoto*

#### **North Region Office**

- Employee development is a top priority for us, and we have made significant strides through our CAMP mentorship program. The program has seen excellent participation from both mentors and mentees. See photo below.



- Additionally, numerous construction projects are currently underway or nearing completion, including the North Eden Campground at Bear Lake State Park and the new addition to the Willow Creek Campground at Willard Bay State Park. As we gear up for a busy summer season, we are incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of our park teams.

#### **North Region Law Enforcement Report**

- The North Region had a great winter. All of our officers were able to get through their core POST required training hours this winter and are ready to hit the ground running for the summer with great skills. Our officers did a lot of snowmobile enforcement throughout the region and helped to educate our user groups. As we move into springtime, they are now starting to transition into hiring seasonals and getting their parks ready for the upcoming season. As a region, we did hold two

snowmobile checkpoints throughout the North and found that we generally had good compliance. In April, our region will be starting a pilot program in Wasatch County with six officers in which we will evaluate how our Law Enforcement merger will be run starting in January. What this means is our park managers will focus only on their parks, while this Law Enforcement group will handle all the Law Enforcement needs in this county. We hope to learn a lot from this group so that moving forward in January with the merger, we are better for it.

### **Antelope Island State Park - Wendy Wilson**

- Antelope Island has a new Park Manager. Wendy is very excited to be in this new role and looks forward to continuing to make Antelope Island State Park a must-visit destination. We also just filled the Assistant Manager position. Brock James started on March 30.
- We will be laying down a slurry seal on the East Side/Ranch Road as soon as the weather is warm enough. We are putting in a new field fence in White Rock Bay that will serve multiple purposes: mark the north-end boundary, prevent unauthorized vehicles from accessing the backcountry trails, and aid in rounding up the bison. Bison have been active on the north end, probably as a result of some habitat work Steven Bates did this fall. It provides excellent viewing for the public.
- Steve Bates recently won the Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award from the Utah Wildlife Federation for the work he has done in improving bison and wildlife habitat in general at Antelope Island.
- We want to thank the Board for all the work they have done over the years supporting State Parks!



### **Bear Lake State Park - Richard Droesbeke**

- We are gearing up to open North Eden to the public in May, a development that promises exciting opportunities for visitors. The Rainbow Cove project is progressing ahead of schedule, indicating a swift and efficient implementation. Additionally, the marina expansion project is set to commence earth-moving activities immediately after Labor Day, a significant step towards enhancing our recreational facilities.
- We recently hosted a highly successful Bear Lake Monster Winterfest at the end of January, with an impressive turnout of around 408 registered participants taking the plunge. This marked the highest attendance in the event's 15-year history, with approximately 100 more participants than last year, reflecting the growing popularity and success of the event.



### **Camp Floyd State Park Museum - Clay Shelley**

- Camp Floyd State Park recently offered a fascinating tour of the Camp Floyd Cemetery, providing visitors with a unique glimpse into the past. Additionally, the park hosted two successful service projects, where dedicated volunteers crafted Lincoln Logs and helped beautify the area around the Camp Floyd Cemetery. The Park also organized a well-received volunteer open house, highlighting the importance of community involvement and support.



### **Deer Creek State Park - Stephen Studebaker**

- This year we did not see any measurable ice on the lake, which allowed continuous access for boats. The water levels have been very high, so we will enter our boating season early and busy.
- Staff worked on painting restrooms and remodeling some that needed a good facelift. We also reworked our camp host program. The new program has sparked a lot of interest and has yielded great results, as we now have a waiting list for hosts.
- We will open our campground two weeks earlier than we ever have before.
- We want to express our gratitude to the Board for their efforts on our behalf, as well as the rest of the Division.



### **East Canyon State Park - Eric Bradshaw**

- This winter was odd. Our ice fishing season was pretty much non-existent, with the only safe ice fishing in one of the coves. We saw very little visitation as a result of these poor ice conditions. With the low visitation, our Park staff have kept themselves busy improving and updating the retail and rental buildings.
- We have established new contracts with multiple suppliers to get better pricing and better products. This will save us time because staff are no longer driving down and shopping for goods; now they are being delivered to the Park.
- Staff have been planning out all the events from now until fall. We started the spring with our Extravaganza event which had good attendance and lots of excited kids greeting the Easter Bunny. Other events this year range from Dark Sky parties to fishing tournaments and more.
- Staff have been making preparations for de-winterizing the concession store and campgrounds. We are getting everything ready for spring and summer. Looking forward to a great summer season!





### **Echo State Park - Cade Pies**

- As winter winds down at Echo State Park, this season's weather did not deliver the icy conditions we expected. This led to fewer winter ice fishing enthusiasts and the cancellation of two ice fishing tournaments due to safety concerns. Visitation has been lower than average in recent months.
- The Echo team has smoothly transitioned into planning for spring and summer. Priorities include installing a fish cleaning station, enhancing a reservoir-side parking lot, establishing a dry boat storage area, creating a reservable day-use area, and improving the concession program.
- Our seasonal hiring efforts have been successful, with approximately 20 additional employees joining us to bolster our summer operations. With these preparations underway, we are eagerly anticipating a busy, successful spring and summer season ahead at Echo State Park.



### **Flight Park State Recreational Area - Joshua Holt**

- There is a lot of construction going on in the area, but not at the Park itself. The Park is still there and has not blown away. We are seeing minimal camping. There is not a lot to report, as we cannot do much up there at this time as we are trying to remain self-sufficient, and the only money that comes in is through camping revenue.



### **Great Salt Lake State Park and Marina - Dave Shearer**

- With the abundant winter precipitation, we are thrilled about the prospect of increasing the number of boats in our marina. Our goal is to double the current amount, thereby reducing the number of boats in the parking lot. The lake's water level has already risen by two feet this winter and is expected to increase by another two feet before summer, despite an anticipated 1.5 foot reduction due to evaporation. This will mark the second consecutive year of a net rise in lake levels.

- Our concessionaire, Exclusive Excursions, had a highly successful season last year, prompting the purchase of a third tour boat. Plans are underway to operate all three boats simultaneously, with the first launch scheduled for early April and all three boats expected to be in operation by mid-May.
- Unfortunately, this will be the last year for the popular Mirabilite Tours, as all the mirabilites are currently submerged and will remain so for the next winter or two.



#### **Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail - Charity Owens**

- Summit County has submitted a Letter of Intent to assume ownership of the Rail Trail. The Rail Trail contractor was able to groom the trail through most of the season. We have been holding the contractor accountable for failed evaluations. He is actively working on the trail, getting it ready for the summer season.



#### **Hyrum State Park - Chris Bradshaw**

- The reservoir froze over late this winter. The ice was never very good, which only allowed ice fishing for about a week and a half. As a result of poor ice conditions, visitation and revenue collections were low this winter.

- There was an outdoor curling event scheduled on the reservoir, but it was canceled due to the ice conditions. The event organizer is interested in holding the event next year.
- Special Olympics Utah was able to hold its annual Polar Plunge, but it was more of a wading event than a plunge.
- Staff spent time grooming snowmobile trails and attending training.



### **Jordanelle State Park - Jason Whittaker**

- Visitation remains slow, due to the winter months. The reservoir remained at over 80% capacity all winter long and never froze over. This was great for the fishermen with boats, but not so great for those that enjoy ice fishing.
- The Strawberry Grooming Complex has been running well this season. We have definitely not seen the snowfall we experienced last year, but enough storms to keep the trails fresh and busy. One of our seasonal groomers, Chris Johnson, has been nominated for the Governor's Employee Recognition Award for his heroic efforts rescuing dozens of stranded motorists with our snowcat in January, during a blizzard that shut down most of Wasatch County.
- Our Lead Maintenance/Journey Construction employee started on March 27. Jeff Stoltenburg brings a wealth of maintenance experience from working with Arizona State Parks and owning his own business. We are excited to have our maintenance team back to full staff after being down an employee since May.
- We are busy gearing up for the summer season. We have been holding interviews for seasonal employees and anticipate opening the campground in the next week or so if the snow will melt between snowstorms.
- The Rock Cliff Campground project has slowed down due to weather. We are finishing up with the underground and planning on tying the sewer into the main

Jordanelle Special Service District line this week. The bridge was delivered but too muddy to install.



#### **Jordan River OHV State Park - Randall Berger**

- During this period, we have been busy maintaining our equipment, ensuring everything is in top condition for the upcoming season.
- We have also been hard at work on track repairs, particularly pumping water off the Main and Vet tracks over a total of five weeks. Our focus has also been on track changes, striving to prepare them for the Parks opening weekend on April 6-7.
- As part of our preparations, we have constructed a new starting gate dog house and a finish line building, enhancing our facilities for the enjoyment of our visitors.



### **Lost Creek State Park - Mercer Owens**

- Lost Creek did eventually cap with ice and had a few good weekends of ice fishing. We were able to keep on top of the snow plowing all winter and kept access open to all parking lots in the Park.
- We acquired a new UTV for maintenance in the Park.



### **Rockport State Park - Charity Owens**

- Rockport State Park is gearing up for an exciting season with new additions and improvements.
- After successful hiring fairs at local high schools, we are fully staffed for spring and summer, with a focus on adding a concession and retail program at the marina.
- Our interpretation events are expanding, including the 30th anniversary of the Dam Jam, and we are extending the Lake View Trail by one mile.
- We are doubling the Hobiecat Sailboat Dry Storage spaces to meet demand.
- With water levels at 82% capacity, we anticipate another profitable year ahead.



### Utah Lake State Park - Joshua Holt

- There are a lot of things happening at Utah Lake. We are at the settling stage of the Dam that has been installed on the old Provo River Channel as part of the Delta Restoration Project. This will have to settle for about a year, and then they will install the rest of the dam features. We are seeing movement on the playground construction in the center lawn area. This will take a majority of the summer to complete, but we are excited for the final project. We were able to get some additional asphalt repair work committed through DFCM. This will help the South Side of the park immensely.
- We are working with the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands on two fronts. We have one of their arborists doing a tree inventory and risk assessment for three areas in the Park. We also have an agreement with one of their fire crews to use half of a large out-building to base out of and operate for the summer and moving forward.
- Water - we have some! Currently the lake sits at 100% capacity. There were a few days that it went to 102% capacity. This is both good and bad news. Good because we will have a great boating season. Bad because runoff has not hit yet and we have nowhere to put water. The local farmers' fields have already been flooded just from groundwater. We have a pump that is continually pumping to keep water out of the Park. Combine the lake levels with the wind events from a couple weeks ago, and we have some structural damage to one of our jetties. We have it closed off, and will get repairs when water levels drop to a point that any repair would not become damaged again. There is water in a lot of areas that don't normally have water. See photo to the right.
- We have already been able to hire our full complement of seasonals for this upcoming season. This is awesome, as we are usually struggling to find people clear into April or May.
- We are looking forward to an awesome season.



### **Wasatch Mountain State Park - Jonathan Hunt**

- Our staff is eager for the snow to melt off the fairways and are feeling a bit of Spring Fever as we look forward to getting back into full swing in the next few weeks.
- In March, we hosted the IBU World Cup Biathlon, attracting top biathletes worldwide. The event was particularly exciting due to the new competition and media building, providing a stunning view of the course and accommodating year-round events. Additionally, Soldier Hollow was chosen as the headquarters for the U.S. Biathlon offices, bringing staff on-site and encouraging athletes to live and train here for the Olympics. Our USA teams exceeded expectations at the event, thrilling the crowd with their performances.
- Our clubhouse restaurants have new concession contracts, with Soldier Hollow's new restaurant opening to great reviews and retaining most of the previous staff. We have also welcomed a new Golf Professional, Dave Sim, who joins us from a local course and is expected to be a great fit.
- Looking ahead, we are preparing to open several new additions to the Park, including camping loops, a playground, and 3D archery targets, all scheduled for completion in April. Reservations for the campground are already booked for much of the summer.



### **Willard Bay State Park - Ben Meraz**

- We are pleased to announce the opening of our new entrance building and road, which are now directing traffic efficiently.
- The expansion of Willow Creek Campground is nearing completion, with punch list items being addressed to ensure readiness for reservations shortly. This expansion includes the addition of power and water to all sites, enhancing the camping experience.



- Additionally, the construction of the Osprey day-use area, located south of Pelican Beach, is progressing and expected to be completed soon, offering visitors another exciting amenity to enjoy.



**DIVISION REPORT | REGION REPORT**

EAST REGION

*Region Manager: Megan Blackwelder***East Region**

- We want to express our most sincere thank you to the Utah State Parks Board for loving State Parks as much, or more, than we do! Thanks for visiting our parks, chatting with our staff, and continually supporting us. We are sad that the Board is dissolving, but this doesn't have to be goodbye! We hope to see you in the parks, and we will continue to welcome you as part of our team. Thank you for your service to the Board!

**Anasazi State Park - Jamie Skidmore**

- Anasazi lost our long time retail manager to retirement on Valentine's Day. Brenda Woolsey had been with the Park for 25 years. She left some big shoes to fill. The job posting closed on March 21 and we are hopeful to get the incumbent person in by mid-April.
- We have had two projects going on at Anasazi the last couple of months. The museum has been closed since December 18 to facilitate these projects.
- We had new glulams and fascia added to our roofs that cover the archeological site. The old fascia was not tough enough to handle Boulder's harsh weather conditions and was having to be replaced about every four to five years. The new upgrade should last more than 20. Unfortunately, during the project we had some damage to the site caused by the removal of the old guttering system and bad timing of a very wet storm. Now that the project is complete we will be working with an archaeological firm to fix the damage.
- Our big project is the remodel of the museum and gift shop. The new open floor plan will give us some much needed employee work space, triple the size of the old gift shop, and the museum displays will also be updated. The project is going well; we should have everything but carpet and cabinets completed by the end of March. We can start moving into offices once the carpet is complete in early April. Our reopening timeline has been set back by a delay in the making of the exhibit cabinetry, which will arrive sometime in May. We have projected the reopening to be sometime in June.

### **Dead Horse Point State Park - Jim Wells**

- The start of 2024 has seen some highs and lows in terms of revenue generation at Dead Horse Point State Park. Overall revenue is up slightly, about 2% vs. the same timeframe in 2023, with lower day-use visitation being offset by higher income from camping, permit fees, and retail sales. In order to further increase lodging revenue, we have dropped our two-day minimum yurt stay. We are already seeing the vacant dates being filled in, bringing in an extra couple thousand dollars each month.
- Our one bit of exciting news this quarter is the opening of Zeb-U-D's Dark Horse Café - the first food concessions in the Park since 2020. They are operating under a one-year Special Use Permit, and have taken over the vacant concessions stand left by the former Pony Espresso Coffee Shop. A variety of breakfast and lunch items are available. While a soft opening has already taken place, the owner plans to offer regular hours starting Wednesday, March 27. As she is still new to the industry, there is a bit of a learning curve to overcome, but we wish her the very best and will do what we can to help her succeed.



### **Edge of the Cedars/Goosenecks State Parks - Chris Hanson**

Edge of the Cedars:

- Kathleen Martin, our Outreach and Programs Coordinator, has “taken our show on the road” a number of times already this year. On February 12 in Bluff and then on February 13 in Montezuma Creek, Kathleen, along with staff from the Bears Ears Education Center, hosted Dark Sky parties for the communities. Both events had nice turnouts and participants were able to learn about the importance of Dark Skies.

- In February, Kathleen demonstrated at the Moab School District's "Stem'onstration" event. Over 600 students and parents learned about a wide variety of science, technology, engineering, and math (and, of course, history.) Participants included Utah State Parks, National Park Service, BLM, USFS, and the Moab School District.
- April 3 and 4 Kathleen will be taking our two telescopes for a Dark Sky training with the National Park Service at the Needles District of Canyonlands.
- April 8 we will be hosting a low-key solar eclipse at the Edge of the Cedars. Using glasses left over from the recent annual eclipse, solar binoculars, and our new solar telescope, visitors will be able to safely view the total eclipse. It will be approximately 68% at our location.
- Our curator Jonathan and his assistant Jenson completed and installed a new exhibit featuring samples of our large collection of Ancestral Pueblo mugs. It has been well received both in person and on social media. The San Juan Record ran an article on the exhibit. See article to the right.
- Staff has taken advantage of the "off season" to do a lot of deep cleaning and minor repairs around the museum. Chris Lee, our Building and Grounds Supervisor, did a major remodel of our public restrooms. The restrooms were repainted, fixtures were upgraded to automatic flush, and the floor tile was replaced.

#### Goosenecks State Park:

- March 1 marked the beginning of staffing the fee station for the season. In preparation, we replaced the flooring and repainted the door trim.
- In cooperation with the Bears Ears Education Center, we hosted educational activities for elementary school students from Bluff on March 20 and Montezuma Creek on March 21. Activities included hiking, viewing the sun through our new solar telescope, science and craft projects, and the ever-popular "turkey talk". Monument Valley elementary school will come to the Park for the same program in April.



A Mugu Black-on-white mug, with a mesa showing the painted design on the mug's bottom.

#### Mugs! New Exhibit at Edge of the Cedars

Consider our new exhibit, Mugs! which features... mugs! Perhaps the most iconic pottery form of the Ancestral Pueblo community in the Four Corners, mugs are also a staple of our collection. Mugu-making was a tradition that only spanned a relatively short period of time, about 200 years, from the late AD 1000s to about AD 1300. This remarkable stretch of history included the apex of the Chaco Phenomenon and the construction of dozens of large villages between Cedar Mesa and Mesa Verde. Our assistant curator Jenson Bayles, helped assemble and organize this small but interesting exhibit with about 30 mugs. Picked from the shelves of our Visible Storage Room, these items are even more visible now to the visiting public. Mugs! will exhibit through 2024.

### **Fred Hayes State Park at Starvation - Dillon Gill**

- The reservoir is currently at 98% capacity and sustaining with moderate river flows on the lower Strawberry River. The Central Utah Water Conservancy District plans to reach 100% capacity and spill-over around mid-May. All boats, docks, and piers have been built and placed in the reservoir this week.
- Park Law Enforcement staff have been attending multiple trainings this spring. The trainings included: annual POST requirement hours training (Ranger School), Drug Recognition Expert, snowmobile tactical, and boat operators/close quarters. See photo to the right of Ranger Hughes performing a maneuver at boat OP training.
- Park staff along with park volunteers have been removing overgrown brush around the boat ramp parking and upper-day use parking areas. Staff has also trimmed some of the trees around the Lower Beach campground.
- Mountain View campground and Lower Beach Campground both received crack seal work on all the asphalt. Further asphalt work is projected for sometime in April, May, or June depending on weather conditions.
- Fred Hayes State Park management has been working on processing Special Use Permits all spring long. As of right now we are looking at several fishing tournament permits, two triathlons, and around 14 guided fishing outfitters.
- The photo below is a community of barn swallows on a cliff face ledge at Indian Bay.



### **Goblin Valley - Drew Sprafke**

- The winter and early spring season at Goblin Valley has been characterized by generally good weather with only a few days of snow or severe winds. This resulted in steady visitation even during the colder months, and a significant increase in visitation heading into the current “spring break” season. We are currently experiencing typical heavy spring visitation with a full campground almost every night and very busy weekends that have just started nearing or hitting capacity.
- Staff completed multiple projects and initiatives this winter. Trail wayfinding was improved on the Goblin’s Lair Trail and Carmel Canyon, as well as on an OHV route along Wildhorse Creek, and new benches were built and placed on the Curtis Bench Trail. Multiple unsanctioned OHV routes were closed for reclamation, and staff began work to mark campsites and designated routes in the Behind the Butte camping area. Along with this, two grant applications have been submitted for improvements to this area, one through the Recreation Restoration Infrastructure Grant and one through the OHV Recreation Grant. If approved, these grants will help fund restrooms, fire rings, picnic tables and signage for the dispersed campsites, along with a tractor that will allow park staff to maintain the area and park trails. We are also coordinating on a project with the Backcountry Horsemen to improve equestrian camping in the park, and a project with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance to work on wilderness boundaries as they also work on projects with the BLM.
- This season has remained quiet for incidents and rescues. Staff did receive a report of a human skull in a small cave located in Goblin’s Lair. See photo to the right. Staff responded to investigate and determined it to be fake, however it did make for a very interesting evening! Our Law Enforcement



officer has been assisting with area patrols and special events, including working the Watermelon Crawl ATV gathering and planning for saturation patrols for Easter weekend in the San Rafael Swell, and all of our staff have now completed First Aid/CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed and basic search and rescue training. Along with this, we are also getting back into interpretive program season with several March programs, including a ranger-led geology hike and a full moon hike.

- Park staff are facing several challenges going into the spring. The most significant has been with seasonal hiring. We have struggled with candidates turning down offers and backing out after accepting, and we are still down two positions. We have hired three energetic seasonals who are learning quickly, and we are hopeful to fill one more position very soon. We have also been facing some vandalism to improvements we have been making in the dispersed camping sites that were transferred from the BLM, including bullet holes in signs, shooting in campsites, a broken kiosk leg, and illegal cross-country OHV travel. We are hoping that steady efforts each time these issues occur, and more staff presence, can help deter these incidents, but are challenged by the aforementioned staffing issues.
- News Story: [Goblin Valley - ever heard of it? Here's what you need to know \(westernslopenow.com\)](https://westernslopenow.com)

### **Green River State Park and Golf Course - Nathan Martinez**

- We are currently working on natural gas conversion for the Park. We have a couple of bids and are hoping to get one finalized, so hopefully we can get the conversion done before the new power switch is installed for the campground upgrade. We have an update on when the power switch gear is going to be delivered: April 25. Wadsworth construction says that they should be here to get it installed as soon as it arrives.
- We have most of our seasonal positions filled and we are ready for the season to get started. The golf course is already busy and the campground will be full by the end of the month. We have also been working on getting the tiny homes ready. We have set up and cleaned all the furniture; now we just need to get the air conditioning installed and they should be ready to go. We have mini-splits ordered and they should be here soon. We are grateful for all the help the Region Crew has put into getting them set up.

### **Huntington/Millsite/Scofield State Parks - Brad Walker**

- Scofield saw and continues to see a lot of ice fishing this year as it was one of the first lakes frozen and remains frozen.
- The Huntington Park office remodel is completed. See photo to the right.
- To date we have received over 35 applications for seasonal workers. To Brad's understanding this is near record high for applications.
- Millstie and Huntington State Parks will have all facilities open and ready to go by this Friday. Docks are in at Huntington State Park and we hope to have them in at Millsite State Park in the next few weeks.
- The new well and water distribution project at Scofield is done. We are just waiting for the thaw off for the final walk-through and start up of the new system.
- April 19 and 20 is the rescheduled Millsite on Ice fishing tournament, due to not having sufficient ice in February to hold the event.
- We will be hiring for a full-time Park Ranger II position and an Assistant Park Manager for Huntington, Millsite, and Scofield this month.
- Cody and Brad learned the complete operations of snow grooming. Both of them had never done anything like this before. Josh Hansen, Utahraptor State Park Manager, helped us learn to snow groom! See photo to the right of Cody and Brad with the snow groomer.
- Brad successfully completed the Lead in 30 leadership class.
- Operating with only two full-time staff has been a bit of a challenge, however we have persevered. We've had to juggle the snow grooming with just Cody as the only CDL driver, and Brad filling in for grooming as well as maintaining Park Manager duties.





### **Palisade State Park - Bevan Monroe**

- Palisade has had a busy spring. We have been removing the dead out of our trees. This has consumed much of our staff's time. Brian and Chase have been primarily working on them.
- Brian has also kept very busy with the grooming program, chasing the snow each week. Snow levels look good for our area.
- Jordan received the Merchandiser of the Year award for the golf shop. Looking at the shop and all his merchandise, he definitely deserves it. See photos below. Jordan has been working on a redesign in the shop and it is looking really good.



- We have the newer carts from Wasatch and Soldier Hollow. Jordan has been working on getting the seats replaced that have rips in them and Dallan is working on the mechanical side of things to get them operational.
- We had a couple major culinary leaks in Wakara Campground. The crew came and helped us with repairs. These leaks are presumed to have been a problem for several years. Megan purchased a device that helped us locate the leaks and isolate the areas that were problematic.

### **Steinaker/Red Fleet State Parks - Amanda White**

- Spring fever is in full force! Steinaker was never completely capped, so we got the wedge dock in late February and boaters were on the water that day. Campers have started to come in and enjoy an early season.
- We have started working with a local youth group leader to get volunteer days scheduled and we are excited about the future relationship.

- Steinaker's long term campsites are in the process of being emptied out so we can repair the septic system. The water tank sensors at Steinaker are in the works to get fixed and there is a good bit of erosion from when the tank overfilled.
- We are working on adding the canvas tent site to Steinaker's campground.
- Staff have been working on resource management, shop organization, and getting interviews scheduled for the new seasonal employees.
- Our OHV grant is going well. We will have to work around a nesting bald eagle pair on the southwest side of the lake. It will require the trail to be seasonally closed when the pair is building the nest, brooding, and has a young fledging. All things we can work around.
- Red Fleet construction continues, but not with the same gusto. February brought bad news that original septic plans were not approved. The redesign was approved just recently. This has pushed the anticipated completion date to the end of July, as there was a significant change in the plans which requires more earth moving and reworking some previously completed piping. We look forward to its completion and are trusting the process.
- Our Rangers have been out and about all over the State. Riese Lutz has been helping at events across the State. See photo to the right. He has been out on side-by-sides and snowmobiles. He helped local DWR staff with some snowmobile training and operation. Trent Currie has been busy with multiple training sessions. He has almost completed Drug Recognition Enforcement. He will also be involved in a FTO training course to become another FTO for State Parks.



### **Utah Field House State Park - Steve Sroka**

#### Park Operations

- Our visitation to the museum has dropped during the late fall through winter, from November through February, from last year. For this quarter, from December through February, we ended up with a museum count total of 3,996 people. During the same period the previous year we had 5,224 visitors. We believe the drop was

due, in part, to just so mild of a winter here that people didn't seek inside activities as much.

- Tyson is catching up on updating PIMS and to some extent Aestiva.
- An old strand lighting dimmer for the gift shop failed and Tyson could not find a replacement without ordering a new control unit. We have not purchased it yet, but in the interim he reprogrammed the lighting to work on an alternate dimmer.
- The gift shop remodel has been a success; although we have not been able to fully evaluate it because it was done too late in the fall.
- Colleen attended the Denver retail trade show in the beginning of February.
- We moved the fossil log to a new place in the Jurassic Hall. See photo below. The exhibit is not completed yet and we have plans for additional new exhibits – living gars and an interactive game on the Eocene – this coming year.



#### Issues

- No progress was made on the failed ice melt system for ramp and steps.
- The building is beginning to age, now 20 years old, and some things that break no longer have parts available. We continue to keep the building looking good.
- Expensive equipment for maintaining a clean pond.
- Maintaining an aging lighting system.
- Old and outdated audio and visual equipment.
- An issue Nichole is currently facing is creating caption and audio description files for filmed guest speaker lectures to be posted online.

#### Education

- The museum is still a popular choice for spring semester school field trips, with seven school groups receiving tours for a total of 203 people attending since

February. The fossil lab is the most popular tour and is often requested regardless of age group.

- Kids' Classes are becoming more popular with several regularly attending students in both age groups. See photo below.



- Nichole filmed a guest speaker program, "40 years and still digging at the Mygatt-Moore Quarry by Dr. Julia McHugh," with permission to post accessible files online with credit and tagging.
- We did 15 programs for 389 people. This includes two of John Foster's outreach lectures for 62 and 50 people, respectively.

#### Collections

- New volunteer Michael Ford got a number of vulnerable specimens cradled with ethafoam.
- Photography of the collections reached 8872 specimens, or 45.0% of the collection.
- We started preparations on the sauropod dorsal from the Jorgensen Quarry and got one side nearly finished.
- We cataloged 184 new specimens into the collections.
- John published a paper on Cambrian trilobites of the Uinta Mountains in the *Journal of Paleontology*.
- The paper describing the fossil camel bone that is on display is in the final draft. We hope to have it published before long. This is the oldest Pleistocene (ice-age time) fossil camel in Utah.

#### **Utahraptor State Park - Josh Hansen**

- Construction is moving forward in full force. The visitor center/entrance building has been framed and looks great. Crews continue to work on the staff housing and drywall should begin to be installed the last week of March 2024. We are still on

schedule for a projected substantial completion date sometime in November 2024. Supply chain issues for electrical components, namely transformers, are still an issue but we are optimistic these items will show up in a timely manner. See photos below.



- Strangely enough we have two to three companies that find Utahraptor to be a great place to launch and land hot air balloons. We have issued Special Use Permits for these businesses to provide this service within the Park for this coming year. Camping in the Park is starting to become busier with each passing day and as the temperatures continue to become more and more pleasant.

**DIVISION REPORT | REGION REPORT**

## SOUTHWEST REGION

*Region Manager: Wayne Monroe***Coral Pink State Park - Patrick Buhr**

January:

- We had a little bit of snow here and there but nothing too crazy. Patrick was able to go to West Virginia and attend the State Park Leadership School and had a great time and learned a lot!
- We have had the Special Use Permit season start and have had several requests for them. Our revenue is looking great so far. We changed some of our camping and day-use fees beginning January 1.
- Falyn from the State Park Board came and visited the Park. She loved the rollercoaster ride of the dunes and seeing SandSquatch!
- We finally started grooming operations as the snow came kind of late this year.

February:

- We were able to post the vacant Assistant Manager position and we had some great candidates. We were able to offer the job to Jaylin Broadbent, who has been the Lead Ranger Aide here at the Park the last three years and a seasonal the year before that. She has taken on a lot of responsibilities before becoming the Assistant Park Manager and we are happy to keep her around. She also graduated last year from Southern Utah University in Parks and Tourism.
- We continued grooming operations and February was fairly busy for that time of year. President's Day weekend was busy but cold and windy, so it wasn't as busy as we hoped. The campground was full, though, and we had to turn people away.

March:

- March started with a week of wind, which made for some slow days but always cleans the dunes up nice. Our new concessionarie is hitting the ground running and doing great so far. They are always looking for ways to expand and do more which is refreshing to see.
- We were contacted by the engineering department from the University of Colorado. Apparently their students built a replica of the worm from the movie Dune and they want to test/film it here in the sand. More details to come on that.

- Our Tiger Beetle grant with the BLM has opened up and it is a lot more work than it has been in the past. Patrick is working with Tiffany and Susan to hopefully get it all done by the deadline.
- We received a little bit of snow but camping has remained full and we're selling out any empty sites we have.
- Spring breaks have been steady so far but not super overwhelming.
- We had our Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt and it was another success! We had a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny and from Scott Strong! See photos below.



### **Escalante Petrified Forest State Park - Chad Jones**

- We have been working on several projects over the winter. One of those has been the floating boat dock. We moved it to the shop to work on it and discovered it is not in great condition. We are applying for a grant through the Division of Outdoor Recreation to get it replaced. See photo below.



- We have done a fair amount of tree work this winter. Recently we had several of our favorite trees fall after a heavy snowstorm. Staff and volunteers spent several days cutting and splitting the trees into firewood sized pieces. We are sad to lose the trees. See photos below.



- We are designing a water saving project that will create a fun place in the park that is not used at the moment. We are going to make a 100 foot by 45 foot "Astroturf" lawn for yard games like volleyball, cornhole, bocce and others. We will have games available to rent from the boat house rental center. See photo to the right.
- We are making progress on the museum. Justina and Monica have been creating the interpretive panels that will showcase the fossil record found within the Park. Esteemed local Artist Twila Owens will be painting a large mural of a Camarasaurus on the wall of the Visitor Center. Twila also painted murals at the Fremont Indian State Park Museum. See photo below.







- We are planning a grand opening ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new campground and the museum. It will be May 23 and all the Board members are invited.



### **Fremont - Kevin Taylor**

- The past few months we have had snow on the ground. Sam Stowe Campground remained open, and the cabins have been popular during the colder months. The museum still draws in many visitors and school groups this time of year. Below are photos of the Castle Rock Campground.



- We were invited to attend Cultural Industry Advocacy Day at the State Capital during the legislative session. Our table was set up next to Frontier Homestead State Park. The photos below show our table and the group of people that came from all over the state from private and public museums.



- Our maintenance staff have been doing projects around the park getting ready for the summer crowds. The photos below show some sign replacement and brush burning that was trimmed around the Park last summer. The signs were replaced because they were hit by a vehicle.



- Staff has stayed busy with training and some other duties outside of the Fremont Indian State Park. They consisted of archaeological surveys for other parks around the state, the annual ranger school, and planning for an exciting museum redesign. We also helped with trail grooming for snowmobiles in the mountains around the Park. See photos below.



### **Frontier Homestead - Giani Julander**

- Our annual Sheep to Shawl event was held March 16. Attendance was better this year than last year, but still wasn't as high as we had hoped. The weather was forecast to be rainy and snowy all day. It ended up being cloudy but not too cold with very little wind or rain. We wondered if the wet forecast prevented people from coming even though the weather turned out ok. We had quite a few adults attend but very few families with children. Usually our events have about twice as many kids as adults but this one was closer to twice as many adults as kids. At any rate, the people who attended had a great time and stayed much longer than we are used to which feels like a win for us. See photos below.

<https://www.facebook.com/100005139193022/videos/1447570086194374>





- In February and March we have hosted three field trips for 182 students so far. We also provided a booth at the 5th grade Water Fair where we reached 371 students over the course of two days. At our Water Fair booth we talked about irrigation and water use by early Iron County residents. We have a small-scale model of the irrigation activity we use for field trips at the Park. Kids always love the hands-on experience of moving water from the mountain to the farms.

### **Gunlock - Collin Kuehn**

- The waterfalls at Gunlock State Park have been temperamental this spring. They have been on and off for several weeks. The photo below shows the spillway on a day the falls were flowing in the morning and had stopped by 2:00 pm. We are still getting good visitation at the Park in hopes of seeing the waterfalls.



- We are still seeing steady camping and fishing visitation. The cottages are fully installed and on Reserve America for nightly rentals. See photo below.



- The Region Crew has been busy getting the pavilions up at the campground. Each campsite is getting a small pavilion for shade from the sun on hot summer days. All the structures are in place and are currently getting the metal roofing installed. See photo to the right.
- The new day-use pavilion on the beach, equipped with five picnic tables, will make a great place to hang out on a nice summer day. See photo below.



## **Kodachrome - Brandon Baugh**

January:

- Visitation was typical for January—very slow, but it allowed the Park staff to get caught up on some major projects going on in the Park. The weather was a big help with no significant snow events. Brandon continued excavation of the parking lot extension at the visitor center, and took Ricki along to help with the framing of our second Santa Fe Hut (yes, we changed the name), as well as putting finishing touches on the Entrada Santa Fe Hut.
- Bids went out and were awarded on the paving project for the east side road to the Arch Campground. Strong Solutions was awarded the project and wanted to start work in February.

February:

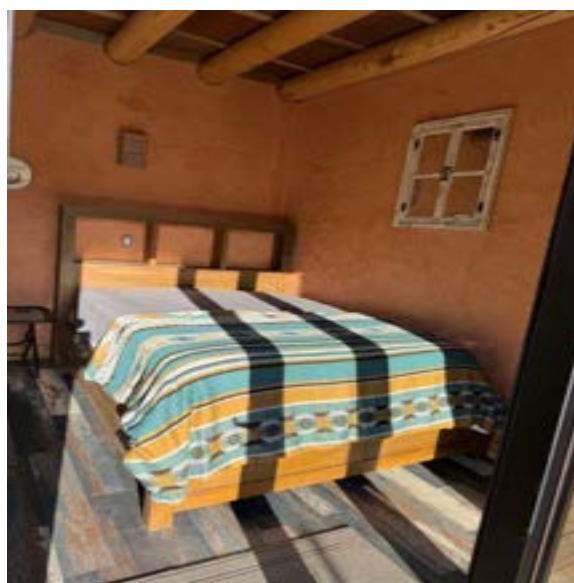
- Visitation remained slow through the month with very few campers. The weather continued to be drier and warmer than normal, which again allowed for staff to continue to work on the major projects.
- Brandon installed security cameras in and around the visitor center and laundromat, as well as outdoor televisions for Interpretive information on the Park and its geology.
- Strong Solutions started prepping the road for a double chip seal finish and also constructed a large concrete water crossing. It was great that they were able to have most of the project completed prior to our season opening up in March. The project is now on hold, though, awaiting warmer weather to install the chip seal which has been scheduled for May 28 - 31.
- We were able to get the base course graded out for the visitor center parking extension, and framing continued on the new Santa Fe Hut. It is almost dried in. See photos below.



- Our DFCM audit took place and we have to do some catching up on the work order system in PIMS. Other than that, it went well.

March:

- March 1 we opened all the campgrounds and each week visitation has slowly picked up. Campgrounds are full starting the week of March 25 and look to remain full through mid-June.
- The Entrada Santa Fe Hut went online for reservations and we have received a lot of interest in them since they showed up. They are starting to book up for April. See photos below.



- Brandon and the Region Crew roughed in the plumbing and sewer for the flush CXT we will be receiving from Green River, and also installed the septic system. They will



be coming back this week to backfill and clean up. The restroom will be delivered sometime this week. We will be taking the old vault toilet out and installing it at our Santa Fe Huts.

- Road base was brought in to complete the visitor center parking area until there is funding available to pave it. We will be installing a block retaining wall around it when the block gets delivered.
- Seth installed a fossil dig site for the kids to be able to dig and find sharks teeth and other fossils, as well as geodes and manufactured arrowheads. This should be a fun activity for the kids and they will get to keep a small bag full of the treasures they find.

Future plans:

- Landscaping around the visitor center and a new firepit to make the outdoor area around the visitor center more attractive and useful for guests. We continue to seek funding for additional asphalt and asphalt repairs.

### **Otter Creek/Piute Reservoir - Lance Eliason**

- Our strange winter season continues here at Otter Creek and Piute State Parks. It never got cold enough to completely freeze the reservoir. There were large swaths of open water here and there that people had to avoid while trying to enjoy some ice fishing. This also resulted in the ice coming off the reservoir much sooner than usual when it warmed up a little. Lately, people have been wanting to take their boats out or fish from the shore, but now we are in a pattern of having a couple nice days followed by wind and snow. Every time visitation starts to build, it starts to snow again. All of this combined has hampered visitation in one way or another.
- Following the completion of our day-use bathroom renovation, we moved straight into doing the same thing for our campground bathrooms. Everything got a fresh coat of paint and all the lights were replaced. Now all the bathrooms in the park look nice and new and are ready for our guests to enjoy during the upcoming busy season.
- Water levels in the reservoir are outstanding. Otter Creek is completely full and the spring runoff is yet to come. The water is so high that when the wind blows out of the north, waves crash almost into the campground. Our cabins get sprayed by the water as the waves hit the shore. See photo below. Good water levels combined with a large amount of fish that were stocked in November should create a positive fishing experience. Already, folks coming in to fish have reported that things are

really starting to pick up and they have caught some really nice fish. This should bode well for business this summer.



- Over at Piute State Park, water levels are looking really good as well. The reservoir is now full. We are looking forward to an improvement in fishing conditions since this will be the second season in a row with fairly good water. A lot of fish were stocked during the fall and they should be a catchable size this summer.
- Unfortunately, Piute Reservoir is one of the first places on the Sevier River system that water is pulled from for irrigation. So it does not take long to empty the reservoir on drier years. This constant drawdown is really hard on trout species because the water gets low and warm. Over the last several weeks, Lance has been participating in a Piute Reservoir fishery committee that has been meeting with the Division of Wildlife Resources to help draft a management plan to improve the fishing experience here.
- As a result of this drafted management plan, Piute is set to start receiving some exciting species for new angling options. These species include bluegill, white and black crappie, and white bass. These species of fish exist in other reservoirs in the state and will be able to be transplanted immediately. We are really excited about having new species of fish that will survive times of low, warm water. In addition, they should be catchable by kids which should generate some new excitement about the reservoir. Along with the new species, the numbers of smallmouth bass and catfish being stocked will increase. Then, when a certain set of criteria are met and it looks like water conditions will be favorable, trout will be restocked as well. All of this should maintain or even increase interest in the reservoir, as well as the Park itself.

- In addition to improving the fishery, we are constantly looking for ways to improve the park and bring more guests in. We have plans to expand camping opportunities here.

### **Quail Creek - Jon Allred**

- Jon Allred moved over from Gunlock to manage Quail Creek and has loved the change. Having lived in Hurricane for the last 28 years, he is excited for the opportunity to serve in the community he lives.
- Quail Creek's new campground has been very busy since spring has sprung in Southern Utah. We love to see all of the new visitors enjoy the new facilities and create new memories with family and friends. The new bathrooms and showers are a hit and the addition of a dump station to the Park has been a game changer for our visitors.
- We have also been working very hard on creating new single-stall, day-use parking that will increase the number of visitors we can fit in the Park, thus helping to accomplish the key result goals of State Parks. We have created nearly 40 new parking stalls with the earning potential of \$4,200 per week.



- We have been working with our concessionaire, Mad Moose, and have helped expand their business to add six new boats to their fleet of wave runners. This will give our visitors more opportunities to play and enjoy Quail Creek.
- Water levels are high and we are excited to see another high water year. We have the beaches all ready for visitors and have added several hundred feet of new beach near our boat ramp. This will give kayak and paddle boarders quick and safe access to the wakeless area in the north part of the reservoir.



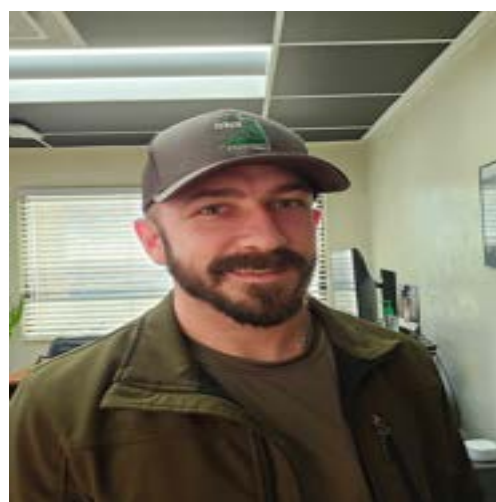
- We are excited to have a very successful season!
- Thank you to all of the Board Members for your service to Utah State Parks. Your friendship and work has been greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you in different capacities in the future.

### **Sand Hollow - Candance Smith**

- Sand Hollow State Park has not slowed down these past few months. We continue to host events, provide camping accommodations, and soon-to-be free, public WiFi for those using the Park. It has been in the works for a long time and we are finally seeing major progress. DTS has been a great partner in this large project and we can't wait to see the end result.
- More recently, the park hosted *Matt's Off Road Games*, which included just under 6,000 registered participants. It was a very large event that was shared live on YouTube. People from all over the United States visited Sand Hollow State Park to be a spectator for this event and to see Matt Windor, a local resident of Hurricane and famous Wrecker Business Owner. See photo below.



- The park gained a new Assistant Park Manager, Joshua DelMonte who recently retired from the Air Force. He brings a wealth of knowledge and skills that will greatly benefit the park. See Josh's photo to the right.
- The new concessionaire's building is coming along nicely and is taking shape. The plan is to be open and fully functional by the end of April. See photo below.



### **Snow Canyon - Kristen Comella**

- Our Chuckwalla pavilion project is nearly complete. Thanks to the talents of the Region Crew, the concrete pad and walkways have been completed and the pavilion installed. We hope to have the custom "donor fence" and plaques installed in the next few weeks. Final project costs came in around \$90,000 and were 100% donor funded. We hope to have a formal unveiling and donor "thank you" day in early to mid-May. See photos below.



- Improvements to the Chuckwalla vault toilets are also ongoing. The old wood cladding has been stripped away and the vault stuccoed. New doors and floor resurfacing will happen over the next few months.

- The Chuckwalla fee area signs have been installed. It is an entirely cashless system using Parkspass and the QR code payment system. We are slowly rolling out and using the license plate scanner app to check compliance along the east rim of the park.
- Jesse Henderson has replaced Jordan Perez as our new Assistant Manager. Jesse has worked at Snow Canyon for the last two years as a Lead Ranger Aide. He is quite familiar with the park and has seamlessly taken over management of our 60-plus strong volunteer Trail Steward program and management of our trail system. He is getting up to speed on financials, scheduling, policy and all of the behind the scenes stuff that goes into managing the park, and has been warmly welcomed by the rest of the staff.
- This spring, Phenix re-hired Cheyenne Winchester as her seasonal Naturalist assistant. Thanks to a \$10,000 donation from the Kish Foundation (secured by Friends of Snow Canyon) we were able to raise her hourly wage and stretch our current expense money.
- Phenix revamped the training for our docent program and expanded the number of volunteer docents. With Cheyenne's assistance, she has also been able to develop new pop-up modules. We now have 12 docents who conduct pop-up programs, assist with visiting school groups, and assist with ranger guided hikes. Between the trail stewards and docents, we have an incredible, passionate, and dedicated army of volunteers.
- Our three major construction projects are quickly nearing the 90% design completion stage. We're hopeful all three projects will finally enter the construction phase between June and early September. A revamped south entrance, new restroom, and expanded and improved parking areas will be a boon to the park and visitors alike.
- Phenix received a DNR spotlight award for her creative work with our Instagram account — Way to go Phenix! See photo of Phenix and Scott Strong to the right.
- Special thanks to Tim Christensen with DFCM. He came through with some last minute money to have our paved Whiptail Trail crack-sealed. Some of the cracks were becoming a serious safety issue but have now been fixed.



### Territorial - Carl Camp

- We started our year out as usual with our Statehood Day formal Dance, with about 40 dancers in attendance.
- On January 8 the chair of our friends group, Abe Johnson, received an award from State History for all the work he has done for us.
- **Abe Johnson and the Friends of the Territorial Statehouse** - In 1997, a local artist from Fillmore, Doug Jolley, promoted the idea of an art festival at the Territorial Statehouse. The first event began humbly with a few hundred visitors and grew to 9,000 attendees in recent years. After drastic budget cuts in 2009, a “friends” group was established to support the Territorial Statehouse. In 2012, Abe Johnson joined and became co-chair with Doug Jolley. The Friends of the Territorial Statehouse continues to support the statehouse, the festival, and other activities that celebrate the heritage and history of Millard County. See photo below.



*Photos courtesy of the Utah State Office of the Governor.*

- We have hosted a couple of schools and have done one outreach program.
- The POD has been very busy with rentals.
- We have been signing up youth camp groups for summer and it looks to be one of our busiest summers yet.

### Yuba - Cheston Slater

- The Water level is at 45% capacity 😊. With all lakes above Yuba State Park pretty much full, we are anticipating most of the runoff! This is very exciting news and translates to a good boating and fishing year! Our visitors are very happy!



- Construction on the dam and spillway are all but complete. The work being done now isn't affecting the reservoir's ability to fill. The underground overflow prevention dam on the Northwest corner is done and buried—you can't even tell it is there.
- Grooming is all but wrapped up for the season.
- We have begun opening things back up for the season as temperatures warm. We are working on hiring and securing camp hosts.
- A lot of time is being spent on finding ways to generate revenue in order to come up with funding due to the Law Enforcement split and needing to contract our law enforcement to our park.

