

# Utah Wildlife Action Plan

## From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has forged an on-going public-private partnership from the beginning of the planning process that continued through implementation of the wildlife action plan. The plan serves as a foundation for cooperative conservation efforts. Utah identified many threats to species of conservation need and to the top wildlife habitats in the state, including development, stream channelization, environmental contamination, habitat loss, invasive species, fire cycle alteration, and human disturbance.

### *Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People*

#### **Restoring Vital Habitat for the Bobolink**

Utah's wildlife action plan prioritizes maintaining and creating wet meadow habitat to benefit the bobolink in northern Utah. This songbird is declining in Utah due to the fragmentation of its habitat from urban and agricultural development. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has formed a broad partnership to restore wet meadow habitat on the Bud Phelps Wildlife Management Area in order to connect existing bobolink populations. Partners include Utah State University, Pheasants Forever, the Bridgerland Audubon Society, and Mount Logan Middle School. These groups have provided time, expertise, and donations to implement a bird monitoring program and restore vegetation. This project will also benefit other birds that use the wetlands and grasslands, including sandhill cranes, white-faced ibis, waterfowl, and several herons and egrets. By bringing partners together, the Utah Wildlife Action Plan will conserve the bobolink and its grassland habitat for future generations.

### *Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas*

#### **Working with Private Landowners for Wildlife**

The Utah Wildlife Action Plan advocates education and outreach to private landowners to address several threats to species of conservation need and key habitats, including improper grazing practices, water development, and the spread of invasive species. Since 90 percent of threatened and endangered wildlife live on non-federal land, cooperation with private landowners is essential to recovering wildlife and preventing future endangered species listings. The Utah Farm Bureau has been a major wildlife action plan partner and has developed a Sensitive Species Task Force to assist in a voluntary and cooperative approach to wildlife and habitat recovery and conservation. As Utah's communities continue to grow, these collaborative efforts will conserve Utah's wildlife while balancing the need for continuing natural resource use and economic growth.

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Bobolink/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Protecting Imperiled Land, Water,  
and Wildlife**

**Conserving the Boreal Toad**

The Utah Wildlife Action Plan recommends researching the causes of the boreal toad decline in the state as well as restoring and protecting habitat. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and its partners are studying the impact of disease on toads, particularly the chytrid fungus. This work has demonstrated that chytrid fungus, which damages toads' skin and nervous system, is distributed throughout the state. These results have prompted other studies and the state is proactively working to conserve current populations of boreal toad. To enhance breeding habitat for the toad, the Division and its partners have constructed and restored several ponds and protected several springs. In addition, the state

has discovered two previously unknown boreal toad populations. These proactive efforts will conserve the boreal toad and the places it lives before it becomes more rare and more costly to protect.

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Boreal toad/Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



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