



Utah Land Trusts
Protection &
Advocacy Office

Trust System Update

January - March 2024

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CONTACT

Kim S. Christy
ADVOCACY OFFICE DIRECTOR

801.201.7480
kschristy@utah.gov

Jessie Stuart
ADVOCACY OFFICE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

385.315.1892
jpstuart@utah.gov

Message from the Director

Dear Trust Beneficiaries:

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the arrival of spring.

We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Deena Loyola who joined our team on a part-time basis. As former Public Information Officer at the Trust Lands Administration, her experience will enhance our communication strategies, particularly with the constitutional amendment in November.

I also want to recognize Assistant Director Jessie Stuart whose dedication and hard work have been instrumental since our office's inception in 2018. Jessie brings spirit to our team and her contributions have been invaluable to our mission.

Our small, but dedicated staff continue to work diligently in our primary responsibilities of:

- Ensuring the beneficiaries are being served to the greatest extent possible
- Cultivating strong, collaborative relationships with the Trust System
- Being a strong and reputable advocate for the Trust System, including public affairs and legislative outreach

We are honored to be a part of this important Trust and consider it a privilege to serve you.

Warm Regards,

Kim Christy

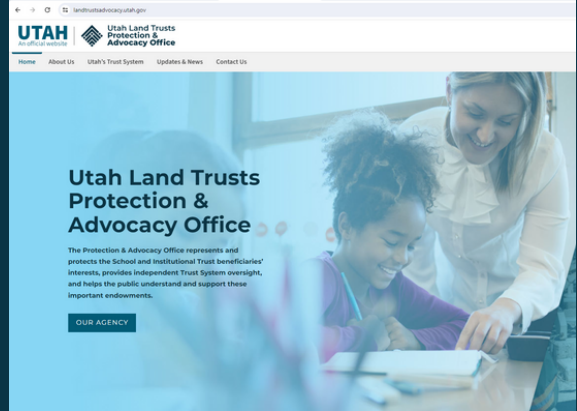
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OFFICE UPDATES

Protection & Advocacy Office's New Website

Exciting news! Our office is pleased to announce the launch of our new website:

landtrustsadvocacy.utah.gov

Here you will find news, updates, and key information for the Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Office and Utah Trust System.



RAISE THE CAP Constitutional Amendment



THIS NOVEMBER

Utahns will vote on an amendment that would increase the LAND Trust distribution cap from 4% to 5%

Raising the cap costs taxpayers nothing, it simply increases the percentage of LAND Trust distributions schools may receive from the Permanent School Fund.



Learn More: landtrustsadvocacy.utah.gov

Raise the Cap Amendment Campaign

We encourage you join us as we launch our campaign to generate awareness and voter support for the Raise the Cap Constitutional Amendment on the November ballot.

This amendment would increase the current 4% LAND Trust distribution cap to 5% and aims to create more balanced distributions for current and future beneficiaries.

[Learn more at Raise The Cap](#)

Breakfast at the Capitol

Join us as the Land Trusts Protection & Advocacy Office hosts Breakfast at the Capitol.

Drop by if you're in the area, and connect with legislators and fellow stakeholders.

Watch for additional calendar reminders and information.

7:30 to 9:30 am - Wednesday, May 15
Beehive Room, East Senate Building
Capitol Complex



2024 Trust System Legislative Highlights

HB 262 Sub 1 - School and Institutional Trust Lands Amendments (Rep. Snider)

This legislation allows the Trust Lands Administration (TLA) to sell specific large land blocks with significant recreational and other public values to the Department of Natural Resources to enhance funding for trust beneficiaries and preserve conservation values and public access. The joint letter of support signed by many of you, was circulated to legislators and contributed to its ultimate passage.

HB 339 – School Community Council Amendments (Rep. J. Moss)

This legislation grants the State Board of Education rulemaking authority to address situations where school community councils do not have sufficient members to fill certain positions. The School LAND Trust program requested this legislation to accommodate these rare circumstances when they present themselves.

HJR 26 – Joint Resolution Rejecting Exchange of School and Institutional Trust Lands (Rep. Snider)

Due to signals of significant restrictions proposed by the US Dept. of Interior in the forthcoming federal management plan for the Bears Ears National Monument, this joint resolution was introduced and passed which memorializes the withdrawal of legislative support for the associated land exchange that TLA has been working on for the last several years.

SCHOOL & INSTITUTIONAL TRUST FUND OFFICE (SITFO) UPDATES

Asset Allocation Targets Approved

Annually, the SITFO Board of Trustees reviews and approves the asset allocation of the permanent trust funds. The asset allocation is designed carefully to avoid undue risk concentrations in any single asset class or category, reducing risk to the overall portfolio and optimizing the expected return relative to the level of risk acceptable to the board of trustees.

After thorough review, the current allocation was determined that it is still in line with SITFO's investment objectives. The Board adopted an asset allocation that reflected no changes from the prior long-term allocation targets.

ASSET CLASS	TARGET %
GROWTH	43.5%
Public Equity	30.5%
Private Equity	13.0%
REAL ASSETS	17.5%
Public Real Assets	5.0%
Private Real Assets	12.5%
INCOME	27.0%
Public Income	17.0%
Private Income	10.0%
DEFENSIVE	12.0%
GRIPs	5.0%
Systematic Convexity	7.0%

Leveraging Consultants

SITFO leverages investment consultants to help provide the office and SITFO Board support in areas ranging from governance, asset allocation, and manager research. Contracts to continue to work with RVK and Albourne have been extended and approved by the board through Spring 2025.

TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION (TLA) UPDATES

Surface Resources

The Surface Resources group is gearing up for two land auctions in April and June.

We invite all interested parties to visit trustlands.utah.gov, for more information on auction parcels.



Rozel Flat Parcel, Box Elder County at auction

Energy and Minerals

The Energy and Minerals group has entered into two new lease agreements with Anschutz Exploration Corporation in the Uinta Basin. Anschutz has had recent success with a new, deep horizontal play, and TLA is excited about the prospect of receiving substantial royalties from wells in the area.

TLA continues to see significant interest in lithium exploration in southeastern Utah. The Board of Trustees recently approved an exploration agreement with an option to lease lithium-rich brines, potash, and other mineral salts in Grand County, Utah.

Additionally, members of the Energy and Minerals group will be attending an on-site inspection with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining prior to its approval of an application for permit to drill a lithium test well on trust lands in San Juan County, filed by the agency's lessee, Mandrake Resources.

The Energy and Minerals group also underwent a staffing change during the last quarter. In January, beloved, long-time geologist and former Assistant Director of the Minerals Group, Tom Faddies, retired after over 25 years of service to TLA.

Trust Lands Administration Board Action Updates and Notifications

TLA manages thousands of leases and other transactions on an ongoing basis and performs dozens of new transactions or amendments to transactions on a weekly basis. The Trust Lands Administration's Board of Trustees meets monthly to review policy related matters as well as transactions that require board review.