



Utah Land Trusts
Protection &
Advocacy Office

TRUST MATTERS NEWSLETTER

July - September 2024

MESSAGE from the Director

Dear Trust Beneficiaries:

Utah's Trust System model is unique. Its distinctive structure has been a strength to Utah and has gained the reputation of being one of the most proactive and well-managed systems in the country. This in large part is due to the historic advocacy efforts of the trust beneficiaries.

Today, the Protection & Advocacy office serves as the voice of trust beneficiaries, providing an important check and balance on the work of the agencies mandated to fulfill their fiduciary obligations. With trust endowments valued at \$3.5 billion at stake, we feel the Protection & Advocacy Office is more relevant and necessary than ever.

Please be aware that a performance audit of the Utah Trust System was recently completed by the Office of the Legislative Auditor General, spanning an audit of the Trust Lands Administration, SITFO, and the Protection & Advocacy Office.

The Protection & Advocacy office was noted to have had success in staying informed on the administration, maintaining contact with internal stakeholders, and collaborating with other trust entities to impact legislation and communication with legislators.

While this is noteworthy, the report also found that the Protection & Advocacy Office role and responsibility in the Trust System could be clarified, and that oversight of beneficiary spending of trust distributions could be strengthened. In response to the audit, efforts are being made to formulate a study group to thoroughly examine the audit findings and ultimately draft legislation for consideration by the Legislature.

[Read the full report and audit recommendations.](#)

To read about the study group objectives, deliverables, and time frame and how they pertain to you, we invite you to read "Study Group Highlights" below.

Kim S. Christy, Director

- Message from the Director
- Trust System Updates
- Protection & Advocacy
- Investment
- Lands

VOTE YES, VOTE FOR AMENDMENT B

- Provides more money for trust beneficiaries
- Balances distributions for today and for future generations
- Costs nothing to taxpayers

VOTE YES, VOTE FOR AMENDMENT B

Amendment B raises distributions from your beneficiary trust fund from 4% to 5% at no cost to tax payers. This means more money for your institution to support the individuals you serve.

PROTECTION & ADVOCACY OFFICE STUDY GROUP

You may have read in Director Christy's message that efforts to create an informal study group in response to a legislative audit are being undertaken. We invite you to review the objectives, deliverables and time frame described here. The objectives are consistent with the audit findings and recommendations and will have a significant impact to beneficiary representation.

OBJECTIVES

- Examine and offer recommendations to refine and clarify the role of the Protection and Advocacy Office or make recommendations to repeal the office.
- Examine and offer recommendations for guidelines and increased accountability for beneficiary use of trust distributions.

DELIVERABLES

- Produce a comprehensive statutory amendment proposal for Legislative interim review and subsequent consideration and action by the full Legislature.

TIME FRAME

- The study group will be established and begin meeting by late October or early November 2024 and will have its recommendations prepared and ready to present to the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriation Subcommittee not later than October 2025.

Please watch for an email from the Protection & Advocacy Office to set up a meeting. We plan to discuss audit findings and study group objectives in additional detail and how this will impact you.

School & Institutional Trust Funds Office (SITFO)

ASSET ALLOCATION AND PERFORMANCE

SITFO Chief Investment Officer Peter Madsen shared the following asset allocation and performance update as of August 31, 2024:

Asset Allocation & Performance

| | Plan Allocation & Performance | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | Allocation | | Performance (%) | | | | | | | | Since Incep. | Inception Date |
| | Market Value (\$) | % | 10 Years | 5 Years | 3 Years | 1 Year | CYTD | FYTD | QTD | MTD | | |
| Total Fund | 3,669,783,309 | 100.00 | 5.95 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.97 | 07/01/2003 |
| Consumer Price Index+5% | | | 7.98 | 9.38 | 10.03 | 7.66 | 6.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 0.49 | 7.71 | |
| Difference | | | -2.03 | -2.12 | -5.04 | 4.15 | 2.53 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.44 | -0.74 | |
| Total Fund Interim Target Index | | | 6.50 | 7.98 | 4.23 | 11.47 | 7.41 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 1.09 | 7.16 | |
| Difference | | | -0.55 | -0.72 | 0.76 | 0.34 | 1.14 | -0.29 | -0.29 | -0.16 | -0.19 | |
| Plans | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| School Fund Total Fund | 3,415,101,307 | 93.06 | 5.97 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 7.00 | 07/01/2003 |
| Deaf School Fund Total Fund | 5,125,831 | 0.14 | 5.34 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.57 | 07/01/2003 |
| Industrial School Total Fund | 10,109,854 | 0.28 | 5.38 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.37 | 07/01/2003 |
| Institute for the Blind Total Fund | 25,694,688 | 0.70 | 5.76 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.85 | 07/01/2003 |
| Miners Hospital Total Fund | 100,479,085 | 2.74 | 5.60 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.37 | 07/01/2003 |
| Normal School Total Fund | 9,478,160 | 0.26 | 5.39 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.34 | 07/01/2003 |
| Reservoirs Fund Total Fund | 24,676,312 | 0.67 | 5.36 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.45 | 07/01/2003 |
| School of Mines Total Fund | 28,035,988 | 0.76 | 5.60 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.67 | 07/01/2003 |
| University of Utah Total Fund | 14,436,779 | 0.39 | 5.66 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.55 | 07/01/2003 |
| Utah State Hospital Total Fund | 10,288,086 | 0.28 | 5.34 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.27 | 07/01/2003 |
| Utah State University Total Fund | 26,357,219 | 0.72 | 5.84 | 7.26 | 4.99 | 11.81 | 8.55 | 1.99 | 1.99 | 0.93 | 6.66 | 07/01/2003 |

FISCAL YEAR 2025 DISTRIBUTIONS

The annual distributions for all beneficiaries were recently announced for FY2025.

We are here to answer any questions you may have about your FY 2025 distribution, or the growth of your fund.

| TRUST | 2025 DISTRIBUTIONS |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Deaf School | \$139,081 |
| Blind School | \$920,178 |
| University of Utah | \$409,931 |
| College of Mines | \$380,376 |
| Colleges of Education | \$313,596 |
| Utah State University | \$497,867 |
| Utah State Hospital | \$249,378 |
| JJYS | \$148,111 |
| Miners Hospital | \$3,012,477 |
| Reservoirs Fund | \$591,915 |



CASTLE SOLAR PROJECT

The 40MW Castle Solar Project, developed by D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments, LLC. and Enyo Renewable Energy, LLC. and located in Emery County, Utah, is making waves.

With 75% of the project on Trust Lands, this initiative is set to deliver major benefits.

Intermountain Health is stepping up its sustainability game by purchasing power from Castle Solar, which will cover 20% of its total electricity needs. Meanwhile, the University of Utah is securing 20 MW of solar energy for its campus.

Michelle McConkie, Director of The Trust Lands Administration, was on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, celebrating a project that will generate revenue to support public schools and institutions.

A fantastic project with incredible benefits all around!

[Castle Solar Ribbon Cutting - Instagram](#)



NINE MILE CANYON COALITION STEWARDSHIP DAY

Did you know the Great Hunt Panel in Nine Mile Canyon is on Trust Lands? Each year the Trust Lands Administration attends the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Stewardship Day to support the care and preservation of the area.

We were grateful for the many people who stopped by our booth to learn about the importance of Trust Lands and the critical stewardship work we do. We loved seeing so many care about The Great Hunt Panel, admiring this one-of-a-kind history up close was amazing.

[Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Stewardship Day - Instagram](#)



FALL TRUST LANDS PUBLIC AUCTION

The Trust Lands Administration fall land auction, which is open to the public is November 14-19, 2024. The administration is selling 11 parcels throughout Utah.

You can find out everything about the fall land auction on the [Trust Lands Administration website](#).

FOLLOW TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Trust Lands Administration on social media to learn more about how we generate money for our beneficiaries. You may even see a post about your office.

[FACEBOOK](#)
[INSTAGRAM](#)

Let us know if you would like us to feature some of the great things you do as a beneficiary with your Trust Lands funding. Please contact Marla Kennedy, Director of Communications and Governmental Affairs for the Trust Lands Administration at 385-910-3350 or marlakennedy@utah.gov