



# Legislative Update

February 7, 2022

Last week the legislature continued to hear appropriation requests and those requests should finish up this coming week. Utah State University also officially presented their ask for a veterinary school on Friday. We ask that you continue to let your legislator know about the importance of a vet school here in Utah. We won't know officially what items get funded until the final budget gets approved. That usually happens the final week of the session.

## **A few bills to make note of this week:**

**HB 62 Big Game Amendments** – This bill addresses how and when DWR compensates a landowner for depredation losses from big game animals. The original version of the bill raised some concerns for us. We have worked to address those concerns and, as a result, the bill has been amended multiple times to help resolve landowner concerns. One major concern was a proposed change to the historic “72-hour rule,” changing it from 72 hours to 3 business days. The latest version preserves the 72-hour rule; however, it will exclude any holiday that falls on either a Friday or Monday. DWR claims that a few landowners intentionally send email notices to their office on a 3-day weekend knowing that no one will be in the office until after the 72 hours has expired. We will continue to work on this bill, and it has passed the House and has moved to the Senate.

**HB 180 Off-Road Vehicle Safety Education** and **HB 206 Outdoor Recreation Related Education**  
These two bills go hand in hand to create training programs designed to educate the hunting and ATV communities about the importance of gates and fences. They will require this training as part of hunter safety courses and ATV youth safety training programs. We believe this is a step in the right direction to help curb the problems landowners and public lands grazers are experiencing as more and more people are recreating in rural Utah. Both bills are working their way through the process with little opposition.

**SB 68 Trespass Penalty Amendments** – This bill increases the civil penalty for trespassing on private property. Under current law a person who trespasses and causes damage to state lands can be fined up to 3x the amount of the damage. The same action on private property can only be fined up to the amount of the damage. This bill increases the fine on private property to 3x the damage. The bill has passed both houses and is ready to be signed by the Governor.

Mark your calendars for Farm Bureau Day on the Hill on Tuesday, February 15, beginning at 9:00 am. We would love to have you join us for a morning of discussion with several legislators. We will discuss current legislative issues and you will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with your legislator. We will be meeting in the Capitol Board room on the east end of the building on the 2nd floor. There is plenty of parking this year on the northeast corner of the Capitol block. I have yet to see the parking lot anywhere close to full. We hope to see you there! As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

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