



State of Utah

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Subject: New Utah Pollinator Habitat Program Manager Announcement

As many of our past and present program awardees are aware, the Pollinator Habitat PILOT Program was founded in 2021 with the creation of HB 224 Pollinator Amendments. This past spring, in the 2025 legislative session, the State voted for HB 251 to provide ongoing funding to the Pollinator Habitat Program creating a permanent initiative under the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Conservation Division. With this exciting development also came the creation of a permanent Program Manager position to oversee the continuation of existing services and the expansion of the program's reach and scope.

We are thrilled to welcome our new Utah Pollinator Habitat Program Manager, Elizabeth Hamilton! We are excited to have her join our team and contribute to the vital work of protecting and promoting pollinator habitats across Utah. Liz comes to us with a background in horticulture, habitat restoration, and grant program management.

Her expertise and leadership will be invaluable as she continues to expand our efforts in conservation, education, and community engagement. We are confident that she will play a crucial role in advancing the mission and making a significant impact on the health of our ecosystems.

The current Utah Habitat Program team that you have all come to know and make lasting friendships with over the years will be slowly transitioning the Program fully over to the Utah Department of Agriculture by the end of September 2025. This incredible group of individuals has been instrumental in the program creation, the success of which is seen in their passion for native pollinators and plants that has resulted in the distribution of over 131,000 native plants and nearly 19 million native plant seeds in the ground over the last three years. Securing on-going funding for the Pilot would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication. Liz will be working closely alongside this group to ensure a smooth transition with the stakeholders and UPHP community.

Plant distribution is moving forward as planned, please see the [website calendar](#) for the most up to date information on dates and pick up locations. Our Webinar for awardees will be next week on Wednesday, July 30th from 6:00-7:30 PM – please select this link to register if you have not already done so: [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). If you are unable to attend the webinar, it will be recorded and made available on our website.

A Message from Incoming Program Manager Elizabeth Hamilton:

My first real involvement with the Utah Habitat Program was at the 2023 September plant distribution at Lone Peak in Salt Lake County. I remembered thinking that this program was special. Not just because of the vision Mindy Wheeler and her talented committee had created for the Pilot, but because I could feel the excitement from the distribution volunteers, camaraderie of the board, and the heartfelt gratitude of the awardees as they picked up their plants. Seeing the joy of awardees' success while I have toured their spaces, and listening to their animated stories of visiting monarchs, unusual bees, and happy native plants is a powerful way to spend a day.

While I have been in many aspects of conservation over the years, native plants, insects, birds, and a growing need for a collaborative effort in their habitat management has always been a key attraction for me. It's a true honor to step in as the first Utah Pollinator Habitat Program Manager. I look forward making connections with you all as I walk alongside the UPHP community in the continued pursuit of building a thriving program through education, partnerships, and habitat expansion.

Liz Hamilton

Utah Pollinator Habitat Program Manager