



Donaldson, Garrett in New Leadership Roles at School Children's Trust Section

The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration congratulates Tim Donaldson and Aaron Garrett in their new positions with the School Children's Trust Section at the Utah Office of Education.



Tim Donaldson,
Director

Donaldson takes the helm as section director, replacing Margaret Bird who retired last summer. Garrett was named as new trust specialist, the position previously held by Donaldson.



Aaron Garrett,
Trust Specialist

Trust Specialist Paula Plant and Trainer Karen Rupp complete the School Children's Trust Section, which administers the School LAND Trust Program statewide. The section provides independent review of the management of the 4.4 million surface and subsurface acres of Utah trust lands, as well as investment oversight of the \$1.6 billion Utah Permanent School Fund.

The section is also responsible for providing training and education materials for community school councils, and supporting districts and schools in their training of school community councils.

Annual Report: SITLA's FY 2013 Earnings Net \$96 Million for Beneficiaries

SITLA Director Kevin Carter reports strong business leadership and prudent land stewardship practices marked a successful 2013 fiscal year for the Trust Lands Administration. Highlights from this year's annual report:

- \$96.3 million in proceeds were deposited into permanent funds or distributed to beneficiaries
- Permanent School Fund topped \$1.6 billion during this fiscal year, providing \$40 million to K-12 schools and supporting critical academic programs identified by individual School Community Councils
- Another \$3.8 million was distributed to 11 other beneficiaries

Review the full [annual report online](#) or [request a printed copy](#).



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Oil and Gas/Minerals Groups Yield More Than \$3 million at Quarterly Lease Sale

The SITLA Oil and Gas, and Minerals groups held their quarterly lease sale October 28, generating more than \$3.2 million for beneficiaries.

The Oil and Gas Group leased 36,765 acres for a total of \$3.2 million and the Minerals Group leased 2,123 acres for \$35,489. This is a sealed-bid auction for lessees to acquire either oil and gas leases, or mineral leases for specific commodities.

Most of these leases are on lands managed by SITLA on behalf of public schools, which means lease funds will be added to the Permanent School Fund and invested by the state treasurer. The balance of the revenue will be distributed to other beneficiaries, such as teaching colleges, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and used at the discretion of each individual beneficiary.

SITLA Board Welcomes New Trustee, Names Advisory Committee

At its December meeting, the SITLA Board of Trustees welcomed a new trustee and selected members of the Book Cliffs Wildlife Advisory Committee.



Scott O. Ruppe (left) was sworn in and welcomed by SITLA Board of Trustees Chair Steven B. Ostler

Scott O. Ruppe of Vernal was sworn in as a new trustee. Ruppe is the Chief Financial Officer of Brady Trucking, and has a background in accounting, finance, and administration for industries, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

The board also reviewed nominations and formally approved members for the Book Cliffs Wildlife Advisory Committee. Members include Cody

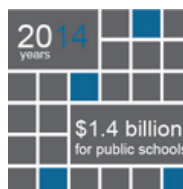
Stewart from the Governor's Office of Energy Development; Ashley Green and Miles Hanberg from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Tim Donaldson from the School Land Trust Group with the Utah Office of Education; Tom Bachtell representing the SITLA Board of Trustees, Byron Bateman from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife; and Casey Snider from Trout Unlimited. LaVonne Garrison, SITLA Assistant Director of Oil and Gas, serves as the non-voting chair.

Trustees also conditionally approved the sale of 640 acres of school trust land to Uintah County. The sale of the property, located approximately three miles northeast of Vernal, is subject to the results of a forthcoming appraisal and other disposal criteria.

SITLA to Mark 20 Years, More than \$1 Billion in Revenue in 2014

This year, SITLA celebrates 20 years as an independent agency managing and developing Utah's trust land assets.

Since 1994, the agency has generated more than \$1 billion for its 12 beneficiaries. SITLA's contributions, combined with investment by the state treasurer, have grown the permanent funds of all beneficiaries to \$1.73 billion, with public schools holding approximately \$1.6 billion.



Also in 2014, SITLA's Oil and Gas Group marks 20 years of ConocoPhillips operations within the Drunkards Wash Unit of the West Price Ferron Block. Acquisition of additional land within this unit from the federal government, propelled oil and gas development into a position of providing stable, long-term revenues to the Permanent School Fund and other beneficiaries. In fact, of the \$700 million in gross revenues derived from oil and gas by SITLA since 1994, \$140 million originated from this unit. of that total.

SITLA Attorney Thomas Mitchell Earns Utah Legal Elite Honor

Thomas A. Mitchell, an attorney with SITLA, was selected as one of *Utah Business* magazine's 2014 Utah Legal Elite, a select group of lawyers practicing in Utah. Mitchell joined SITLA in 2003 and has practiced law for 32 years. He works in all areas of energy and natural resources policy, law, and litigation, and serves as senior counsel to the agency. Honorees were selected by their peers in a statewide balloting process.

Administering trust lands prudently and profitably for Utah's schoolchildren and other trust beneficiaries.

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