

# **Department of Plants, Soils, and Climate**

## ***Department Highlights***

**Teryl Roper—Tree Fruit and Nut Germplasm**

**Paul Grossl—Reclamation of oil and gas pads**

**Robert Gillies—Utah Climate Center**

# Evaluating Tree Fruit & Tree Nut Germplasm

Teryl Roper, PSC

- Donated to USU
- *Prunus*
  - Peach
  - Almond
  - Apricot
- *Juglans*
- *Pistacia*
- *Carya*



# Objectives:

- **Culinary quality**
- **Disease resistance**
- **Salt/alkalinity tolerance**
- **Cold hardy**
- **Length of season**
  - **Late flowering**
- **Aesthetic value**
- **Rootstocks**
  - **Soil adaptation**
  - **Size control**
  - **Precocity**
  - **Hardiness**
  - **Pest resistance**
  - **Ease of propagation**

# Collaborations:

- Trials in various parts of the Intermountain area
- Distributed with MTA
- Scions
- Rootstocks





# Reclamation of Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Pads in Arid Environments

Paul Grossl

Professor of Biogeochemistry  
Dept. Plants, Soils, and Climate  
Utah State University



# Soil Reclamation Site



August 2014

- Setup 4 test plots with cover crop

December 2014

- Dispersed seed mix

July 2015

- Monitor plants & collected soil samples







Robert Gillies, PSC

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Logan, UT

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**36°F**

High: 47°F Low: 28°F

March 1, 2016

Exposure Time Before Frostbite:

[> 30 Minutes](#)

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By THOMAS BIRK  
and MATT CANNAM  
The Salt Lake Tribune

**Washington** » Rep. Rob Bishop, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said Wednesday that the federal government

should use a "strict dose of caution" and "compassion" in dealing with an armed group that has seized control of a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon. "Violence should never be used and the threat of violence should never be used," Bishop said in an interview, "but I clearly understand the

been trying to raise concerns about how federal land managers treat residents in the West and that while the actions by the protesters are not a "great approach," he hopes the incident there ends without violence. Roughly 20 armed men, led by



Sen. Mike Lee  
» R-Utah

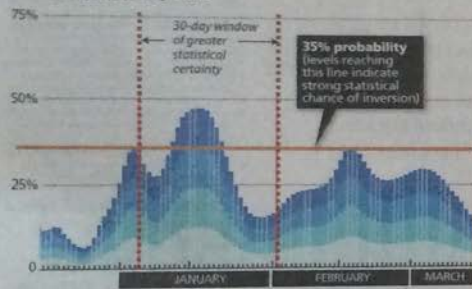
ture BDK, will review designs, track cost estimates, evaluate bids and manage the construction of the estimated \$550 million prison project west of the Salt Lake City International Airport. "They'll be an extension of our staff," said Jim Russell, assistant division director. BDK beat out two other companies under the regular bidding process. The state liked Big D's local presence and Kitchell's experience building prisons. The first step going forward will be hiring an

**ALSO** » INDIAN TRIBE SAYS OREGON PROTESTERS SHOULD LEAVE, A5

### Strong inversion likely this month

A probability model developed at Utah State University shows that a strong inversion is likely later this month, as indicated by the elevated blue bars. A probability of 35 percent or greater (indicated by the orange line) represents a strong likelihood of an inversion lasting four or more days.

Inversion probability scale



Source: Utah State University

The Salt Lake Tribune

# Tool can predict inversions long before pollution sets in

**Bad air** » USU-based center finds a link between Utah weather and an area in the Western Pacific.

By EMMA PENROD  
The Salt Lake Tribune

Want to know how likely an inversion is in the next month?

The USU-based Utah Climate Center has a new Inversion Forecast that's considered accurate out to 30 days — far longer than the state's three-day air-quality predictions,

creating an opportunity to reduce driving or take other action that might temper or prevent pollution spikes associated with inversions.

Available on the Utah State University website at [climate.usurf.usu.edu/inversion.php](http://climate.usurf.usu.edu/inversion.php), the Inversion Forecast currently predicts inversions in the

Please see INVERSION, A6



SCOTT SOMMERDORF | The Salt Lake Tribune

Looking down State Street in Salt Lake City on Wednesday, the southern part of the valley is barely visible, obscured by smog.

Hi 37  
LO 27  
Today » Rain, snow » B10

C1	Classified Ads	C9	Movies	B3
C2	Comics	B4	Obituaries	B3
C3	Editorials	A14	Puzzles	B5
C4	Legal Notices	C8	Sports	C1
C5	Money	A13	Television	B6

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## Congress sends health law repeal to Obama

**NATION** » The Congress sent a bill to President Barack Obama on Wednesday repealing his signature health law, fulfilling a promise to GOP voters but inviting a certain veto. » A3

## N. Korea's bomb claim met with scorn, doubt

**WORLD** » The U.S., South Korea and Japan agreed on a "united and strong" international response to North Korea's claim of a hydrogen bomb test as experts raise doubts. » A3

# Dozens of Utah babies can't wait, are born on the way to hospitals

**Roadside births** » Tooele County, with its long and lonely highway, outpaces more populous counties.

By MICHAEL MCFALL  
The Salt Lake Tribune

When Lynette Hales' contractions began 10 weeks prematurely during a 2013 week-end getaway to Wendover, a

co-worker broke the speed limit trying to race her to a hospital.

But there was more than 100 miles of desert between them and the nearest one, in Tooele. As the co-worker zipped along

Interstate 80, a dispatcher warned over the phone that they were "getting to the middle of nowhere."

Before they could reach the hospital, the co-worker pulled off by the Bonneville Salt Flats, and Hales' twins entered the world on the side of the road. Though the twins were far

Please see BIRTHS, A5

# Inversion Forecast

## Discussion

Discussion Last Updated: 02-29-2016 1:45:53 pm MST

As we enter the tail end of inversion season, Northern Utah valleys will see a series of ineffective storm systems breaking through the mean upper-level ridge. With higher valley temperatures, exposed ground, and larger doses of incoming solar radiation, shallow inversion layers will be unlikely to form through the remainder of the season. Climate model projections continue to call for a return to a wetter weather pattern beginning in March.

