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New Unit to Open at Utah State Correctional Facility

SALT LAKE CITY (November 17, 2023) — Due to an increasing inmate population at the Utah State Correctional Facility (USCF), the Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) will be opening a new housing unit on Monday, November 20, 2023. The opening of the Bear 2 unit will happen in phases and will initially include 64 male inmates.

The safety of our correctional officers is our top priority, and we have a plan in place to account for staffing and programming needs. A short-term staffing plan will be implemented from November 20, 2023, until January 6, 2024.

UDC recently added 12 new officers at USCF, with 24 more set to graduate in January. This will help alleviate the strain, and we continue to pursue efforts to address the challenges of our staffing shortage.

Bear 2 has capacity for 384 inmates in six different sections. It is a general population building and includes dorm and cell-based housing. The original plan was to open Bear 2 in 2024, but the increasing number of intakes and the need for general population beds require the unit to be opened now.

UDC will continue to assess the needs for inmate housing as well as the availability of staff in order to fulfill our mission.

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