

Utah Lake Update

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Thriving Ecosystems

- 1 **Improve water quality** to support recreation (fishing and swimming), wildlife (thriving native fish and waterfowl populations), and agricultural beneficial uses defined by the State of Utah.
- 2 Restore and support existing **robust and resilient fisheries** and wildlife in addition to populations of native and desirable fish and wildlife to Utah Lake.
- 3 Manage and collaborate on the restoration of **healthy and resilient populations of native and ecologically desirable vegetation** in and around Utah Lake to improve wildlife habitat, aesthetic appeal, and accessibility for compatible recreation.
- 4 Work with partners **to reduce and, when feasible, extirpate common carp** and other invasive fish species from Utah Lake.

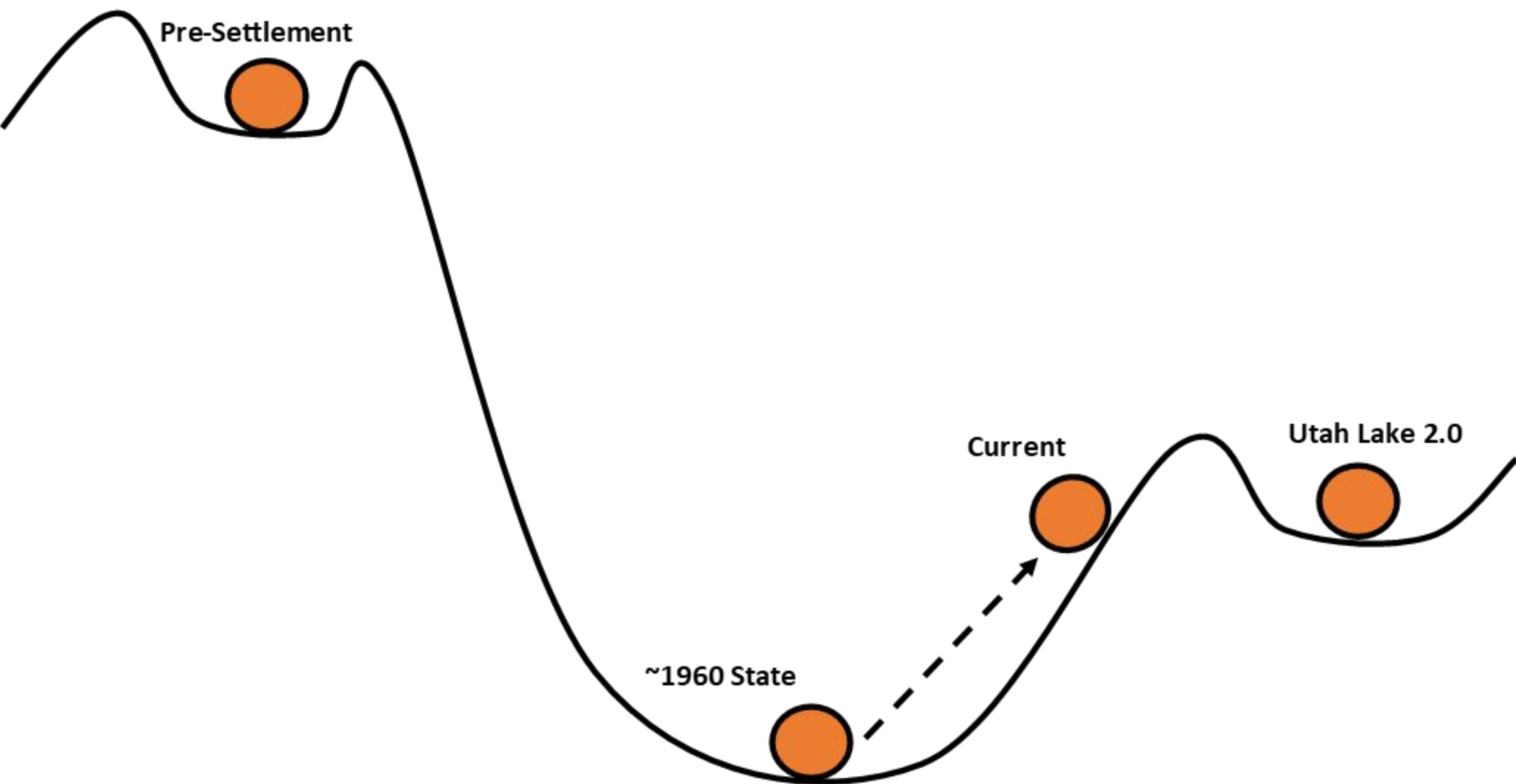
World-Class Recreation

- 1 Coordinate and implement efforts to **improve Utah Lake access points** to ensure easy and affordable access and enjoyable visitor experience.
- 2 **Improve public perception and awareness** of Utah Lake and its recreational amenities.
- 3 Improve the quality and volume of **recreation experiences** at Utah Lake.
- 4 Attract, encourage, and retain more **recreation-oriented business** at Utah Lake.



Vibrant Communities

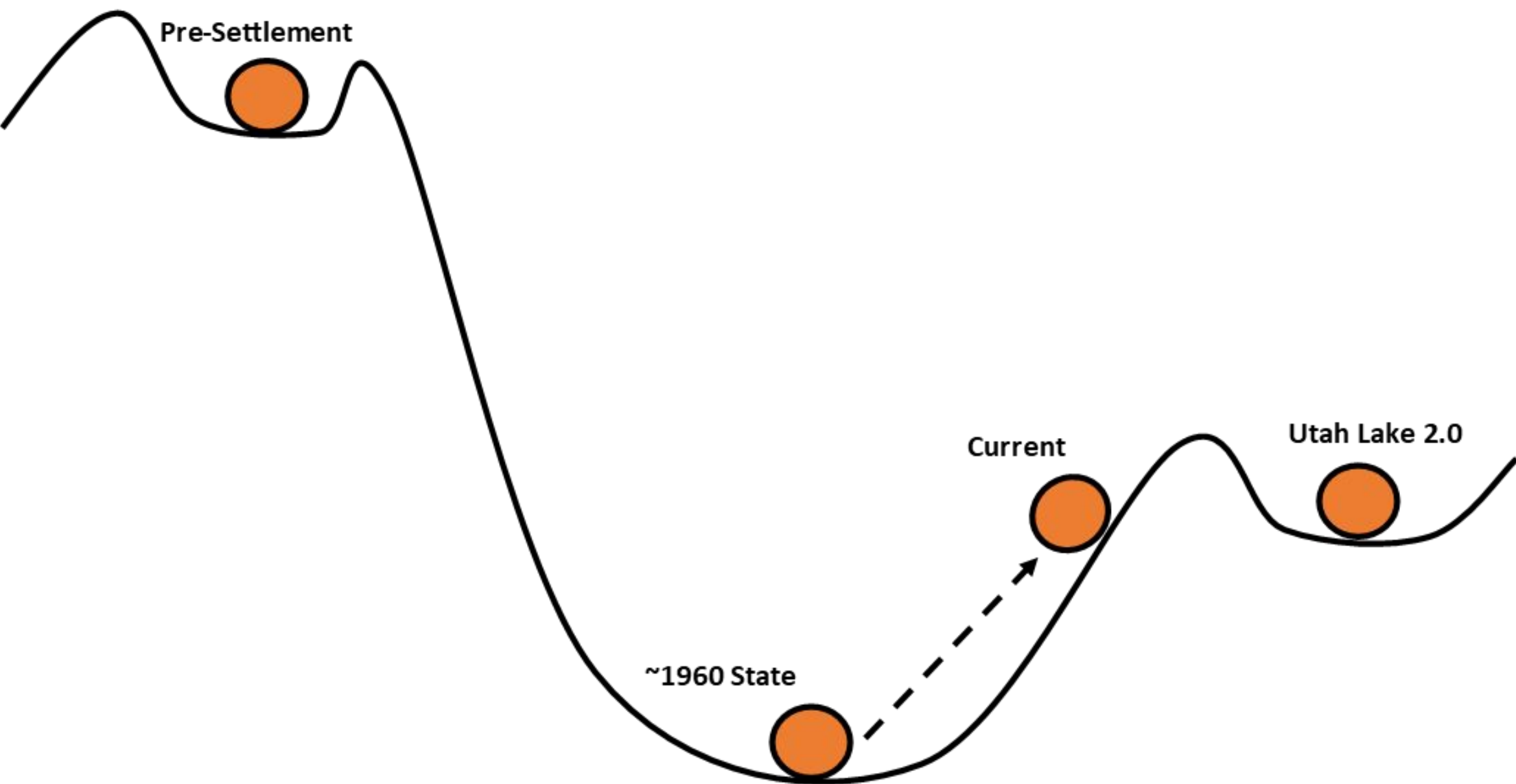
- 1 Promote and facilitate the growth of **sustainable lake-amenity development**, destinations, and businesses.
- 2 Increase the number and ease of accessibility of **physical connections between Utah Lake and regional mobility systems**, emphasizing active transportation and other zero-emissions forms of transportation, public transit, and other means.
- 3 Develop a **model regional stormwater plan** that identifies specific best practices and principles to improve water quality in Utah Lake and encourage its implementation.
- 4 Promote **public awareness of Utah Lake** for its cultural, community, and environmental value through events, education, and stewardship.











What we did

3Months

The project started from the beginning of June to the end August

405Users

We engaged with **405** participants from **9** counties through the survey

15Interviews

We conducted **15 stakeholder interviews** to gain deeper insights into perception

2focus groups

We conducted **2 focus groups with 3-5 participants** to gather sentiment around opportunities for the future

50+

We collected over **50 pieces of actionable feedback** throughout the project, including likes and dislikes

12Opportunities

We identified **12 strategic opportunities** to enhance management and perception of Utah Lake

LEARNING 2

The cleanliness and safety of the water at Utah Lake is a top concern for residents

50% of residents said that water quality is their primary concern at the lake, followed by **algae blooms and bugs at 44%**. News coverage of **algal blooms and warnings** to avoid the water have left a lasting impression on residents' view of the lake. Utah residents reported **62% higher satisfaction** with the water cleanliness of their favorite lake in the area.



New Study Ranks Cleanest And Dirtiest Lakes In America

- *Utah Lake is the dirtiest lake in the United States.*
- *At least 11 neighboring lakes in Casselberry, Florida, contain some of the highest levels of lead among all lakes in America.*
- *Lake Louise, Florida, is the nation's cleanest.*

Top 10 Dirtiest Lakes

The title for America's dirtiest lake goes to **Utah Lake**. It has an astounding amount of TDS, estimated at 1,221.73 mg/L on average, and a high turbidity of nearly 51 NTU. Sulfate levels here are especially high, averaging almost 268 mg/L. This likely gives it an unpleasant odor.







POLLUTED WATER



Top concerns compared to other lakes

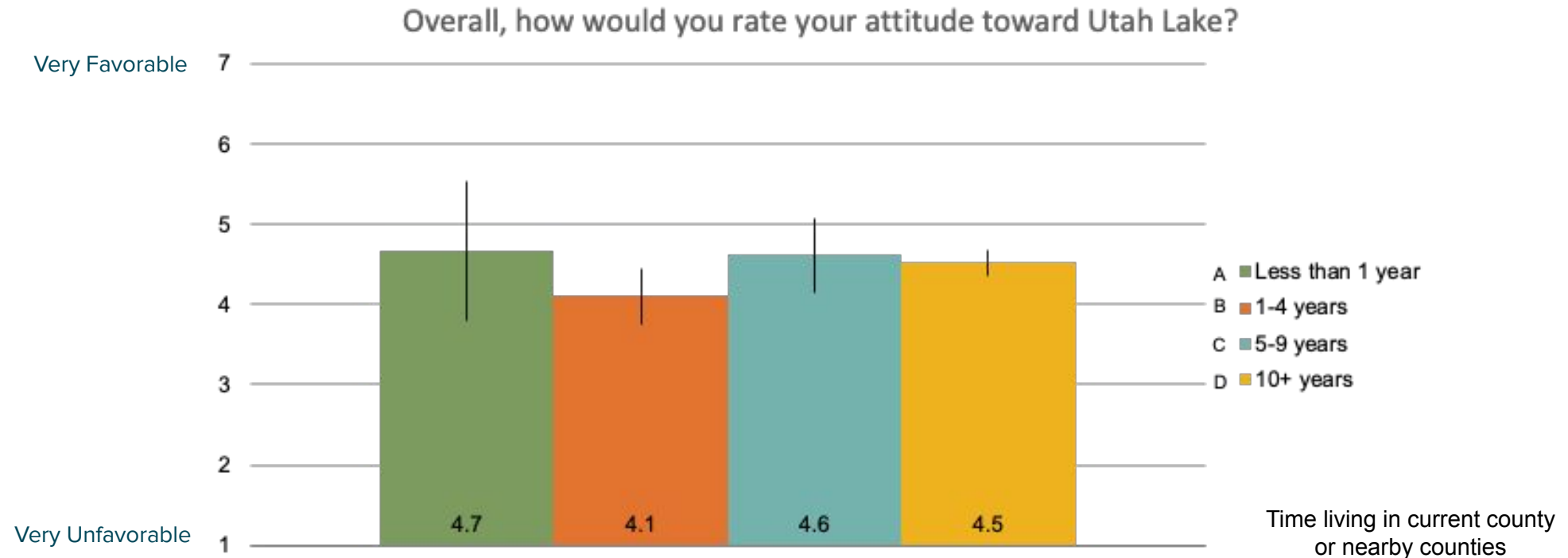
	Utah Lake	All Other Lakes	Bear Lake	Lake Powell	Great Salt Lake	Deer Creek Reservoir	Jordanelle Reservoir
Water quality	50%	5%	2%	5%	18%	4%	3%
Algal blooms	44%	9%	7%	7%	18%	10%	6%
Bugs	44%	20%	17%	17%	34%	19%	20%
Crowds	25%	40%	47%	40%	18%	39%	46%
Too many invasive species of fish in the water (e.g., carp)	23%	6%	7%	6%	6%	4%	3%
Too many non-game fish in the water (e.g., junk fish)	19%	7%	3%	5%	21%	7%	6%
The wind makes it unsafe to be on the water	17%	9%	10%	6%	15%	7%	6%
Not enough parking spaces	16%	20%	20%	16%	6%	26%	37%
Cost of admission	14%	21%	26%	18%	11%	19%	26%
Inconvenient location	12%	16%	20%	23%	3%	10%	9%
I can't do the activities I'm interested in at Utah Lake	12%	4%	4%	0%	8%	6%	0%
None	10%	25%	18%	29%	31%	30%	23%
Not getting to encounter wildlife	8%	5%	7%	3%	8%	4%	3%
I don't like the water temperature	7%	9%	14%	6%	2%	13%	3%
I don't like to do outdoor activities at lakes	4%	2%	1%	0%	2%	6%	3%
Encountering wildlife	4%	2%	1%	0%	5%	3%	3%
Other	2%	3%	3%	5%	3%	1%	6%

LEARNING 3

People often listen to stereotypes about the lake without experiencing it firsthand

Throughout interviews, users shared stories about their experiences with **encountering stereotypes**. Many had heard **negative things about the lake**, such as it being dirty or unsafe, which **deterred** them from visiting. Those who love the lake often **become unofficial ambassadors**, encouraging others not to be swayed by negative stories they hear.

Infectious Attitudes





utahlake.gov

Public Education



Scientific Collaboration



Advancing Research

