

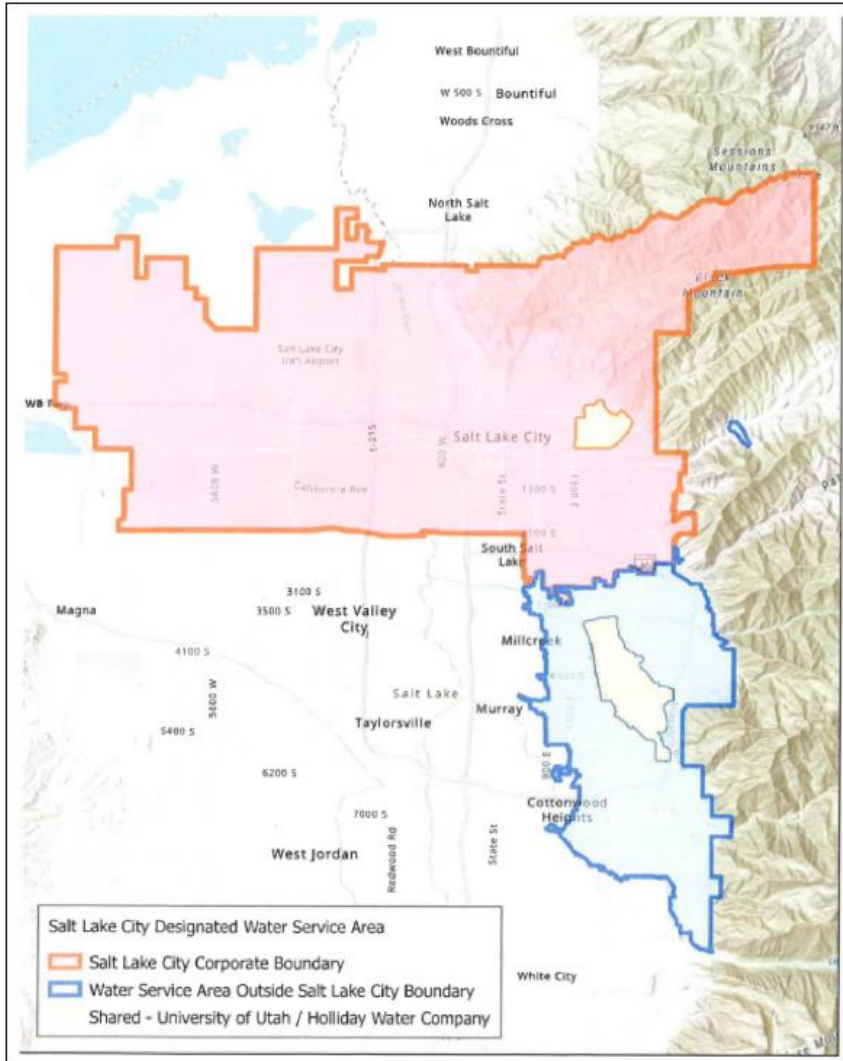


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Salt Lake City's Municipal Watersheds

*Public Utilities Advisory Committee
June 26, 2025
Laura Briefer, Director*

Our Responsibilities as a Water Provider



- Provide clean, reliable, and affordable drinking water to 389,000 people along the Wasatch Front.
- Our job is to protect public health and the environment by keeping water free from pollution.
- We manage water from the “mountains to the tap”.



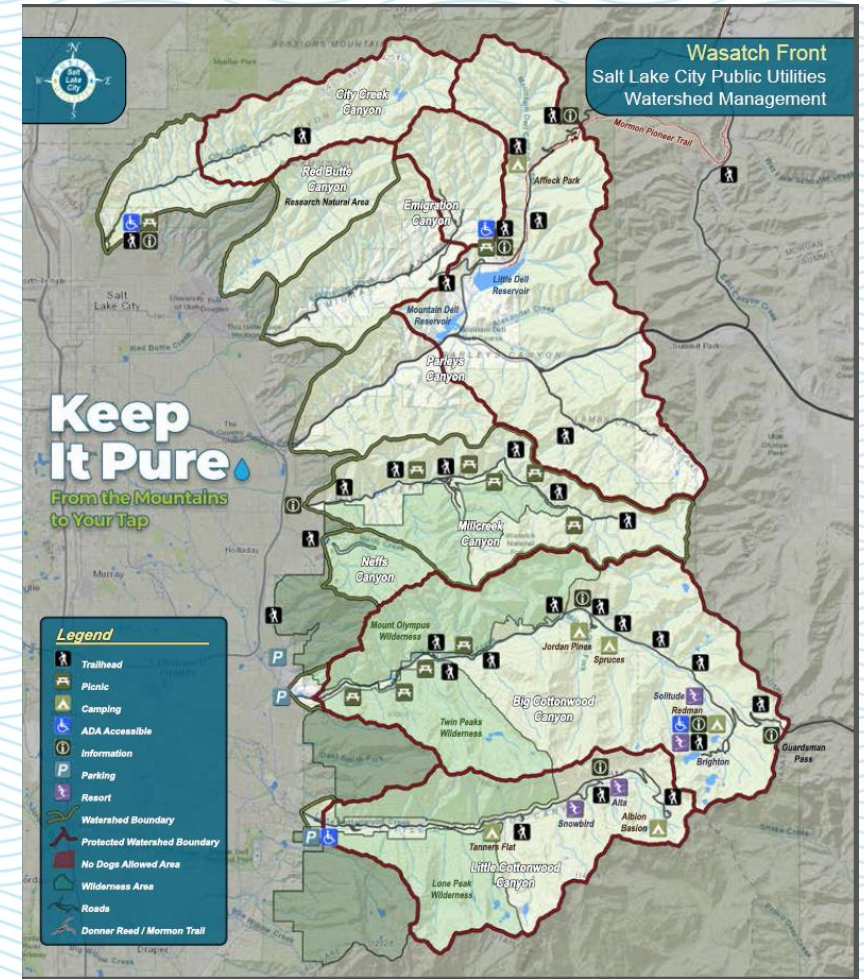
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Salt Lake City's Municipal Watersheds

- Our watersheds provide nearly 60% of the water supply to Salt Lake City's water service area.
- Close to the urban core.
- 190 square miles in area
- Intense recreation visitation.
- US Forest Service and other jurisdictions involved in management.



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Wasatch Watersheds – Foundation of our Water Supply

- July 25, 1847: First diversion of City Creek
- By 1860: All mountain streams appropriated for agriculture.
- 1865-1930's: Utah lake exchanges for Wasatch mountain streams; water storage projects in Wasatch watersheds.
- 1928 – 1929: First long range water planning effort
- 1930's-'40's: Major storage projects/water imports. (Deer Creek, Provo River Project, Duchesne Tunnel) per 1929 planning effort. Also, development of groundwater resources.
- 1950's -1960's: Water treatment facilities constructed for Wasatch Front streams.



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City Creek Canyon: From Typhoid to Rehabilitation



Photo of City Creek, June 2, 1909



*Photo of City Creek Canyon and Water Treatment Plant
Salt Lake Tribune; Oct. 20, 2023*



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Watershed Rehabilitation in the Cottonwood Canyons

Mining, Deforestation, and the “Runoff Flu”



*1st Chief Forester,
USFS Gifford Pinchot*

**GOVERNMENT IS
TO PLANT TREES**

Project Will Be Recommended for
Salt Lake Forest Reserves.

TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY

**MAXIMUM FLOW OF STREAMS
MADE LATER IN YEAR.**

A forestry project important to Salt Lake valley and to Salt Lake City particularly, in view of her recent acquisition of water rights in Big Cottonwood is to be recommended to the United States department of agriculture this winter in a report to be filed by Walter B. Hadley and J. M. Fetherof of the forestry service. Messrs. Hadley and Fetherof are now stopping at the Cullen Hotel, the former having arrived yesterday and Mr. Fetherof joining him this morning.

They have been making a careful study of the Salt Lake forest reserve for the government during the entire summer and will not complete their labors until snow begins to fly. Their special mission has been to study the best means of remedying the timber scarcity on the lower western slopes about Parley's, Mill Creek and Big and Little Cottonwood. As a result of their investigations, Mr. Hadley states that they will recommend the carrying out of "planting plans," such as the government has successfully tried in other parts of the country, notably California. These plans call for the planting of hundreds of young trees on the now denuded slopes.

The result of this, it was stated by Mr. Hadley yesterday, would be to conserve millions of gallons of water for Big Cottonwood, as well as for the other creeks about which the forestrymen have been working.

Retard Maximum Flow.

*Salt Lake Herald, Sept.
1905*



Alta Mining Town, 1873



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1974 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

Multi-barrier approach to preventing water pollution

1. Source water protection
2. Treatment
3. Distribution
4. Monitoring



WATER QUALITY REPORT 2025 | PWSID# UTAH 18026

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Puede encontrar una versión completa de este informe en español en: www.slc.gov/utilities/water-quality.

Managing Our Watersheds to Protect Our Water

- Land conservation and restoration
- Public education
- Regulation
- Partnerships
- Monitoring
- www.slc.gov/utilities/watershed/



Little Dell Reservoir and Mormon Pioneer Trail in Parleys Creek Watershed – Photo Credit: Trails Utah

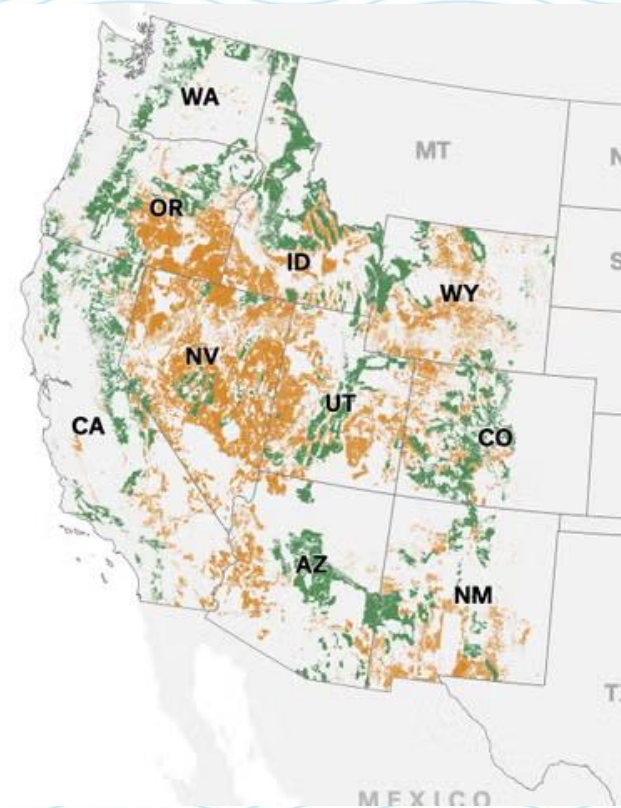
Watershed Message

Addressing Future Watershed Conditions

- Climate change
- Population growth
- Recreation and development
- Conflicting values and pressures

 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands eligible for sale

 U.S. Forest Service lands eligible for sale



Source: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee budget reconciliation bill text (as of June 16, 2025); BLM, USFS. Map by the Wilderness Society.

Public land sale proposal map published in Outside Magazine (online), June 17, 2025; most of these lands have now been removed, but previously included lands in Salt Lake City's watershed.



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THANK YOU

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