

UGS BOARD MEETING
Department of Natural Resources
Utah Geological Survey, Utah Core Research Center
240 N. Redwood Road, Salt Lake City
Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

The meeting of the UGS Board was called to order at 8:34 am

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Elissa Richards – Chair, Ken Fleck – Vice Chair, Becky Hammond, Neil Burk, Riley Brinkerhoff, Michael Hansen, Rich Borden. Andy Bedingfield (SITLA) joined online.

UGS Staff:, Darlene Batatian, Ben Dlin, Nguyen Seymour, and Cheryl Wing.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Ken Fleck motioned to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2026 UGS Board meeting. Riley Brinkerhoff seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously, and the motion carried.

Formal Approval of Contract Proposals

Although contract proposals for external funding are provisionally approved by the Board by email, approval of contracts valued at greater than \$50,000 require formal approval at the next Board meeting. The proposals are:

Expanding wetland monitoring and improving condition metrics in Utah; funding from US Environmental Protection Agency; new funding to the UGS \$473,477.38; total project funding \$630,858.34; estimated start date July 1, 2027; estimated end date June 30, 2031.

Guide to wetland plants of Utah's Montane Ecoregion; funding from Environmental Protection Agency; new funding to the UGS \$143,459.09; total project funding \$261,458.97; estimated start date July 1, 2027; estimated end date June 30, 2030.

Evaluation of Potential Aquifers and their Hydrologic Connections in Washington County, Utah; funding from Utah Division of Water Rights (w/ Wash. Co. Water Cons. District); new funding to the UGS \$151,741.27; total project funding \$189,676.58; estimated start date 7/1/2026; estimated end date 6/30/2028.

IGNITE - Integrated Geothermal & Network Infrastructure for Technology & Energy; funding from DOE; new funding to the UGS \$440,000; total project funding \$4,400,000; estimated start date 10/01/2026; estimated end date 9/30/2028.

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Hydrologic Modeling of Newfoundland Basin Surface Water Volume; funding from FFSL; new funding to the UGS \$5,619; total project cost \$78,104 [no UGS Cost Share]; estimated start date 7/1/2026; estimated end date 6/30/2027.

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Becky Hammond motioned to formally approve the proposals, Rich Borden seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously, and the motion carried.

Director's Report – January 2026

New hires:

Nguyen Seymour – Financial Manager

Board introduced themselves to Nguyen Seymour

Service Awards:

Tyler Knudsen – 20 years

Claire Spanenberg – 5 years

Recent Publications:

Exotic Phragmites in Utah, by Jim Davis and Becka Downard, 4 p., PI-08, <https://doi.org/10.34191/PI-108>

Critical Minerals - Basic Facts For Utah, by Stephanie Mills and Andrew Rupke 4 p., PI-109, <https://doi.org/10.34191/PI-109>

Wetland Mapping and Loss in Utah Valley, by Peter Goodwin, Grant Mauk, Rebecca Molinari, and Elisabeth Stimmel, 36 p., 2 appendices, OFR-776, <https://doi.org/10.34191/OFR-776>

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Update to the Utah Quaternary Fault Database, by Adam I Hiscock, 6 p, DS-7, <https://doi.org/10.34191/DS-7>

2026 Legislative update:

UGS presented to the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee on February 6, 2026, focusing our presentation on the work we do across the state, examples of the significant return on investment that UGS delivers to the state of Utah, and UGS as a resource for legislators and their communities. This message had almost immediate results as UGS was written into several new bills that were dropped during the session, and our staff provided extensive feedback on the following bills.

SB254 - Extracted Natural Resources Amendments, Sen. Millner

- Creates a coordination council for critical minerals
- Requires UGS create a statewide critical minerals atlas/map of known resources
 - Complementary to UMOS, but more granular than current critical minerals projects
- UGS submitted an absorbable fiscal note of \$50K

HB546 - Public Lands Duty of Care Amendments, Rep. Ivory

- Directs PLPCO to identify and map ‘landscape-scale’ public lands and report to Federalism Commission and NRAE on findings
 - Portion of work directs UGS to map priority critical mineral lands
 - UGS submitted a \$5,000 absorbable fiscal note as this work is currently underway and will need minimal modification to meet the deliverable

HB509 - Wetlands Study Amendments, Rep. Owens

- Tasks the UGS with a study/comparison of wetlands in Tier 1 and 2 Counties (Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, and Utah Counties) front/back)
- Complementary, but net-new work for the Wetlands program

- UGS will receive \$78,000 in General Funds for this study, FFSL is paying our cost share (\$33,800) from their Sovereign Lands Management Account

HB125 - DNR Modifications, Rep. Shipp

- Large bill that contained all updates to DNR divisions
- UGS portion was twofold-
 - Amending our statute 73-3-202 “Powers of the Survey” to include our decades-long work on groundwater and wetlands
 - Amended our board makeup to include one groundwater representative, amended in a substitute to include an additional board member seat (for a total of 8) to represent the minerals industry

HB157 – lines 870-876 “Powers of the Survey”

UGS proposed adjustments to our statutory language (Utah Code Section 23, 79-3) to add definition for long-standing groundwater and wetlands work performed by UGS. Initially proposed as part of a DNR Amendments bill, HB157, these were combined with other DNR amendments into HB125 and approved (see lines 1452-1471 in <https://le.utah.gov/~2026/bills/static/HB0125.html>):

- (i) assist as requested by a state or local agency to measure, analyze, and report on the quantity, quality, and seasonal and long-term viability of a groundwater and surface water resource in the state;*
- (j) provide data that supports scientific understanding, resource planning, and resource development related to groundwater and surface water;*
- (k) assess the function, distribution, and ecological characteristic of a wetland to regional hydrology, historic change, and resource capacity to enhance resource management or a planning effort;*

UGS also proposed adjusting our Board makeup to formally add a groundwater industry representative, replacing one of four mineral industry representatives. After input from the Utah Mining Association, a change was made to *add* a board member representing the groundwater industry. UGS will have an 8-member board within the next few months. We will work with the Utah Board of Commissions to determine next steps to fill the new seat. As Neil Burk is already representing the groundwater resources in one seat, we will recruit a new mineral industry representative and plan to consult with UMA to help advertise for this board opportunity. The language also modified the language for the four minerals seats to add ‘energy’ and ‘geothermal’ industry representation.

With a minerals board seat open we would like to decide what type of expertise would be best to fill the seat. We could look at industrial minerals or geothermal. UGS will also discuss with the Executive Director of the Utah Mining Association to see if he has anyone in mind that could fit that seat.

Lastly, the final approved budget resulted in a one-time 2% cut (\$120,000) to UGS’ general funds for the current year (FY26). This was not unexpected and was allocated to staffing and current

expense; however, we are able to absorb this without impacts, given that we have implemented a sound financial strategy and anticipate a budget surplus for this fiscal year.

Budget, Expenses and Finance

As confirmed by our new FM2's preliminary assessment of our financial position, UGS is in a strong budgetary position. In fact, as we approach year end, we may be uncomfortably close to our limit for non-lapsing ('carryover') funds, and it is appropriate to consider options. We have accelerated certain necessary expenses, for example, replacement of computers and purchase of software for 3D cross sections; and are considering a \$15,000 remodel of our employee break room as well as converting a poorly-used interior cubicle space "(Pangea)" into a much-needed larger conference room. Requesting a reduction of our final Q4 Fund 1137/Restricted Account payment into our operating budget would reduce our operating budget funds, and reserve funds in our restricted account as a 'savings account' for future financial needs.

Our UGS team has been very successful at new funding opportunities, and we are carefully monitoring our capacity to take on new work. We must be strategic about the work we do, and not over-reach beyond our planned staffing levels and personnel budget. This may mean declining to pursue certain new funding opportunities until we have completed some of our work.

New Recruitments. As planned, we are re-allocating some of our personnel savings from our staffing adjustments last year and recruiting 4 new science positions. Recruitment notices for two positions have already been posted: A Wetlands environmental scientist (Geotech level, term-limited, Groundwater and Wetlands Program), and a Mapping project geologist (Schedule B, Geologic Mapping Program). A project geologist (TL) to assist Steph Mills with mineral geologic framework studies will also shortly be posted. Pending anticipated announcements of several additional new geothermal funding awards, we will likely also recruit a geophysicist/project manager (TL) to assist the geothermal team in the near future.

Re-allocating Existing Staff: UGS is sharing some staff between programs to assist with projects, including deploying GIO staff to help run geothermal geophysical surveys. This minimizes the need to hire additional TL staff and gives our staff opportunities to develop new geologic skill sets. Many thanks to our program leads to being open to sharing staff!

Slides at the end of this text provide a section with more detailed budget information.

Space Planning:

UGS has a little extra money so we would like to use some of that to reconfigure some spaces. If costs are reasonable our plans are to reconfigure some work stations to accommodate 4 new people. We would like to add a 2nd conference room created from a room that was used for remote workers during covid that are now back in office and will be moved to new created workstations. We would also like to remodel the breakroom.

After Meeting Action Items:

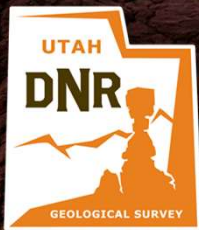
1. Figure out how many Industrial Minerals geologists work in this field?
2. Send 2024 mining report to Board
3. Provide a list of names that attended Andrew's Industrial Minerals workshop last year.

Board Discussion Items:

- Core Center could be moving locations in the next 3-7 years which could give us an opportunity to get nicer space that could have an educational center. Board should discuss what that would look like. Soliciting funds would be something to discuss at next meeting or during the Board field trip.
- Board Field Trip will take place October 7-9, 2026.
- Next Board Meeting – August 12, 2026
- Board would like to go back to having UGS program sections present their current work at each quarterly meeting.
- Tour the Bookstore after August meeting.
- Crawford Award nominees need to be gathered and submitted to Board in the next month so it can be awarded at the UGS Summer Meeting, June 25, 2026. Elissa Richards will gather votes and send the winner to Cheryl and Darlene.

Board adjourned 10:49

**UGS Board Meeting
April 15, 2026
Utah Geological Survey**



Agenda

8:30	Welcome and Introductory Comments	Elissa Richards, Chair
8:40	Action Items Approval of minutes of UGS Board meeting, January 21, 2026 Formal approval of project proposals since last meeting	Board
8:55	Director's Report Introductions of New UGS Staff, Other Staff News, Recent Publications Budget Management, New Recruitments, Legislative Session, etc	Darlene Batatian
9:45	Break	
10:00	Financial Update	Nguyen Seymour
10:15	Discussion Items Upcoming announcements SE Utah Board field trip October 7-9 – SE Utah Future Board meetings- presentations from programs, staff introductions?	Darlene Batatian/Staff
11:00	Closing Comments, Adjourn	Elissa Richards



Contract Proposals

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Introductions of New UGS Staff, Other Staff News, Recent Publications
Budget Management, New Recruitments, Legislative Session, etc | Darlene Batatian |
| 9:45 | Break | |
| 10:00 | Financial Update | Nguyen Seymour |
| 10:15 | Discussion Items
Upcoming announcements
SE Utah Board field trip October 7-9 – SE Utah
Future Board meetings- presentations from programs, staff introductions? | Darlene Batatian/Staff |
| 11:00 | Closing Comments, Adjourn | Elissa Richards |



WELCOME!!

Nguyen Seymour
Financial Manager
(FM2)



Utah Geological Survey "...provides timely scientific information about Utah's geologic environment, resources and hazards" **geology.utah.gov**

Service Awards

Twenty Years!

Tyler Knudsen



Utah Geological Survey *"...provides timely scientific information about Utah's geologic environment, resources and hazards"* geology.utah.gov

Service Awards!

FIVE YEARS!

Claire Spangenberg



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Intent Language (Changes to UGS Statutes)

Add groundwater, wetlands to our statute

HB157 - lines 870-876 "Powers of the Survey"

- (i) Assist as requested by state and local agencies to measure, analyze, and report on the quantity, quality, and seasonal and long-term viability of a groundwater and surface water resource in the state;
- (j) provide data that supports scientific understanding, resource planning, and resource development related to groundwater and surface water;
- (k) assess the function, distribution, and ecological characteristic of a wetland to regional hydrology, historic change, and resource capacity to enhance resource management or a planning effort;



Changes to UGS Board

The board consists of ~~seven~~ **eight** members appointed by the governor....In addition to the requirements of Section 79-2-203, the members shall have the following qualifications:

- (a) one member knowledgeable in the field of geology as applied to the practice of **civil-engineering geology**;
- (b) **four**~~three~~ members knowledgeable and representative of various segments of the mineral industry or energy industry throughout the state, such as hydrocarbons, **geothermal**, solid fuels, metals, and industrial minerals;
- (c) one member knowledgeable ~~of the economic or scientific interests of the mineral industry in the state about the economic and scientific focus of areas over which the survey has duties or powers under Section 79-3-202;~~
and
- (d) **one member knowledgeable about groundwater or water resources;**
and(d)
- (e) ~~one member who is:~~ (i) interested in the goals of the survey; and (ii) from the public at large.

(3) The director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration is an ex officio member of the board but without ~~any~~ voting privileges.



UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FY2026 Financial Performance Update

Year-to-Date Results, Projections & Strategic Outlook

Board of Director Meeting | April 15, 2026

\$18.5M

Total Appropriation

\$15.2M

YTD Available Funding

\$10.7M

YTD Available Funding

\$4.4M

YTD Unexpended Balance

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Workforce Update

Headcount changes, open roles & personnel as % of spend

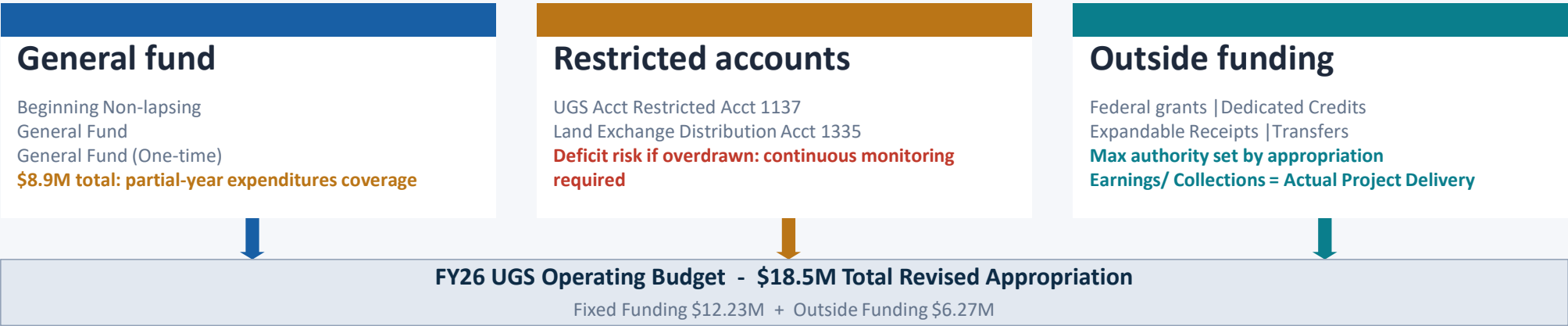
07

Key Risks & Opportunities

Areas of Focus for Q4

UGS FUNDING ARCHITECTURE

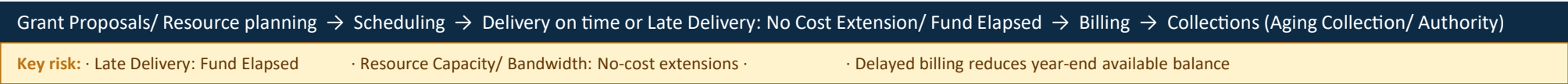
FUNDING SOURCES



EXPENDITURE PROFILE



OUTSIDE FUNDING LIFECYCLE



FINANCE STRATEGIC VISION

1

Take care of people

1. Long-term funded workforce plan.
2. Clear funding source per FTE at time of hiring.
3. Resource mix tied to mission vs. short-term grants.

Plan beyond grants/ outside funding

2

Monitor proactively

1. Restricted account balance vs. draw.
2. O/S funding billing and collections.
3. Balance underspending and overspending programs to avoid deficit.

Balance programs to avoid deficit

3

Forecast accurately

1. Partner with stakeholders to build accurate forecasts.
2. Smooth operations proactively.
3. Remove admin burden so staff can focus on mission-critical work.

Finance as strategic partner

KEY FINANCE GOALS

Funding source mapping

- Assign funding type to each position at hiring.
- Document plan and Refresh annually with program managers

Balance & collections monitoring

- Track restricted account draws, O/S billing status, program over/underspend.
- Flag early.

Stakeholder forecasting

- Quarterly partnered forecasts.
- Reduce admin burden.
- Enable staff to focus on geology, not finance paperwork.

Mission outcome: Stable funding enables great science — people funded, programs delivered, mission of the Survey advanced

FY2026 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

As of April 10, 2026

Total Revised Appropriation

\$18.5M

↑\$1.04M vs. beginning FY26

YTD Expenditures

\$10.7M

72% of available funding utilized

O/S Funding Billed YTD

\$3.54M

79% of FY25 total at 67% elapsed

Non-Lapsing Reserve

\$3.65M

Legislature-authorized carry-forward

FUNDING UTILIZATION AT A GLANCE

71% Utilized (\$10.7M of \$15.1M available)

29% Remaining

RESERVE CARRY-FORWARD NOTE

The \$3.65M non-lapsing figure represents the [legislature's authorized maximum](#) that may carry forward as reserve.

Bonneville Salt Flats Restoration: \$250,000	Equipment: \$375,000	Grant Projects Match: \$300,000	Supplies: \$350,000
Critical Mineral Studies: \$225,000	Geothermal Resource Mapping: \$1,650,000	Software: \$250,000	Training & Incentives: \$250,000

The **projected year-end balance** is determined by Q4 expenditures and Q4 outside revenue collections — see Slide 23-24 for the full projection.

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

FIXED FUNDING

↓\$91.7K / -0.7%

Beginning Non-Lapsing	1,272,200	
General Fund	6,004,300	
General Fund (One Time)	1,657,300	↓ 115,700
UGS Restricted Acc 1137	3,270,800	↑ 23,800
Land Exchange Acc 1335	29,000	↑ 200

TOTAL FIXED

\$12,233,600

OUTSIDE FUNDING

↑\$1.13M / +22%

Federal Funds	1,734,600	
Federal Funds (One Time)	828,800	↑ 822,300
Dedicated Credits	801,100	↑ 6,700
Expandable Receipts	381,800	↑ 200
Transfers	2,518,700	↑ 306,000

TOTAL OUTSIDE

\$6,265,000

TOTAL REVISED APPROPRIATION: \$18,498,600

RESTRICTED FUNDING: FUND 1137

Q4 PROJECTED REVENUE

Revenue line	Freq.	YTD Revenue	Avg.	Period Remaining	Projected Q4
0035 Mine Occupation Taxes - Mineral	Q	213,736	71,245	1 (Q4)	71,245
0036 Mine Occupation Taxes- Oil & Gas	Q	958,076	319,359	1 (Q4)	319,359
1600 Interest Income	M	33,534	4,192	4 (Mar- Jun)	16,767
4744 Operating Transfer- Mineral Lease	M	919,087	114,886	3 (Apr- Jun)	344,658
TOTAL		2,124,433			752,029

YTD Revenue Collected

\$2,124,433

Projected Additional (Q4)

+ \$752,029

Projected EOY Fund 1137 Revenue

\$2,876,462

vs. \$3,270,800 appropriation

RUNNING BALANCE

Beginning Balance

\$1,003,811

YTD Revenue

+\$2,124,433

YTD Cash Transfer

-\$2,435,250

YTD Ending Balance

\$692,994

Projected Q4 Revenue

+\$752,029

Projected Q4 Cash Transfer

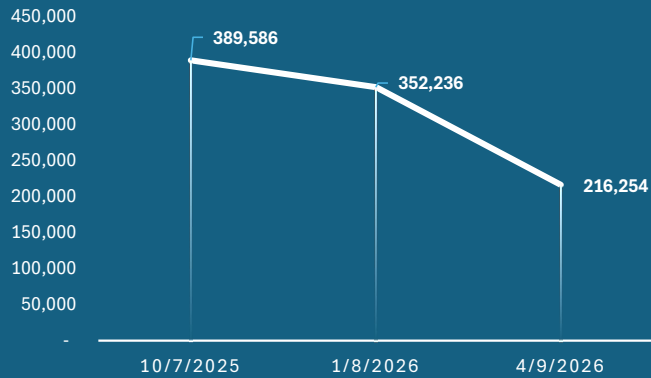
-\$811,750

Projected EOY Ending Balance

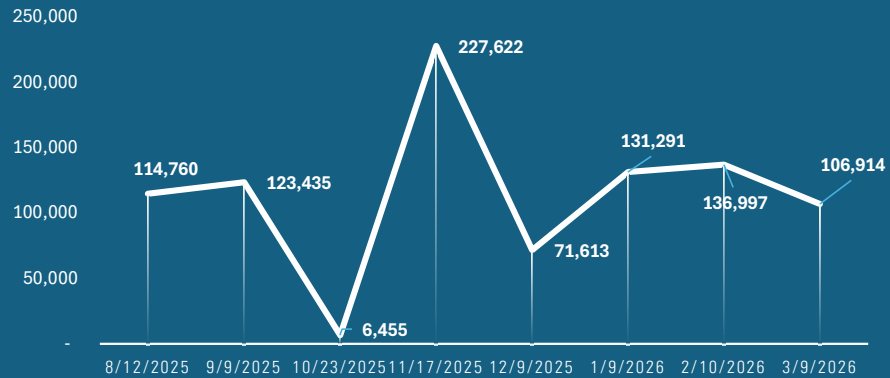
\$633,273

RESTRICTED FUNDING: FUND 1137

0036 MINE (OIL & GAS)



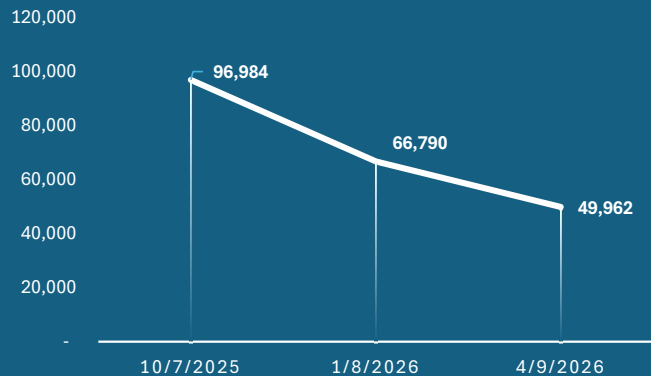
4744 FEDERAL MINERAL LEASE & ESCALANTE



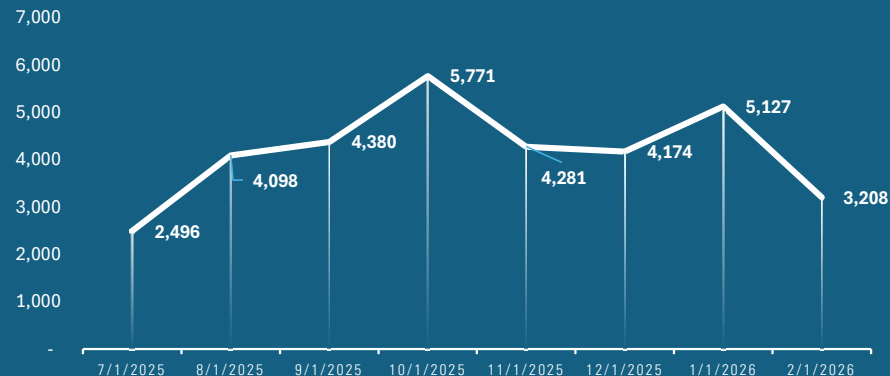
0036 Mine Occ. Tax - Oil & Gas
\$958,076 **45%**

4744 Fed Mineral Lease & Escalante
\$919,087 **43%**

0035 MINE (MINERALS)



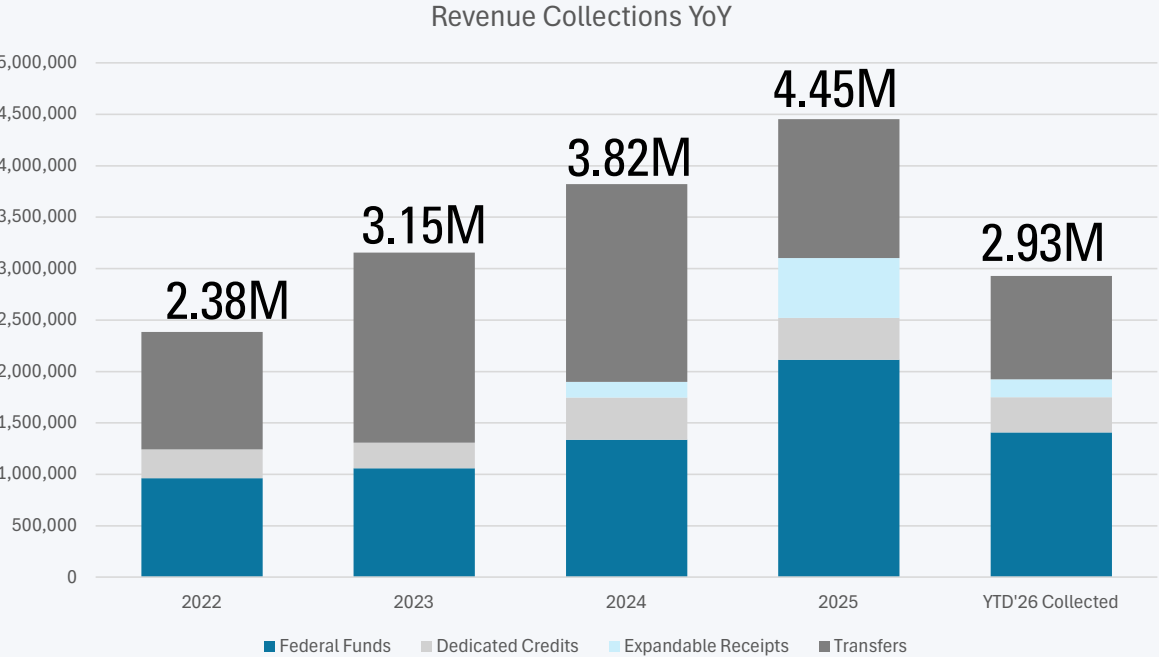
1600- INTEREST INCOME



0035 Mine Occ. Tax - Minerals
\$213,736 **10%**

1600 Interest
\$33,534 **2%**

OUTSIDE FUNDING: YOY TRENDS

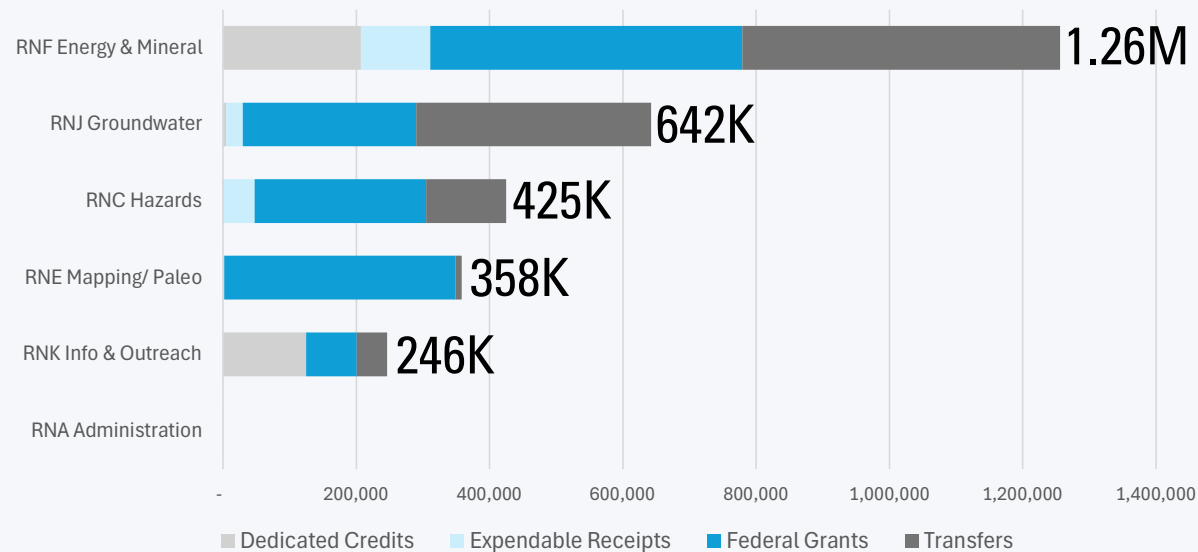


3,540,245
YTD FY26 O/S Funding Billed
79% of FY25 totals

YTD FY26 COLLECTIONS BY PROGRAM

RNF Energy & Mineral	\$1,256,252	43%
RNJ Groundwater	\$642,422	22%
RNC Hazards	\$425,051	15%
RNE Mapping/Paleo	\$358,293	12%
RNK Info & Outreach	\$246,481	8%

OUTSIDE FUNDING: YTD COLLECTIONS & Q4 FORECAST



2,928,715
YTD FY26 O/S Funding Collected

Q4 PROJECTED COLLECTIONS

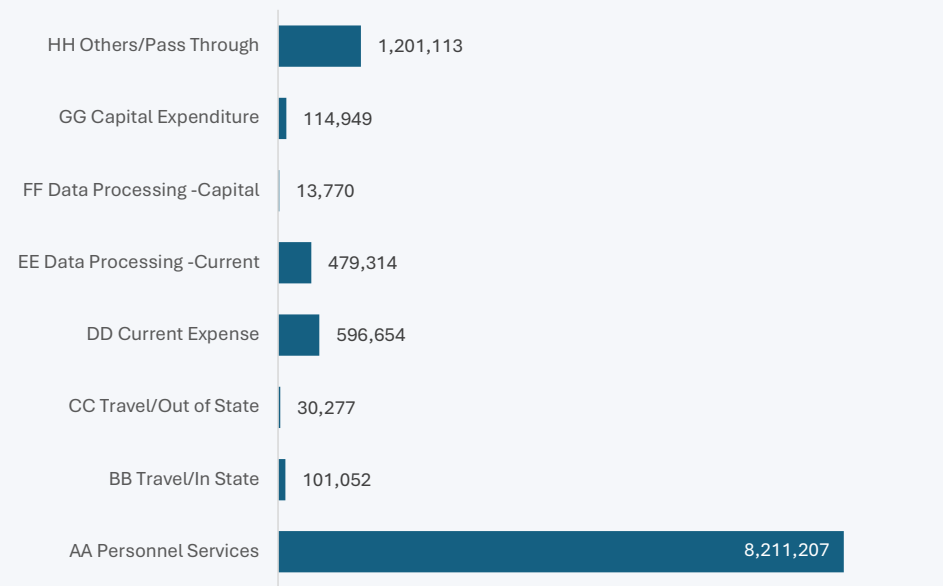
Low (-1SD) | Base (Avg Q1-Q3) | High (+1SD) |

	Low	Base	High
Dedicated Credit	27,420	113,417	199,415
Expendable Receipts	4,754	58,392	112,029
Federal Grants	255,741	469,540	683,338
Transfers	68,593	334,890	601,186
Q4 O/S Collections	356,508	976,238	1,595,969

FY26 PROJECTED COLLECTIONS

	Low	Base	High
Dedicated Credit	367,671	453,669	539,666
Expendable Receipts	179,929	233,566	287,204
Federal Grants	1,664,361	1,878,159	2,091,958
Transfers	1,073,261	1,339,558	1,605,855
Projected Collected	3,285,222	3,904,953	4,524,683

YTD EXPENDITURES & Q4 FORECAST



Personnel as % of spend 76.1%

10,777,431
FY26 YTD Expenditures

Q4 EXPENDITURES FORECAST

Low (Avg Q1-3) | Base (Avg Q3) | High (Avg Q3 +Highest Mo) |

	Low	Base	High
AA Personnel Services	2,630,161	2,932,213	3,389,133
BB Travel/In State	32,916	31,132	42,620
CC Travel/Out of State	10,092	8,837	15,281
DD Current Expense	198,851	152,886	241,264
EE Data Processing -Current	159,771	158,210	209,378
FF Data Processing-Capital	4,590	13,770	22,950
GG Capital Expenditure	37,753	49,777	82,962
HH Others/Pass Through	400,371	336,061	620,992
TOTAL	3,474,505	3,682,885	4,624,579

FY26 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

	Low	Base	High
FY26 Expenditures	13,898,020	14,106,400	15,048,093

WORKFORCE UPDATE

Current Headcount

87

of 90 budgeted

Budgeted Positions

90

3 open roles

YoY Change

-5

vs. April 2025 (95)

Personnel % of Spend

76.1%

of YTD expenditures

OPEN ROLES — ACTIVELY RECRUITING

Project Geologist – EMR 3300

Energy & Mineral

[Recruiting](#)

Project Geologist – MAP 3500

Mapping/Paleo

[Recruiting](#)

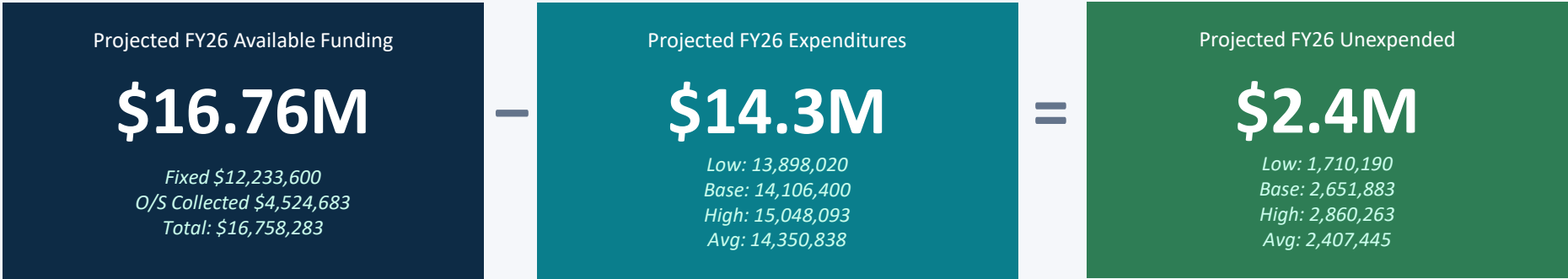
Wetland Ecologist– GWP 3910

Groundwater & Wetland Program

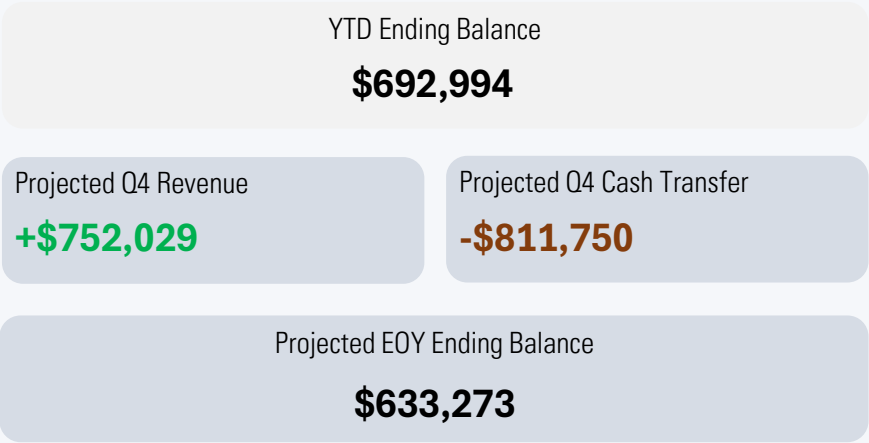
[Recruiting](#)

PROJECTED END-OF-YEAR BALANCE

PROJECTED UNEXPENDED BALANCE



PROJECTED EOY 1137 BALANCE



YEAR-TO-DATE UNEXPENDED BALANCE

Available Funding	\$15,162,315
YTD Expenditures	\$10,777,431
YTD Unexpended Balance	\$4,384,884
YTD Fund 1137 Balance	\$692,994

KEY RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES

RISK

Workforce Capacity — 3 Open Roles

2 Project Geologist positions open across EMR and Mapping/Paleo programs.
1 Wetland Ecologist position open in Groundwater & Wetland program.
Prolonged vacancies may reduce program deliverables and federal grant performance metrics.

OPPORTUNITY

Bookstore Revenue Growth +14% YTD Sales, +39% Web Traffic

DNR online bookstore conversion funnel is improving: traffic +39%, completed checkout +16%.
Mobile conversion at 2.82% signals younger demographic engagement.

STRENGTH

Strong Fiscal Position — \$2.4M Projected Unexpended Balance

71% utilization with 75% of year elapsed indicates disciplined spending.
Non-lapsing reserve of up to \$3.65M provides strategic flexibility for FY27 planning.

STRENGTH/ RISK

Outside Funding Momentum +22% vs. Prior Year Appropriation

Federal grants strong (+33% vs FY24). Transfers stable.
Continued federal partnership investment indicates program credibility.
Reliance on outside funding sources requires comprehensive, long-term planning to ensure UGS staffing needs remain fully funded.

UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

YTD FY26 Summary

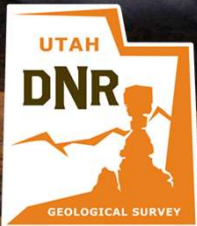
- ✓ 72% spend utilization at 75% year elapsed — on track
- ✓ \$4.26M YTD unexpended — projects \$2.4M EOY balance
- ✓ Outside funding on pace — billed 79% of GY25 totals
- ⚠ 3 open roles — capacity & deliverable risk

Questions & Discussion

*Finance team available for
detailed program-level
breakdowns upon request.*

April 15, 2026

Thanks for all you do!



DIVISIONS



OFFICES



WE ARE DNR

We protect and enhance Utah's natural resources for current and future generations.



OUR MISSION

The Utah Department of Natural Resources ensures the quality of life of Utah residents by managing and protecting the state's natural resources by:



Enhancing the certainty and security of Utah's water



Advancing the stewardship of our public lands and natural history



Expanding Utah's energy and minerals portfolio



Improving the health and resilience of our lands, resources, watersheds and wildlife



Elevating outdoor recreation

OUR CORE VALUES



OWN IT/SOLVE IT

I solve problems and seek solutions that get us closer to achieving our mission and goals.



BE ACCOUNTABLE

I am responsible for my behaviors, actions and results.



I SEE YOU

I include others and address bias in order to create fairness and greater diversity.



SPEAK UP

I share my perspective and ideas without fear and seek feedback from others.



IMPROVE ALWAYS

I respectfully question the status quo when I believe there is a better way. I strive to better myself and my team.

BE RECKLESSLY GOOD



Utah Geological Survey "...provides timely scientific information about Utah's geologic environment, resources and hazards" geology.utah.gov