UTAH WATERSHEDS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Information

July 9, 2026
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Department of Natural Resources Auditorium
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Meeting Recording: https://www.youtube.com/live/ijFR7SKuJuk

Council Members present

- Scott Paxman, Chair, Reclamation Projects
- Sterling Brown, Vice Chair, Utah Lake Watershed Council
- Dex Winterton, Uintah Watershed Council
- Justen Smith, USU Extension Interim Vice President
- Joel Williams, Utah Division of Water Resources (non-voting member)
- Todd Adams, proxy for Joel Ferry, Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Cody Allred, West Colorado River Watershed Council
- Laura Briefer, Jordan River Watershed Council
- Nathan Daugs, Bear River Watershed Council
- Judy Watanabe, proxy for Kris Hamlet, Utah Division of Emergency Management
- Andy Nickle, Sevier River Watershed Council
- Brett Palmer, West Desert Watershed Council
- Warren Peterson, Water Attorney
- Marcelle Shoop, Environmental Conservation Interests
- Rick Smith, Weber River Watershed Council
- Teresa Wilhelmsen, Utah Division of Water Rights/State Engineer (non-voting member)
- Bill Winfield, Southeastern Utah Watershed Council
- Robert Moore, Utah Association of Special Districts
- Rikki Hrenko-Browning, Industrial Interests
- Dustin Jansen, Division of Indian Affairs Director

Council Members not present

- Mike Noel, Kanab Creek/Virgin River Watershed Council
- Victor Iverson, Utah Association of Counties
- Kelly Pehrson, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- Ashley Sumner, representing Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- Tammy Pearson, Cedar/Beaver Watershed Council
- ValJay Rigby, Agricultural Interests

Others present

- Carly Payne, Watershed Councils Coordinator
- Laura Haskell
- Rachel Shilton
- Ashley Sampson
- Kevin Clyde, Southeastern Utah Watershed Council
- Nathan Lunstad
- Christine Osborne
- Mark Stratford
- Adam Wickline
- Cody Allred
- Melissa Noble
- Hailey Kirlin
- Sarah Shechter
- Jessica Reynolds, Weber River Partnership
- Duane Houston
- Mahmud Aveek
- Richard Salas
- Ric Cantrell
- Tom Moore
- Soren Simonsen

Meeting Minutes

1:01 - 1:03 p.m. - Welcome and roll call (Chair Scott Paxman)

Chair Scott Paxman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carly Payne performed roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

1:03 - 1:22 – Climate Update (Brianne Emery & Laura Haskell)

Brianne Emery, Deputy Director of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, provided a wildfire and climate update. Utah has seen 436 fires so far this season, 302

of which have been human caused. While at least 88% of these fires have been caught while under 10 acres, they have still burned a combined 362,169 acres to date. Fire fuel conditions across the state are significantly drier and more volatile than normal due to prolonged drought, low humidity, and steady winds which have dried out live and dead fuels to historic levels. Despite these conditions, post-fire rehabilitation work is underway. Emery shared insights regarding recent tours of the Cottonwood Fire with Utah Forest Restoration Initiative and the United States Forest Service. Members of the UWC thanked the division for their diligent efforts toward these ongoing fires.

Laura Haskell with the Utah Division of Water Resources presented a drought conditions update. Data indicates the majority of the state's streamflow is in some level of drought. To date, statewide reservoir levels average 60% of normal. Large multi-year reservoirs remain mostly full, while single-year or two-year reservoirs are extremely low. The Great Salt Lake water levels are declining at a similar rate to 2025 but started out at an already lower elevation. Many agricultural users that cannot rely on stored water are feeling the effects of drought more than urban users.

Relevant slides concerning the wildfire and climate update, and the drought conditions update, can be found in the materials at the end of the meeting minutes.

1:23 - 1:30 p.m. - Bear River Watershed Council report (Nathan Daugs)

Nathan Daugs reported on behalf of the Bear River Watershed Council. Recent council activities include touring the PacifiCorp infrastructure in Rich County and learning about four distinct watershed projects funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The council met with state agencies regarding water conservation and the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan. They also attended a presentation by Pheasants Unlimited regarding their funding assistance program for producers who want to do agricultural optimization. The council is struggling with full participation.
Warren Peterson asked if switching to a twice meeting schedule per year would help attendance, Daugs responded that he felt the main reason for their struggle is lack of purpose.

1:30 – 1:47 p.m. - Weber River Watershed Council report (Rick Smith and Jessica Reynolds with Weber River Partnership)

Rick Smith reported on behalf of the Weber River Watershed Council. He explained that the Weber River Watershed Council and the Weber River Partnership had previously held great discussions, which led them to the decision to join meetings and work

together as a joint partnership. He turned their time over to the Weber River Partnership, noting the Weber River Watershed Council fully supported the requests and information they would be presenting.

Jessica Reynolds delivered a comprehensive presentation for the Utah Watersheds Council members, which identified key watershed challenges, identifiable needs, opportunities, successes, and specific requests.

Reynolds discussed several interconnected challenges from six areas within the Weber River watershed, including opportunities for improvement. Reynolds also shared specific examples of successes achieved through their collaboration.

The joint partnership then presented their asks to the Utah Watersheds Council: (1) Investments in prevention rather than restoration, to reduce long-term costs and maximize lasting ecological and community benefits; (2) Align land-use planning with water realities, including integrating watershed science into development and infrastructure decisions using tools such as the “Great Salt Lake Water Conservation Toolbox”; (3) Advance watershed policy education and community engagement by strengthening connections between communities and decision-makers to improve informed, collaborative action and solutions that protect the watershed into the future.

Paxman observed that the watershed has improved through this partnership, providing a great example of what local watershed councils can achieve. Paxman stated the UWC would review these requests to determine what could be presented to the legislature.

Teresa Wilhelmsen inquired about attendance, asking if these two groups had any comparative knowledge regarding what works and what doesn’t concerning attendance and short conversation followed.

Laura Briefer and Joel Williams offered to collaborate with this partnership.

Relevant slides, prepared by the Weber River Watershed Council, can be found in the materials at the end of the meeting minutes.

1:47 - 1:55 p.m. – Utah Lake Watershed Council report (Sterling Brown)

Sterling Brown reported on behalf of the Utah Lake Watershed Council. Their council currently has eighteen members and held three meetings this past year. Agenda items from these meetings include updates and communications from the Utah Watershed Council and the Great Salt Lake Council. In addition, the council reviewed the Deer

Creek Intake Pipe Project, provided input for the Great Salt Lake Integrated Plan, and coordinated with the Utah Lake Authority. Their council also participated in the Utah State Water Plan, worked on their mission and core values, and engaged in future strategic planning.

Brown noted they also experienced challenges with attendance, expressing their previous tours seemed better attended. Brown shared that some council members are engaged in water-related issues within their community, having similar types of discussions as the council, which leads to feelings of redundancy. Brown emphasized their council is not in bad shape but feels they may not be meeting their potential.

Chair Paxman relayed that it is important for the Utah Watersheds Council to understand the challenges facing these local watershed councils.

Williams asked Brown for examples of other meetings or engagements that are creating feelings or redundancy. Brown commented that the State Water Plan meetings felt redundant because some council members were attending other meetings where the plan is also being discussed. However, he noted that watershed councils certainly needed to be involved in the State Water Plan, but worried that the overlap for some members caused them to prioritize their time elsewhere rather than attending council meetings.

Relevant slides, prepared by the Utah Lake Watershed Council, can be found in the materials at the end of the meeting minutes.

1:55 - 2:18 p.m. – Southeastern Utah Watershed Council report (Bill Winfield and Kevin Clyde)

Bill Winfield and Kevin Clyde presented on behalf of the Southeastern Utah Watershed Council. Winfield thanked the previous presenters for their educational information related to climate and drought, informing the UWC that their community was working hard to implement conservative measures in response to the ongoing drought and fires, noting that the fires had put water at the top of everyone’s mind. They expressed appreciation for the ongoing opportunity to bring their local issues forward, expressing that knowledge sharing within local watersheds and having a direct line of communication with the state are very important to their members. Winfield further explained that while individual entities and smaller groups often lobby independently, the watershed councils provide an ongoing, long-term pathway that keep the governor and legislature informed, offering a stable source of feedback and information as elected officials and interests change.

Winfield stated that their council updated their bylaws from having only co-chairs to having the option of also having a vice chair and a chair, and that was the consensus for this year, so they voted in a new chair and vice chair. Their chair is currently very busy with the Babylon Fire, otherwise they would have been presenting for this meeting.

In response to their struggles with attendance, they also updated their bylaws to include that any member who has not attended at least 50% of the meetings in a calendar year may be changed to a non-voting member. To further aid their large watershed area, the council split into two subcommittees representing the two counties, with each subcommittee holding an individual session to gather and prioritize project needs in the watershed. At their next meeting they plan to join the two prioritized lists from these meetings and move forward on the top projects from each county.

They shared their top three asks: 1) enhanced weather modification. The council has seen positive effects from past weather modification and would like to implement even more, which brings them to 2) local radar stations, which will help inform the weather modification, especially since existing radar is far away. Local radar would also provide better flood anticipation data, which would be especially with their many high-water crossings. 3) assistance regarding the Green River Pipeline project that runs from Green River, Utah, to Cresent Junction at the intersection of Highway 191 and I-70. This pipeline has the potential to provide their communities with water, which they would like to invest in and make a reality.

Paxman asked if they have been communicating with National Weather Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding the local radar and suggested they get in touch with these entities, commenting that the UWC would bring this up, as well. There was also discussion regarding the ongoing support they have received from the Division of Water Resources' meteorologist.

Winfield shared they have seen huge value in having a local watershed council along with huge value in having a state level watershed council that reports to the legislature. Clyde commented that their local watershed council is very valuable to them because it brings together several entities who have had difficulties with past communication. It has encouraged them to work together, including the native tribes, whom they really want included in these discussions. These meetings have provided a useful opportunity to discuss further plans, including planned grant submissions. The council splits their meetings back and forth between areas in the watershed, but it can be a long way for some to travel, which they believe impacts participation.

Payne clarified that during the April UWC meeting, the Utah Watersheds Council adopted a process for handling requests from the local watershed councils. She further explained that this process consisted of UWC council members voting on whether to look into specific asks from local councils and then form corresponding work groups to look into the matters. Wilhelmsen suggested it would be helpful for any requests to be made in writing at a later meeting. Paxman noted the Weber River Watershed Council had prepared their presented letter that outlined their requests succinctly and suggested the Southeastern Utah Watershed Council to prepare a similar written document. Peterson suggested completing the work related to these requests now ahead of the annual report that was due in August so they could incorporate the current requests into their report, while supporting Wilhelmsen's suggestion for future meetings.

Warren Peterson moved that the UWC compile and include the requests made by local watershed councils to ensure they are part of the upcoming report to the legislature in August. Bill Winfield seconded the motion. Sterling Brown added that their own Utah Lake Watershed Council's requests from 2025 also be included in the report. Warren Peterson moved to include all local watershed councils' requests in their report. The motion passed unanimously. Dex Winterton echoed, post vote, that the requests go beyond just southeastern Utah and could be effective requests for all watershed councils.

2:18 - 2:40 p.m. – Discussion: local watershed council support

Chair Paxman expressed that the subcommittee, consisting of about 6 or 7 UWC council members, have been involved in many discussions about how to better support the local watershed councils. Paxman then turned the time over to Payne to present information found by the subcommittee.

Update from legislative subcommittee regarding seeking administrative staff

Payne established that she was sharing a follow up from the April meeting in which the subcommittee provided their report to this council regarding how to make council meetings more effective and reduce burnout. It was determined that the overall request is to seek paid help for the administrative duties of the local watershed councils, which would aid partnership efforts and the legal requirements that come with being a public body. Efforts have been made to move forward with this request, including obtaining approval from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leadership to submit a budget request to incorporate these new employees. Paxman will also present this request to the legislative Water Development Commission in August. Although this committee has been working toward this goal and are excited at the opportunity, it is up to whether the

legislature will fund it. Paxman acknowledged where administrative support has been available, it has made a stark positive difference, citing what the Weber River Watershed Council presented during this very meeting. Winfield added that the support this council has received from Payne is of extremely high value and that they would not be able to accomplish what they have without it.

Payne suggested an official motion be made by council members to support this budget request to the legislature for paid administrative staff for local watershed councils, explaining that at this time, the request is for four paid employees to fill strategic gaps and provide administrative support for local watershed councils.

Bill Winfield moved that the council support a budget request and request for appropriation up to state leadership. Laura Briefer seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Payne responded to questions regarding opportunities for further agency partnership, stating they are working to reduce any possible duplication of efforts by conversing with entities such as the Colorado River Authority of Utah on how the Advisory Councils and the Watershed Councils could and should be working together. It was mentioned that there is a possibility to merge the two programs – the Colorado River Authority Advisory Councils of Utah and the local Utah Watershed Councils and will share an update regarding this matter at a future meeting.

Further discussion regarding the Weber River Partnership reflected the viability of properly staffed watershed councils. Peterson noted that learning about the process of how the partnership formed confirms that the watershed councils are on the right track as they build and work toward the same level of collaboration.

Review of council mission and legislative purpose

Peterson recommended that members review the watershed council statute and consider striking restrictions concerning infrastructure development, financing, and planning. Council members discussed what this would look like in practice, with some expressing concern about watershed councils becoming a gateway for water project funding or duplicating efforts of other bodies that already have infrastructure-related mandates. The council agreed to have the legislative subcommittee review this matter and report back to the wider council.

How can the UWC help strengthen and support local councils

Brown suggested an annual or bi-annual virtual training or roundtable for all watershed council officers to facilitate idea sharing between councils. He requested Payne host one to two of these forums in the foreseeable future. Paxman stated they would discuss

this suggestion in the subcommittee. Smith suggested reviewing the strategic planning material from the watershed council workshop.

2:40 - 2:43 p.m. – Annual Report

Paxman discussed the annual report and noted it will include the current status of the state and local watershed councils, organizational needs such as paid staff and legislative requests, including those discussed in this meeting. Paxman will present during the August 20th legislative water development commission meeting. Members noted a report to the Utah Water Task Force at an upcoming meeting would also be valuable.

2:43 - 2:44 p.m. – Open time for discussion/other council items

Paxman opened the meeting to discussion or any further business. Brown inquired whether the October meeting would be an appropriate time for an update regarding fire restoration progress. Paxman stated he would inquire about that, and Todd Adams suggested having a member from the Watershed Restoration Initiative present an update on their restoration efforts.

2:44 - 2:55 p.m. - Council business

Approval of meeting minutes, April 9, 2026:

Rick Smith moved to approve the April 9, 2026, meeting minutes. Bill Winfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update bylaws to allow for permanent alternates:

Payne shared the proposed wording changes to the council bylaws which would allow a member of the council to designate a permanent alternate. The intent behind this change is to bolster attendance and improve communication between the Utah Watersheds Council and the Governor's office through agency heads. Robert Moore commented that he appreciates the concept behind this change but wants to ensure that the new language doesn't allow a member to designate an alternate that the appointing authority disagrees with. It was agreed that this matter would move to the legislative subcommittee for further refinement.

Warren Peterson moved to table this item until the October meeting so the legislative subcommittee could further discuss and refine the matter to bring back to council at that time. Robert Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting structure and frequency:

Paxman asked the council's thoughts on how to change the meeting structure to allow more time for discussion. An idea was presented to change to six meetings per year. Another idea was offered to reduce the number of local councils reporting during each quarterly meeting. Winfield suggested having two councils report verbally at each meeting and a third council submit a written report in advance of the meeting which could help reduce demand on time. Smith stated each council could alternate years by presenting in person one year and doing a written report the next. No decision was made.

Reminder of upcoming local watershed council reports:

- October 6, 2026: Jordan River, Uintah, West Desert
- January 2027 (exact date to be determined): Sevier River, Kanab Creek/Virgin River, Cedar/Beaver

The next Utah Watersheds Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the DNR Auditorium, Salt Lake City, Utah

2:55 - 2:55 p.m. – Public comment:

No public comments.

2:56 p.m. - Adjourned

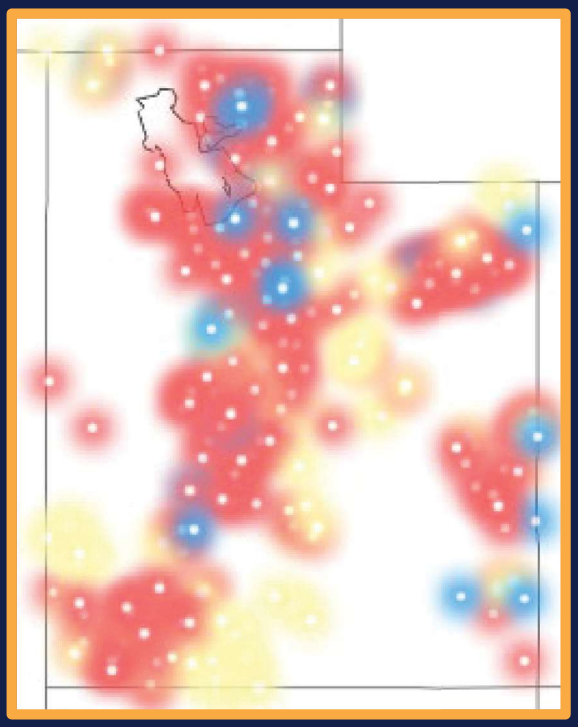
Wildfire and Climate Update

Brianne Emery
Deputy Director, Program Servic

Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Season Summary

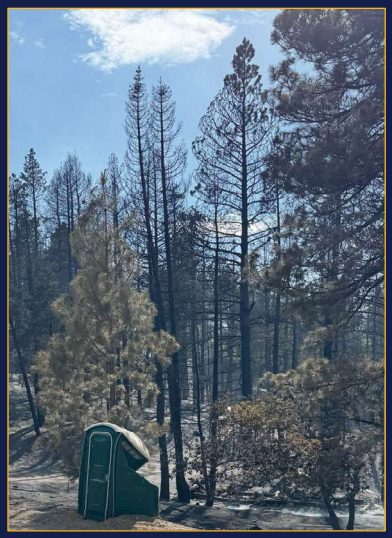
TOTAL FIRES	TOTAL ACRES
436	362,169
Human Caused: 302	Caught under 10 acres: 88%

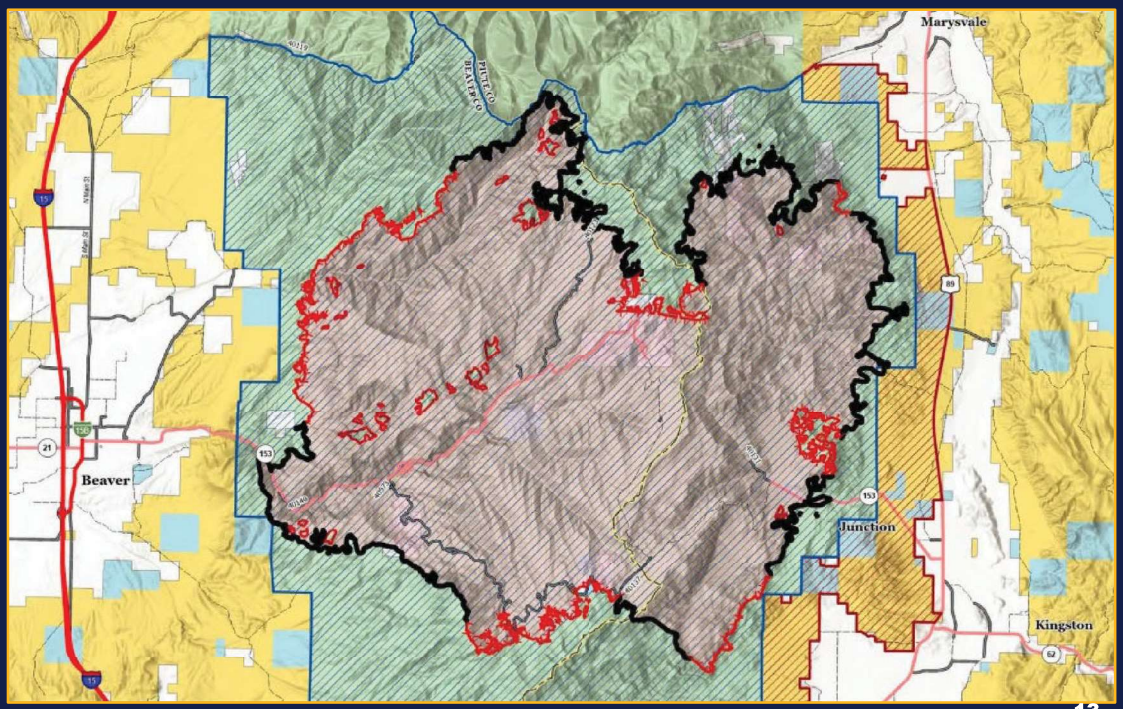


Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Cottonwood Fire

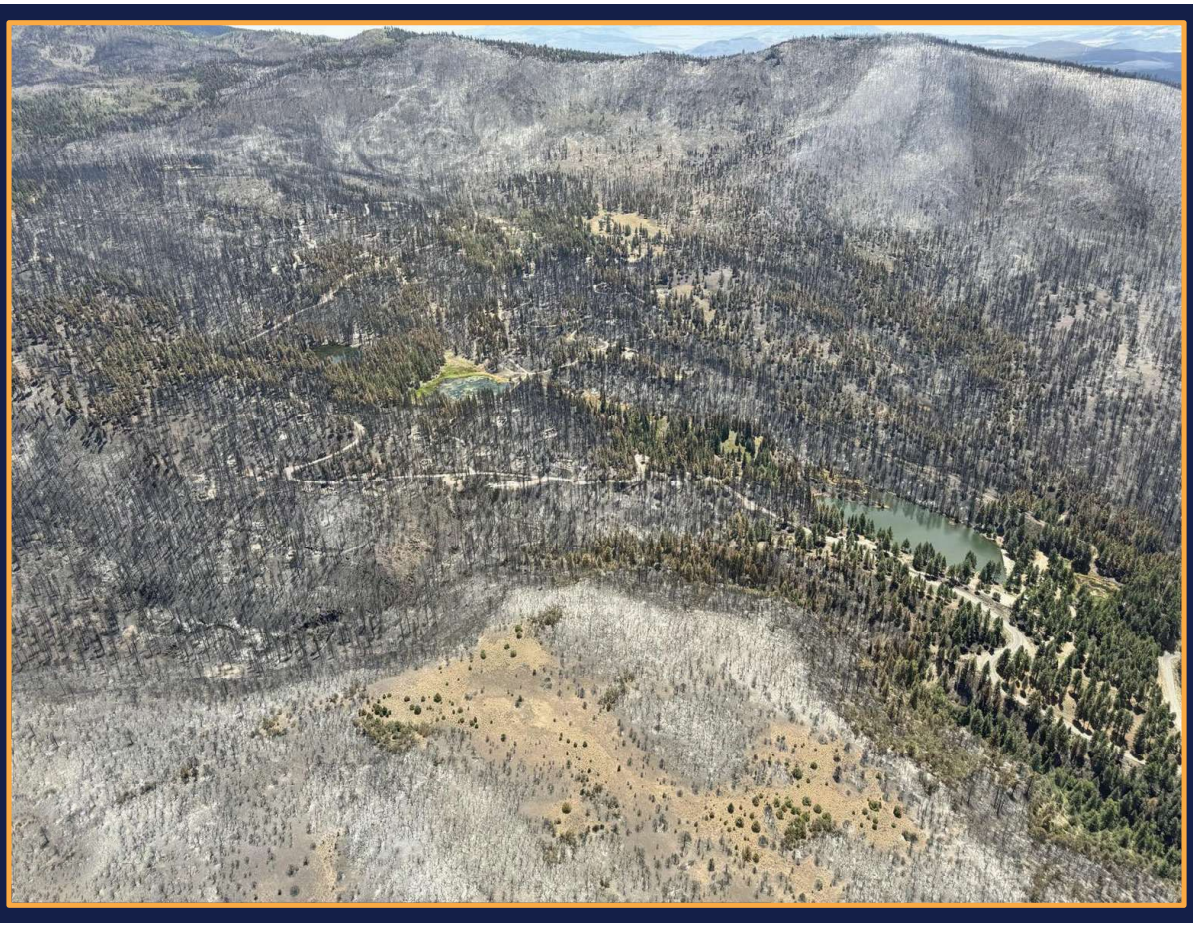
Started June 22
Currently 96,333 acres





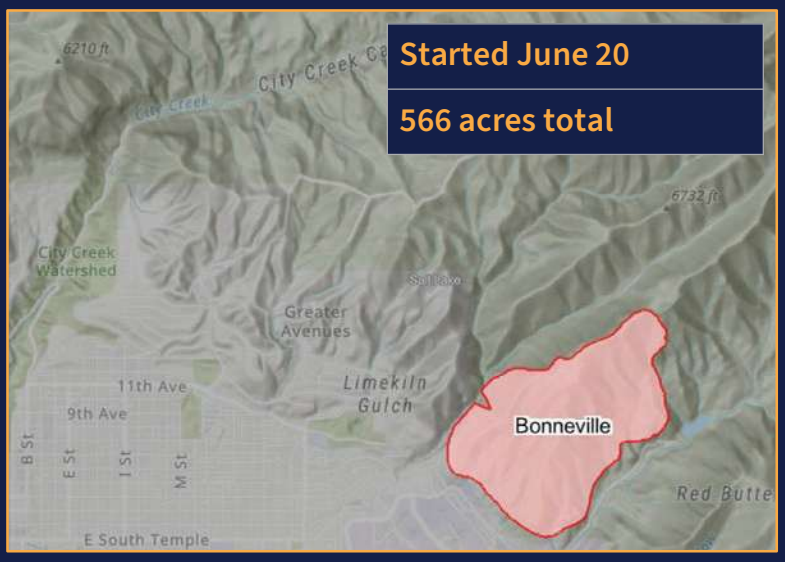
Cottonwood Fire





Bonneville Fire

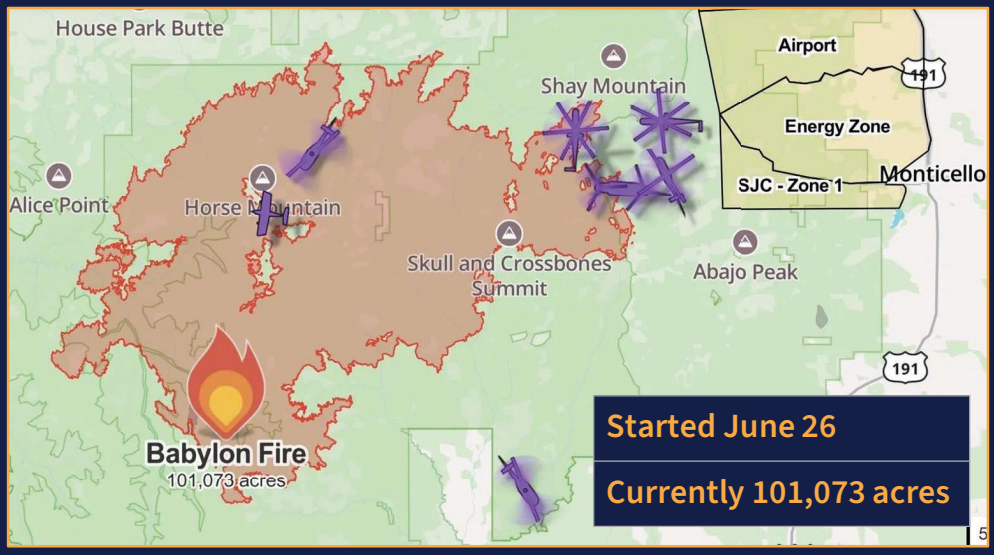




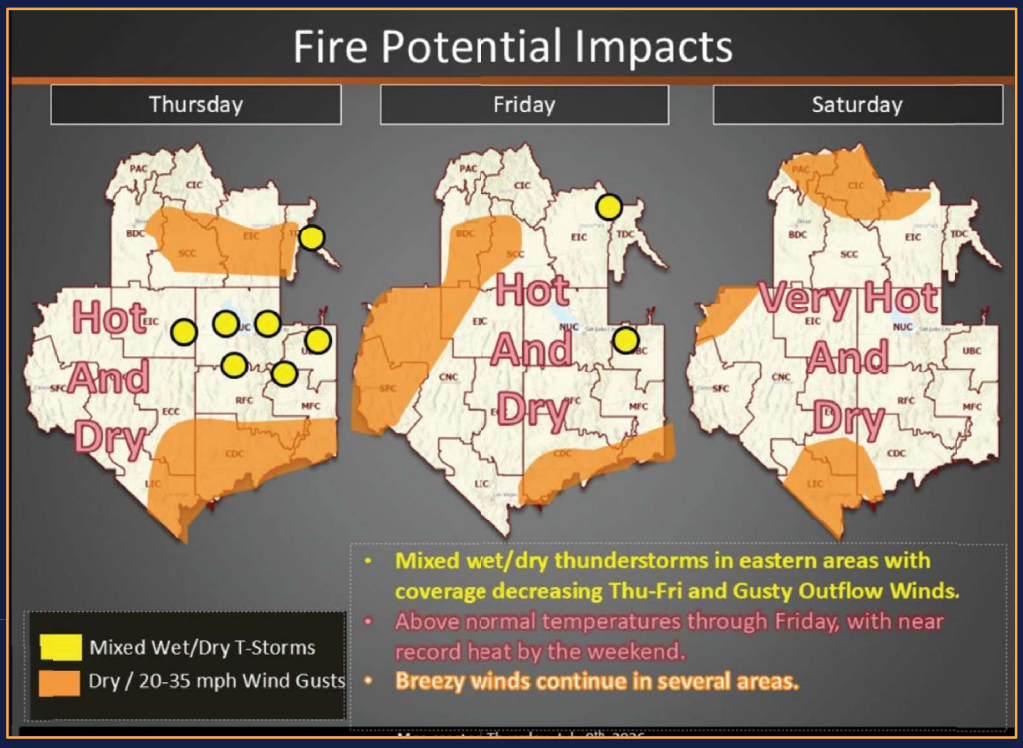
Forestry, Fire & State Lands

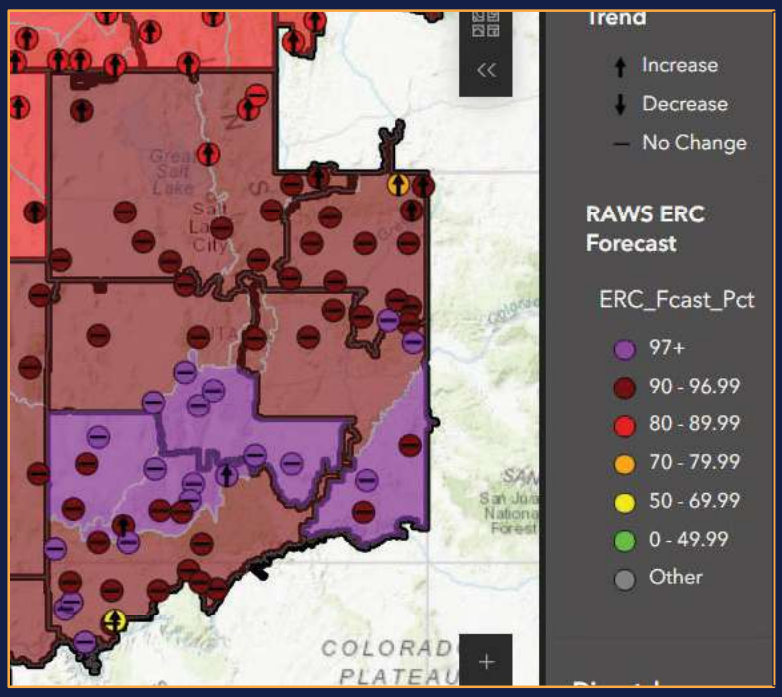
Babylon Fire



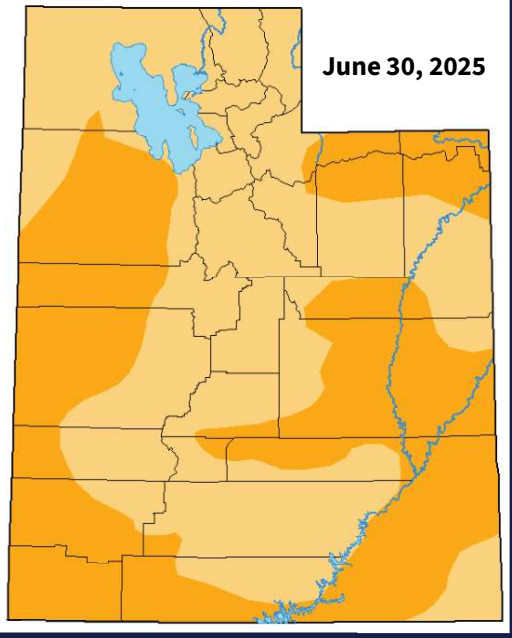


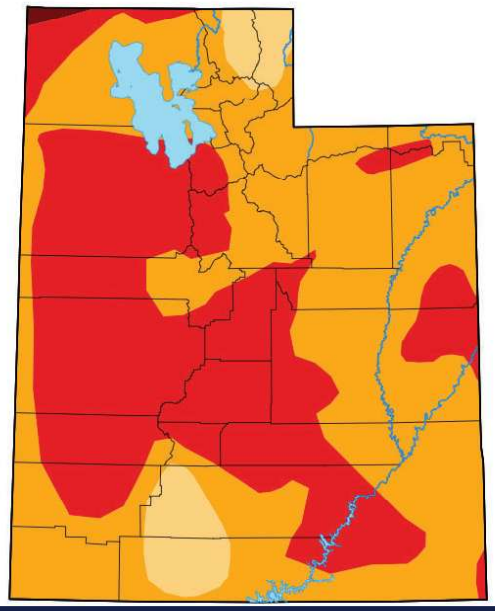
Current Conditions





- Fuel conditions across Utah are significantly drier and more volatile than normal
- Prolonged drought, low humidity, and steady winds have dried out live and dead fuels to historic levels
- Energy Release Component (ERC) levels are in the 97% percentile with no change in sight





Map released: Thurs. July 2, 2026

Data valid: June 30, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

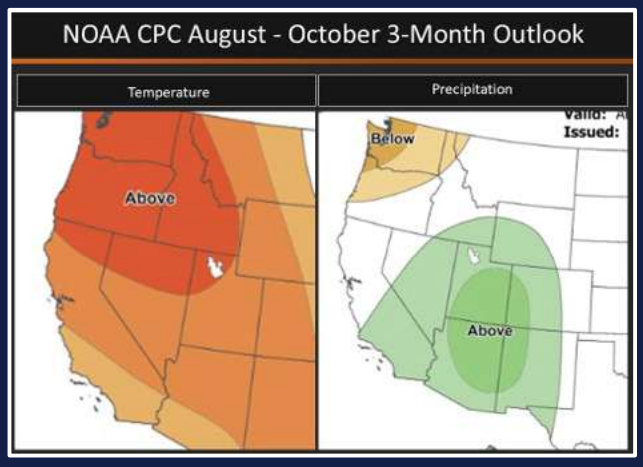
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

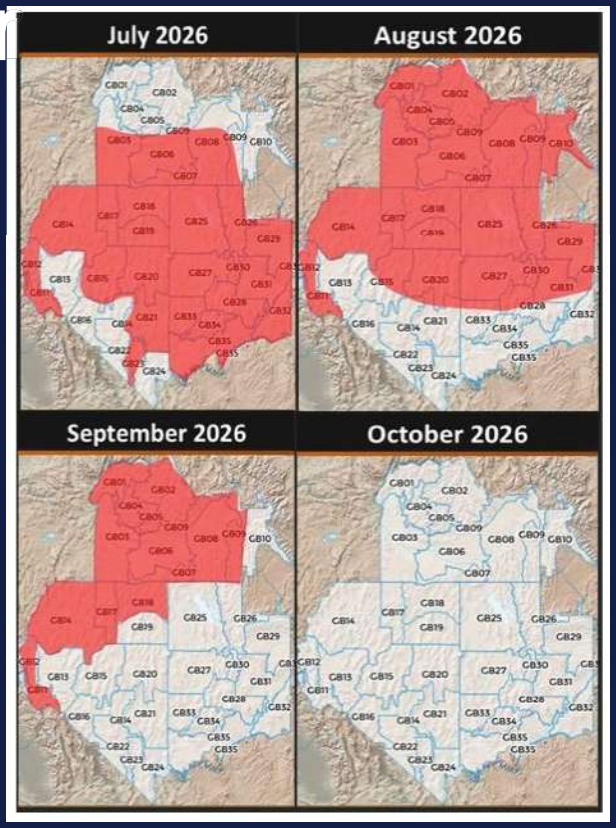
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

September and October look better! 🤞🤞





Forestry, Fire & State Lands

Post-fire Rehabilitation

- Toured Cottonwood Fire with UFRI and USFS yesterday
  - Research: seed success in burned areas, soil stabilization activities, salvage operations, and effects on water quality.
- Working with UTLA, USFS, private landowners
- Mastication of dead timber to place material on surface and cross-contour felling to prevent erosion
- Beginning work as soon as possible

Thanks!



(and please use your Fire Sense; tell your friends and family, shout it from the rooftops, etc)

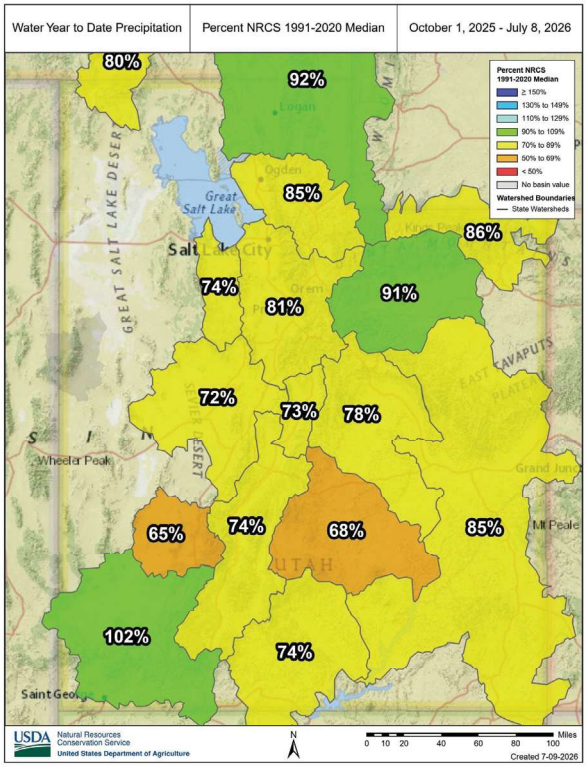
Forestry, Fire & State Lands

July 9, 2026
Utah Division of Water Resources

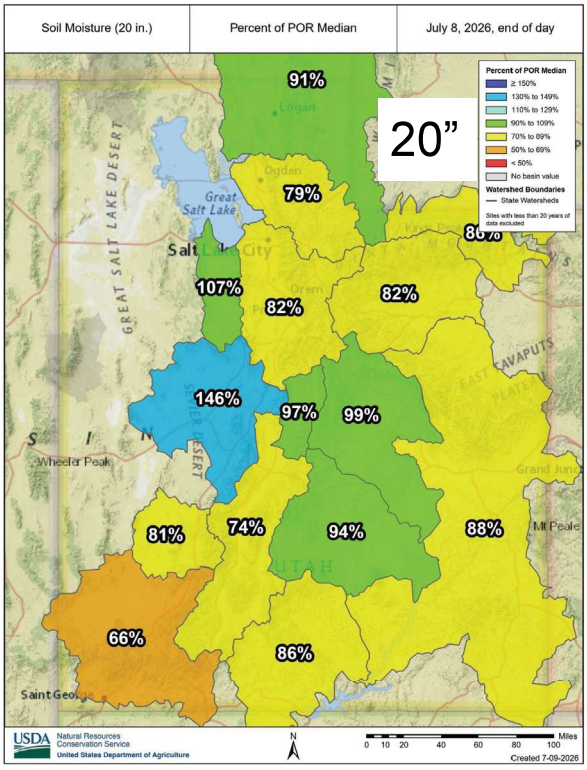
Drought Conditions Update

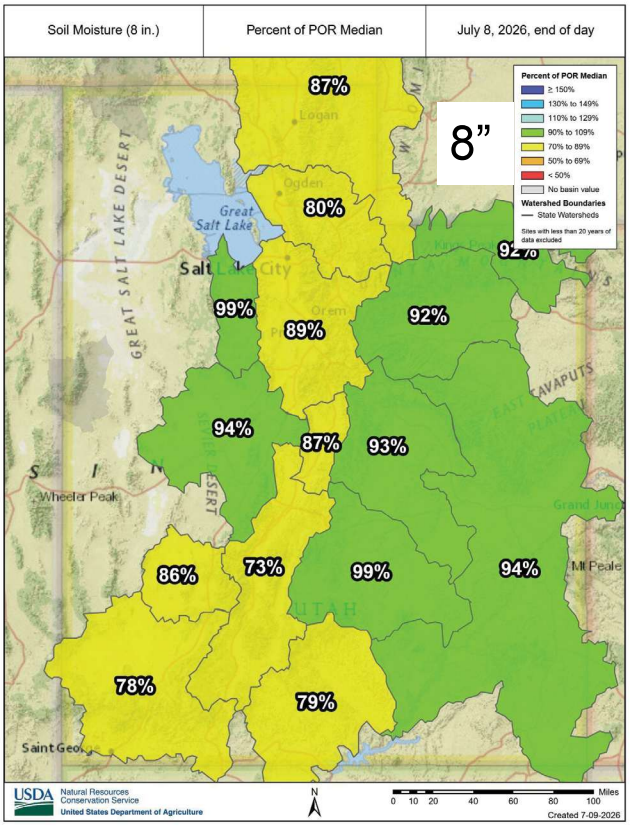
Laura Haskell
Division of Water Resources

Precipitation

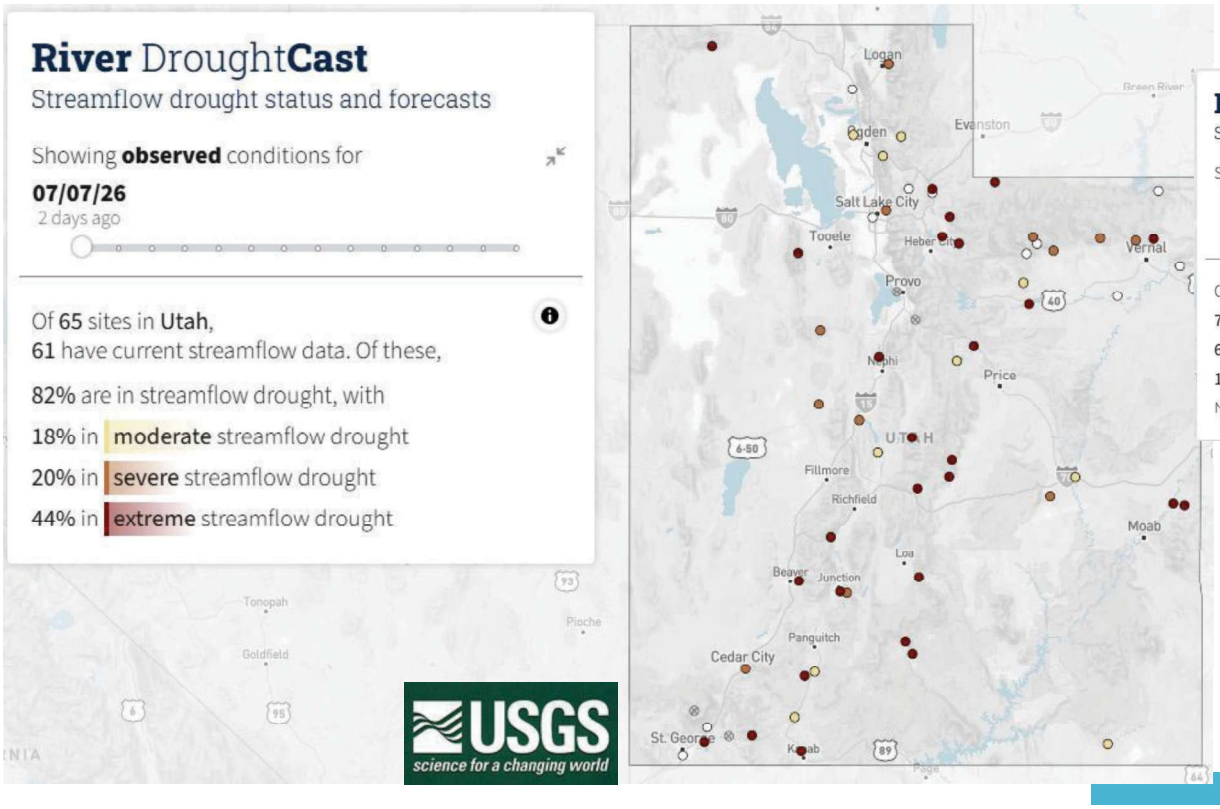


Soil Moisture



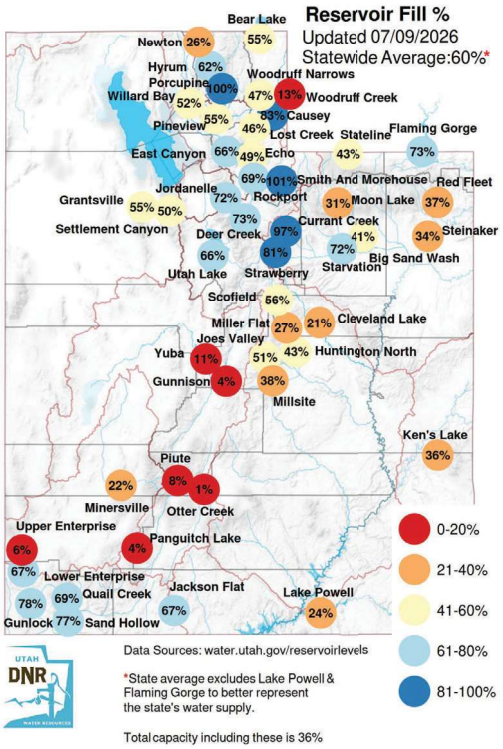


Streamflow


River DroughtCast
Streamflow drought status and forecasts
Showing observed conditions for
07/07/26
2 days ago
Of 65 sites in Utah,
61 have current streamflow data. Of these,
82% are in streamflow drought, with
18% in moderate streamflow drought
20% in severe streamflow drought
44% in extreme streamflow drought
Logan
Ogden
Evanston
Salt Lake City
Tooele
Heber City
Vernal
Provo
Nephi
Price
UTAH
Fillmore
Richfield
Moab
Loa
Beaver
Junction
Panguitch
Cedar City
St. George
Kanab
Tonopah
Goldfield
Pioche
USGS
science for a changing world
River DroughtCast
Streamflow drought status and forecasts
Showing forecast conditions for
08/05/26
4 weeks out
Of 65 sites in Utah, the forecast is for
77% to be in streamflow drought, with
65% in moderate streamflow drought
12% in severe streamflow drought
None in extreme streamflow drought

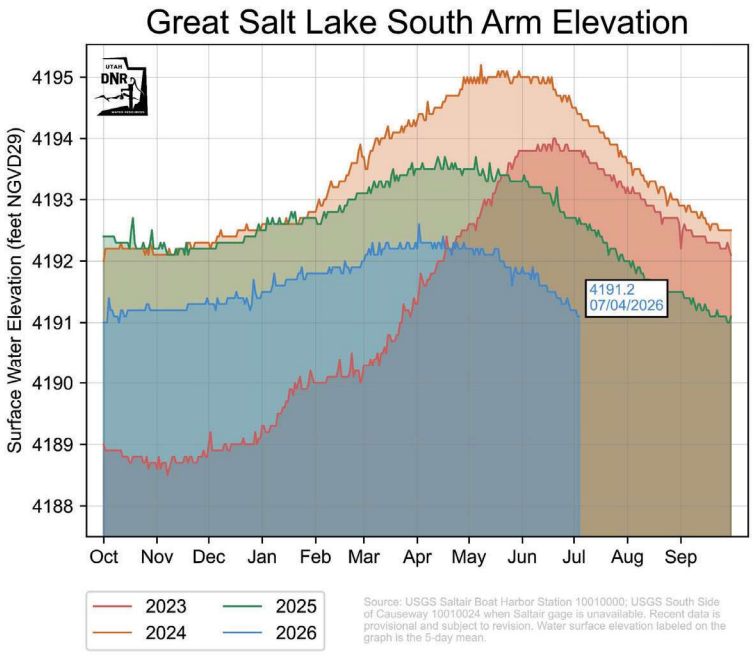
Reservoirs

- Statewide average 60%
- Large multi-year reservoirs mostly full
- Single or two-year reservoirs mostly extremely low

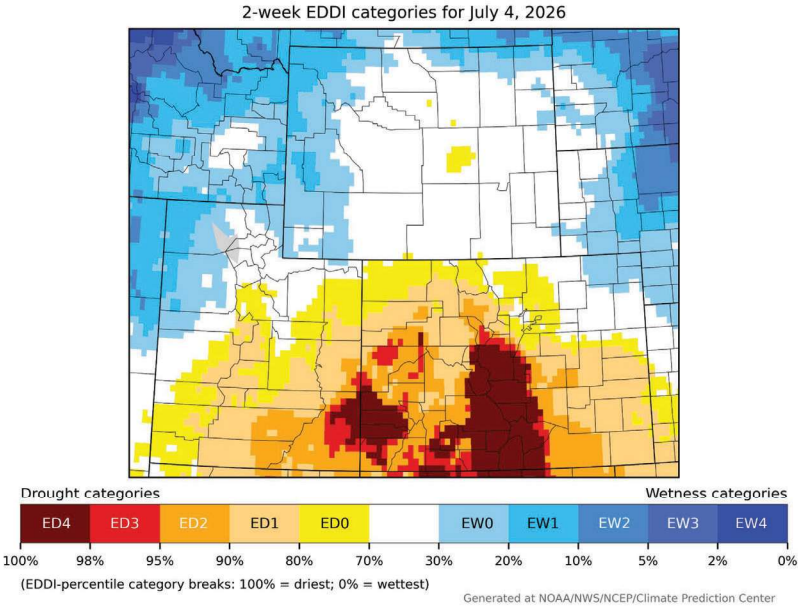


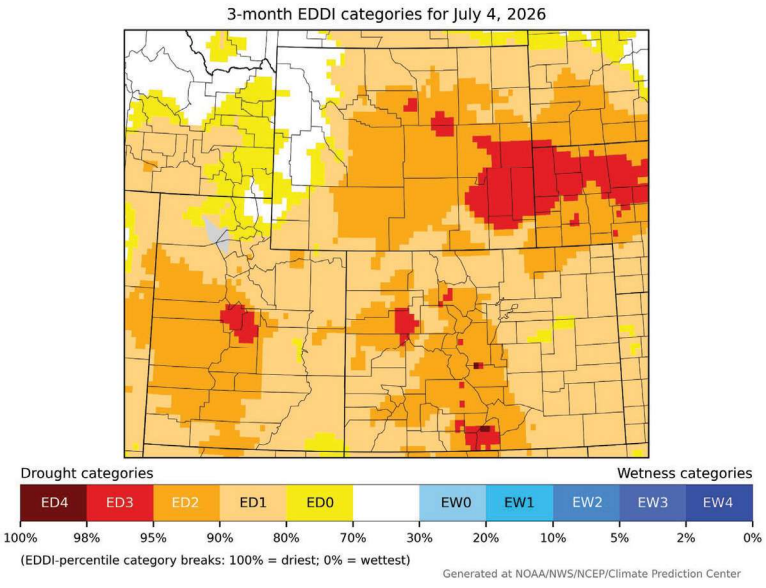
Great Salt Lake

- Rose 1.6 feet since last fall
- Declining earlier but at a similar rate to 2025



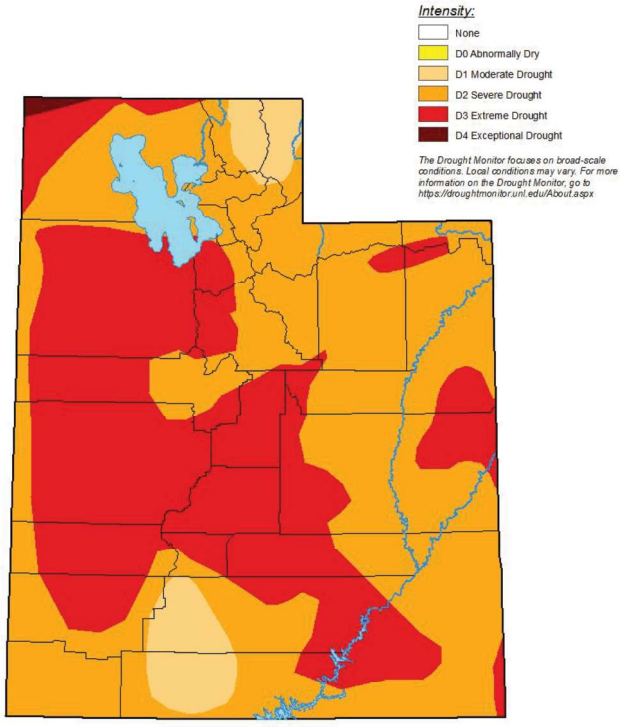
Evaporative Demand





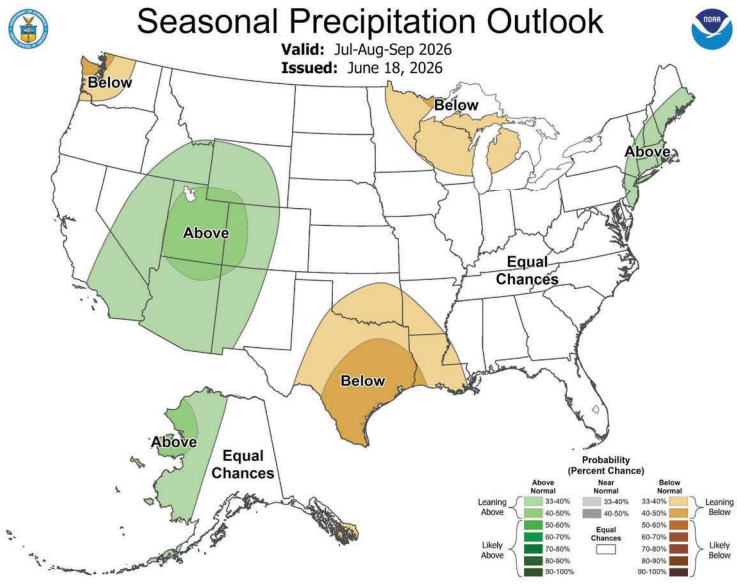
US Drought Monitor

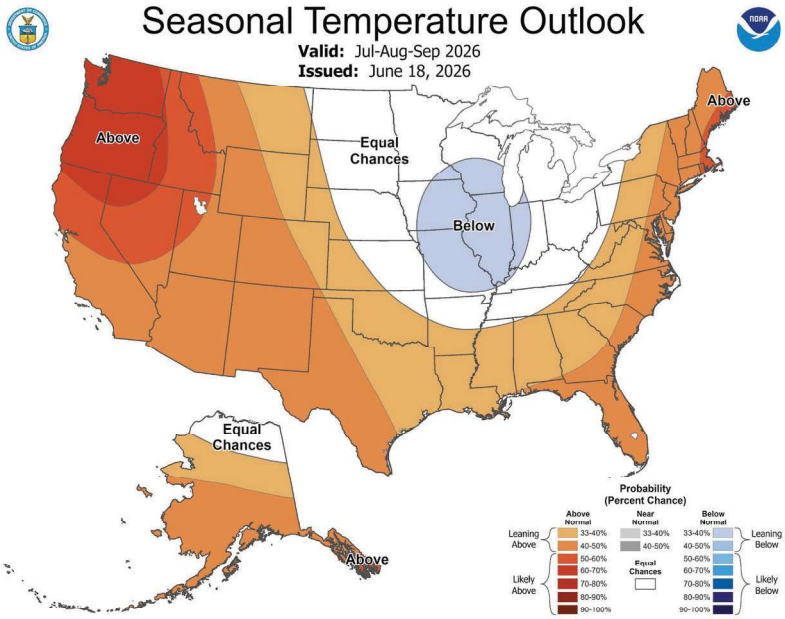
- Drought in Utah is driven by lack of snow
- Streamflows heavily impacted
- Relying on stored water
- Summer has been less bad than winter



The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC.

Outlook: July - Sept.

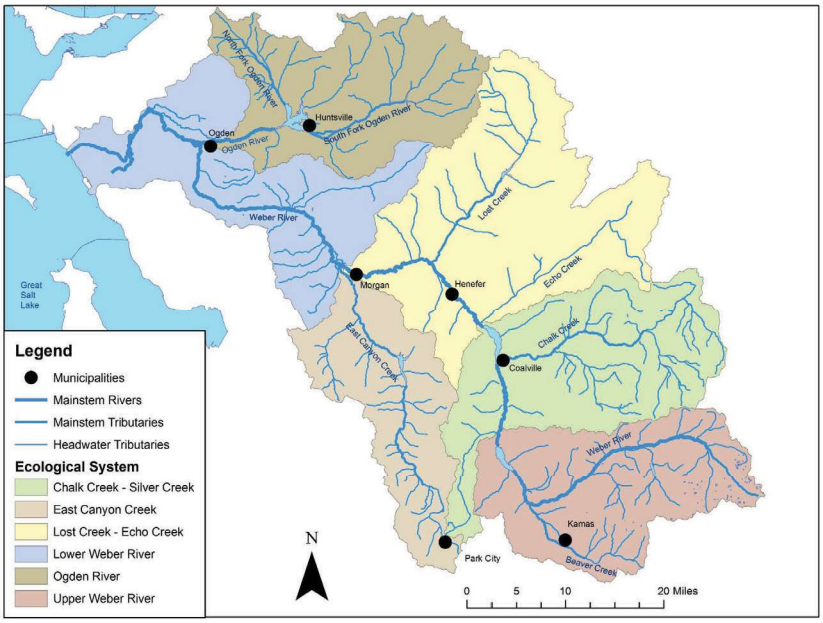





Challenges, Opportunities, & Solutions in the Weber River Watershed
Presentors: Rick Smith, Weber River Watershed Council
Jessica Reynolds, Weber River Partnership
Utah Watershed Council Meeting
July 9, 2026
WEBER RIVER
PARTNERSHIP
WEBER RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

Overview

1) **Key Challenges**
   - Water Quality & Pollution
   - Water Supply & Drought
   - Fisheries, Wildlife & Habitat Degradation
   - Wildfire Risk & Noxious Weeds
   - Growth & Development Impacts on Watershed
   - Fragmented Watershed Governance
2) **Identified Needs & Opportunities**
3) **Successes & Example Projects**
4) **Specific Asks**



Key Challenges



Water Supply & Drought

- Population growth increasing water demand
- Prolonged drought and declining groundwater supplies
- Allocation conflicts among agricultural, environmental, recreational, and municipal uses



Water Quality & Pollution

- Sediment and erosion from development and disturbed landscapes
- Streambank instability and fire-related sediment inputs
- Agricultural and grazing impacts affecting water quality (including return flows)



Fisheries, Wildlife, & Habitat Degradation

- Habitat loss and fragmentation from development
- Degraded stream habitat, including altered channels and reduced spawning/rearing areas
- Barriers to fish movement and impacts from invasive species

Key Challenges Cont...



Wildfire Risk & Noxious Weeds

- Increased wildfire risk in headwater areas
- Post-fire erosion and sediment impacts on streams and reservoirs
- Spread of noxious weeds reducing native vegetation and ecosystem resilience

Growth & Development Impacts on Watershed

- Increased erosion and sediment from land disturbance
- Impervious surfaces driving runoff, pollution, and reduced recharge
- Habitat loss and altered streamflows from growth and development





Fragmented Watershed Governance

- Fragmented governance across multiple jurisdictions and agencies
- Limited coordination and data sharing among stakeholders
- Competing priorities, funding gaps, and conflicting stakeholder values hindering action

Identified Needs & Opportunities



Water Supply & Drought

- Long-term drought planning and aquifer protection with balanced growth
- Water conservation and demand management to reduce overall use
- Improved allocation planning and public understanding of groundwater–surface water connections



Water Quality & Pollution

- Watershed-wide coordination to reduce pollution and improve water quality
- Streambank stabilization, erosion control, and improved grazing/riparian management
- Expanded education, outreach, and monitoring to target priority water quality issues



Fisheries, Wildlife, & Habitat Degradation

- Habitat restoration and connectivity, including riparian and floodplain protection
- Removal or modification of fish migration barriers and restoration of spawning/rearing habitat
- Invasive species management and long-term stewardship through conservation easements and working lands partnerships

Identified Needs & Opportunities Cont...



Wildfire Risk & Noxious Weeds

- Forest fuels reduction and wildfire mitigation in headwater areas
- Coordinated, watershed-wide noxious weed prevention, treatment, and monitoring
- Increased capacity, funding, and early intervention to protect water supplies and reduce long-term impacts

Growth & Development Impacts on Watershed

- Integrated land-use planning that balances growth with watershed protection
- Smarter development siting and design with water-wise standards and environmental review
- Protection of critical habitats and floodplains through easements, incentives, and long-term stewardship





Fragmented Watershed Governance

- Coordinated watershed governance with clear roles across agencies and jurisdictions
- Shared data systems, consistent policies, and aligned planning standards
- Stronger collaboration, facilitation, and engagement across stakeholders and landowners
- Increased funding, capacity, and accountability to implement watershed actions at scale

Solutions & Successes: Examples of Effectiveness

1

Weber River Partnership

- Development of watershed plan through a collaborative, stakeholder-driven process.
- Hosts annual Confluence Symposium bringing together agencies, landowners, NGOs, and local governments.
- Demonstrates how coordination across jurisdictions can improve planning and decision-making.
- Supports improved data sharing, watershed planning, and community engagement.



Photo Credit: Rick Smith

Solutions & Successes: Examples of Effectiveness

2

Fish Creek BDA Project

- Several landowners, TU, agencies and the Summit Conservation District developed a CRMP - Coordinated Resource Management Plan - for the South Fork of Chalk Creek.
- Erosion, riparian loss, and channel downcutting were identified as priority challenges in the watershed
- BDAs were emerging as a key restoration strategy
- Lower Fish Creek site specifically for its easy-access overlook location.



Photo credit: Paul Burnett

Solutions & Successes: Examples of Effectiveness

3

Ogden Valley Watershed Action Group (OVWAG)

- Completed watershed plan, securing Section 319 eligibility and a clear restoration roadmap.
- Incorporated and launched an active, community-led watershed action group coordinating directly with partners.
- Delivered broad watershed education through meetings, workshops, septic incentives, and volunteer programs.
- Strengthened stewardship via citizen reporting tools, litter reduction efforts, and youth engagement programs.



Specific Asks

1. **Prioritize prevention over restoration investments**
   - Reduce long-term costs and maximize lasting ecological and community benefits.
2. **Align land-use planning with water realities**
   - Integrate watershed science into development and infrastructure decisions using existing tools like the *Great Salt Lake Water Conservation Toolbox.*
3. **Advance watershed policy education and community engagement**
   - Strengthen connections between communities and water decision-makers to improve informed, collaborative action.

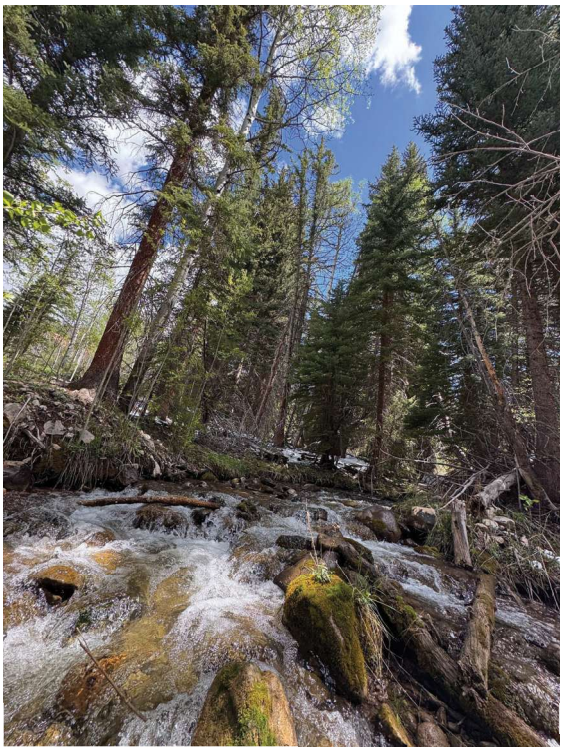
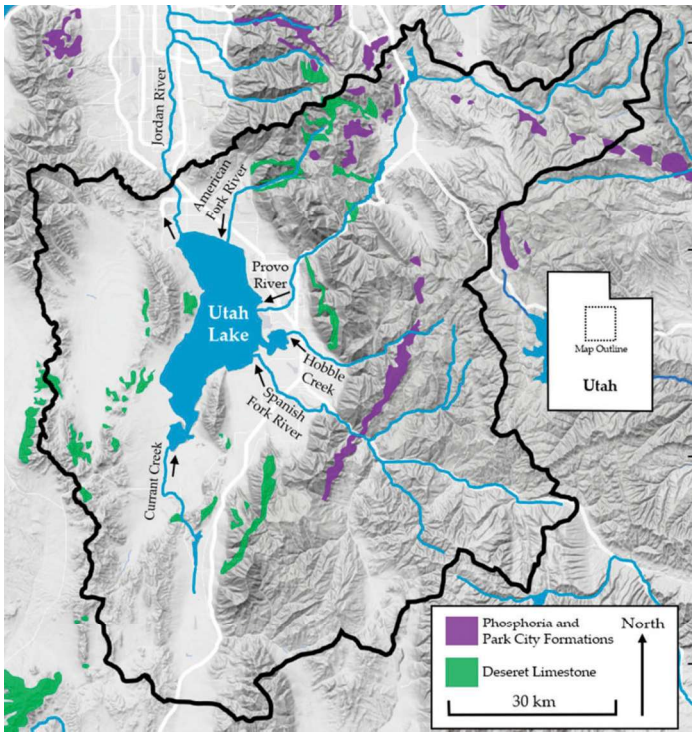


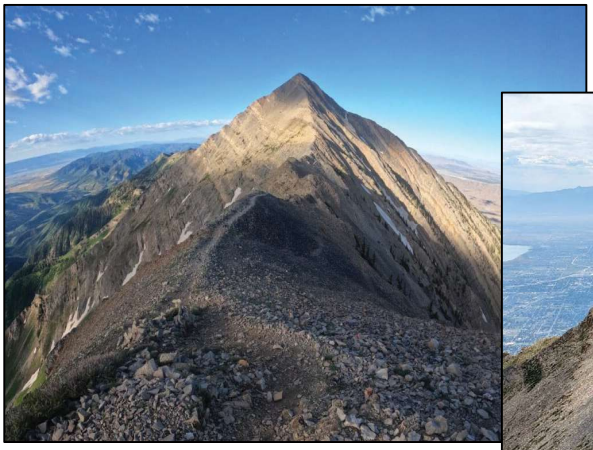
Photo credit: Jessica Reynolds


Thank you!
Questions?
WEBER RIVER
PARTNERSHIP
WEBER RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL


Salt Lake
Summit
Wasatch
Duchesne
Tooele
UTAH LAKE WATERSHED
Utah
Sanpete
Juab
Carbon


Jordan River
American Fork River
Provo River
Utah Lake
Hobble Creek
Spanish Fork River
Currant Creek
Map Outline
Utah
Phosphoria and Park City Formations
Deseret Limestone
North
30 km

Fun Facts... within the watershed



Mt. Nebo
11,928 feet



Mt. Timpanogos
11,750 feet



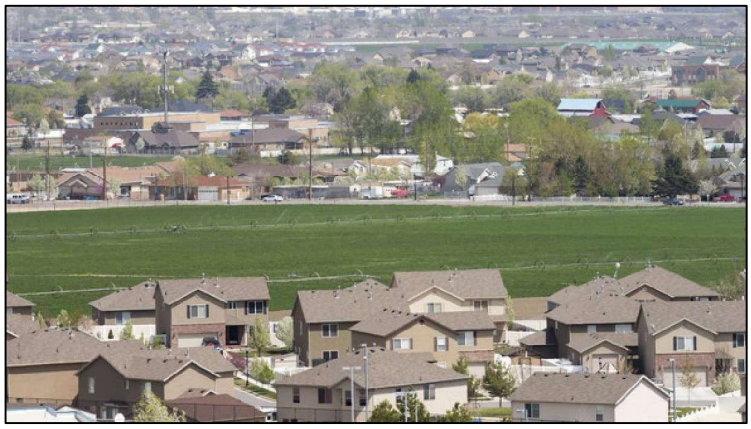
American Fork
Twin Peaks
11,489 feet

Fun Facts... within the watershed

Utah Lake Watershed Population = approx. 860,000 (25% of the Utah)
Wasatch County = 1st fastest growing county (2010-2020)
Utah County = 2nd fastest growing county in Utah (2020)

Provides a significant amount of the drinking water for the Wasatch Front

Utah Lake is the largest freshwater lake in the state and one of the largest natural freshwater lakes west of the Mississippi River



Council Representation

Agriculture (2)
Industry (1)
Utah tribal nations (1)
Public water suppliers (2)
Water planning & research institutions (1)
Water quality (2)
Fish & wildlife (1)
Water dependent habitat & environments (2)
Watershed management (2)
Mutual irrigation companies (1)
Local sponsors of reclamation projects (2)
Elected official (1)

TOTAL = 18



Council Meetings

October 20, 2025	CUWCD Office
January 26, 2026	CUWCD Office
May 18, 2026	CUWCD Office



Council Agenda Items

Updates & communications from the Utah Watershed Council
Updates & communications from the Great Salt Lake Council
Update & review of the Deer Creek Intake Pipe Project
Input & priorities to the Great Salt Lake Integrated Plan
Utah Lake Authority Coordination & Support
Utah Water Infrastructure Plan (HB 285)
State Water Plan
Forward strategic planning
Mission & Core Values



UTAH WATERSHEDS COUNCIL
RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE

Adopted **April 14, 2022**
Revised **October 9, 2024**
Revised July 9, 2026

These Rules of Order and Procedure ("Rules of Procedure") shall govern the proceedings of the Utah Watersheds Council (the "Council") and shall be consistent with applicable provisions of Utah Code and regulations promulgated by the Division of Water Resources.

I. Role, Authority, and Duties

Section 1. Role. The Council:

a. serves as a forum to encourage and facilitate discussion and collaboration by and among the stakeholders relative to the water-related interests of the state and the state's people and institutions;
b. facilitates communication and coordination between the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Environmental Quality, and other state and federal agencies in the administration and implementation of water-related activities;
c. facilitates the establishment of local watershed councils by certifying local councils;
d. provides resources and support for the administration of local councils;
e. consults and seeks guidance from local councils; and
f. provides advice to the governor and Legislature on water issues.

Section 2. Authority. The Council is responsible for all matters that arise within the Council's jurisdiction as required or permitted by the Watershed Council Act, Utah Code Ann. §§ 73-10g-301 et seq. The Council does not have separate or inherent adjudicative, regulatory, infrastructure development, infrastructure financing, enforcement, or other powers or responsibilities beyond those stated in the Watershed Councils Act.

Section 3. Duties. The Council shall provide updates on the Council's activities annually, or as invited, to:

a. the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee;
b. the Legislative Water Development Commission; and
c. the Utah Water Task Force.

Section 4. Supporting Agency. The Division of Water Resources ("Division") shall be the supporting agency of the Council and provide staffing to the Council as resources allow.

II. Membership

Section 1. Appointment of Members. The Council shall be composed of up to 28 individuals ("Members"). Membership is by appointment in accordance with Utah Code § 73-10g-304 with up to twelve Members being appointed by the Member's respective local

watershed council certified under § 73-10g-306.

Section 2. Rights of Members. All voting Members, including the Chair, shall be entitled to one vote on all matters properly brought before the Council for action. If a Member is unable to attend a meeting of the Council or is otherwise unable to act, the Member may designate a proxy to act in the Member's stead by providing written notice of the designation to the Chair of the Council no later than 24 hours prior to a meeting of the Council in which the Member intends the proxy to participate. The Council shall enter in the record of a meeting proper documentation of a designated proxy's authority to act on behalf of a Member. A council member may designate a long-term proxy, or alternate, to act in their stead by providing written notice to the Chair. The Member may revoke the proxy designation at any time.

The Division of Water Resources Director and the State Engineer/Division of Water Rights Director are designated as non-voting Members of the Council.

Section 3. Council Member Terms. The following Members shall serve for a term of four (4) consecutive years, with each term expiring at the end of the designated calendar year. A Member whose term has expired shall continue to serve as a Member of the Council until the Member is reappointed or replaced for the ensuing term by the appointing authority. There is no limit to the number of terms a Member may serve if reappointed by the Member's appointing authority. The initial terms shall be staggered as indicated, with all subsequent terms being for a period of four years.

a. The Member appointed by the Utah Association of Counties (2027)
b. The Member appointed by the Utah League of Cities and Towns (2024)
c. The Member appointed by the Utah Association of Special Districts (2025)
d. The Member appointed by the Governor to represent reclamation projects (2026)
e. The Member appointed by the Governor to represent agricultural interests (2027)
f. The Member appointed by the Governor to represent environmental conservation interests (2024)
g. The Member appointed by the Governor to represent business and industry water interests (2025)
h. The Member appointed by the Governor who is a Utah attorney with recognized expertise in water law (2026)

The initial term of a Member appointed by a local watershed council shall begin in the calendar year the Member is appointed and expire at the end of the second full calendar year after the appointment is made.

Section 4. Member Responsibilities. As a Member of the Council, each Member shall be responsible for:

a. Reading and studying the agenda, staff reports, and all attached documents prepared by Division staff so that they are fully informed prior to the scheduled public meeting;

b. Acting in an honest, courteous and respectful manner with their fellow Members, the Division staff, and the public, during all meetings;
c. Attending Council meetings and arriving on time; and
d. Complying with all laws and regulations applicable to the Council, as a body, and to the Member, as an individual.

Section 5. Vacancies. Any vacancy during a Member's term shall be filled in the same manner as a regular appointment and the person appointed to replace the Member shall serve the remainder of the Member's unexpired term.

Section 6. Compensation and Reimbursement. Members shall receive no compensation or benefits for their service but may receive per diem and travel expenses in conformance with state laws and the policies of the Council and Division. All reimbursements shall be processed through the Division.

III. Officers

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Council shall consist of a Chair and at least one Vice Chair elected from the Members. The Council may appoint additional Vice Chairs or other officers as the Council deems appropriate following a vote by a majority of the Members of the Council to designate an additional officer position.

Section 2. Election of Officers. The Members shall elect the initial Chair and Vice Chair of the Council on the date these Rules of Procedure are adopted by the Council. At the last regular meeting of odd-numbered years, the Council shall hold elections for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, and any other officer positions, from among the Members by majority vote of the Members of the Council. Election practices may comply with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3. Officer Terms. Officers shall serve a term of two years. If an election is not held by the one-year mark, the officers will continue serving in their positions until new officers are elected.

Section 4. Vacancies. Should an officer be unable to complete their two-year term, a new Member will be elected at the next regular or special meeting to fill the remainder of the officer's term.

Section 5. Officer Duties.

a. The Chair Shall:
    i. Serve as the Presiding Officer of the Council;
    ii. Implement the Rules of Procedure;
    iii. Coordinate with the Division staff to schedule meetings, ensure meetings comply with the Open and Public Meetings Act, prepare and notice an agenda and minutes for each public meeting, and prepare timely reports and other relevant information for the Council;
    iv. Execute all official documents and letters of the Council;
    v. Identify and bring before the Council such policy matters as are within the purview of the Council;
    vi. Fulfill the role of the Council as directed in Utah Code § 73-10g-305(1); and
    vii. Provide updates on the Council's activities as directed in Utah Code § 73-10g-305(2).

b. The Vice Chair Shall:
    i. Assist the Chair in all necessary capacities; and
    ii. Assume the duties and responsibilities for the Chair in all instances where the Chair is not available or unable to carry out the duties and responsibilities.

Section 6. Chair *pro tem*. In the absence or incapacity of both the Chair and the Vice Chair for a Council meeting, the Chair may select a board member to act as Presiding Officer for that meeting, or the Members present at the meeting shall elect by majority vote a Chair *pro tem* to serve as Presiding Officer only for that meeting.

IV. Meetings of Members

Section 1. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting Members of the Council and shall be necessary to conduct any business of the Council.

Section 2. Open and Public Meetings Act. The Council is a public body as defined in Utah Code § 52-4-103 and shall comply with Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act.

Section 3. Government Records Access and Management Act. The Council and its Members shall comply with Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act.

Section 4. Rules of Procedure Availability. The Council shall make these Rules of Order Procedure available to the public: 1) at each meeting of the Council; and 2) on a public website maintained by the Division for the business of the Council.

Section 5. Regular Meetings. Meetings shall be held semi-annually, or more frequently as determined by the Chair. Meeting dates, times, locations, and agenda shall be posted in accordance with the Open and Public Meetings Act.

Section 6. Creation of Agenda. Division staff will create the agenda for each meeting of the Council under the direction of the Chair. Any Member may request that an item be included on an agenda. Division staff shall send the agenda to the Council at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to each meeting.

Section 7. Federal Liaisons. The Council may invite tribes or federal agencies to name representatives as liaisons to the Council.

Section 8. Subcommittees. The Council may create subcommittees as deemed necessary or convenient in assisting the Council in its business. The number of Members participating on a subcommittee should be less than a quorum of the Council and other participants of suitable expertise who are not Council Members may be invited to participate.

VI. Procedures

Section 1. Order. The order of business at the regular Council meeting should follow the noticed agenda. The Chair, with the consent of the Council by majority vote, or upon recommendation of the Division staff may consider matters out of the agenda order.

Section 2. Decisions. A matter for decision will be placed before the Council by motion made by any Member at the meeting. The Chair will not make motions before the Council except in the absence of a response from other Members to an invitation by the Chair that a motion on a pending matter would be in order. Any Member may second a motion.

Section 3. Majority Vote. A majority vote of the voting Members of the Council at the meeting in favor of a motion shall carry the motion.

Section 4. Robert's Rule of Order. Robert's Rules of Order may be used by the Council in conducting its meetings. Any violation or departure from Robert's Rules of Order incidental to a Council action will not act to nor may it be used to retrospectively invalidate, set aside, or reverse that action.

VII. Amendments and Adoption

The Council may amend these Rules of Procedure. All amendments must be consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies and be approved by majority vote of the Members of the Council.