

Bountiful Sub-area (Area 31) Water Right Policy Update

April 24, 2023



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Utah Division of Water Rights

Agenda

- Current Policy Within Bountiful Sub-area
- Overview of Select Water Data
- Governor's Proclamation
- Proposed Policy Changes
- Next Steps
- Questions & Comments



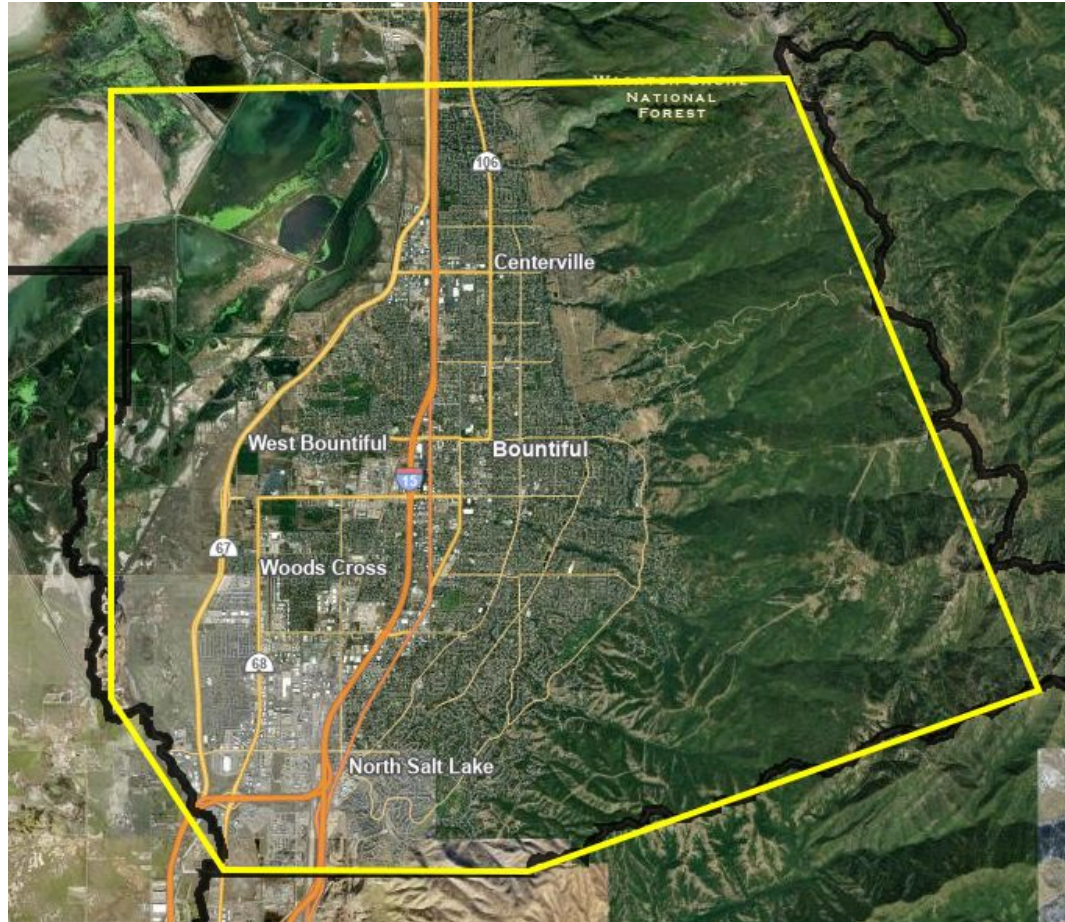
Current Water Rights Policy

- **Surface waters are considered to be fully appropriated.** New diversions and consumptive uses in these sources must be accomplished by change applications filed on existing rights.
- A Groundwater Management Plan is in place to administer, manage and protect the ground water resources in the Bountiful sub-area.
 - New groundwater appropriations are limited to situations where a public water supply does not provide service;
 - Individual domestic/stockwater filings are limited to 1.0 acre-foot per year, subject to the condition that when a public water system becomes available, the well will be properly sealed and the water right will terminate.
- Change applications (including those from surface to underground sources, and vice versa), are considered on their individual merits, with emphasis on their potential to interfere with existing rights and to ensure that there is no enlargement of the underlying rights.



Additional Groundwater Management Plan Provisions

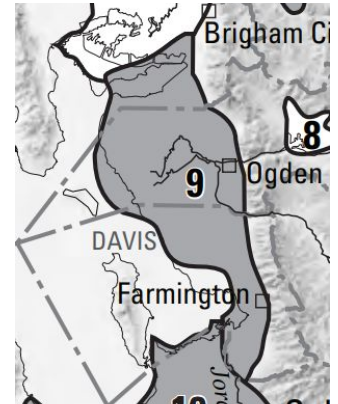
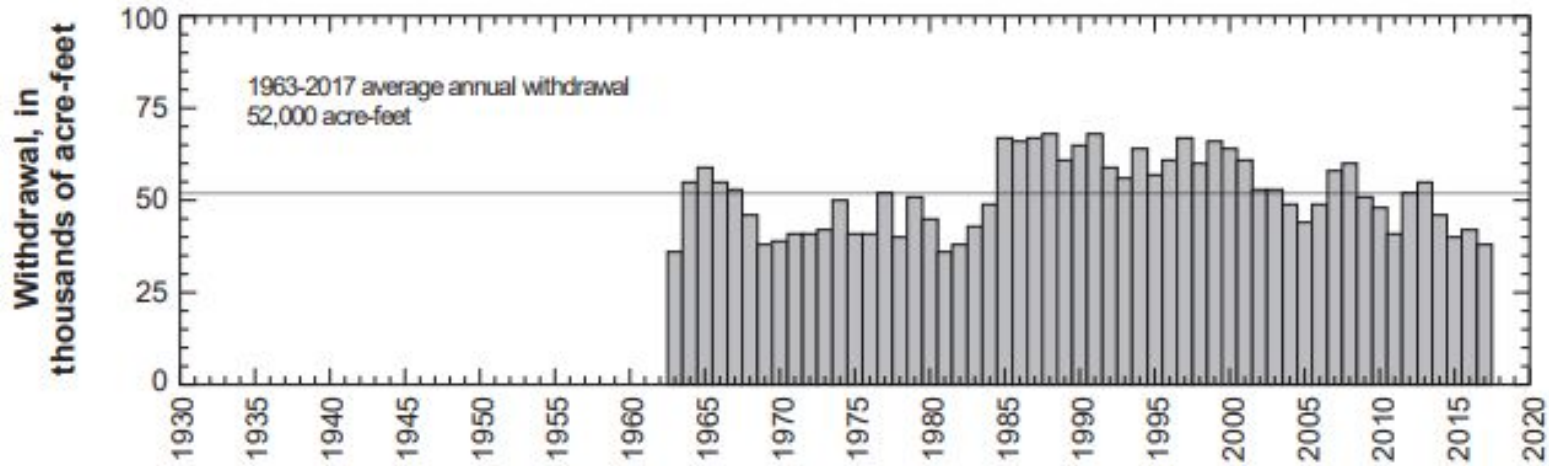
Bountiful Sub-Area, Water Right Area 31



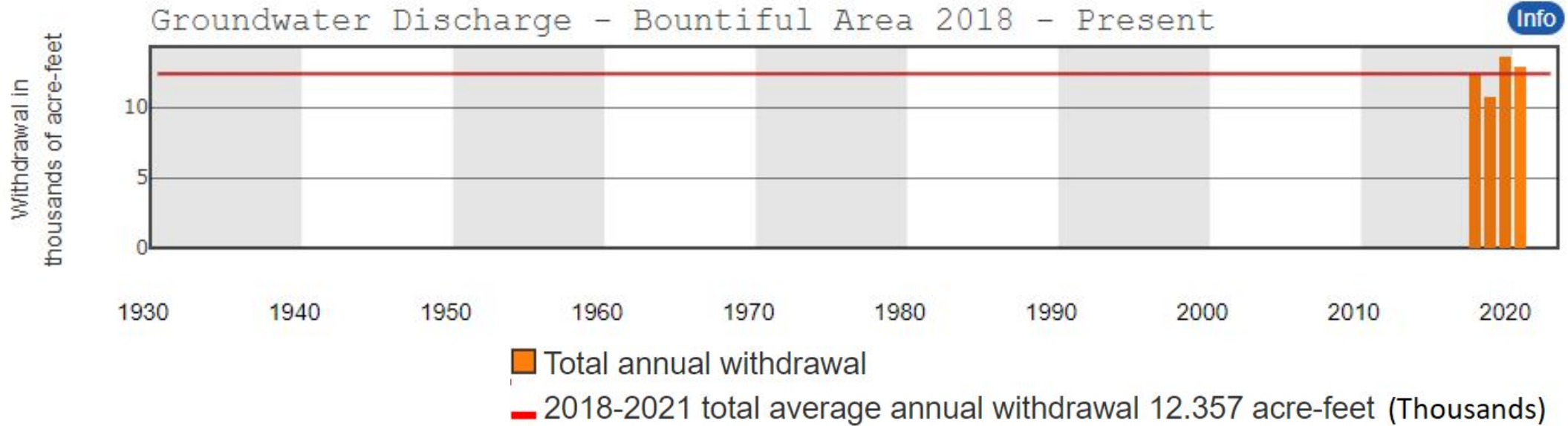
- Estimated annual recharge at 26,000 acre-feet (1991)
- Diversions from wells in the entire sub-area will be limited to a total of **25,000 acre-feet annually** on a 5 year moving average and shall **not exceed 30,000 acre-feet in any single calendar year.**
- New wells must be spaced such that a **maximum of 15 feet of drawdown** results on any well with an earlier priority date.
- Applications to appropriate water will be considered only for domestic and stockwater filings for 1.0 acre-foot where a Public Supply is unavailable.
- Change applications critically reviewed for effects on other wells and the groundwater system, especially in scenarios involving long distance movement or converting surface or shallow rights to a deep well.

Groundwater Usage Graph

52,000 acre-feet of annual withdrawal (includes Weber Delta Sub-area & Perry)



12,357 acre-feet of annual withdrawal



Groundwater Level Trends at Select Locations

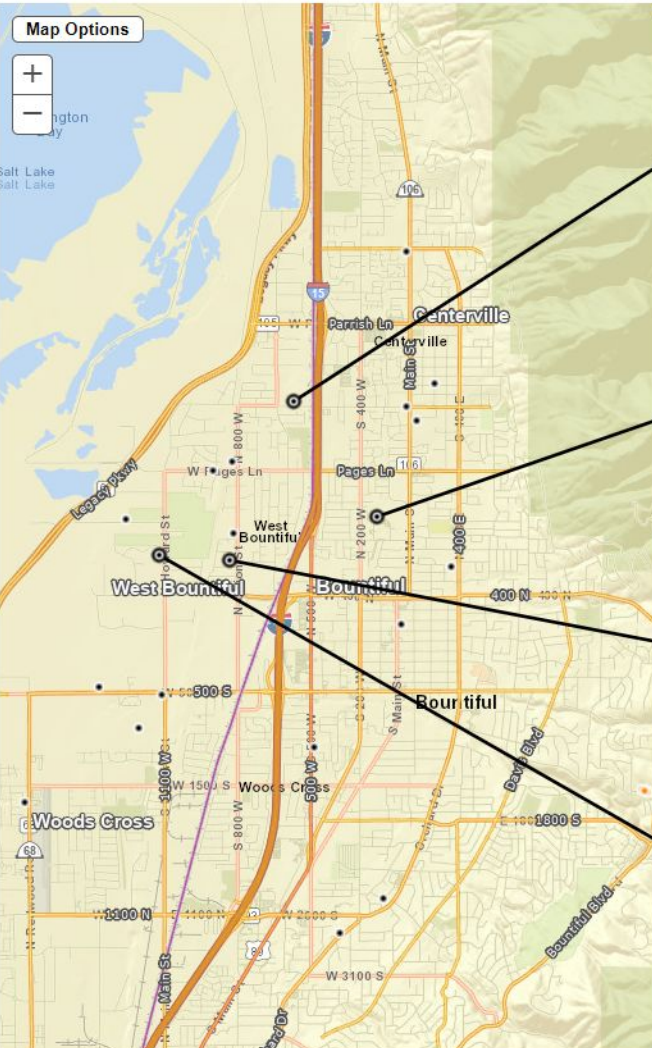
Utah Division of Water Rights

Groundwater Level Trend Viewer

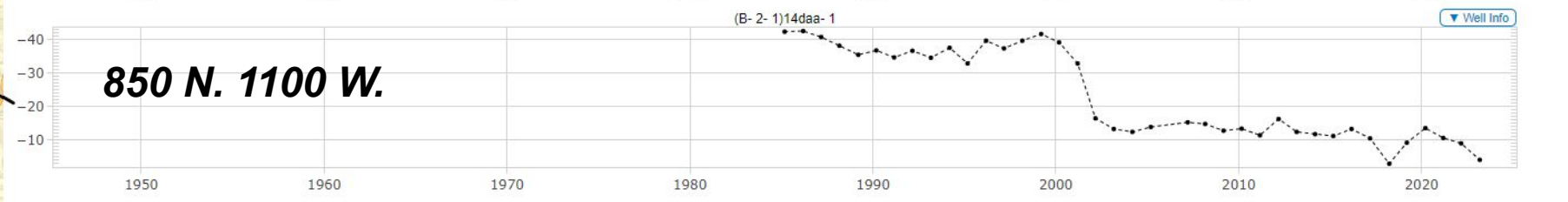
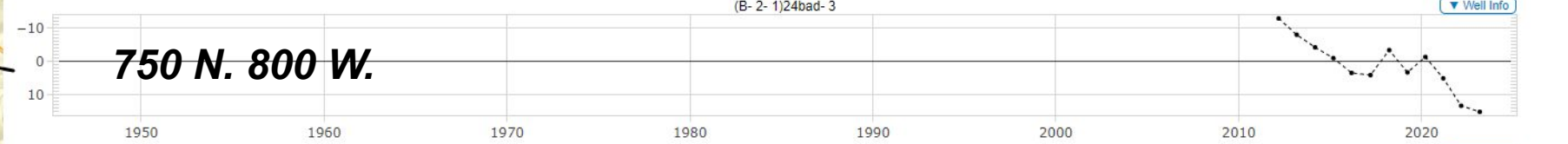
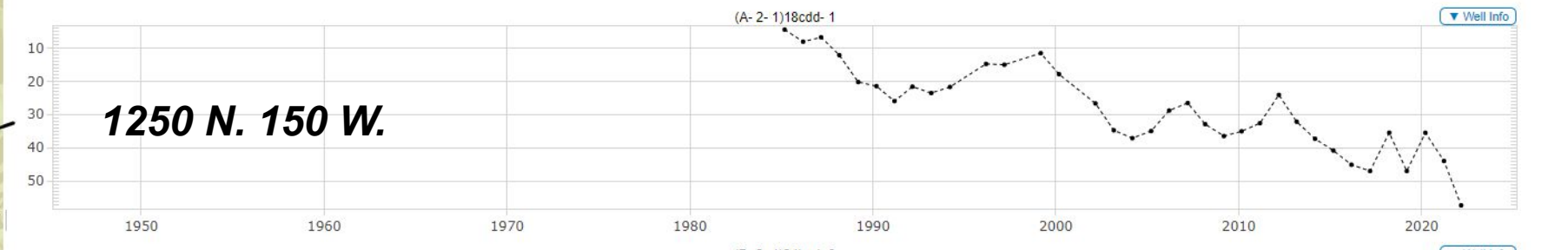
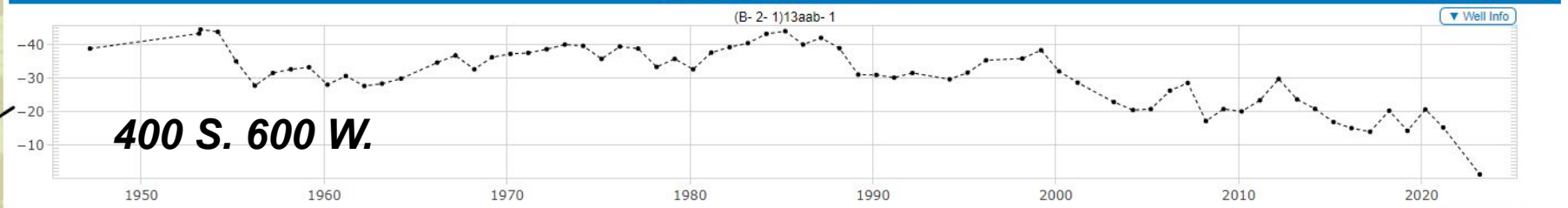
Region: **East Shore (Bountiful)**

Filter **34 of 238 sites**

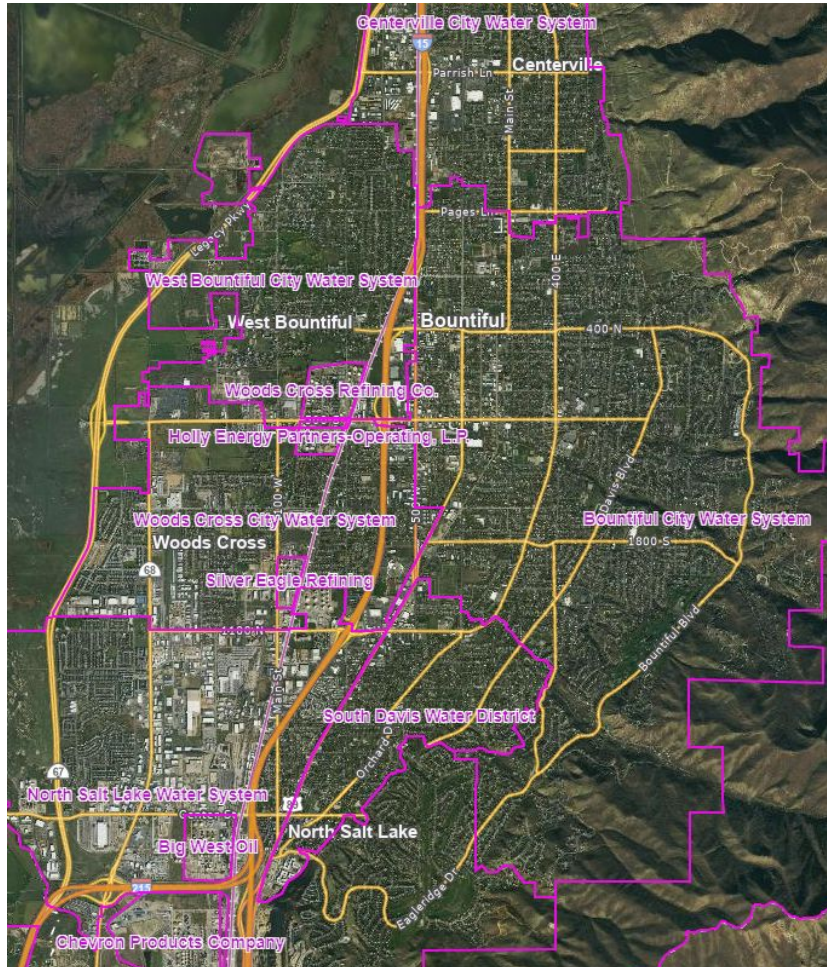
Site Selection Settings



Groundwater Levels in Feet Chart Options



Open Water Data



- 6 Reporting Public Water Suppliers
- 4 Reporting Oil Refineries and 1 inactive

Per the self-reported data aggregated from these 11 systems:

- 108,123 Total Population (2021)
- 31,853 Total Connections (2021)
- 15,400 Acre-feet Total Water Use (Surface and Groundwater, 2021)
- 12,357 Acre-feet Average Annual Groundwater Use (2018-2021)

Sources: Utah Division of Water Rights, Water Use Information Viewer, https://waterrights.utah.gov/asp_apps/generalWaterUse/WaterUseList.asp

Utah Open Water Data, <https://dwre-utahdnr.opendata.arcgis.com/>

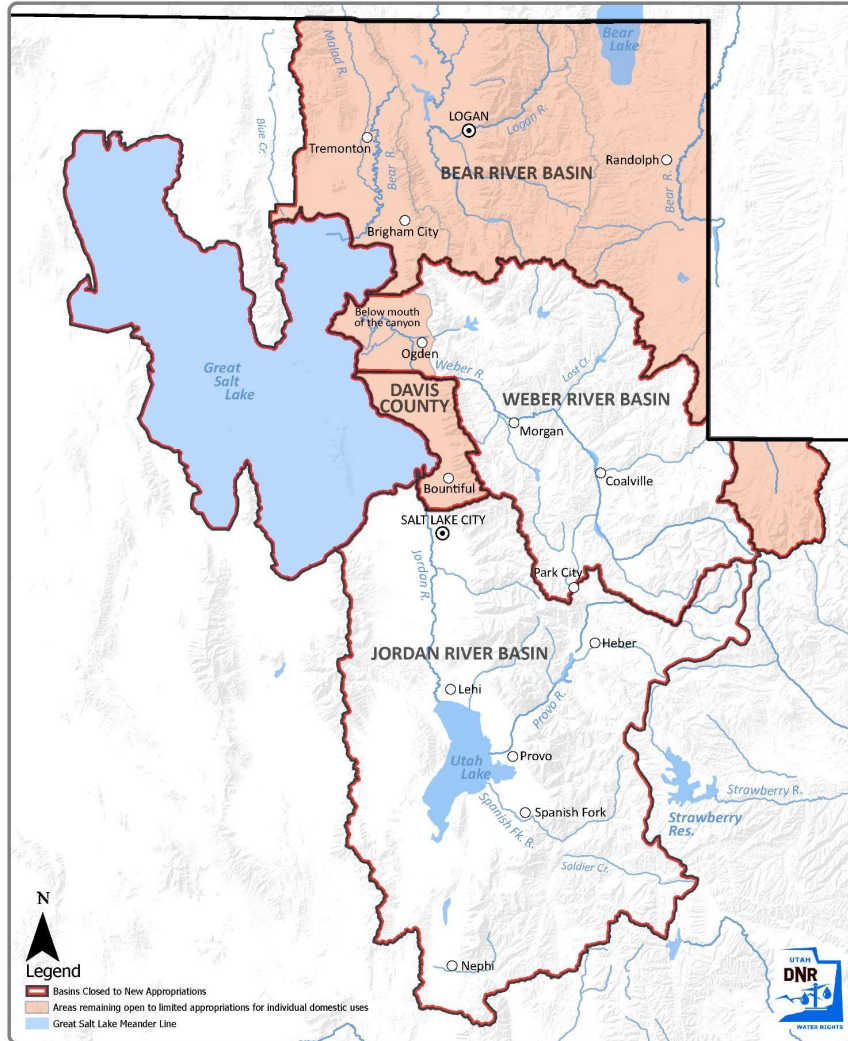
United States Geological Survey, <https://warcapps.usgs.gov/gis-water/uwsc/ugcwa/>

Existing Appropriations

| Type of Water Right | Groundwater Volume (acft) | Surface Volume (acft) | Total Volume (acft) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Unapproved Applications | 4,344 | 2,011,250 (single application) | 2,015,594 (4,344) |
| Approved Applications | 34,489 | 2,988 | 37,477 |
| Perfected Rights | 55,207 | 65,737 | 120,944 |
| Totals | 94,040 | 2,079,975 (68,725) | 2,174,015 (162,765) |



Governor's Proclamation - Effective November 3, 2022



AREAS SUBJECT TO GOVERNOR PROCLAMATION

- Temporarily closes Great Salt Lake Basin to new appropriations
 - Includes tributaries to Great Salt Lake (e.g. Weber River)
- Exceptions for the following types of applications:
 - Applications for non-consumptive uses.
 - Applications that include mitigation plan to offset depletion.
 - Applications for small amounts of water, as defined in Utah Code Section 73-3-5.6, that comply with State Engineer basin policies.

Proposed Policy Changes

The State Engineer proposes the following modifications to the existing policy for the Bountiful Sub-Area:

- The area will be closed to new consumptive appropriations of any size (including small amounts of water defined under § 73-3-5.6) that fail to include a mitigation plan that offsets depletions.



Next Steps

- Receive and evaluate public comment
- Refine proposed policy if needed
- Adoption of policy



Questions & Comments

Send written comments to:

Utah Division of Water Rights
Subject: Bountiful Sub-area
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P.O. Box 146300
Salt Lake City UT 84114-6300

waterrights@utah.gov

