

From: Arthur LeBaron <aalebaron@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 4:33 PM
Subject: Sand Hollow Groundwater Management Plan Comment
To: waterrights@utah.gov <waterrights@utah.gov>

Dear Water Rights Team,

I understand that a management plan is being developed for the area around Sand Hollow Reservoir in Hurricane, Utah, and that the results of this study may affect existing water rights in that locale.

I wanted to chime in and give you my observation as a long-time resident (since 1976) of Hurricane. Many times in my childhood my parents would take us to the very ground where Sand Hollow Reservoir exists at the present time, and sometimes we would venture up on Sand Mountain. Whenever we would venture up to Sand Mountain I recall going through a maze of Salt Cedars before we would arrive at the sand dunes. At the time I had no idea about water rights or groundwater, but now that I look back on those memories, I realize that the vegetation there was the result of water in the area. In order for that type of vegetation to exist there would also have to be a reliable source of water, which I never recall being present on the surface. I can only deduce that the ground water was shallow enough to support vegetation in that area.

For the record, the last time I recall going to that area and observing the Salt Cedar "maze" was in the spring or summer of 1996. After that I was off to college and never returned to that area until after the reservoir was constructed.

I imagine that groundwater studies have been done in support of past and current efforts, but I thought it might be good for you to have an eyewitness account from someone that witnessed the effects of groundwater that existed in the Sand Hollow Reservoir footprint that can no longer be observed.

Sincerely,

Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane Resident
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