

Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Public Meeting - July 31, 2025



Blake W. Bingham, P.E. | Deputy State Engineer
Utah Division of Water Rights

Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Public Meeting Agenda - July 31, 2025

- Welcome and Introduction of Staff - *Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer*
- GSL Distribution Management Plan Process - *Blake Bingham, Deputy State Engineer*
 - *Enabling Legislation*
 - *Review of Draft Plan*
 - *Review of GSL Distribution Accounting Tool*
 - *Timeline & Next Steps*
- Comments & Questions



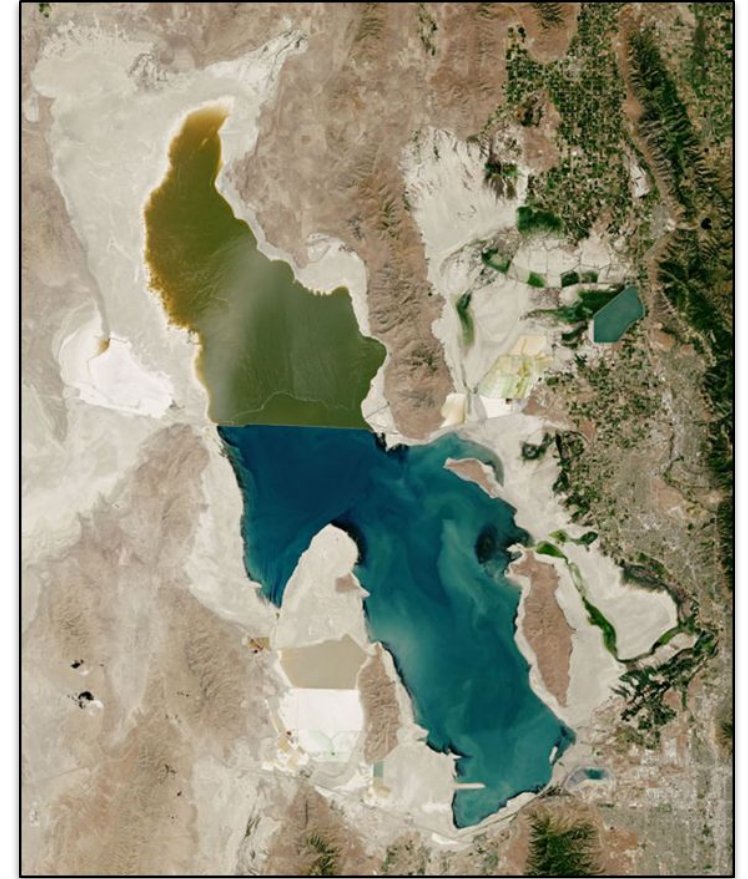
HB 453 S4 - Great Salt Lake Revisions (2024 Legislative Session)

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Snider

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Sandall

Division of Water Right Elements:

- *Directs the State Engineer to develop a Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan.*
- *The State Engineer can consider various factors, including the hydrology of the basin, lake elevation and salinity, the amount of water dedicated to the lake, and other relevant factors.*
- *The State Engineer will develop a priority schedule that apportions Great Salt Lake water rights based on their relative priority dates.*
- *Develop a publicly available distribution accounting tools.*



Utah Division of Water Rights

waterrights.utah.gov

Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Plan Overview

Section I - Background: *Outlines the State Engineer's administrative responsibilities with respect to Great Salt Lake and the scope of the Plan.*

Section II - Introduction: *Provides the statutory basis of the Plan.*

Section III - Definitions of Terms: *Defines relevant terms within the Plan.*

Section IV - Great Salt Lake Water Rights: *Identifies water rights considered Great Salt Lake water rights.*

Section V - Water Dedicated to Great Salt Lake: *Identifies water rights that have been dedicated to Great Salt Lake.*

Section VI - Apportionment and Distribution: *Details the priority schedule for apportioning Great Salt Lake water rights.*

Section VII - Voluntary Arrangements: *Explains how voluntary arrangements are incorporated into the Plan.*

Section VIII - Distribution Accounting Tool: *Introduces the Great Salt Lake Distribution Accounting Tool.*

Section IX - Measurement and Monitoring: *Outlines the requirements for physical measurement and reporting of water diverted from Great Salt Lake.*

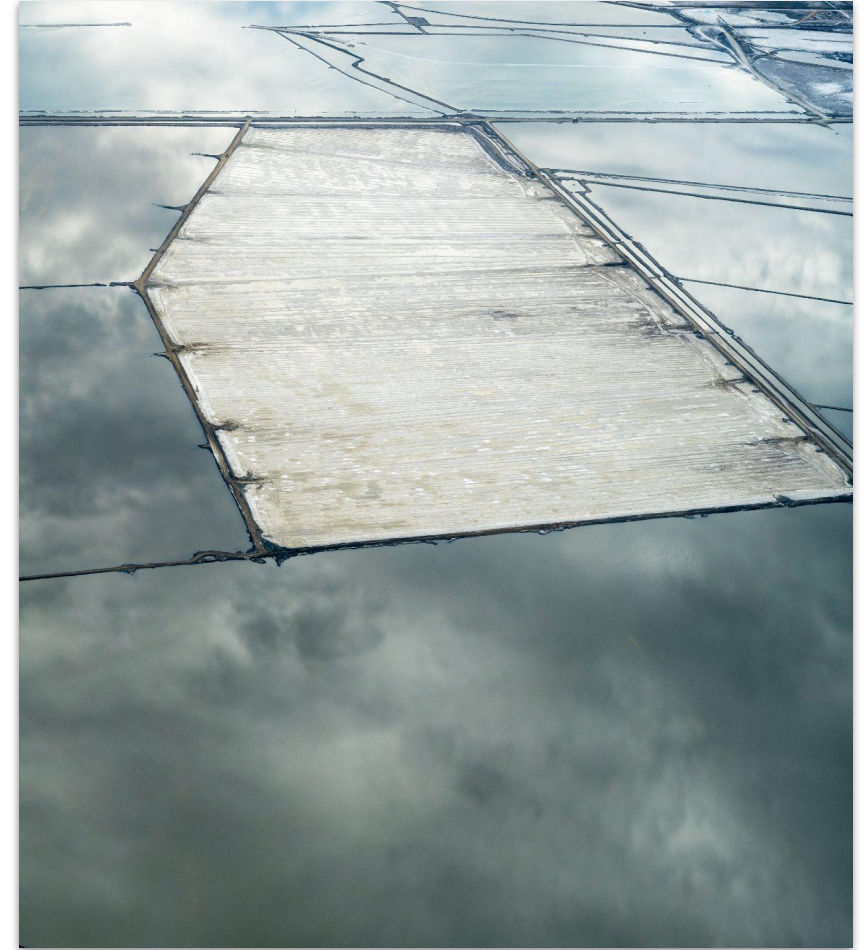


Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section I - Background

Administrative Responsibilities Over Great Salt Lake:

- *Waters of the state, including GSL, are property of the public.*
- *The State Engineer is responsible for the general administrative supervision of the waters of the state, including the measurement, appropriation, apportionment, and distribution.*
- *The State Engineer apportions and distributes water according to the respective rights of the appropriators (i.e., the principle of prior appropriation).*
- *The statute also requires incorporation of the principle of multiple use sustain yield into the Plan.*

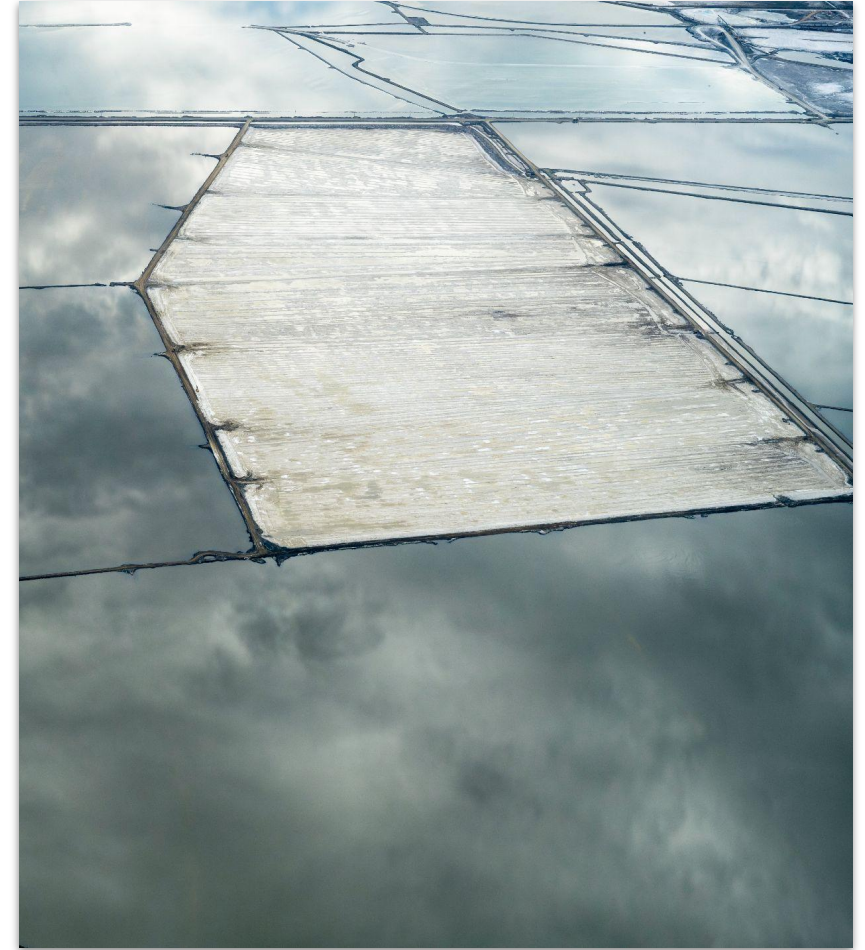


Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section I - Background (Continued)

Water in Great Salt Lake and Scope of the Plan:

- *Great Salt Lake elevations fluctuate over time.*
- *The elevations used in the Plan are intended to be in harmony with, but not necessarily the same as, other elevation thresholds identified in other plans or efforts.*
- *The priority schedule in the Plan only applies to Great Salt Lake water rights and does not provide for a priority call on other water rights not explicitly listed in the priority schedule, including those upstream of the GSL.*

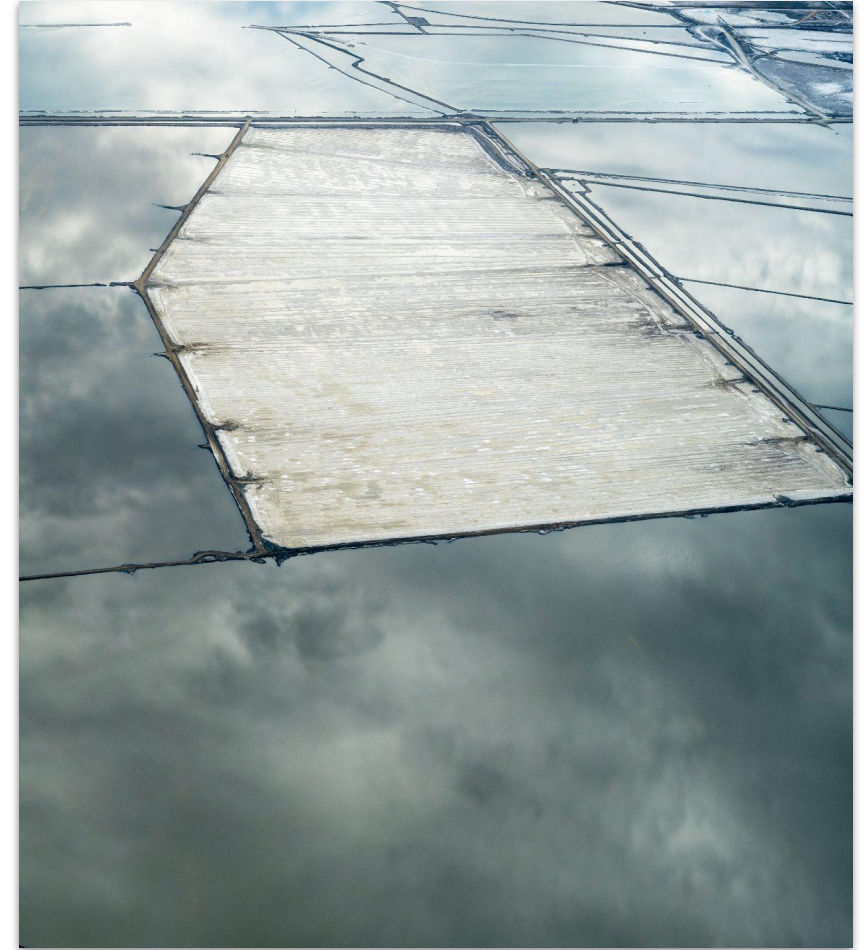


Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section I - Background (Continued)

Great Salt Lake Matters Outside the Scope of the Plan:

- *The plan primarily focuses on Great Salt Lake water rights and water rights dedicated to GSL.*
- *Most of the water that is physically present above the bed of the lake is not associated with a Great Salt Lake water right or dedicated water.*
- *Decisions or actions that don't relate to either Great Salt Lake water rights or dedicated water are the responsibility of the relevant agency designated by law, subject to any conditions associated with an applicable water right.*



Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section II - Introduction

Statutory Mandate:

- The State Engineer establishes the GSLDMP in accordance with the statutory requirements of Utah Code 73-33.

Primary objectives of the Plan:

- *Establishing requirements for the accurate measurement, quantification, and reporting of diversions, depletions, and return flows associated with Great Salt Lake water rights.*
- *Developing procedures for the equitable apportionment and distribution of Great Salt Lake water rights.*

Analysis of Critical Factors:

- *GSL physical characteristics, elevation, salinity levels.*
- *Priorities outlined in the Great Salt Lake Commissioner's Strategic Plan and the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan.*
- *Characteristics of Great Salt Lake water rights.*



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Section III - Definition of Terms

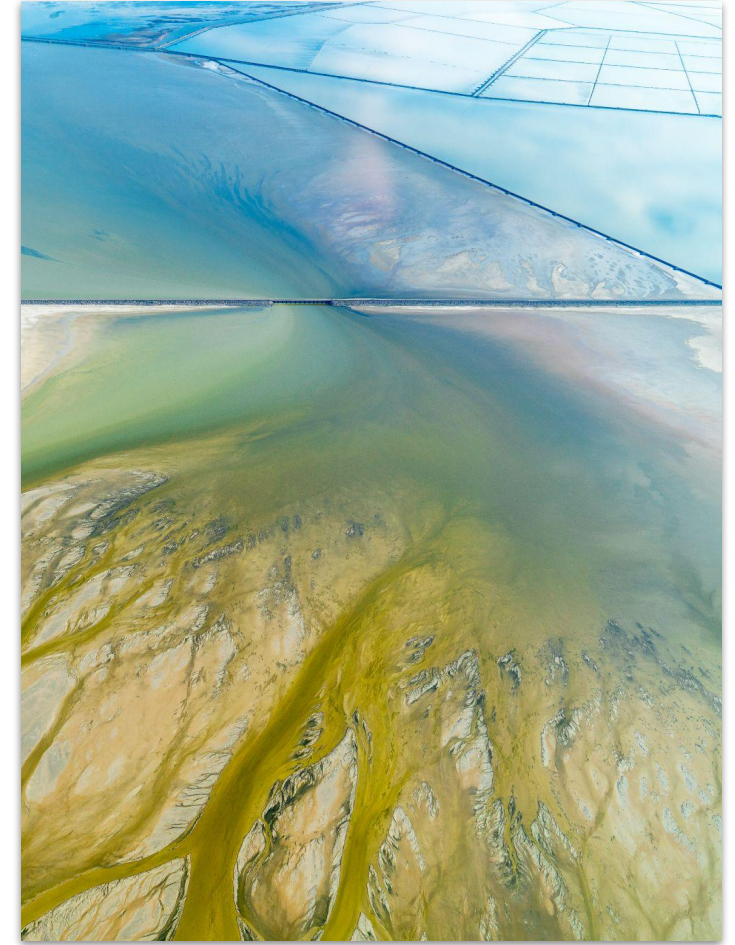
“Dedicated Water” means the quantity of water approved for delivery to or in the Great Salt Lake under water rights approved for beneficial use by a division as defined in Subsection 73-3-30(1)(b).

"Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan" means the plan adopted by a record of decision by the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands for the management of the Great Salt Lake.

"Great Salt Lake meander line" means the same as that term is defined in Section 65A-17-101. (i.e., “...the official meander line, completed in 1966, of the Great Salt Lake unless otherwise established by court order or negotiated boundary settlement.”)

“Great Salt Lake water right” means a water right that allows for the diversion of surface water or groundwater from a point below the Great Salt Lake meander line and that contemplates the recovery of salts or another mineral or element, as defined by Section 65A-17-101, from the water resource by precipitation or otherwise.

"Great Salt Lake watershed" means the drainage area for the Great Salt Lake, the Bear River watershed, the Jordan River watershed, the Utah Lake watershed, the Weber River watershed, and the West Desert watershed.



Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section IV - Great Salt Lake Water Rights (Table 1)

Water Right Number	Priority Date	Source	CFS	ACFT	Ownership	Water Right Number	Priority Date	Source	CFS	ACFT	Ownership
15-306	12/21/1940	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company	35-4012	6/17/1966	Underground Water Wells	1.5	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
15-341	9/15/1949	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company	15-2161	5/9/1967	Great Salt Lake	-	54,750.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
15-414	5/13/1955	Great Salt Lake	20	-	Morton Salt Inc.	13-2137	10/19/1967	Great Salt Lake	10	-	Lake Crystal Salt Company
13-228	1/24/1961	Great Salt Lake	12	7,300.0	Lake Crystal Salt Company	16-727	10/16/1972	Great Salt Lake	-	35,290.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
13-246	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	27,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.	15-2182	3/4/1993	Great Salt Lake	75.2	-	Morton Salt Inc.
13-3091	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	67,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.	15-3850	3/4/1993	Great Salt Lake	24.8	-	Morton Salt Inc.
13-3569	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	62,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.	13-3723	9/03/2003	Great Salt Lake	-	125.0	North Shore Limited Partnership
15-616	3/22/1965	Great Salt Lake	-	54,750.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.	13-3846	6/21/2006	Great Salt Lake	-	1.7	Earths Elements Inc.
13-1109	6/11/1965	Bear River	-	17,792.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.	13-3871	2/6/2008	Underground Water Well	-	66.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
13-3345	6/11/1965	Bear River Bay	-	49,208.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.	13-3884	11/26/2008	Great Salt Lake	-	10.0	Earths Elements
35-2343	7/27/1965	Underground Water Well	0.15	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.	13-3457	8/28/2012	Great Salt Lake	83	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
35-5373	7/27/1965	Underground Water Wells	24.85	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.	13-4130	8/28/2012	Great Salt Lake	167	-	Forestry, Fire and State Lands

- *“Great Salt Lake water right” means a water right that allows for the diversion of surface water or groundwater from a point below the Great Salt Lake meander line and that contemplates the recovery of salts or another mineral or element, as defined by Section 65A-17-101, from the water resource by precipitation or otherwise.*
- *As future administrative actions (e.g., appropriations, change applications, ownership updates, etc.) to the list of Great Salt Lake water rights are requested, the list will be updated to reflect the corresponding actions of the State Engineer without formal amendment of the Plan.*

Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section V - Water Dedicated to Great Salt Lake (Table 2)

Water Right Number	Change Appl. Number	Source	CFS	ACFT	Ownership
59-3518	f46437	Jordan River	30	18,386.8	Kennecott Utah Copper LLC Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
35-476	a47913	Hooper Slough	-	248.1	EBJ-2, LLC Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
57-10981	a49954	Utah Lake and Jordan River	-	3,500.0	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources East Jordan Irrigation Company
57-6754	f50223	Jordan River	-	9,661.9	MWDSLS Salt Lake City Corp Sandy City Corporation Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
59-23	a50505	Jordan River	83.65	28,733.1	Kennecott Utah Copper LLC Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
59-30	a50506	Jordan River	23.722 5	17,174.5	Kennecott Utah Copper LLC Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
59-3517	a50507	Jordan River	26.64	8,750.0	Kennecott Utah Copper LLC Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Water Right Number	Change Appl. Number	Source	CFS	ACFT	Ownership
59-5272	f50738	Utah Lake and Jordan River	51.49	10,000.0	JVWCD Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Welby Jacob Water Users Company Utah Division of FFSL
59-6048	a51083	Jordan River	68.871	20,650.2	North Point Consolidated Irr. Co. Utah Division of FFSL
59-5334	f51947	Jordan River	8.520	2,927.0	Central Utah Water Conservancy District Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
57-3575	f51983	Jordan River	25.000	5,565.91	JVWCD Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
59-5771	f51985	Jordan River	-	4,330.638	JVWCD Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
59-5772	f51986	Jordan River	13.501	2,163.672	JVWCD Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
13-246	a52152	Great Salt Lake	-	156,000.0	Compass Minerals Utah Division of FFSL

- *“Dedicated Water” means the quantity of water approved for delivery to or in the Great Salt Lake under water rights approved for beneficial use by a division as defined in Subsection 73-3-30(1)(b).*
- *Dedicated water is not available for diversion by Great Salt Lake water rights unless otherwise provided for under an approved change application.*
- *As future change applications under Section 73-3-30 are approved, the list will be updated to reflect the corresponding actions of the State Engineer without formal amendment of the Plan.*

Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

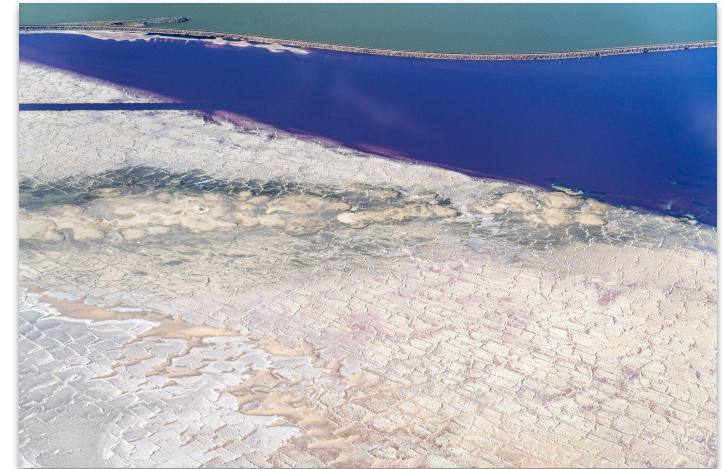
Section VI - Apportionment and Distribution

Priority Schedule for Great Salt Lake Water Rights

- *Apportions Great Salt Lake water rights according to priority date in connection with a corresponding lake elevation.*
- *Lake elevation will be the mean daily elevation of the South Arm of GSL as reported by the USGS for Gage 10010000 (Great Salt Lake at Saltair Boat Harbor) on June 15th of each year.*
- *Great Salt Lake water rights that fall outside of the elevation range listed in the priority schedule will be curtailed the following calendar year.*

New Appropriations of Great Salt Lake water rights

- *Governor's proclamation 2022-01 suspended new consumptive water right appropriations from GSL.*
- *The proclamation does allow consideration of applications that include a mitigation plan that offsets depletions.*
- *New applications for Great Salt Lake water rights will be considered by the State Engineer on their individual merits and their inclusion in the priority schedule without formal amendment of the Plan.*

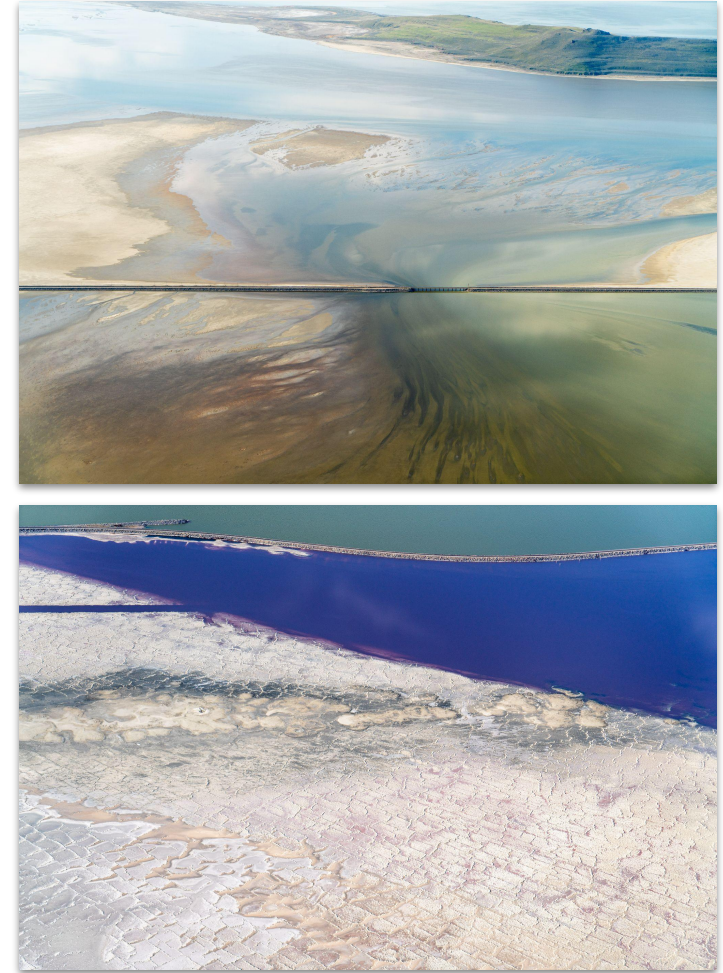


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Section VI - Apportionment and Distribution (Continued)

Great Salt Lake water rights associated with Dedicated Water

- *Great Salt Lake water rights with an approved change application under Subsection 73-3-30 (i.e., Dedicated Water) are identified with an asterisk in the priority schedule.*
- *These Great Salt Lake water rights with an approved change application under 73-3-30 and a valid contractual agreement with FFSL are not subject to curtailment under the priority schedule (see Section VII - Voluntary Arrangements).*
- *As future change applications on Great Salt Lake water rights are approved under 73-3-30, the priority schedule will be updated without formal amendment to the Plan.*



Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section VI - Apportionment and Distribution (Continued) (Table 3 - Priority Schedule 4190.1 - 4192.9)

Great Salt Lake Elevation	GSL Water Rights Available for Diversion Under the Corresponding Lake Levels					
	Water Right Number	Priority Date	Source	Flow (CFS)	Annual Volume (ACFT)	Ownership
Below 4193.0	All Great Salt Lake water rights curtailed (unless otherwise provided for in an approved change application under Subsection 73-3-30)					
4193.0 to 4194.9	15-306	12/21/1940	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-341	9/15/1949	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-414	5/13/1955	Great Salt Lake	20	-	Morton Salt Inc.
	13-228	1/24/1961	Great Salt Lake	12	7,300.0	Lake Crystal Salt Company
	13-246 *	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	27,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3091 *	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	67,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3569 *	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	62,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.

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Section VI - Apportionment and Distribution (Continued) (Table 3 - Priority Schedule 4193.0 - 4194.9)

Great Salt Lake Elevation	GSL Water Rights Available for Diversion Under the Corresponding Lake Levels					
	Water Right Number	Priority Date	Source	Flow (CFS)	Annual Volume (ACFT)	Ownership
4195.0 to 4197.9	15-306	12/21/1940	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-341	9/15/1949	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-414	5/13/1955	Great Salt Lake	20	-	Morton Salt Inc.
	13-228	1/24/1961	Great Salt Lake	12	7,300.0	Lake Crystal Salt Company
	13-246 *	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	27,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3091 *	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	67,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3569 *	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	62,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	15-616	3/22/1965	Great Salt Lake	-	54,750.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
	35-2343	7/27/1965	Water Well	0.15	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	35-5373	7/27/1965	Water Wells	24.85	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	35-4012	6/17/1966	Water Wells	1.5	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.

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Section VI - Apportionment and Distribution (Continued) (Table 3 - Priority Schedule 4195.0 - 4197.9)

Great Salt Lake Elevation	GSL Water Rights Available for Diversion Under the Corresponding Lake Levels					
	Water Right Number	Priority Date	Source	Flow (CFS)	Annual Volume (ACFT)	Ownership
4198.0 To 4199.9	15-306	12/21/1940	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-341	9/15/1949	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-414	5/13/1955	Great Salt Lake	20	-	Morton Salt Inc.
	13-228	1/24/1961	Great Salt Lake	12	7,300.0	Lake Crystal Salt Company
	13-246*	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	27,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3091*	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	67,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3569*	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	62,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	15-616	3/22/1965	Great Salt Lake	-	54,750.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
	35-2343	7/27/1965	Water Well	0.15	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	35-5373	7/27/1965	Water Wells	24.85	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	35-4012	6/17/1966	Water Wells	1.5	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	15-2161	5/9/1967	Great Salt Lake	-	54,750.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
	13-2137	10/19/1967	Great Salt Lake	10	-	Lake Crystal Salt Company
	16-727	10/16/1972	Great Salt Lake	-	35,290.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
	15-2182	3/4/1993	Great Salt Lake	75.2	-	Morton Salt Inc.
	15-3850	3/4/1993	Great Salt Lake	24.8	-	Morton Salt Inc.
	13-3723	09/03/2003	Great Salt Lake	-	125.0	North Shore Limited Partnership
	13-3846	6/21/2006	Great Salt Lake	-	1.7	Earths Elements Inc.
	13-3871	2/6/2008	Water Well	-	66.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3884	11/26/2008	Great Salt Lake	-	10.0	Earths Elements

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Section VI - Apportionment and Distribution (Continued) (Table 3 - Priority Schedule 4198 and above)

Great Salt Lake Elevation	GSL Water Rights Available for Diversion Under the Corresponding Lake Levels					
	Water Right Number	Priority Date	Source	Flow (CFS)	Annual Volume (ACFT)	Ownership
4200.0 and above	15-306	12/21/1940	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-341	9/15/1949	Great Salt Lake	10.31	-	Salt Pointe Land Company
	15-414	5/13/1955	Great Salt Lake	20	-	Morton Salt Inc.
	13-228	1/24/1961	Great Salt Lake	12	7,300.0	Lake Crystal Salt Company
	13-246*	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	27,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3091*	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	67,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-3569*	1/8/1962	Great Salt Lake	-	62,000.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	15-616	3/22/1965	Great Salt Lake	-	54,750.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
	35-2343	7/27/1965	Water Well	0.15	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	35-5373	7/27/1965	Water Wells	24.85	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	35-4012	6/17/1966	Water Wells	1.5	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	15-2161	5/9/1967	Great Salt Lake	-	54,750.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
	13-2137	10/19/1967	Great Salt Lake	10	-	Lake Crystal Salt Company
	16-727	10/16/1972	Great Salt Lake	-	35,290.0	U.S. Magnesium L.L.C.
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	13-3723	09/03/2003	Great Salt Lake	-	125.0	North Shore Limited Partnership
	13-3846	6/21/2006	Great Salt Lake	-	1.7	Earths Elements Inc.
	13-3871	2/6/2008	Water Well	-	66.0	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
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	13-3457	8/28/2012	Great Salt Lake	83	-	Compass Minerals Ogden Inc.
	13-4130	8/28/2012	Great Salt Lake	167		Forestry, Fire and State Lands

Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section VII - Voluntary Arrangements

- State Engineer may consider voluntary arrangements under the Plan.
- Existing voluntary arrangements between FFSL and Great Salt Lake water right owners are incorporated into the Plan.
- Voluntary arrangements differ on a case-by-case basis, but generally include provisions requiring:
 - *An approved change application*
 - *Contractual obligations that align with the objectives of the Plan.*
- If voluntary arrangements for other Great Salt Lake water rights are proposed following the adoption of the Plan, the State Engineer will consider them on their individual merits.

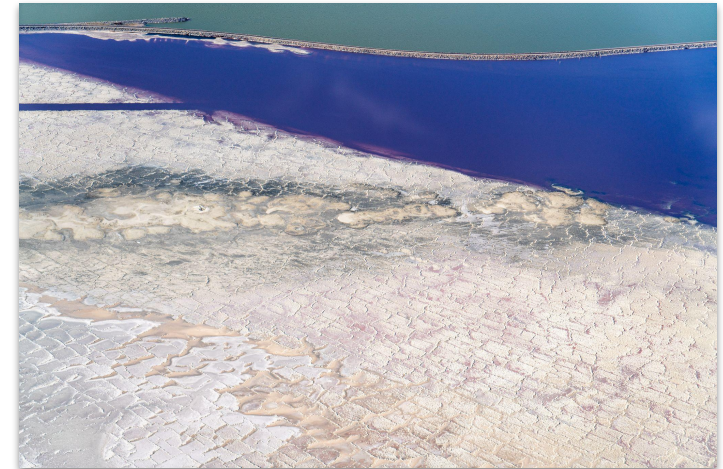


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Section VIII - Distribution Accounting Tool

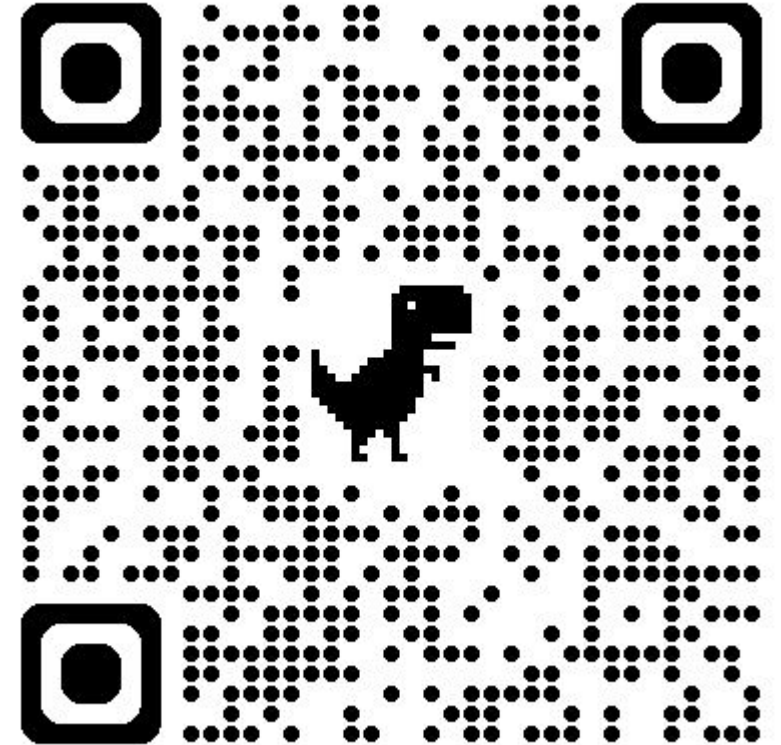
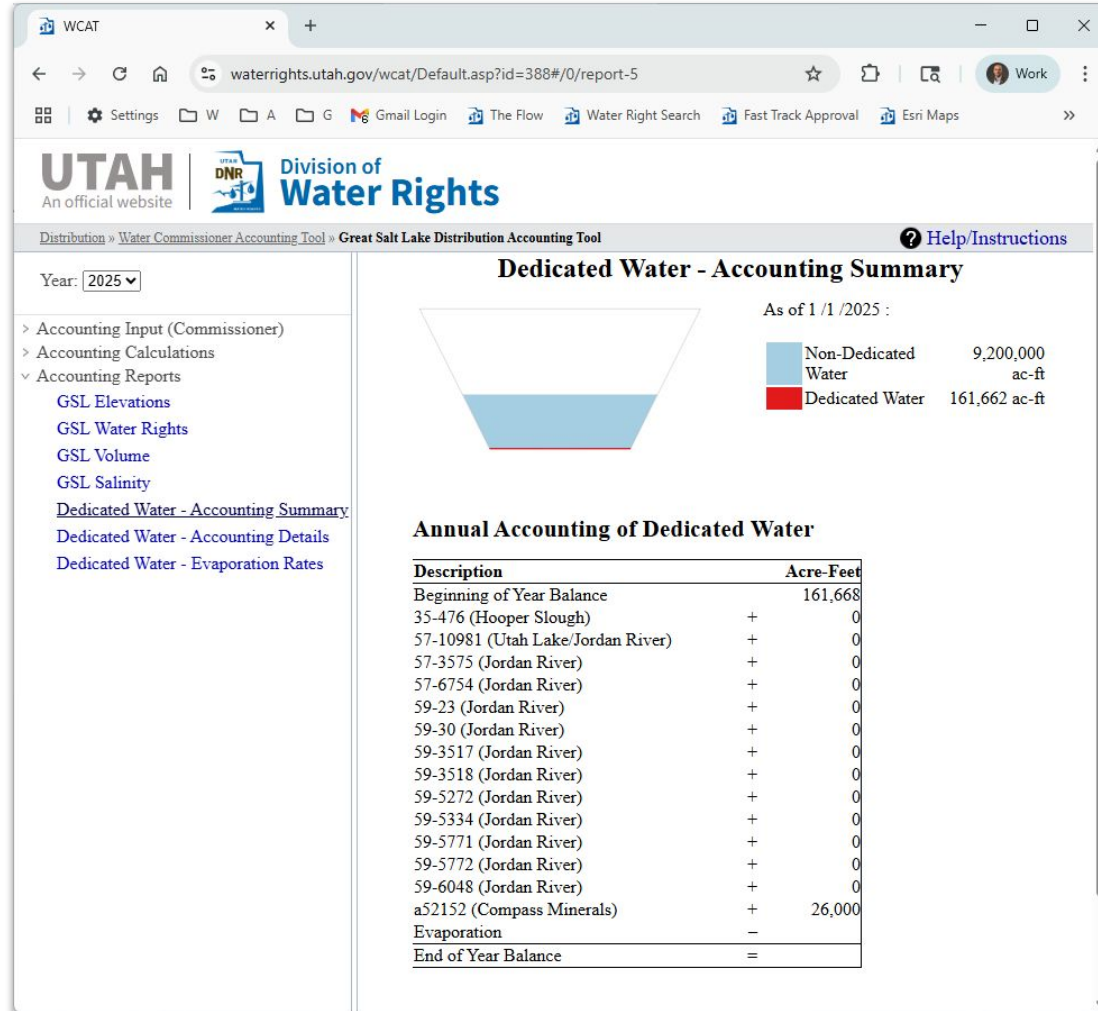
Great Salt Lake Distribution Accounting Tool (GSLDAT)

- GSL Elevations: Uses two USGS gages to calculate the volume of water in the lake (i.e., Saltair Boat Harbor and Saline)
- GSL Salinity: Reports salinity levels for informational purposes and also to calculate evaporative losses associated with Dedicated Water.
- Great Salt Lake Water Rights: Determines the volume of water available for diversion by utilizing the priority schedule while incorporating voluntary arrangements/change applications.
- Quantity of Water in GSL: Uses the USGS bathymetry surveys and lake elevations to calculate the volume of water in the lake.
- Dedicated Water: Accounts for the annual volume of water delivered to the lake (or converted in situ) associated with Dedicated Water. Also tracks the volume of Dedicated Water remaining from the previous year after evaporative losses.



Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section VIII - Distribution Accounting Tool



Review of Draft Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

Section IX - Measurement and Monitoring

Statutory Measurement and Monitoring Requirements

- *Requires robust physical measurement (not estimation) of water being diverted from GSL and reporting to State Engineer.*
- *Requires measurement and reporting of discharge salinity to FFSL.*
- *Recognizes other measurement and reporting requirements associated with other regulatory agencies.*



Timeline & Next Steps (Utah Code § 73-33-201 & 202)

Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

- Public Meeting: **July 31, 2025**
- Mailing of Notice of Final Adoption: **August 1, 2025.**
- Final Adoption: **October 1, 2025.**
- 60-day Complaint Period (after Final Adoption): Aggrieved parties have 60 days from the date of adoption to file a complaint in district court.



Comments & Questions

Great Salt Lake Distribution Management Plan

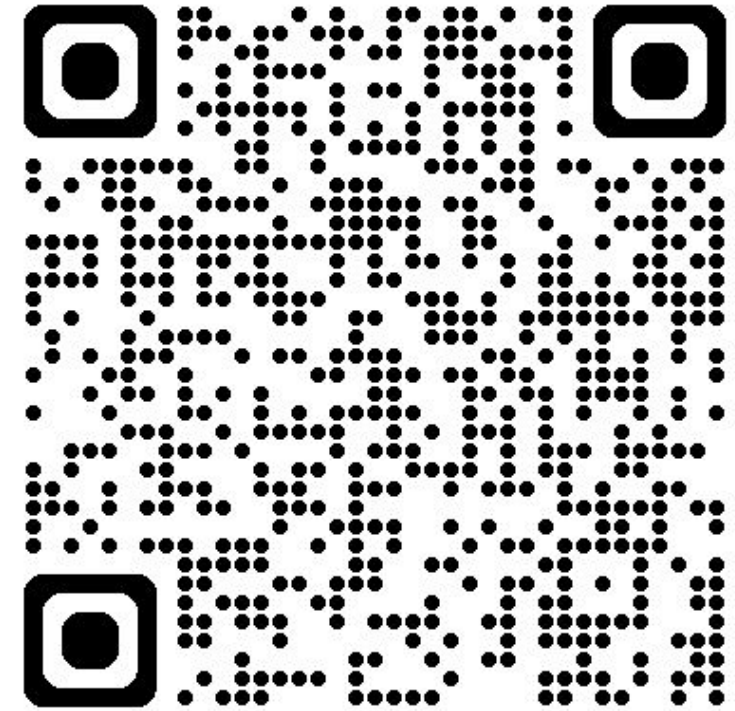
Send Comments to:

Attn: GSL Distribution Management Plan
Utah Division of Water Rights
PO Box 146300
Salt Lake City UT 84114-6300

or

Email: waterrights@utah.gov

GSL Distribution Management Plan Website



<https://waterrights.utah.gov/GSLDMP>



Utah Division of Water Rights

waterrights.utah.gov