

## Regional Offices

### Utah Lake/Jordan River

(Provo, Jordan and Spanish Fork Rivers, and all tributaries to Utah Lake)  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220  
P.O. Box 146300  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300  
801-538-7240

### Weber River/Western Utah

(Weber and Ogden Rivers, Tooele area and Great Salt Lake Desert)  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220  
P.O. Box 146300  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300  
801-538-7240

### Northern Regional Office

(Bear, Logan and Blacksmith Fork Rivers, and western Box Elder County)  
1780 North Research Parkway, Suite 104  
North Logan, UT 84341-1840  
435-752-8755

### Eastern Regional Office

(Uinta Basin rivers and North Slope of the Uinta Mountains streams tributary to the Green River)  
State and County Building  
152 East 100 North  
Vernal, Utah 84078-2126  
435-781-5327

### Sevier River Regional Office

(Sevier, Fremont and Dirty Devil Rivers)  
2031 South Industrial Park Road  
Richfield, Utah 84701  
435-896-2557

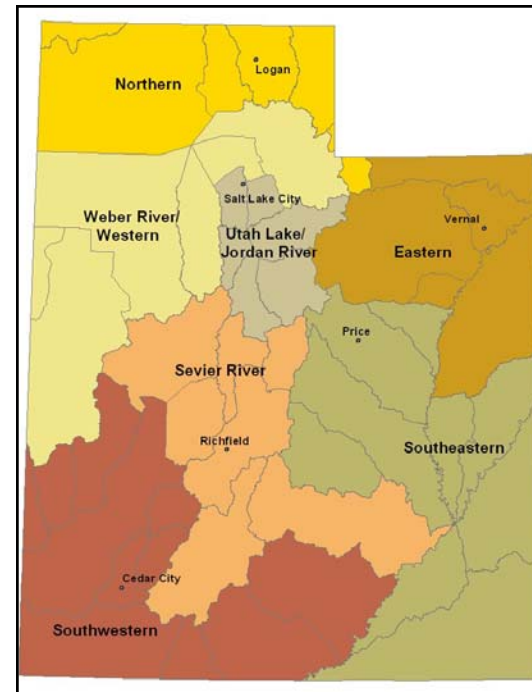
## Regional Offices—continued

### Southwestern Regional Office

(Virgin, Colorado, Paria, Escalante, Beaver and Santa Clara Rivers)  
646 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 506  
Cedar City, Utah 84721-0506  
435-586-4231

### Southeastern Regional Office

(Price, Green, Colorado, San Rafael, Muddy and San Juan Rivers)  
319 North Carbonville Road, Suite B  
P.O. Box 718  
Price, Utah 84501-2303  
435-613-3750



## Available Publications, Pamphlets and Materials

- Technical Publications (Tech Pubs)
- Hydrological data
- Dam Safety Phase I and II
- Information Bulletins
- Basic Data Reports
- Biennial Reports
- Water Circulars
- USGS/UGS Special Studies
- Water Use Reports
- Water Companies of Utah
- Proposed Determination of Water Rights
- Commissioner Reports
- Administrative Rules
- Administrative Procedures for Informal Proceedings
- Well Logs
- Stream Alteration Fact Sheets
- Computer Generated Search Data
- Copies from Files
- Blank Application Forms
- Topographic, Aerial, and GIS maps
- Certified Copies

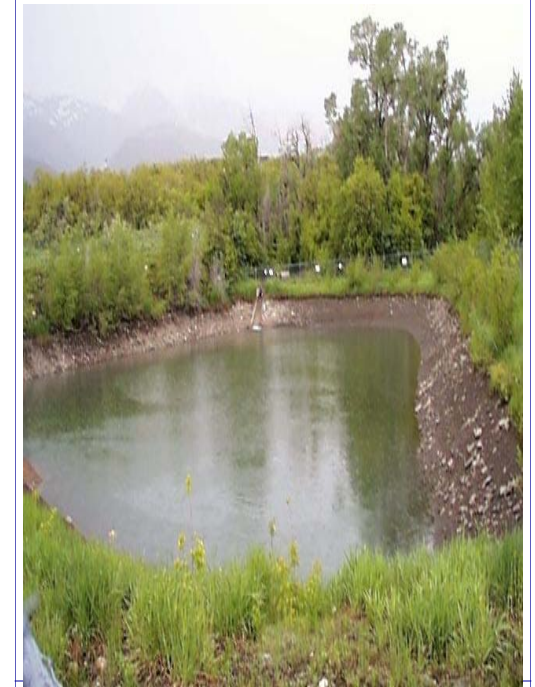
## For More Information Contact:

Utah Division of Water Rights  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220  
P.O. Box 146300  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300  
Phone: (801) 538-7240  
Fax: (801) 538-7467  
[www.waterrights.utah.gov](http://www.waterrights.utah.gov)

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Administering Utah

# WATER RIGHTS



[www.waterrights.utah.gov](http://www.waterrights.utah.gov)

# Administering Utah Water Rights

Water is both Utah's opportunity and its limitation, and must be managed intelligently. Utah Water Rights Law, Title 73 states water is the "property of the public" and Rights are granted to put it to "beneficial use." The code emphasizes "Beneficial use shall be the basis, the measure and the limit to the use of water in this state." Utah water law is based on "prior appropriation." When several people use water from the same source, "the one first in time shall be the one first in rights."

**The Mission of the Division of Water Rights is to provide order and certainty in the beneficial use of Utah's water.**

The Division administers Utah's Water Right laws such as appropriation, distribution and adjudication of surface and ground water. In addition dam safety, stream alterations, and well drilling are regulated by The Division. An extensive Web page allows access to all Water Rights, dam, stream alteration and well data bases with full GIS mapping and graphical search capabilities. The web site is structured to reflect the office organization and is an excellent resource.

## State Engineer

The State Engineer directs the Division of Water Rights. He is appointed by the governor with consent of the Senate and serves a four-year term. The code states "The state engineer shall be responsible for the general administrative supervision of the waters of the state and the measurement, appropriation, apportionment and distribution of those waters."

## History

The office of the State Engineer was created in 1897. In 1903, Utah surface water law was established. Legislation passed in 1919 for adjudicating water rights and for governing dam safety. In 1935, groundwater was included in the water law. The name of the State Engineer's Office was changed in 1963 to The Division of Water Rights.



## Responsibilities and Functions

The Division of Water Right's administrative responsibilities are divided into categories as follows:

### Water Right Applications & Records

The State Engineer approves all applications to use water in the state and maintains a comprehensive set of Water Right records, assembled from his application approval responsibility.

**Distribution.** Water is distributed to water users by priority. Where many users are competing for water from the same source, the State Engineer appoints a water commissioner to oversee the day to day distribution of water.

**Adjudication.** The courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate ownership and validity of Water Rights. The State Engineer assists in this effort through investigations that compile proposed determinations of Water Rights for decree by district courts.

**Well Drilling.** Regulates water well construction by licensing, registering and overseeing construction activities of water well drillers and drill rig operators.

**Enforcement.** Investigates and prosecutes violations of Water Right statutes with orders, fines, and litigation if necessary.

**Dam Safety.** Approves construction and inspects public and private dams. Inspections are based on a dam's hazard rating for loss of life and property.

**Stream Channel Alterations.** Administers alterations to natural streams under terms of the *Utah Code* in conjunction with a general regional permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

**Water Resource Studies.** Conducts quality/quantity studies of various river basins and hydrologic areas of the state in conjunction with the Utah Geological Survey, the U.S. Geological Service, Utah State University, and others.

**Organization** The State Engineer has divided program responsibilities among four sections; Applications and Records, Field Services, Dam Safety/Stream Alterations, and Technical Services. Much of the day to day work for each section program is completed by staff in one of 7 Regional Offices that are responsible for a specific geographic region. The staff is sometimes referred to as "The State Engineers Office" but is more appropriately called the Utah Division of Water Rights, an agency within the Utah Department of Natural Resources.