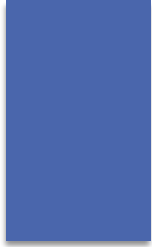




Utah Actions to Protect Great Salt Lake

- ▶ Water Law and Policy for 19 years.
- ▶ 8 years in Utah legislature.
- ▶ Sponsored many bills on water conservation and Great Salt Lake.





Background

UTAH WATER LAW

Annual Precipitation

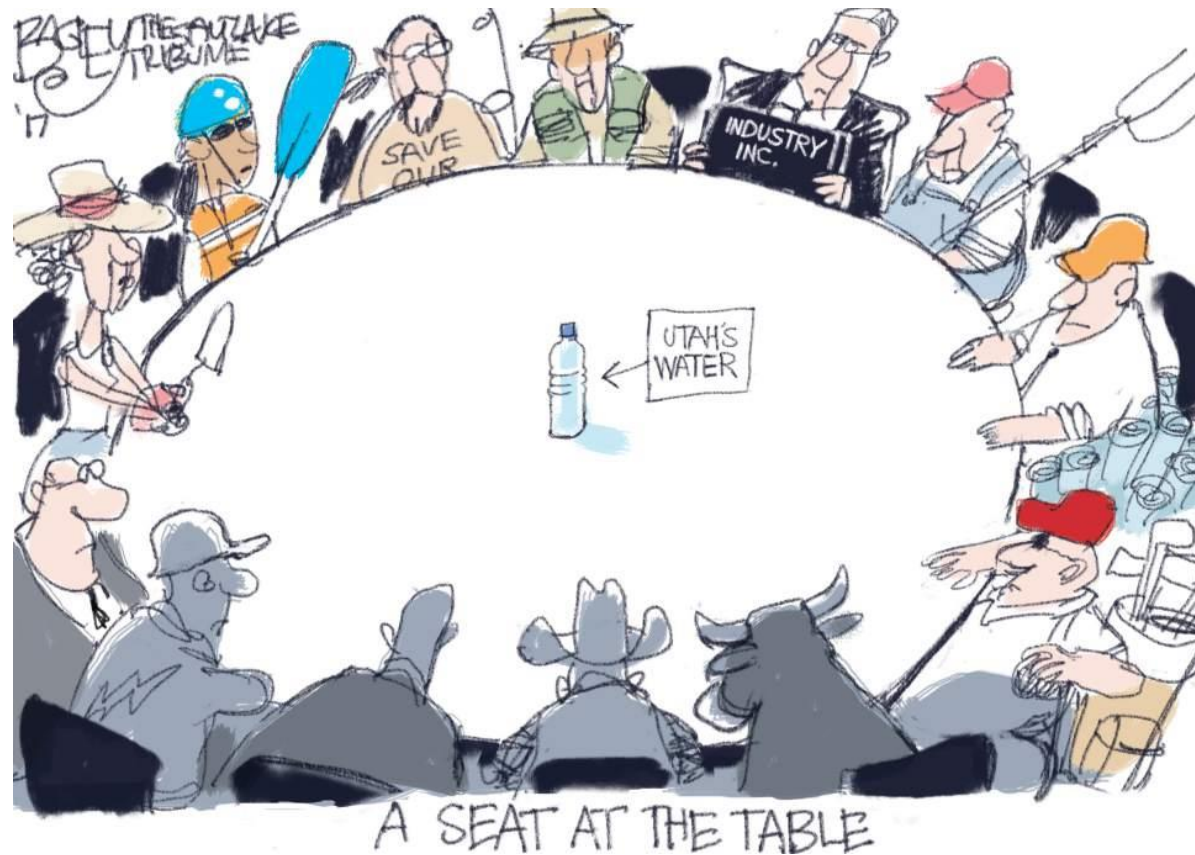
Utah: 280mm/year



Vietnam: 2,000mm/year



Water is Scarce



Water Law in Utah: “Prior Appropriation”

First in Time, First in Right



Use It or Lose It

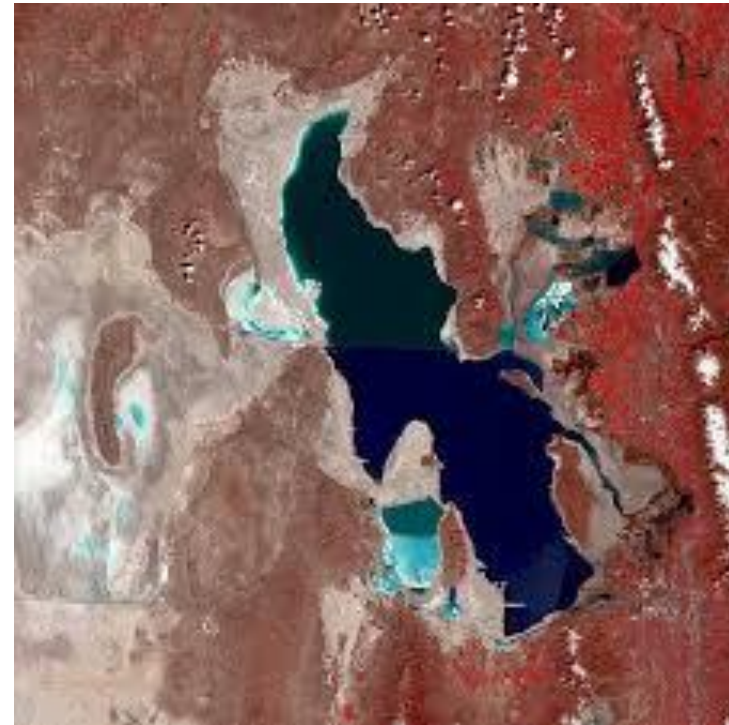


A Perfectly Efficient System

All water is used; none is wasted



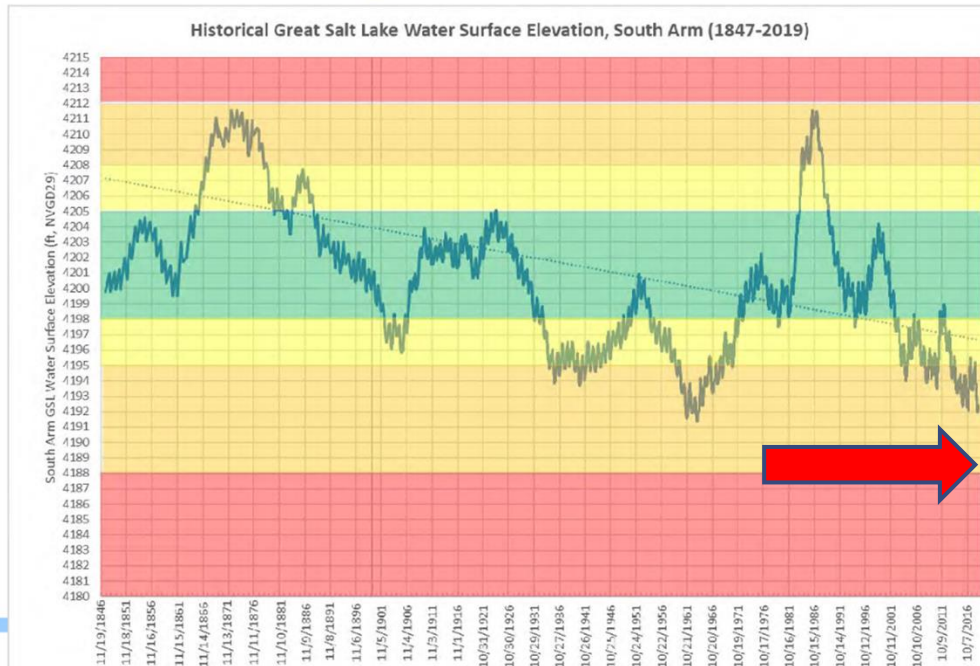
All Water in Great Salt Lake is “wasted”



Results

U.S. G.S.
INTEGRATED WATER
MANAGEMENT

A Record of Change



Why?

1. Getting Hotter (global warming)
2. Human water use getting more intensive
 - ▶ 11 ft of water lost due to human effects.

HOW HAS UTAH
RESPONDED?



Water for the Environment

- ▶ 1983 – Two state agencies may hold “instream” rights
- ▶ 2007 – First law allowing private leases (pilot)
- ▶ 2018 – Law made permanent
- ▶ 2020 – Law broadened dramatically
 - ▶ Private entity may convert right to instream flow
 - ▶ New State Agency can hold water rights for Great Salt Lake.

2020 – Water Banking and Split Season Leasing

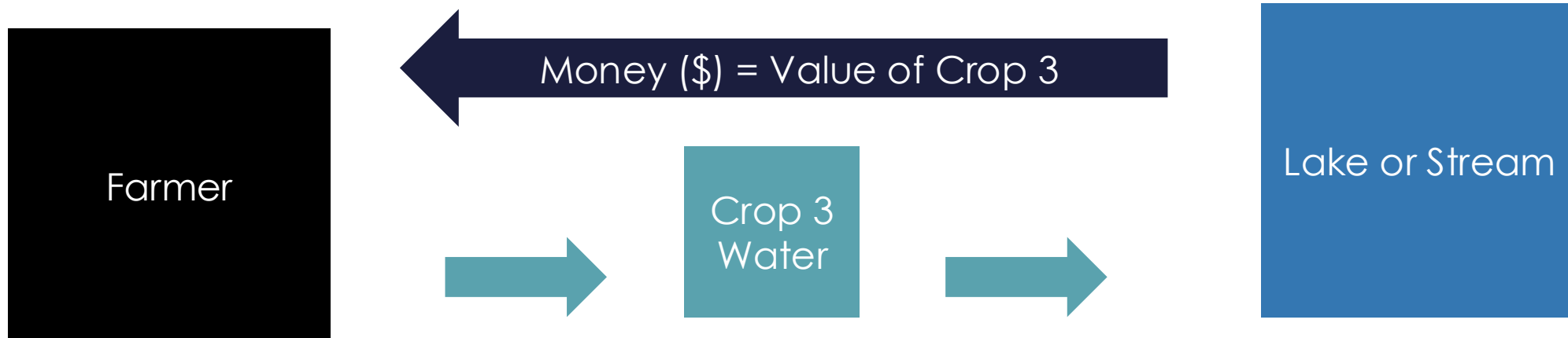
Facilitates water sharing between traditional consumptive uses and the environment using free market forces



Example – Water Banking + Split Season Leasing

Farmer John - Alfalfa

Crop 1	Crop 2	Crop 3
High Value	Medium Value	Low Value
Low Water Use	Medium Water Use	High Water Use



2022: “The Year of the Great Salt Lake.”



2022 Bills Passed

- ▶ **HB-410 (Wilson) | Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement**
- ▶ **HB-429 (Miles) | Great Salt Lake Amendments**
- ▶ **HB-33 (Ferry) | Instream Water Flow Amendments**
- ▶ **HB-157 (Hawkes) | Sovereign Lands Revenue Amendments**
- ▶ **HB-334 (Hawkes) | State Engineer Modifications**
- ▶ **HB-317 (Owens) | Sovereign Lands Trespassing Amendments**
- ▶ **HB-242 (Peterson) | Secondary Water Metering Amendments**
- ▶ **HB-282 (Wilcox) | Water Wise Landscaping Amendments**
- ▶ **HB-121 (Spendlove) | Water Conservation Modifications**
- ▶ **SB-89 (Iwamoto) | Water Amendments**

Public Investments

2021	Utah: Funding for groundwater modeling and other research (\$1M one-time)
2022	Utah: \$50M for Great Salt Lake (\$40M for water supply)
2022	Utah: \$400M for water conservation
2022	Federal: \$4B for drought response (GSL may access)

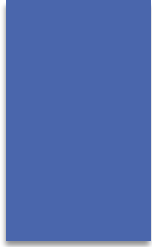
Agency Actions

- ▶ State sends water downstream from state-managed wetlands.
- ▶ Adapted causeway breach to protect salinity
- ▶ Large water providers: 30,000 AF
- ▶ Closed watershed to new appropriations



A large, dark blue, curved shape that resembles a stylized letter 'C' or a thick, curved arrow pointing to the right. It occupies the left half of the slide.

What about

A solid blue vertical bar located in the top right corner of the slide.

2023?

Significant Policy Changes - 2023

- ▶ HB-349 (Snider) – Water Reuse Amendments
 - Protects existing water supply (and nutrients)
- ▶ HB-491 (Schultz) – Amendments Related to Great Salt Lake
 - Creates a Great Salt Lake Commissioner
- ▶ HB-513 (Snider) – Great Salt Lake Amendments
 - Updates beneficial uses
 - Changes royalty rates for mineral companies
- ▶ SB-277 (Sandall) – Water Conservation and Augmentation Amendments
 - \$200M for ag water optimization
 - \$3M ongoing for turf buyback

Significant Investments

- ▶ Ag water optimization: \$200M
- ▶ Secondary metering: \$15M
- ▶ GSL Commissioner: \$12.5M
- ▶ Utah Water Ways: \$3M

Total Investments: \$230M



SUMMARY

▶ **Investments**

- ▶ Significant short term funding (\$65M)
- ▶ Significant long term funding (mineral royalties): \$7-30M/year
- ▶ Water conservation investments (\$600M)

▶ **New Policy Tools**

- ▶ Expanded water rights for the Lake, private trust to hold those rights
- ▶ Protect existing water supply
- ▶ Better ways to share water
- ▶ Great Salt Lake Commissioner

▶ **Executive Actions**

- ▶ Salinity Management
- ▶ Closing Basin to new water rights

Optimistic About the Lake ...



SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF UTAH

Reset Range

Current as of 04/06/2023:
% of Median - 214%
% Median Peak - 189%
Days Since Median Peak - 3
Percentile - 100

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

[Station List](#)

