

# 10

Chapter

**Conclusion**

The Division is pursuing a balanced approach to meeting future water needs. Policymakers, regional water providers, organizations, municipalities, and individuals are encouraged to use this plan as a guide to implement policies and practices within their circle of influence to build a resilient and sustainable water future. The Division encourages adoption of technological and water management advances to become more efficient and improve data quality and reliability.

We are committed to coordinating with federal, state, and local stakeholders to improve the data collection network. The Division posts water data on its [Open Water Data](#) website to provide transparent access to data used for planning and other purposes. The Division is automating and documenting its methodologies to improve transparency of the calculations and reduce the variability of the results.

With this plan, the Division set out to create an actionable document that would guide and direct water management efforts within

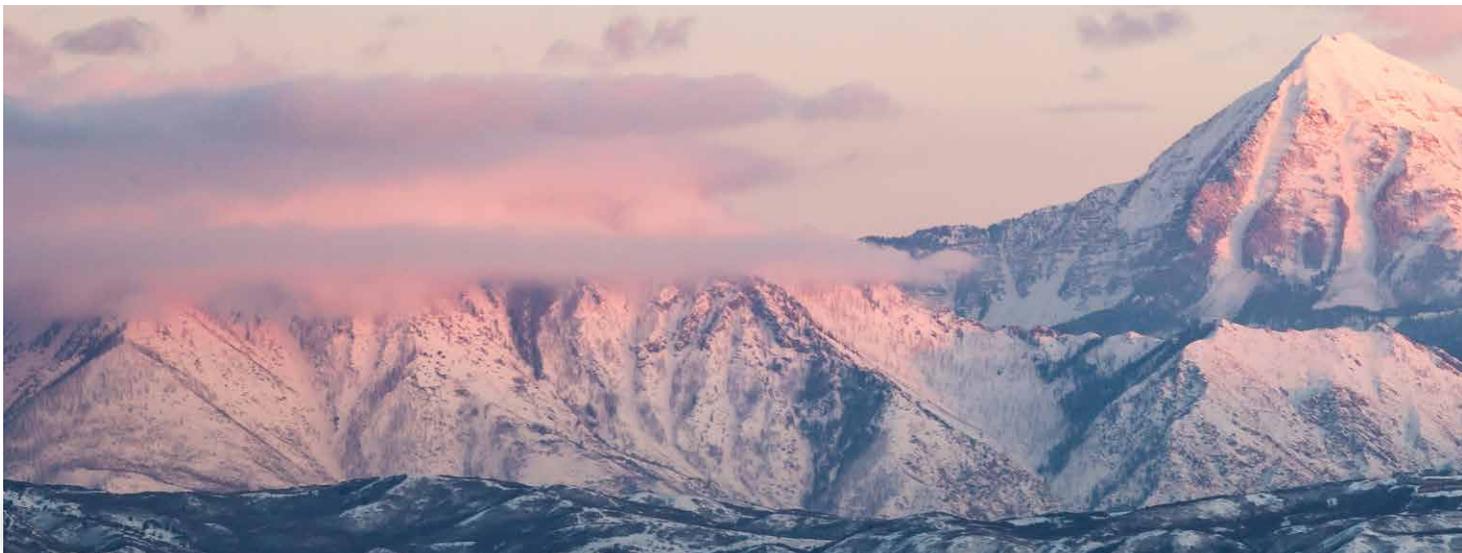
the state over the next several years. The plan lays out goals in Chapter 1 and a series of recommendations in subsequent chapters.

Like the goals, these recommendations fall under one of the three principles of water management: reliable data, supply security, and healthy environment. The recommendations made in this report are summarized in subsequent paragraphs. Like the goals, the Division will work with cooperating partners to implement the recommendations by 2026.

## Summary of Recommendations

### Reliable Data

Reliable data is needed to make informed water management decisions. As our confidence in existing data increases, so will our confidence in future supply and demand projections. The Division is committed to improving data quality and pursuing needed



studies that will enlighten future decision-making. The following recommendations reflect this commitment:

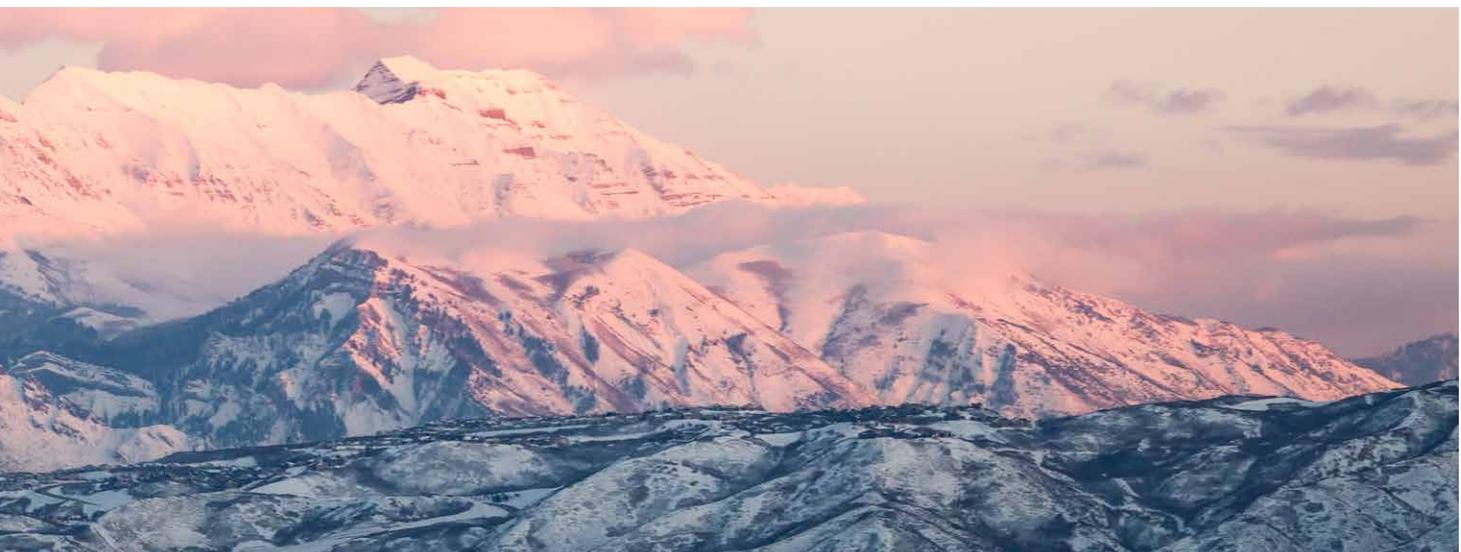
- Evaluate and advance a standard methodology used to determine depletion.
- Analyze existing streamgage and weather station networks and identify where additional resources are needed.
- Investigate ways to improve the Water Budget and supply measurements.
- Identify new cloud seeding areas, implement new technology as it's available, and continue to fund cloud seeding projects to augment Utah's water supply.
- Continue to incorporate climate change in planning models.
- Continue to work with other state agencies and water suppliers to obtain accurate water use records and measurements.
- Improve the Water Demand Model as new data, plans, and information become available.

- Encourage the use of the Water Demand Model by water suppliers for running various scenarios to help with planning efforts.

## Supply Security

Securing a reliable water supply requires a comprehensive approach. Utah's water needs won't be met by development alone, and they won't be met by conservation alone. Converting agricultural water supplies as farmland is developed will help meet needs in high-growth areas, but it too will not be sufficient to meet growing M&I needs. The following recommendations reflect the importance of employing diverse means and methods:

- Explore ways to assist counties and water systems in meeting their regional water conservation goals.
- Continue to provide technical assistance for water conservation plan submittal.
- Provide recommendations and additional resources to systems with water conservation plans due.



- Research and implement a pilot Demand Management program for water users that rely on the Colorado River.
- Find ways to enhance water conservation education within existing resources and pursue re-establishing the water education program.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to increase water audits throughout the state.
- Provide funding to expand secondary metering program statewide.
- Expand “Flip your Strip” program statewide.
- Study and develop tools on integrating water and land use planning to share with municipalities and counties.
- Prepare and plan for water development projects to ensure water supplies are available when needed.
- Complete the National Environmental Policy Act process for the Lake Powell Pipeline.
- Refine the Division’s agricultural to M&I water conversion estimates.
- Continue planning for and studying options for Bear River Development.
- Acquire right-of-way property for the proposed Bear River Development project.
- Update the 2005 Water Reuse in Utah report.
- Continue to fund water conveyance improvement projects through the Board of Water Resources.
- Continue to fund on-farm water optimization projects through the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.
- Update and revise the Drought Response Plan.

- Prepare and publish a Statewide Water Marketing Strategy that includes water banking lessons learned from pilot projects around the state.
- Develop a policy to establish a process for consultation with federally recognized Native American Tribes to comply with Executive Order 2014/005.

## Healthy Environment

Preserving the health of watersheds and the environment is essential to wise water management. Much work is needed to address impaired waters and preserve beneficial uses. The following recommendations, while just a beginning, will help sustain healthy watersheds throughout the state:

- Work with Great Salt Lake Advisory Council to research and identify ways to get more water to Great Salt Lake.
- Continue to collaborate in efforts to achieve HCR10 goals, which brings stakeholders together to protect and preserve Great Salt Lake.
- Establish the Utah Watersheds Council and local watershed councils.
- Continue working with the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to prevent the spread and establishment of aquatic invasive species in Utah’s watersheds.
- Work with stakeholders to identify and secure critical environmental water needs.
- Consider infrastructure needs to treat water to meet the water quality needs of the intended use.
- Continue to collaborate in efforts to achieve HCR10 goals.



Water flowing over the spillway at Gunlock Reservoir  
PC: Washington County Water Conservancy District