

# Utah Division of Water Resources

## Legislative Update 2025

As one of the fastest-growing states in the nation, Utah is committed to meeting the future demands of our population while maintaining the quality of life Utahns enjoy. The Utah Division of Water Resources implements programs aimed at making the state more waterwise for years to come.

### Innovation

**Growing Water Smart** – The division works with communities and state agencies to plan for future water needs, balancing urban growth with prudent water management. In light of this, the division has held four Growing Water Smart workshops since November 2022, with additional workshops planned for 2025.

**Water Marketing** – Water marketing is the act of applying market principles like leasing, buying or selling to reallocate the use of water. The division has developed interactive resources and practical tools to help water users explore and implement local water markets. Water marketing is one tool to address Utah’s most complex water challenges.

**Cloud Seeding** – 37 new cloud seeding generators were brought online during the 2024-2025 cloud seeding season. In addition, the division is partnering with Utah State University to better understand cloud seeding impacts in Utah’s unique climates.

### Funding

**Project Funding** – This year, the Board of Water Resources contracted almost \$59 million in board funds, awarded almost \$22 million in water infrastructure project grants and provided \$50 million in funds for seismic resilience construction and studies along the Wasatch Front.

**Water Conservation** – As of January 2025, 63% of Utah residents are eligible for our Landscape Incentive Program. 72,000 secondary water meters have been installed and an anticipated 162,000 meters to be installed by the end of 2026.

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## Planning

**Drought Mitigation and Planning** – Water condition webinars are held on a regular basis to collect feedback on weather conditions around the state. The webinars are hosted by a committee headed by the Division of Water Resources, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Utah Climate Center. For more information on water condition webinars, email [drought@utah.gov](mailto:drought@utah.gov).

**Watershed Councils** – Moving forward, the Utah Watersheds Council has been tasked with additional responsibilities. As provided in HB 280 during the 2024 legislative session, the council will advise both the Water Development Coordinating Council and the Division of Water Resources on the State Water Plan.

**State Water Plan** – The State Water Plan is a comprehensive framework that identifies available water supplies, estimates current and projected water demands and recommends strategies to meet those demands. It emphasizes the importance of water conservation and guides efforts to manage and protect available water supplies. The next State Water Plan will be completed by the end of 2026.

**Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan** – Through the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan, we're working to protect critical ecosystems for wildlife, recreation and Utah's economy. Eight projects are currently underway to provide essential insights that will shape the plan.



### Why should Utah be waterwise?

- Utah is a desert state and its water future is one of the most significant challenges facing us today.
- Water is vital to Utah's agriculture, outdoor recreation and industry sectors. Ensuring reliable water supply protects jobs and economic growth.
- With rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and unreliable snowpack, Utah water resources are more vulnerable. Resilient systems help adapt to and mitigate these challenges.

