

# Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan 2025 Year in Review



Progress rolls on for the first-ever Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan and concurrent Great Salt Lake Basin Study. The Division of Water Resources' and our partners' collective efforts to complete a plan that will ensure a resilient water supply for Great Salt Lake and water uses in the basin are on track to conclude in late 2027. Visit [GSLBasinPlan.utah.gov](https://GSLBasinPlan.utah.gov) to learn more about these projects. Here's what we've been up to...

## Modeling

### Great Salt Lake Basin River Model

- Completed the expedited Great Salt Lake Basin River Planning Model Plan with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Hydros Consulting Inc. and Precision Water Resource Engineering.
- Conducted technical sufficiency review of the model plan with Reclamation.
- Developed river basin and Great Salt Lake schematics to assist in model development
- Began developing the model itself.



### Climate modeling

- Completed 90% of climate modeling with the University of Utah and Reclamation and are working on post-processing model results to understand primary drivers of projected change
- Begun analyzing climate model output using risk-based climate parameters to understand how uncertainty in projections may impact water users and uses
- Used risk-based climate parameters to inform development of risk-based hydrology parameters for next stage of coupled model process
- Coordinated with Reclamation to verify that historical snow and streamflow are accurately simulated in the hydrologic model (VIC)
- Begun pre-processing projected climate data for input into the VIC model to run projected simulations through the hydrologic model.

## Planning

- Developed a multi-year public engagement strategy with Reclamation and Envision Utah
- Conducted a comprehensive inventory of existing work completed by the state of Utah on Great Salt Lake management, water supply, water demand and lake-level planning. This inventory is being used to inform, validate and refine both the draft performance metrics and the draft management scenarios.

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## Planning (continued)

- Received guidance from Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan Steering Committee and Advisory Group, [watershed councils](#) and other partners on basinwide engagement approaches, performance metrics, research studies and more.
- Worked with agencies involved in water rights, water-supply management and lake-level operations to gather essential system information that directly informed the development of the draft performance metrics and draft management scenarios for basin study.
  - Developed and refined a draft list of performance metrics that reflect major water use types in the basin, water-supply reliability, lake-level considerations and long-term system resilience.
    - Convened an interdisciplinary project team workshop to coordinate key water-use types and basin water-demand considerations. Integrated these considerations with hydrologic, ecological and engineering components as the draft metrics and scenarios take shape.
      - Gathered lessons learned from other long-range water planning projects including:
        - Yakima Basin and Walla Walla integrated plans.
        - Walker Lake.
        - Pyramid Lake.
    - Presented plan updates at American Water Resources Association, American Planning Association and other local water-focused workshops.



## Completed studies

- **Opportunities and Costs for Municipal and Industrial Water Conservation:** provides insights, findings and recommendations intended to reduce municipal and industrial water use impacts on Great Salt Lake while supporting regional water needs.
- **Opportunities and Costs for Agricultural Optimization:** evaluates feasible, voluntary paths to reduce agricultural water depletion through various strategies (and their associated costs) including irrigation upgrades, crop substitutions, water leasing and conveyance improvements.
- **Options and Costs for Great Salt Lake Dust Control:** provides analysis of 12 potential engineered dust control options for the exposed lakebed and presents associated cost estimates and implementation considerations.



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