## Utah State Legislature

## **Fiscal Highlights**

## Public Lands Office Appropriations - Brian Wikle

The Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO) has historically received the largest proportion of its appropriations from the Constitutional Defense Restricted Account (CDRA). As depicted in the chart below, over 50% of PLPCO's funding came from the CDRA in all but one of the past ten completed fiscal years. Consequently, PLPCO's actual operating budget has been heavily affected by revenue flowing into the CDRA.



Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office Appropriations (Appropriation totals are shown above columns; appropriations and the percent of total are shown for the Constitutional Defense Restricted Account)

The primary revenue source for the Constitutional Defense Restricted Account is the Land Exchange Distribution Account (LEDA). Between FY 2008 and FY 2011, annual revenue to the LEDA hovered around \$16.5 million. However, in FY 2012, deposits to the LEDA fell to \$10.3 million, and in FY 2013 and FY 2014, deposits were just \$3.7 million and \$4.5 million, respectively. This sharp decline led to a strain in recent years on PLPCO's operating budget. It is anticipated that deposits to the LEDA, and hence the CDRA, will remain at low levels for the foreseeable future.

Recognizing the trend in deposits to the LEDA, the Legislature appropriated additional funding to PLPCO from other sources. In FY 2015, there was a one-time appropriation of \$1,675,000 from the Sovereign Lands Management Account (SLMA). In FY 2016, the Legislature provided an additional

ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$500,000, as well as one-time appropriations of \$3.35 million from the General Fund and \$1 million from the SLMA.