

Budget Brief – Division of Water Rights

NUMBER: NRAS-BB-08-19

SUMMARY

Administered by the State Engineer, the Division is responsible for the measurement, appropriation, apportionment, and distribution of water in the state. The State Engineer and his staff oversee dam safety, stream channel alterations and water well drilling. The Division is the only division in the Department of Natural Resources that does not have an oversight board. For detailed information on this line item, please see Compendium of Budget Information for the 2008 General Session, pages 123-133.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Utah Lake/Jordan River Adjudication

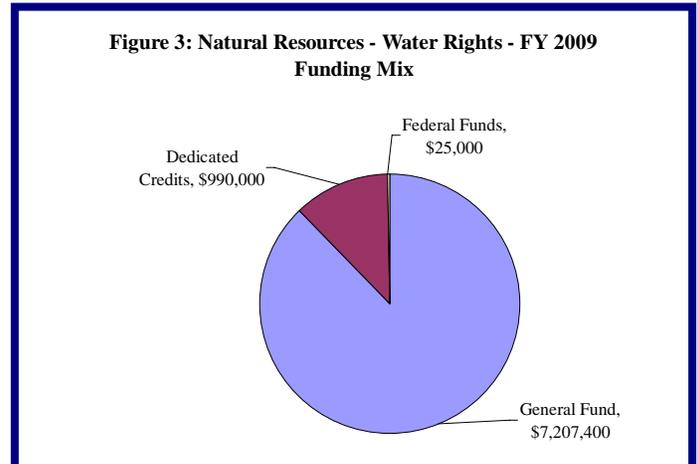
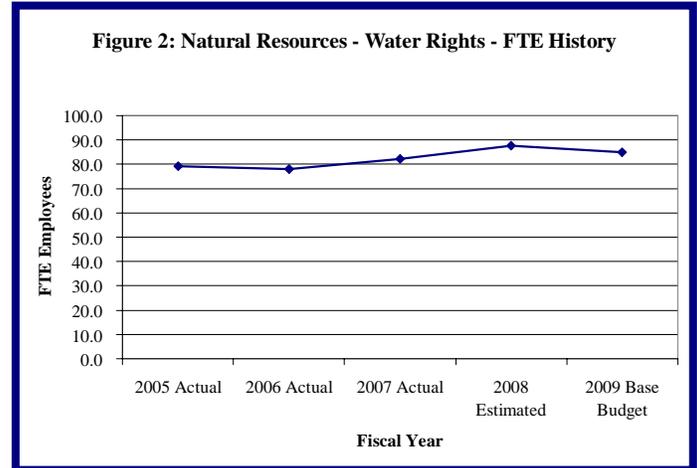
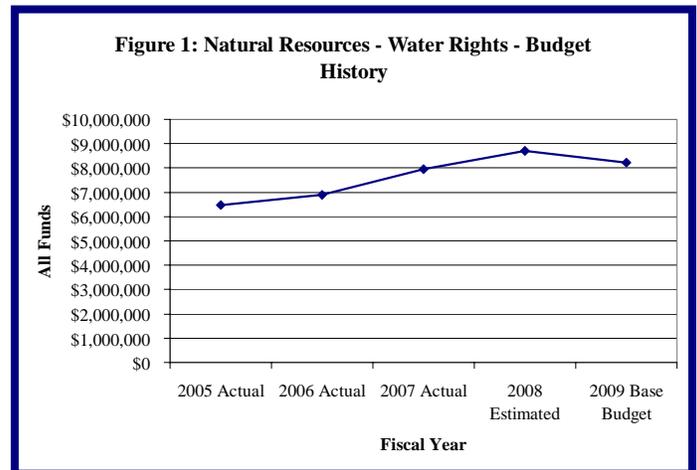
Encouraged by local government officials and legislators, the Division is requesting funding for completing the water rights adjudication for the Utah Lake/Jordan River Basin. The funding will be used to hire nine employees, office space, materials, and four vehicles. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee place on the priority list a request for a \$715,000 one-time appropriation from the General Fund for FY 2009.

Proof and Certificates of Beneficial Use Staff

At the end of FY 2007 the Division had a backlog of nearly 4,000 individual water rights on which the applicants have filed proof in order to perfect water right or change application. The Division is not able to keep up with the workload and is requesting funding for hiring additional help. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee place on the priority list for FY 2009 a request for one-time appropriation of \$130,000 from the General Fund.

Water Rights Conveyance FTE

All new water uses require existing water rights to cover the development, which necessitate a change in the title of water rights and generally the filing of a change application to move the water to the new uses. The volume of water rights conveyances is increasing due to the fact that many of the drainages where the population growth is occurring are closed to new appropriations of water. The Division is requesting for FY 2009 an ongoing appropriation of \$65,000 from Dedicated Credits in order to hire an Engineering Tech. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee provide the funding.



BUDGET DETAIL***Budget Recommendation***

The Analyst recommends for the Division of Water Rights for FY 2009 a base budget appropriation of \$8,222,400, with \$7,207,400 from the General Fund (see Budget Detail Table).

At this time the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) has not allocated any General Funds beyond the agencies' base budgets. The Analyst recommends the Appropriations Subcommittee consider the Analyst's recommendations in the Issues and Recommendations section of this Budget Brief and develop a funding priority list for the EAC.

None of the requests for funding increase are built in the tables and charts of this Budget Brief.

Intent Language

Under terms of Section 63-38-8 Utah Code Annotated the Legislature intends that up to \$6,000,000 appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of Water Rights, provided by item 193 of Senate Bill 1 2008 General Session not lapse at the close of fiscal year 2009.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Natural Resources - Water Rights						
Sources of Finance	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2008 Revised	Changes	FY 2009* Base Budget
General Fund	6,869,800	7,207,400	0	7,207,400	0	7,207,400
General Fund, One-time	155,300	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	56,100	25,000	0	25,000	0	25,000
Dedicated Credits Revenue	962,200	784,200	205,800	990,000	0	990,000
Beginning Nonlapsing	394,500	105,800	368,100	473,900	(473,900)	0
Closing Nonlapsing	(497,300)	0	0	0	0	0
Lapsing Balance	23,400	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$7,964,000	\$8,122,400	\$573,900	\$8,696,300	(\$473,900)	\$8,222,400
Programs						
Administration	914,600	914,500	52,200	966,700	(52,700)	914,000
Applications and Records	926,200	984,600	(15,000)	969,600	(41,500)	928,100
Dam Safety	699,000	699,500	20,300	719,800	(6,500)	713,300
Field Services	1,382,400	1,173,200	359,800	1,533,000	(119,000)	1,414,000
Cooperative Studies	508,400	470,500	132,700	603,200	(172,700)	430,500
Technical Services	853,700	876,300	109,800	986,100	(46,500)	939,600
Advertising	173,400	150,000	0	150,000	0	150,000
Regional Offices	2,506,300	2,853,800	(85,900)	2,767,900	(35,000)	2,732,900
Total	\$7,964,000	\$8,122,400	\$573,900	\$8,696,300	(\$473,900)	\$8,222,400
Categories of Expenditure						
Personal Services	5,977,100	6,484,900	255,700	6,740,600	(215,000)	6,525,600
In-State Travel	48,400	42,100	6,300	48,400	0	48,400
Out of State Travel	16,600	12,400	4,200	16,600	0	16,600
Current Expense	1,014,600	766,700	295,500	1,062,200	(238,700)	823,500
DP Current Expense	385,400	416,300	(30,900)	385,400	(5,200)	380,200
DP Capital Outlay	84,500	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	9,300	0	15,000	15,000	(15,000)	0
Other Charges/Pass Thru	428,100	400,000	28,100	428,100	0	428,100
Total	\$7,964,000	\$8,122,400	\$573,900	\$8,696,300	(\$473,900)	\$8,222,400
Other Data						
Budgeted FTE	82.2	82.1	5.6	87.7	(2.7)	85.0

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.