



UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, STATE FUNDS REDUCTION CONCEPTS

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
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ISSUE BRIEF

We have been asked to provide a list of suggestions that could potentially reduce the appropriations from the General Fund to agencies overseen by the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee. This list was intended to be used as a starting point for committee's discussions and potential legislative actions.

We used the assumption that although the agencies overseen by this appropriations subcommittee are generally very efficient, there are additional ways to reduce the state appropriations, while allowing the public to receive the needed services. For example, in some instances a portion of the state funds can be replaced with other funding sources, such as user fees. Also, some of the functions currently performed exclusively by state entities can be done by private companies or other government entities if the statute would allow and if proper oversight be put in place.

We identified the following general categories where such potential state fund reductions could be made. For additional explanations and examples of these categories, please see Appendix A.

1. **User fees:** replace a portion of the General Fund appropriations with user fees.
2. **Increase self-checking and self-reporting:** require a greater portion of the inspections and testing currently done by state employees to be transferred to the regulated industry/public, who may be required to self-report or to hire a third-party for verifications.
3. **Allow competition:** allow private or other government organizations to compete against each other and the state for services currently provided solely by state agencies.
4. **Outsource services:** contract with private or other government entities to take over the services currently provided by state agency.
5. **Eliminate government intervention:** some services can be provided through delegated standards without a formal structure of state government directly involved. This puts the burden on the industry to provide the services while still allowing the state to set the standards.

The following tables list the programs of the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) line item and show the funding mix, expenditure categories, and staff and vehicles count by program.

In the first table, which shows the FY 2019 amounts by funding source (as included in the [Base Budget Bill, H.B. 5](#)), we have assigned in the first column (titled "Possible Action") one or more of above categories to the programs where applicable.

FY 2019 Base Budget by Program and Funding Mix

Line	Possible Action	Programs by Line Item	State Funds	Federal Funds	Dedicated Credits	Mineral Lease	Restricted Funds
1		Utah Geological Survey					
2	User fees	Administration	250,000		0	76,700	
3		Board	3,500				
4	Outsource Services	Energy and Minerals	568,600	1,500	167,200	611,200	20,300
5	User fees	Geologic Hazards	948,900	155,000	4,000	76,300	
6	Outsource Services	Geologic Information and Outreach	1,350,900	1,700	181,800	229,000	
7	Outsource Services	Geologic Mapping	924,000	142,700	7,000	229,400	
8		Ground Water	193,600	452,900	201,000	305,400	

More than one half of the FY 2019 base budget for UGS comes from state funds. The Legislature may consider exploring the possibilities of charging fees for some of UGS services and using the potential new revenue to reduce the appropriation from the General Fund by that amount. There may also be opportunities to outsource portions of the services currently provided by UGS by contracting with universities, private, or government organizations.

Would the committee like to pursue any of these possibilities and direct staff to get more information?

The following pages contain details about the expenditures, FTE, and Vehicles counts by program, as well as descriptions for each program, in order to provide a better understanding of what is currently budgeted to be "purchased" with the appropriations for FY 2019 in the Base Budget Bill.

Expenditures

Line	Programs in Line Item	Personnel Services	In-state Travel	Out-of-state Travel	Current Expense	DP Current Expense	Pass Thru
1	Utah Geological Survey						
2	Administration	573,900	1,000	5,400	145,600	100	
3	Board		2,500		1,000		
4	Energy and Minerals	1,317,200	5,500	3,700	37,400	5,000	350,700
5	Geologic Hazards	1,102,400	12,600	2,700	65,500	1,000	0
6	Geologic Information and Outreach	1,307,700	400		121,300	334,000	
7	Geologic Mapping	1,241,400	11,700	3,500	44,400	2,100	0
8	Ground Water	1,034,500	16,300	3,000	98,100	1,000	0

Staff and Vehicles

Line		FTE	Vehicles
1	Utah Geological Survey		
2	Administration	5	
3	Energy and Minerals	12	
4	Geologic Hazards	11	1
5	Geologic Information and Outreach	15	
6	Geologic Mapping	11	1
7	Ground Water	12	

Mission: The [Utah Geological Survey](#) (UGS) provides timely, scientific information about Utah's geologic environment, resources, and hazards.

Programs Descriptions**Administration**

UGS Administration provides management, secretarial, and general administrative support to the UGS staff and board. The Director, as the State Geologist, provides geologic information to DNR, other state and local government agencies, state educational institutions, industry, and the general public. This program also manages the general building needs of the Utah Core Research Center.

Board

The duties of the board are to: Establish and review policies, programs and priorities; Review and recommend budgets; Assess the needs of the community with regard to development and use of geologic resources; and Keep the director advised concerning survey policies.

Energy and Minerals

The Energy and Minerals Program encourages energy and mineral resource development through a variety of studies to inventory and characterize the state's deposits. Many of these projects are funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Geological Survey, or the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and may include industry, academic, or consulting partners. The results of these projects help industry, the general public, and other governmental agencies make decisions about managing and developing resources in Utah. This program also maintains the Utah Core Research Center, which contains cuttings from wells and cores across the state.

Geologic Hazards

The purpose of the Geologic Hazards Program is to help protect Utah citizens by reducing losses from geologic hazards. This is done by characterizing significant landslide and earthquake risks, completing detailed hazard maps (1:24,000) for major urban areas, helping state and local government agencies responsibly address hazards, and promoting hazard reduction through education. This program's objective is to improve the geologic safety of essential public facilities and proposed development, to improve understanding of geologic hazards, to minimize adverse interaction between human activities and the geologic environment, and to respond to geologic-hazard emergencies.

Geologic Information and Outreach

The Geologic Information and Outreach Program answers public inquiries, performs public, teacher, and media outreach, prepares translated publications for a non-technical audience. It also includes: The Editorial section, which provides editorial, graphic arts, and cartographic support for all formal UGS publications; The Technical Review section, which provides technical and editorial review of all UGS maps and reports; The Web Services section, which manages the UGS website and develops interactive content; UGS Library, which maintains over 14,000 documents related to Utah

geology and provides research support to UGS geologists and others; and The Natural Resources Map Bookstore, the retail outlet for UGS publications, topography, quadrangle maps, and other products related to Utah geology. The funding increase in this program starting in FY 2018 is due to the transfer of the funding and staff of the Technical Services program.

Geologic Mapping

The Geologic Mapping and Paleontology Program produces printed and digital geologic maps, most at 1:100,000 and 1:24,000 scales. Mapping priorities are set each year by a State Mapping Advisory Committee representing the main land management agencies in the state. Program goals are to complete 1:100,000 scale maps by 2018 and map selected areas at 1:24,000 in the rapid urban growth areas as priorities dictate. Maps provide detailed geologic information needed for proper land use decisions. The Paleontology section of this program helps identify, protect, and preserve Utah's fossil resources; Staff is focusing on reconciling preservation and development needs through public outreach, inventory; and recovery projects.

Ground Water

The Ground Water Program evaluates the quantity and quality of Utah's ground-water resources, and performs mapping and functional assessments of critical wetlands. The program partners with local, state, and federal agencies to perform a wide variety of groundwater and wetland studies, and makes the data available to the public through its publications and the UGS and national groundwater monitoring websites.

Appendix A

- 1. User fees:** replace a portion or all the General Fund appropriations with user fees. This will allow the state entity to continue the same level of services and staffing, while reducing the general tax dollars. It may or may not mean increasing fees to generate more revenue with which to replace the General Fund. An example of this is the Division of Parks and Recreation shifting the majority of its finding from the General Fund to parks visitors' fees.
- 2. Increase self-checking and self-reporting:** require a greater portion of the inspections and testing currently done by state employees to be transferred to the regulated industry/public, who may be required to self-report or to hire a third-party for verifications. This would potentially reduce the workload of the state agency, which would result in reduction in state staff and travel expenses. This could be similar to reporting and paying income taxes. The individual or corporation self-reports, with the understanding that reports are enforced through audits. Another example of this is the elimination of the state-mandated vehicle safety inspections for vehicle registration.
- 3. Allow competition:** allow private or other government organizations to compete against each other and the state for services currently provided solely by state agencies. Competition could breed innovation and increase the quality of services and/or reduce the costs to the industry/public paying for the services. An example of this is the Organic certification process.
- 4. Outsource services:** contract with private or other government entities for the services currently provided by state agency. Initially, the costs may remain the same, but it could be reduced over time, as competition to provide the services increases. Many services in state government are provided through contracting, and perhaps more could be. Examples of this is UDOT and road construction and This Is The Place Foundation managing the heritage park.
- 5. Eliminate government intervention:** some services can be provided through delegated standards without being a formal structure of state government. This puts the burden on the industry to provide the services while still allowing the state to set the standards. An example of this is industry certifications and industry standards, such as the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).