

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental
Quality Appropriations Subcommittee

Division of Water Rights

Water Rights Adjudication

June 13, 2023



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Division of Water Rights

The Adjudication Process

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NOTICE TO FILE CLAIMS WITHIN 90 DAYS

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LIST OF UNCLAIMED RIGHTS

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90 DAYS TO FILE OBJECTION

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90 DAYS TO FILE OBJECTION

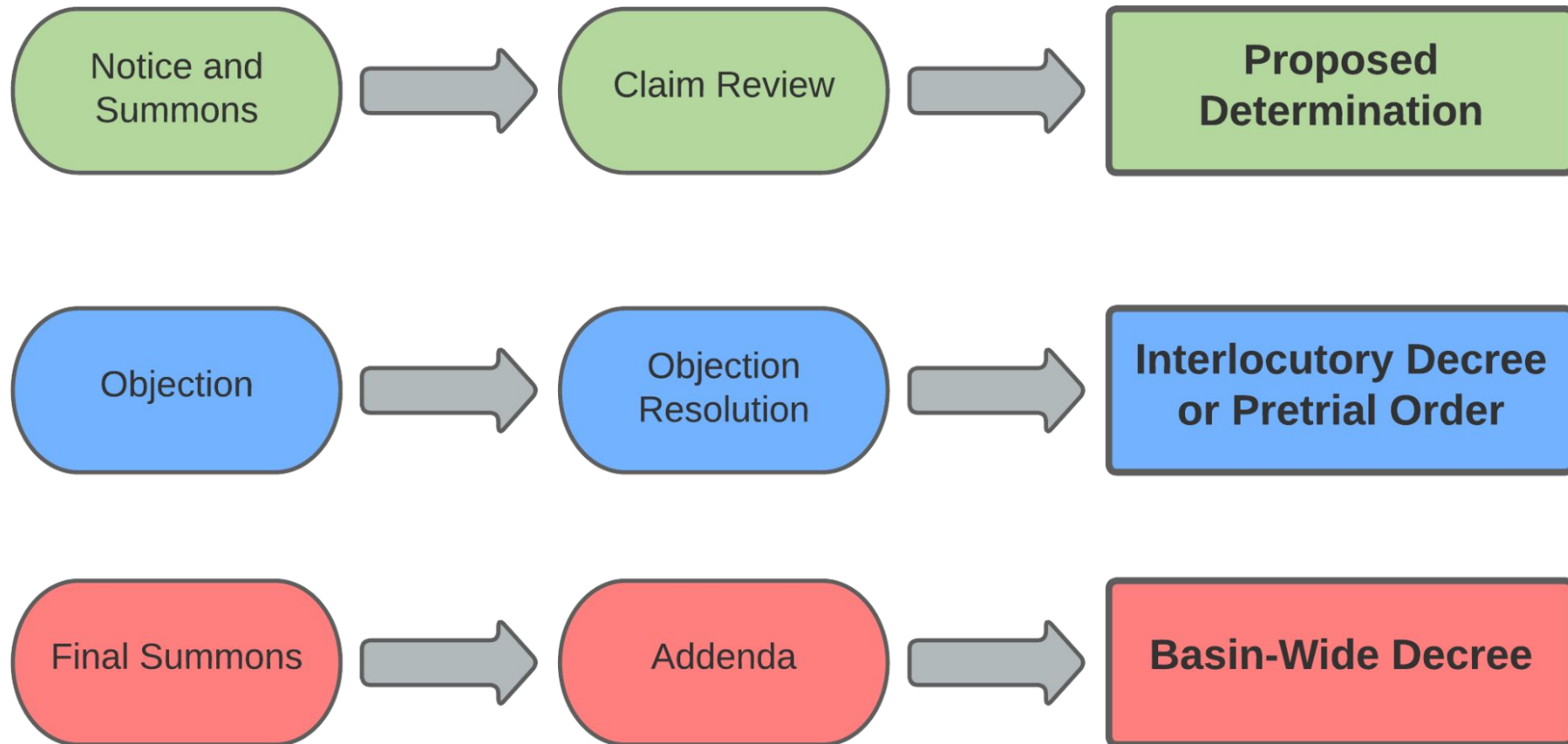
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PUBLIC MEETING

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OBJECTION RESOLUTION & DECREE

Adjudication Process and Key Deliverables



Key Deliverables

**Proposed
Determination**

**Interlocutory Decree
or Pretrial Order**

Basin-Wide Decree

Proposed Determinations

- Proposed Determinations filed in 2022:

Parleys (57-14)

W. Big Cotton. (57-17)

E. Murray (57-20)

Sandy/Mid. (57-21)

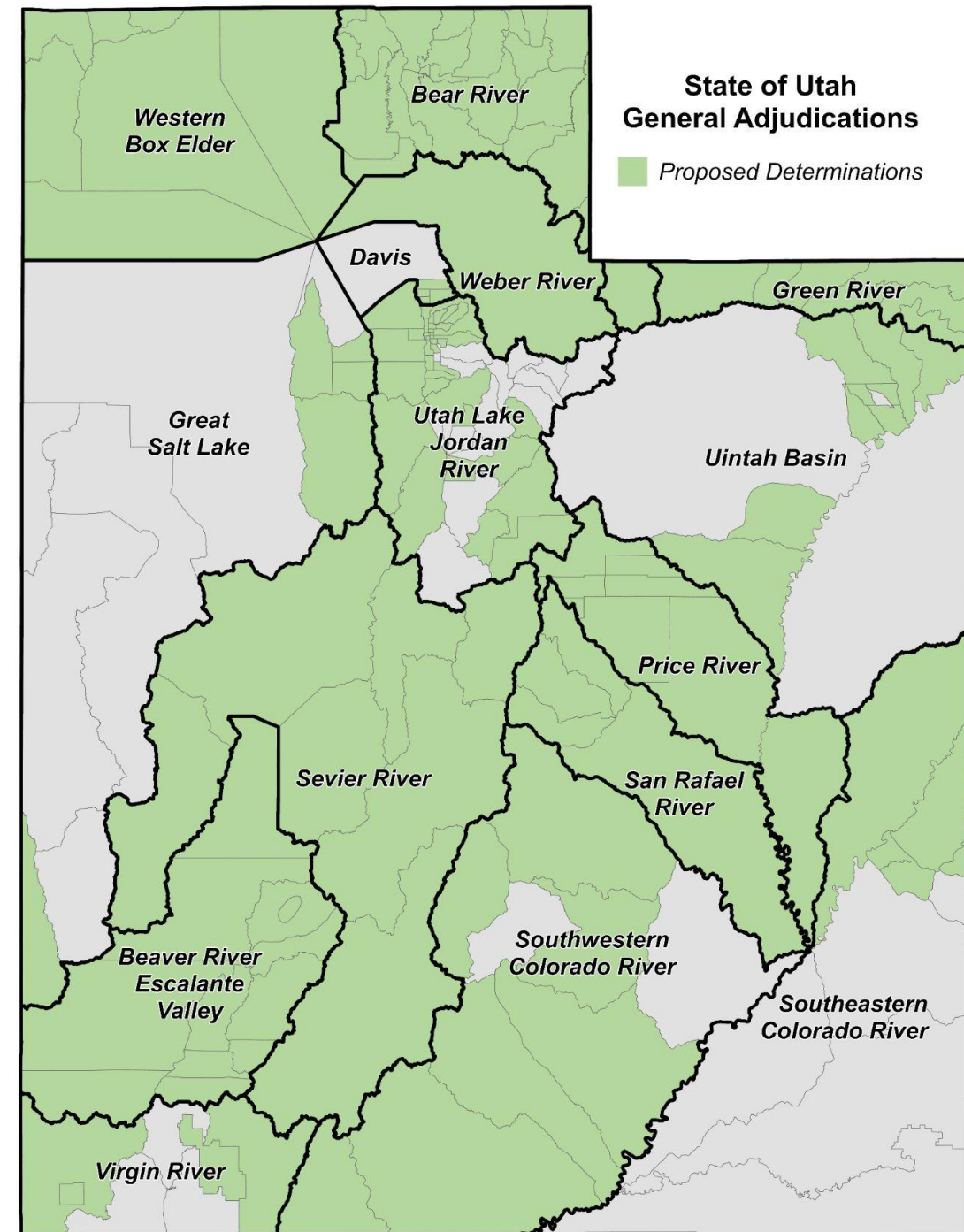
Dimple Dell (57-24)

Willow Creek (57-25)

Draper (57-26)

Moab South (05-5)

- A Record Year!

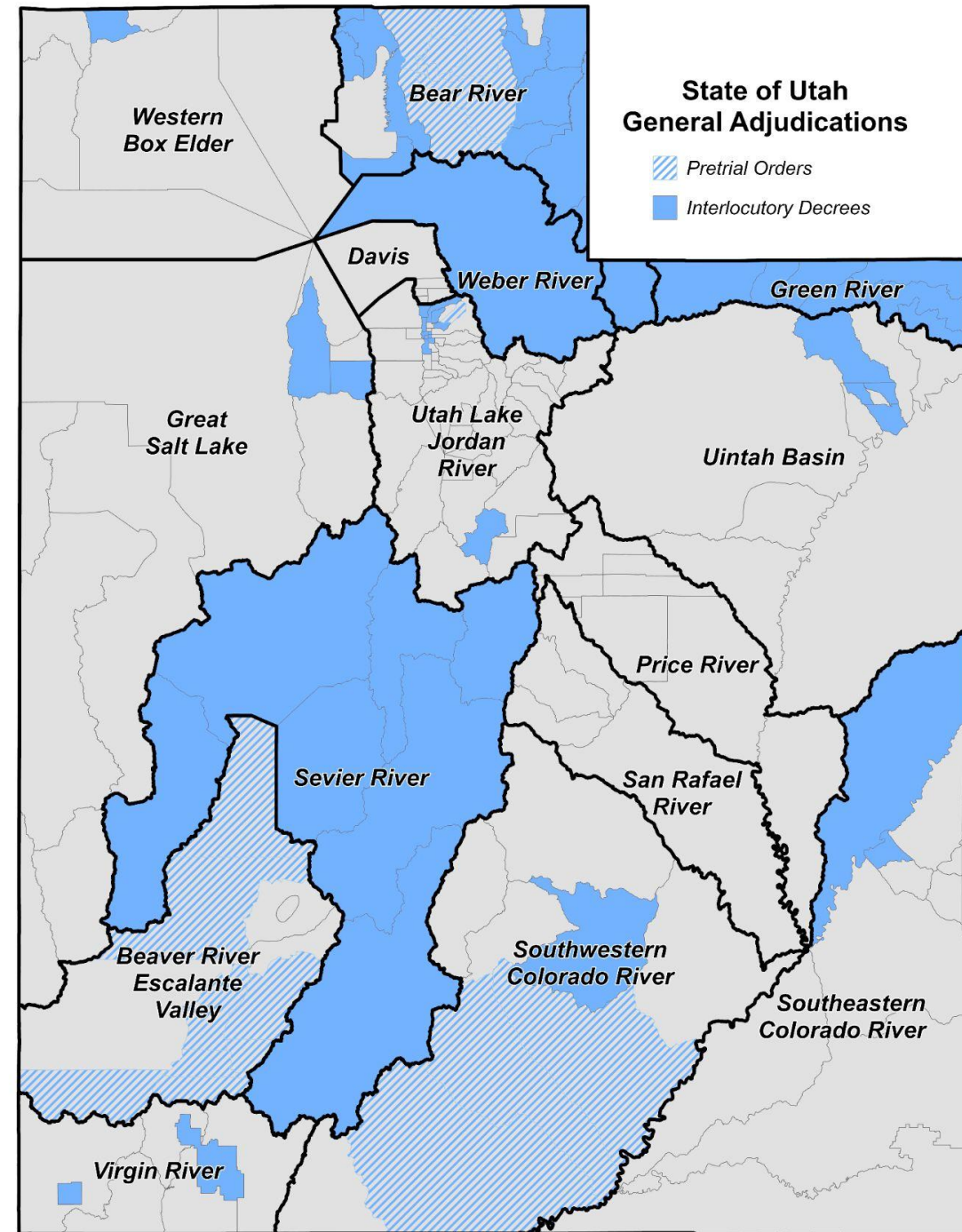


Interlocutory Decrees

- Interlocutory Decrees in 2022

City Creek (57-9)

W. Big Cotton. (57-17)



Basin-Wide Decrees

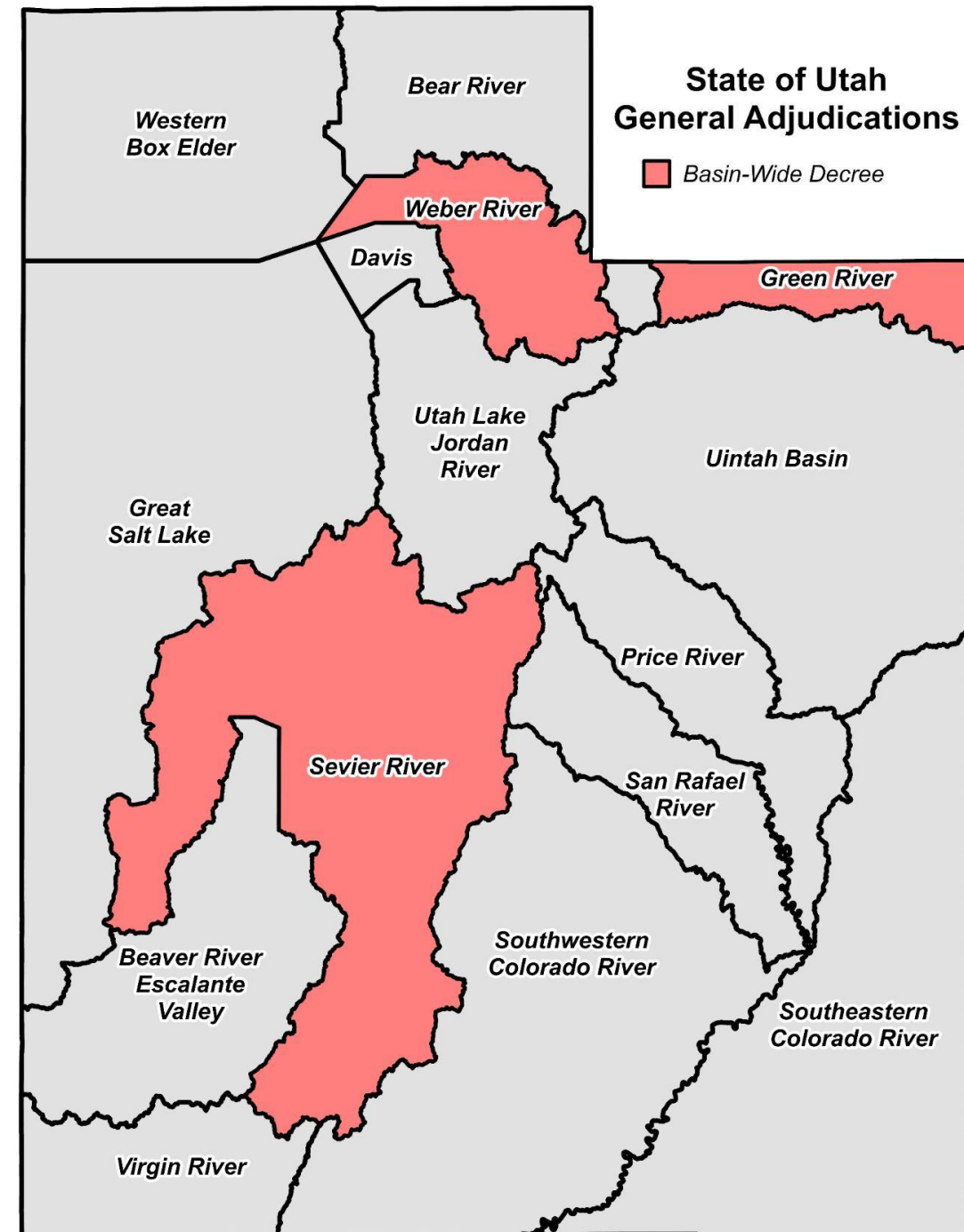
- 13 General Adjudications

Upper Green River
1964

- 2 Historical Stream Adjudications

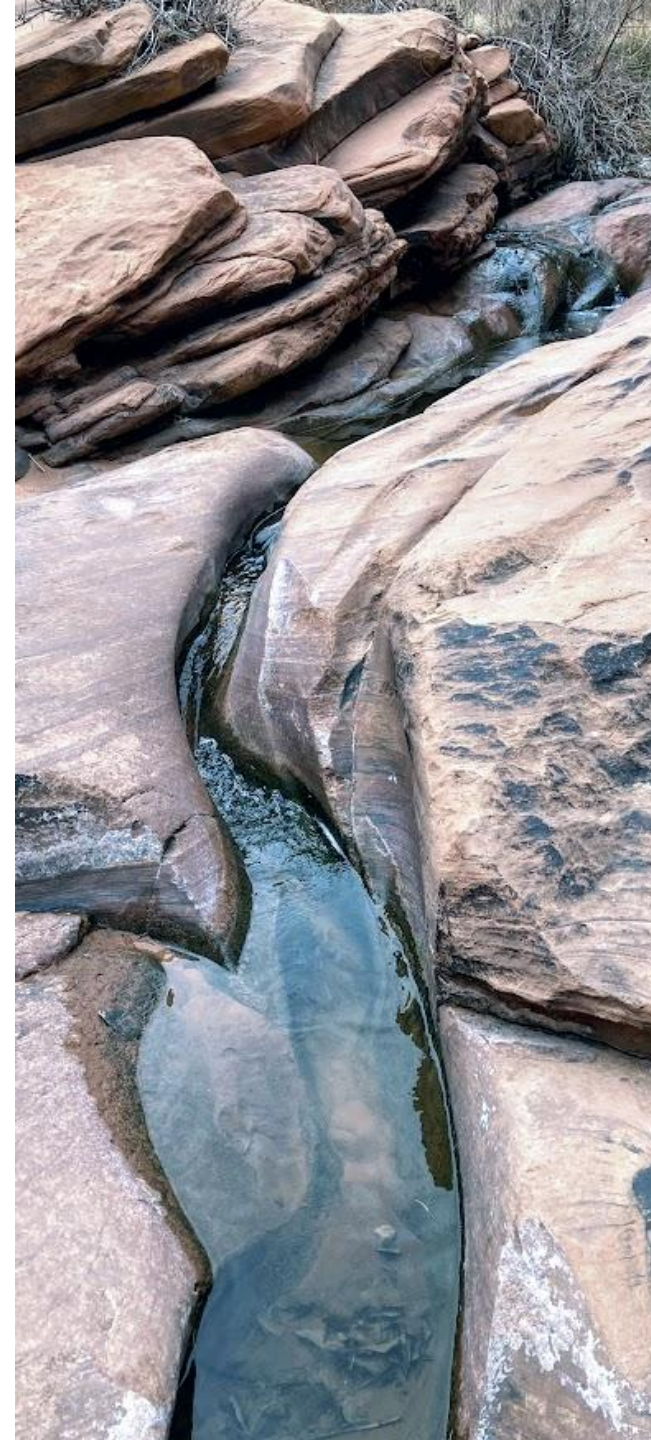
Weber/Ogden River
1937 & 1948

Sevier River
1936

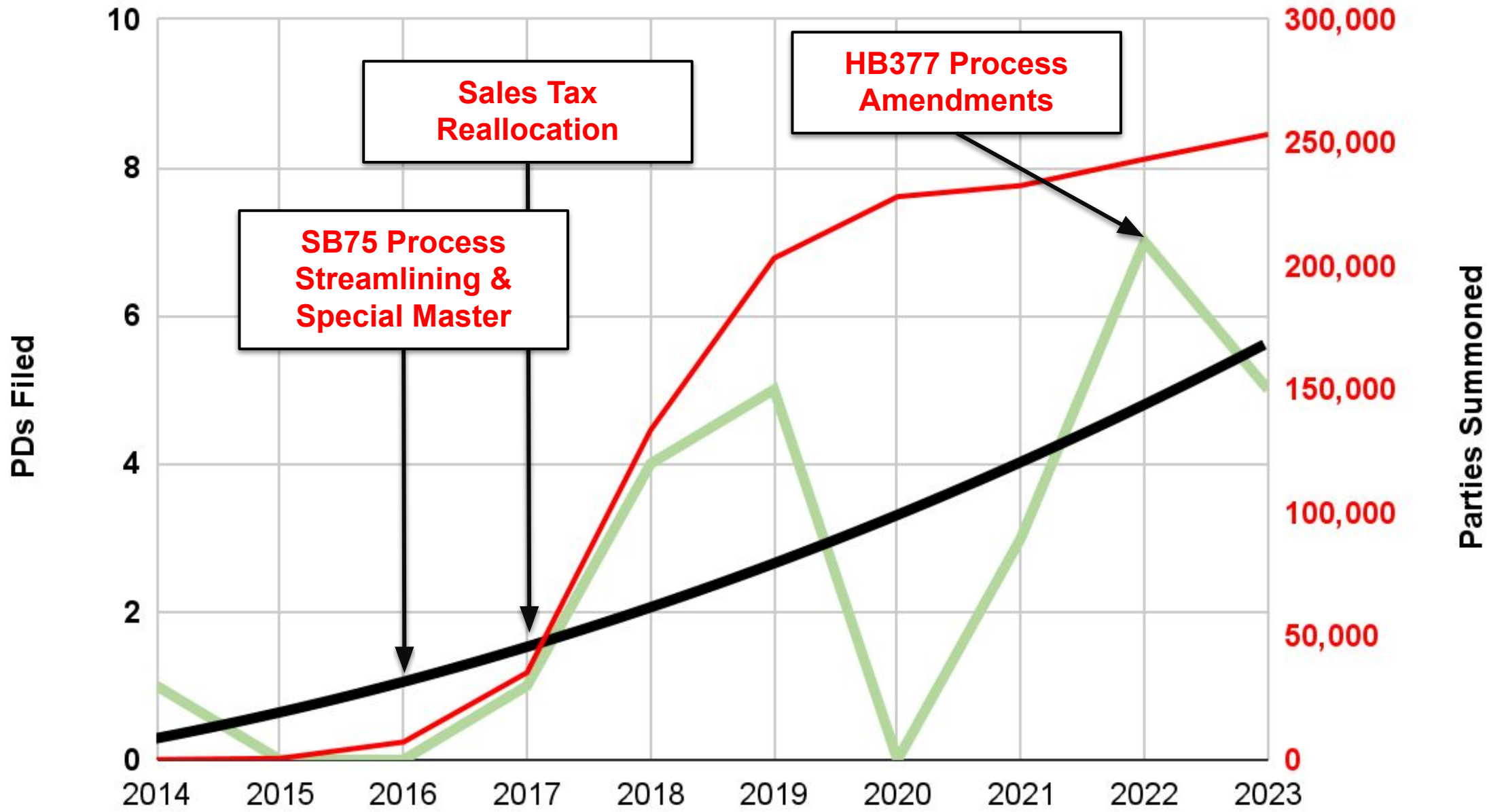


Investment in Adjudication

- **Sales Tax Reapportionment**
 - Expanded Adjudication Staff
 - Increased Rate of Key Deliverables
- **Special Master - Accelerated Objection Resolution**
 - Utah Lake / Jordan River Adjudication
 - Virgin River Adjudication
- **SB75 (2016); HB377(2022)**
 - Adjudication Process Streamlining

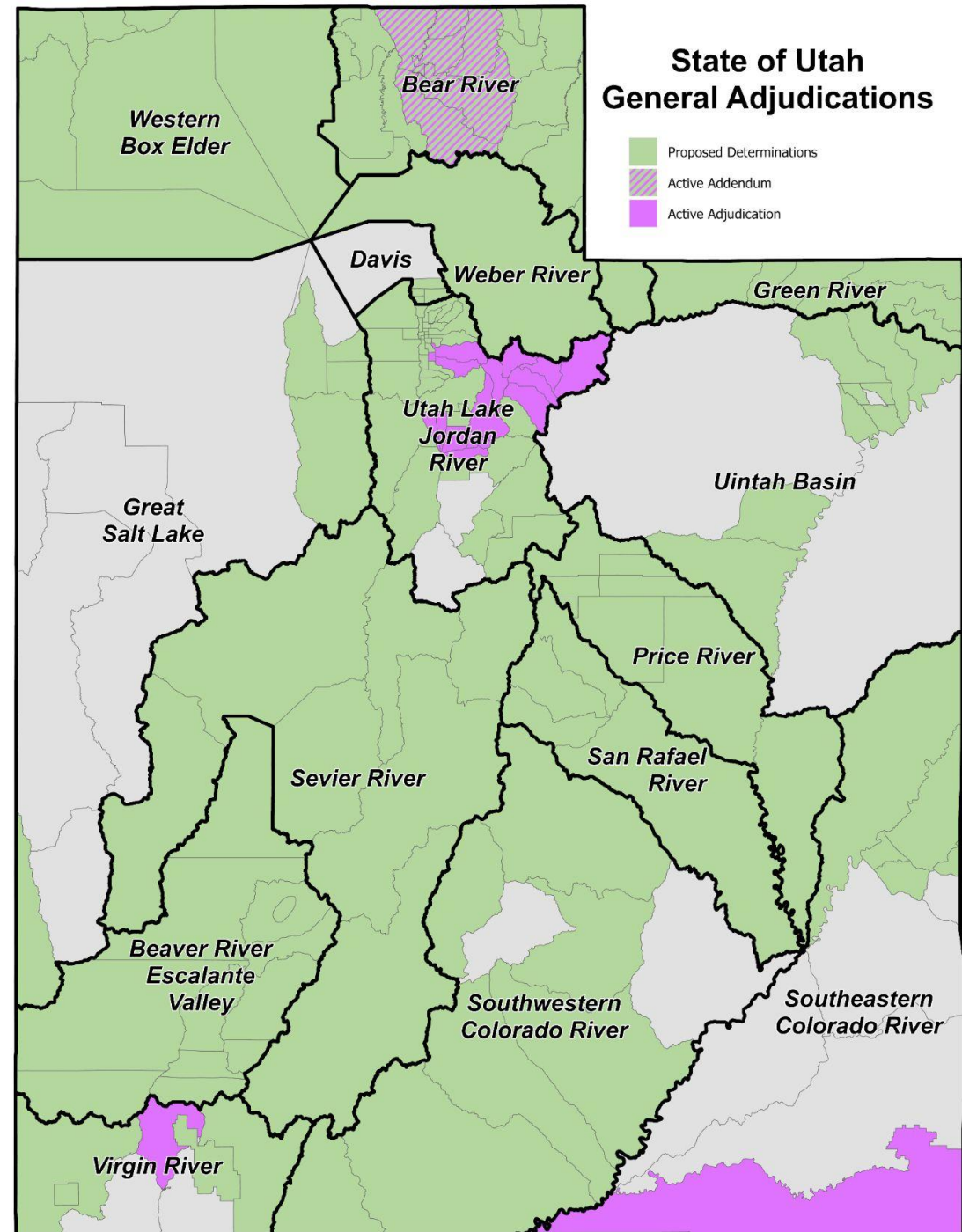


PDs PD Trend Summons Served (Cumulative)



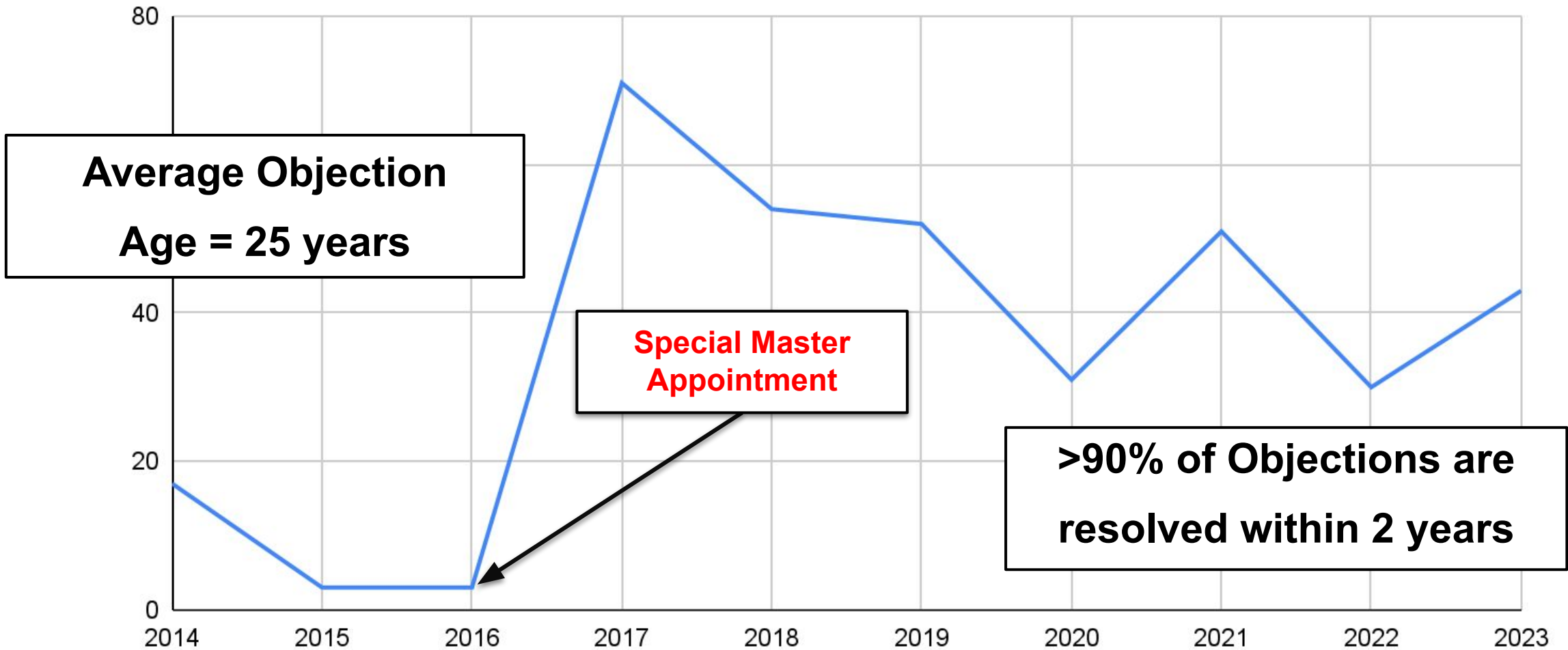
Active Adjudication Areas

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Fort Union (57-22) | Big Cotton. (57-18) | Little Cotton. (57-23) |
| Orem (55-3) | Lehi (55-4) | Am. Fork S. (55-5) |
| Provo S. (55-6) | Provo N. (55-7) | Provo Cyn. (55-9) |
| Midway (55-10) | Daniels Ck.. (55-11) | Lake Ck. (55-12) |
| Jordanelle (55-13) | Fran./Wood. (55-14) | Ash Ck. (81-3) |
| Navajo (09-1) | Bear Rv. Add. (25-A) | |



Special Master

— Objections Resolved



**Average Objection
Age = 25 years**

**Special Master
Appointment**

**>90% of Objections are
resolved within 2 years**

So How Long Will This Take?

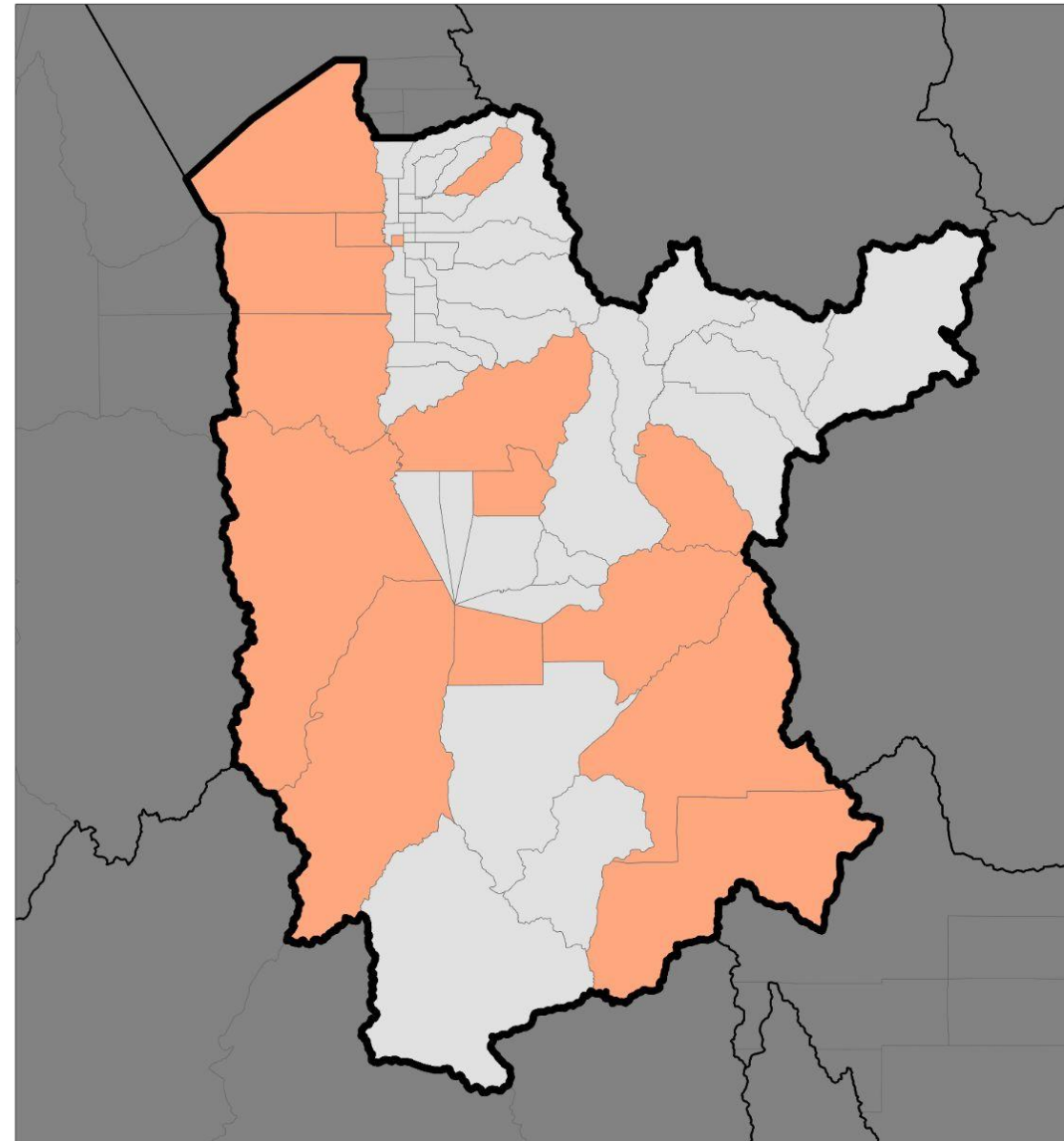
- **Historical Adjudication: Centuries**
 - Methodical, slow, cumbersome.
 - Challenging to reach the finish line.
- **Current Pace: Decades**
 - Incorporates increased water user participation.
 - Definite “Finish Line”.



Proposed Determinations Prior to 2016

Where are we going?

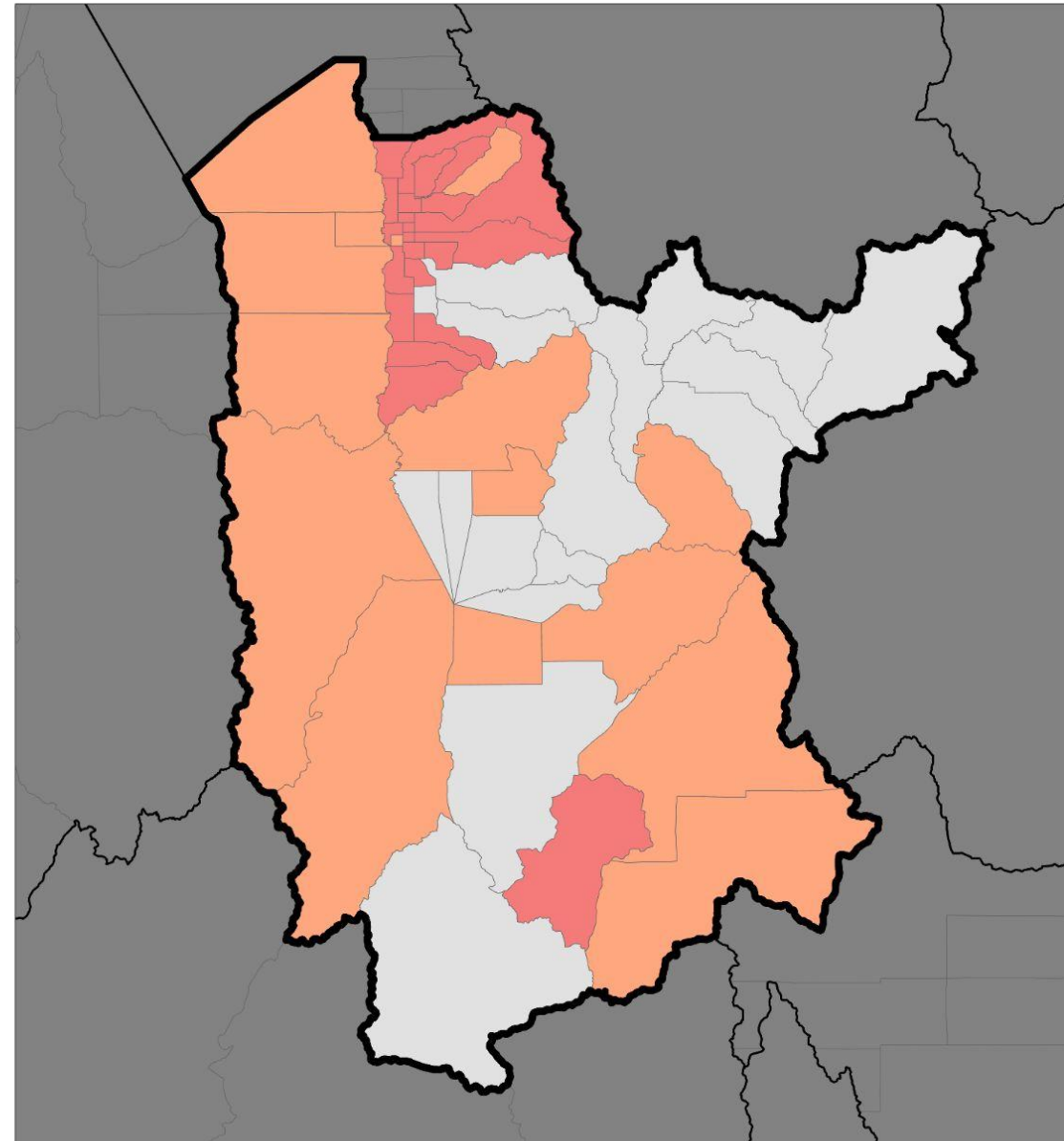
- **Between 1975 and 2016**
 - 19 PDs filed; 0.46 PDs per year

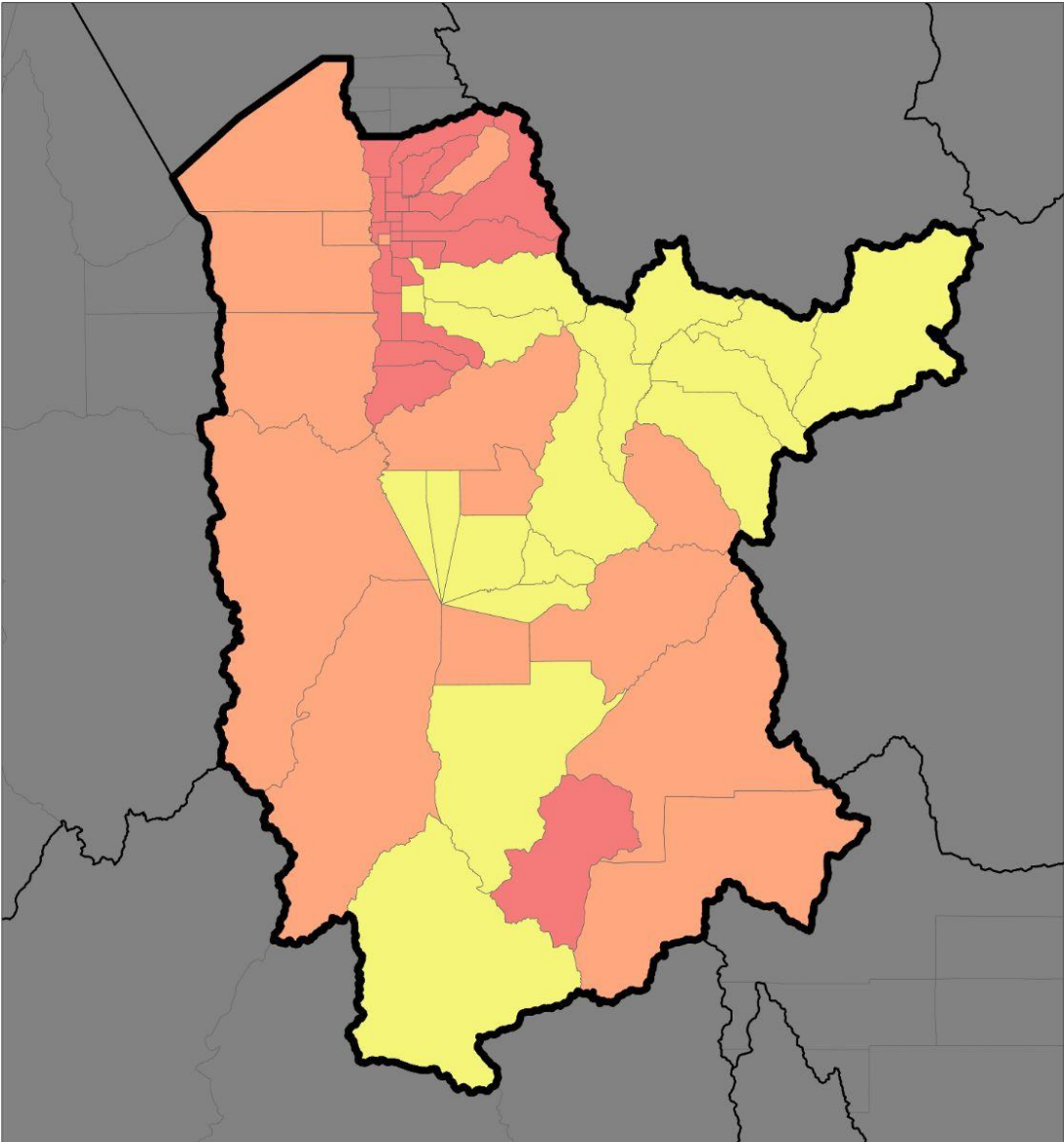
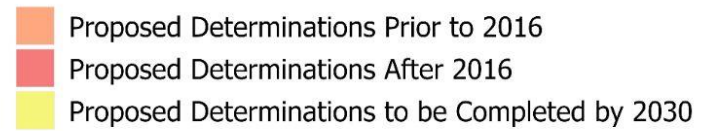




Where are we going?

- **Between 1975 and 2016**
 - 19 PDs filed; 0.46 PDs per year
- **Between 2016 and Today**
 - 23 PDs filed; 3.3 PDs per year
 - 7x Faster





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- **Between 1975 and 2016**
 - 19 PDs filed; 0.46 PDs per year
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 - 7x Faster
- **By 2030**
 - Completion of the Utah Lake/Jordan River Adjudication

Bear River Adjudication

Virgin River Adjudication

Accelerated Adjudication

- Next-Gen Water Right Network - SB2 (2023)
 - \$165,000 (ongoing) Groundwater Monitoring and Investigations
 - \$5,000,000 (one-time) and \$449,000 (ongoing) Water Rights Measurement and Data Enhancements
 - \$449,000 (ongoing) Water Distribution and Measurement Automation
 - \$650,000 (ongoing) Colorado River Basin Priority Schedule
- Next-Gen Water Right Network = Accelerated Adjudication



Questions?

