



# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM UPDATES

# AIS PROGRAM GOALS

The main goals of Utah's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program are:

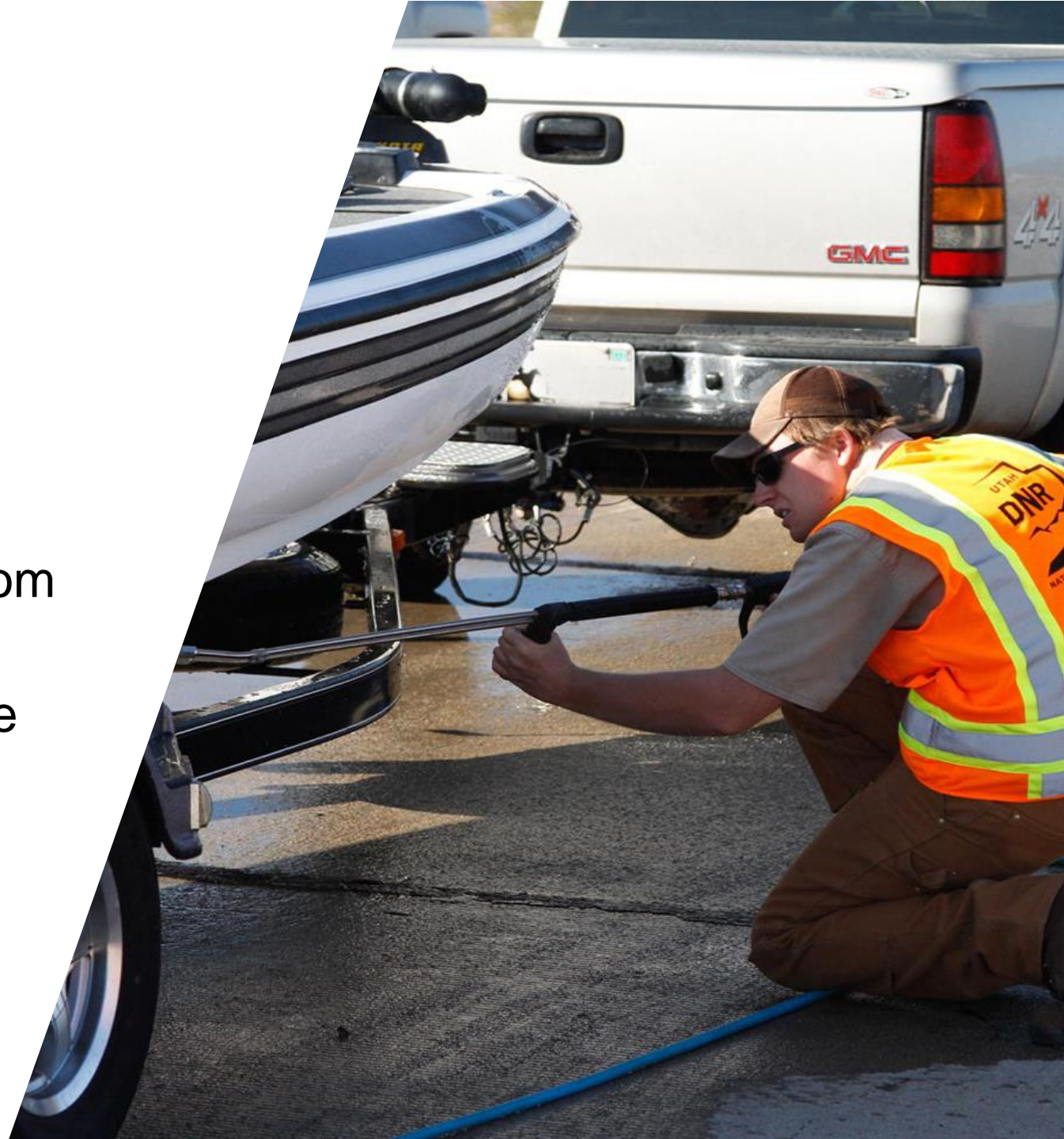
- To continue the **containment of invasive species** at Lake Powell
- To **prevent infestation** of any other Utah waterbodies

The DWR's law enforcement team oversees this program.



# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) trainings: These are required for personnel from Utah DWR and Utah State Parks
- Database monitoring: Tells us where they have launched and whether they've been inspected and/or decontaminated
- Inspection and decontamination statistics

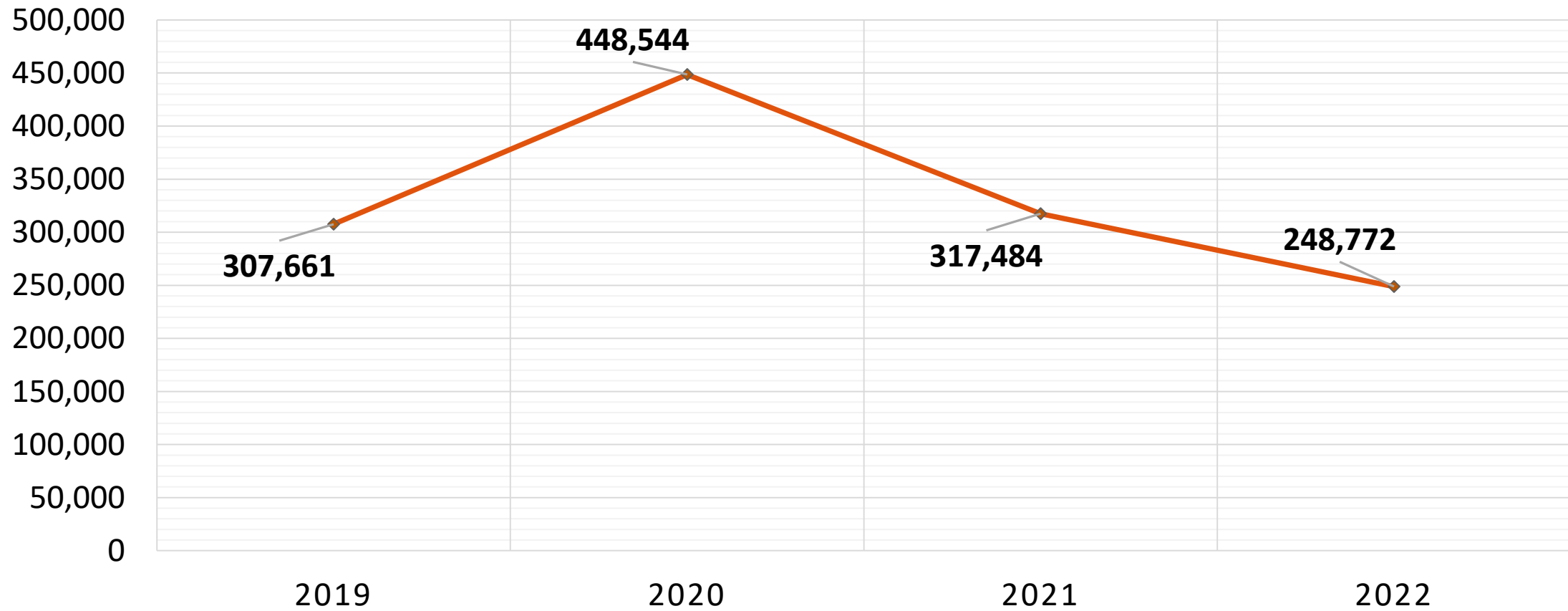


# BRIEF HISTORY

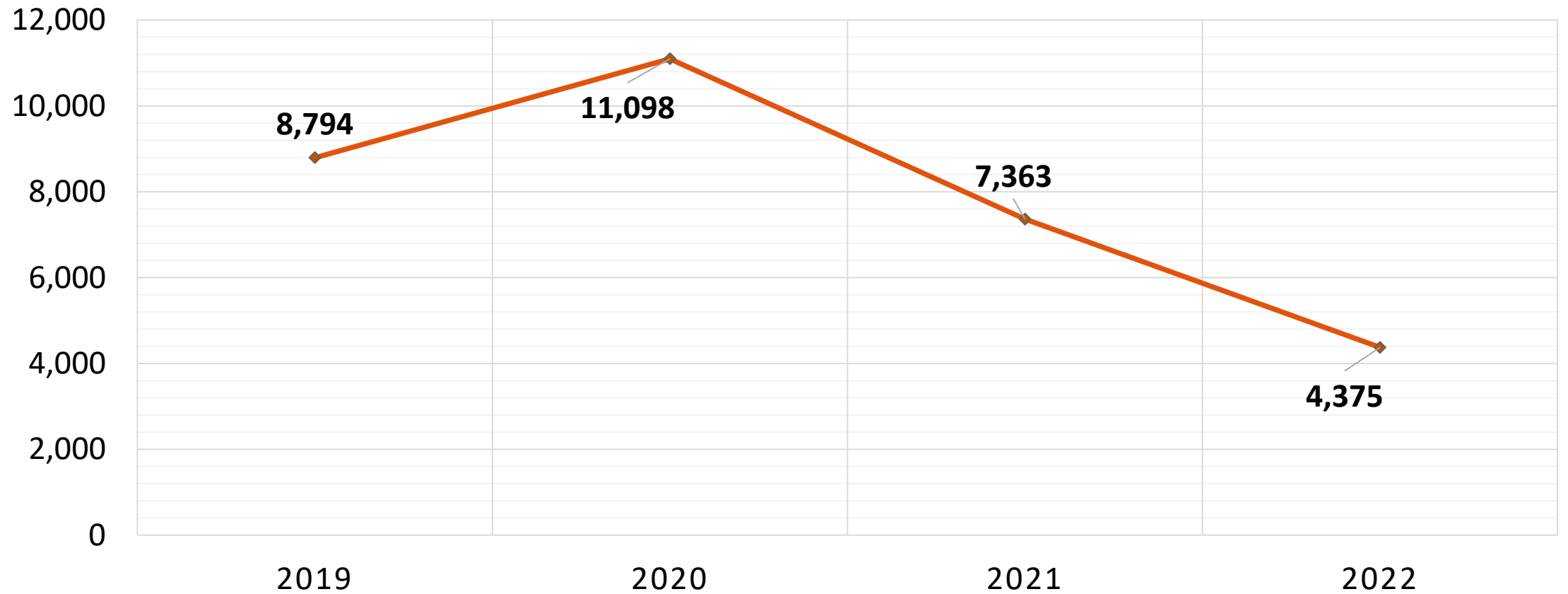
- In 2007, quagga mussels were discovered at Lake Mead in Nevada. Utah immediately began efforts to prevent the spread of the species.
- In 2013, populations of quagga mussels were confirmed in Lake Powell.
- Since 2013, DWR officers and AIS employees have worked with our many partners to:
  - Inspect hundreds of thousands of boats and other watercraft
  - Contact millions of people about AIS and quagga mussels



# AIS INSPECTIONS (2019–2022)



# AIS DECONTAMINATIONS (2019–2022)



# AIS REGIONAL STAFFING (2019–2022)

## Northern

Year	Techs
2019	22
2020	23
2021	19
2022	12

## Northeastern

Year	Techs
2019	8
2020	10
2021	11
2022	10

## Central

Year	Techs
2019	17
2020	17
2021	15
2022	10

## Southeastern

Year	Techs
2019	16
2020	13
2021	17
2022	7

## Southern

Year	Techs
2019	7
2020	8
2021	8
2022	7

## Wahweap

Year	Techs
2019	13
2020	11
2021	11
2022	7

# DIP TANKS

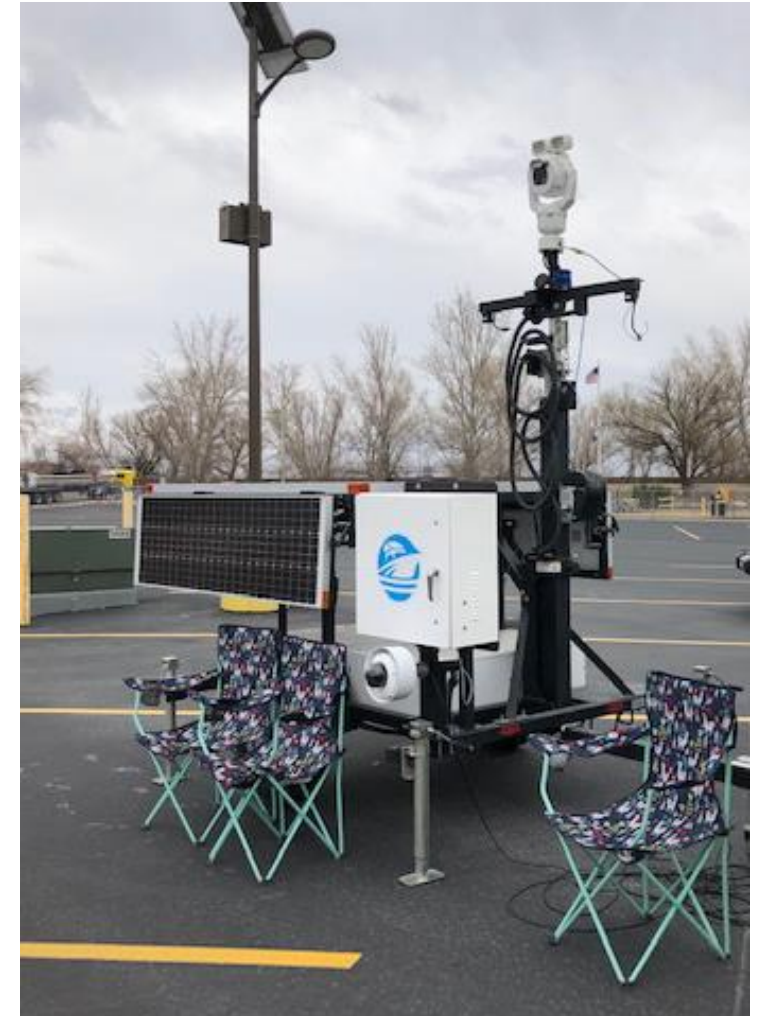
- There are five decontamination dip tanks in the works:
  - Already installed: Utah Lake and Wahweap
  - July 2023: Sand Hollow State Park
  - Fall 2023: Willard Bay
  - Spring 2024: Flaming Gorge (Lucerne)
- Working with Pineview to develop a plan by June 2024
- \$4 million in allocated funding will be spent by June 2024
- We are still the only state that has them





# CAMERA TRACKING SYSTEM

- Five of the camera trailers have been purchased:
  - Two are at Wahweap
  - Two are being installed at Bullfrog and one at Halls Crossing (by June 30)
- AI software increases accuracy with each recording:
  - Started at 0%, now at 45%
  - Goal is at least 80% accuracy
- We've exceeded previous camera system results
- Next step: Integration with regional watercraft inspection database
- \$500,000 appropriation has been spent in FY23
  - Have another \$499,000 from the National Park Service (NPS) over the next 5 years



# KANAB INSPECTION STATION

- Purchased plot in May 2021
- Completed all clearing, leveling, roadbase and culvert work
- Outlined a three-phase plan for development
- Currently assessing additional funding sources to get the property functional for permanent AIS operations



# PARTNERSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL



# NPS PARTNERSHIP AT LAKE POWELL

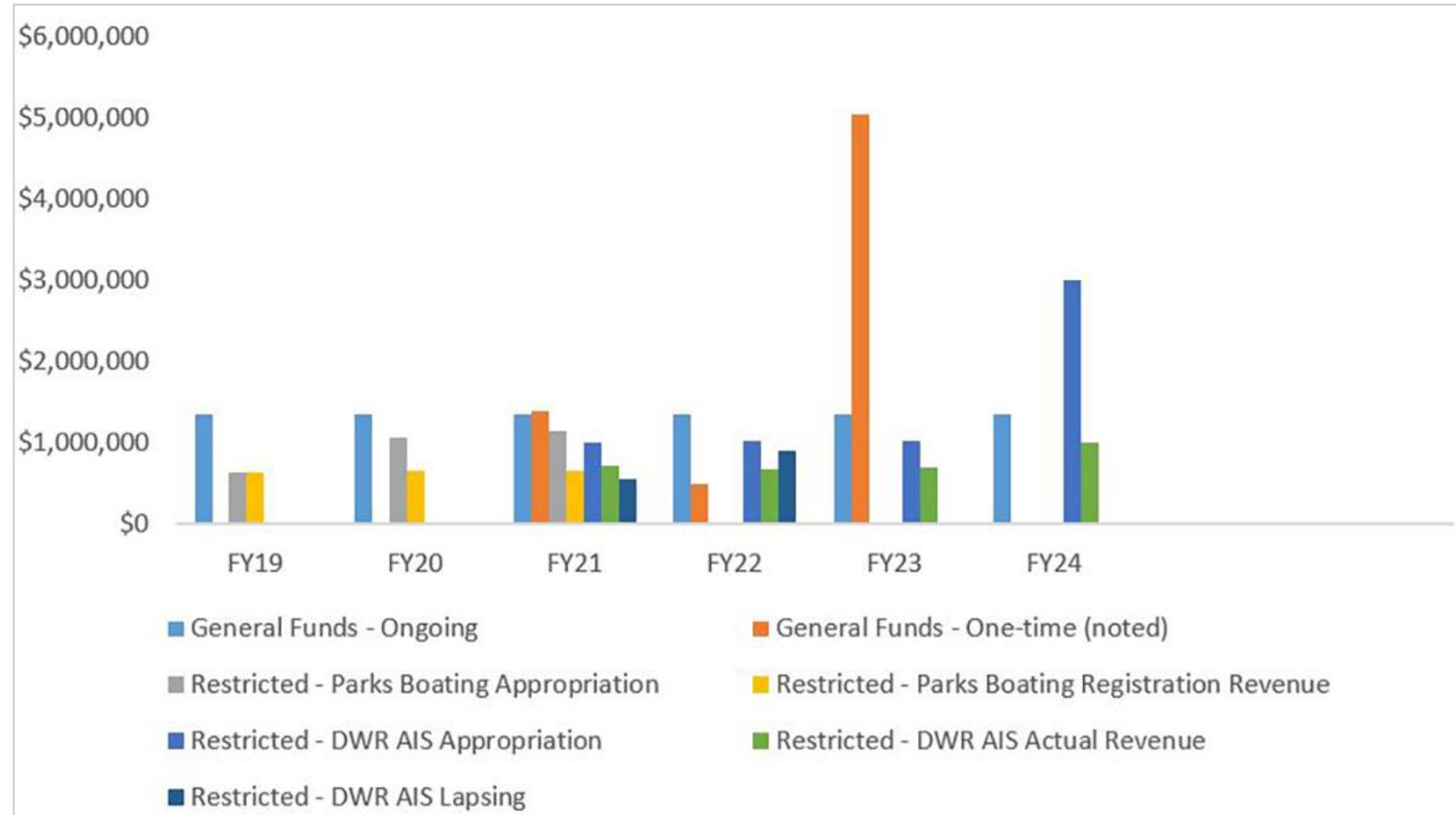
- This is an effective partnership. DWR and NPS program managers communicate and coordinate regularly.
- Fieldwork is typically handled by the DWR, but NPS technicians work with DWR techs at Wahweap and Bullfrog.
- NPS has provided \$499,000 for the camera-tracking system program.
- Additional housing would be helpful to recruit and retain AIS technicians on both the north and south ends of the lake.



# AIS FUNDING (FY19–24)

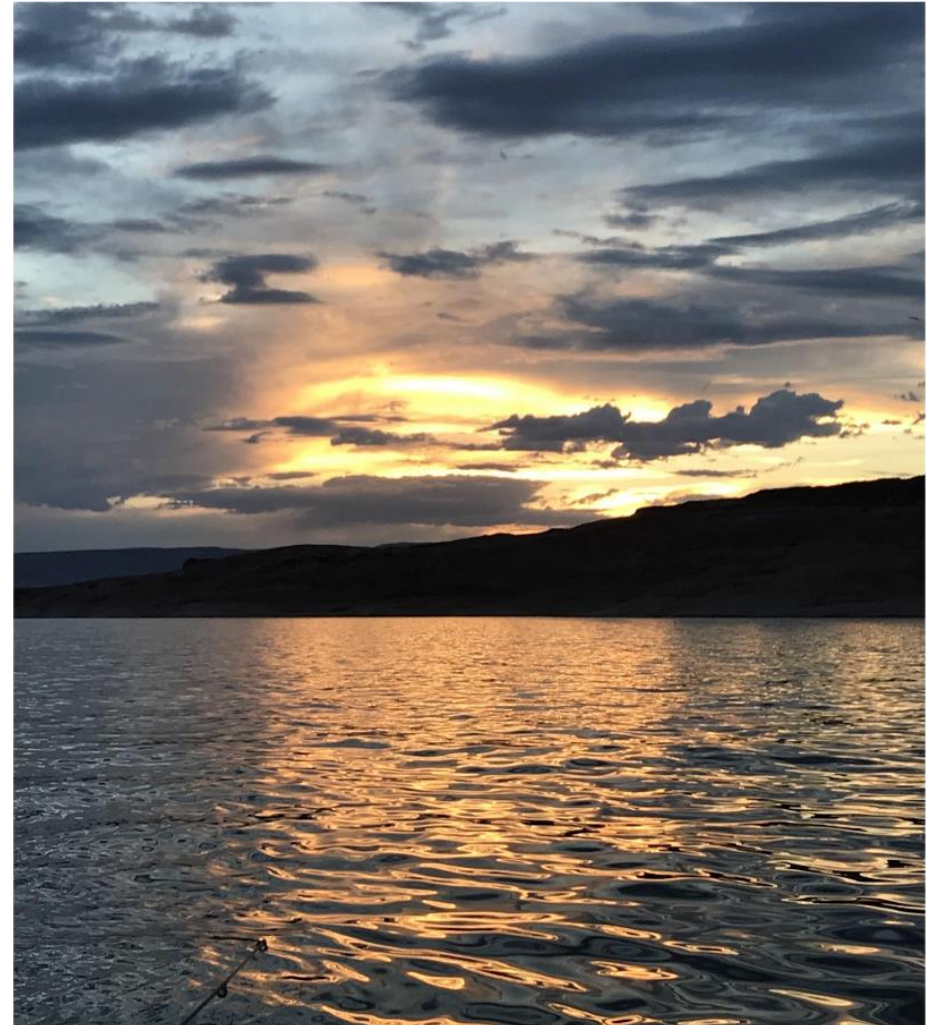
## Total funding:

- FY19: \$2,634,160
- FY20: \$3,053,980
- FY21: \$6,818,872
- FY22: \$4,431,698
- FY23: \$8,114,500
- FY24: \$5,346,410

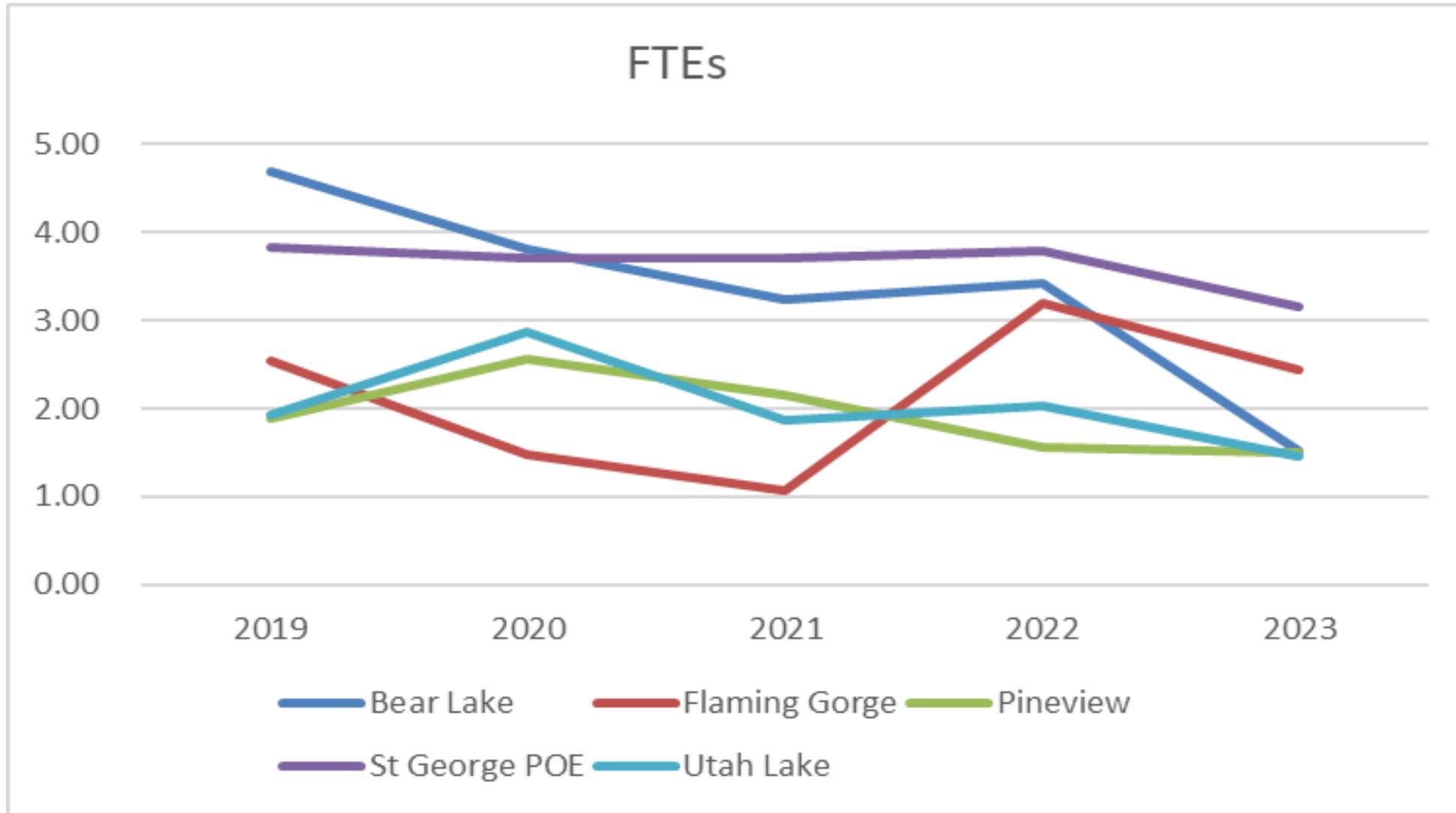


# FUNDING CHALLENGES

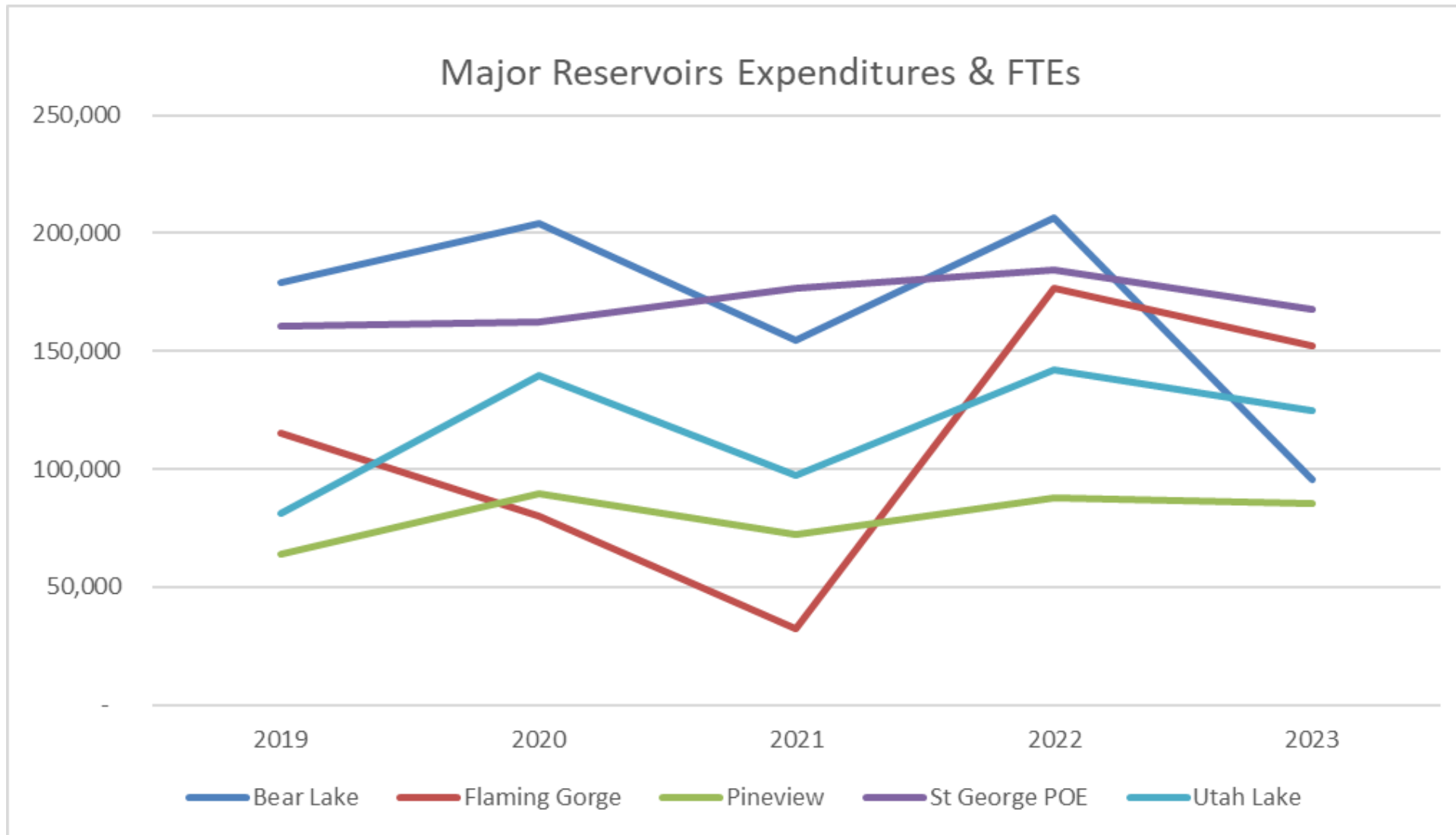
- Prior to FY24, the federal Quagga and Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP) grants covered personnel and not infrastructure. This has since changed, and we are now working on grants to assist with both areas of the program.
- The AIS bill passed in Utah's 2023 legislative session greatly improved the DWR's funding process. Now, funding goes directly to the DWR — instead of passing through other divisions — which allows easier allocation and tracking of funds.



# FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES (2019–23)



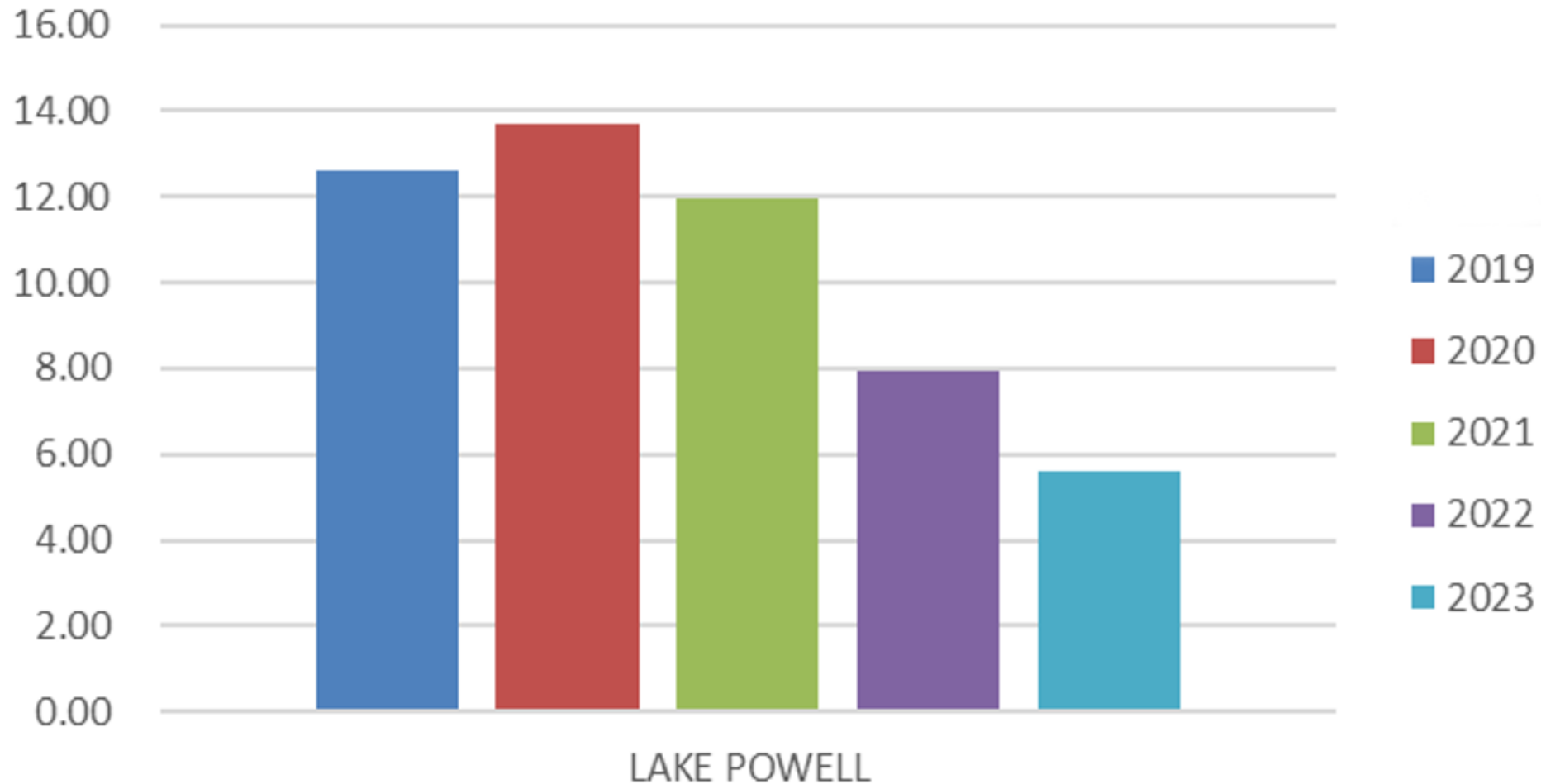
# EXPENDITURES AND FTES (2019–23)



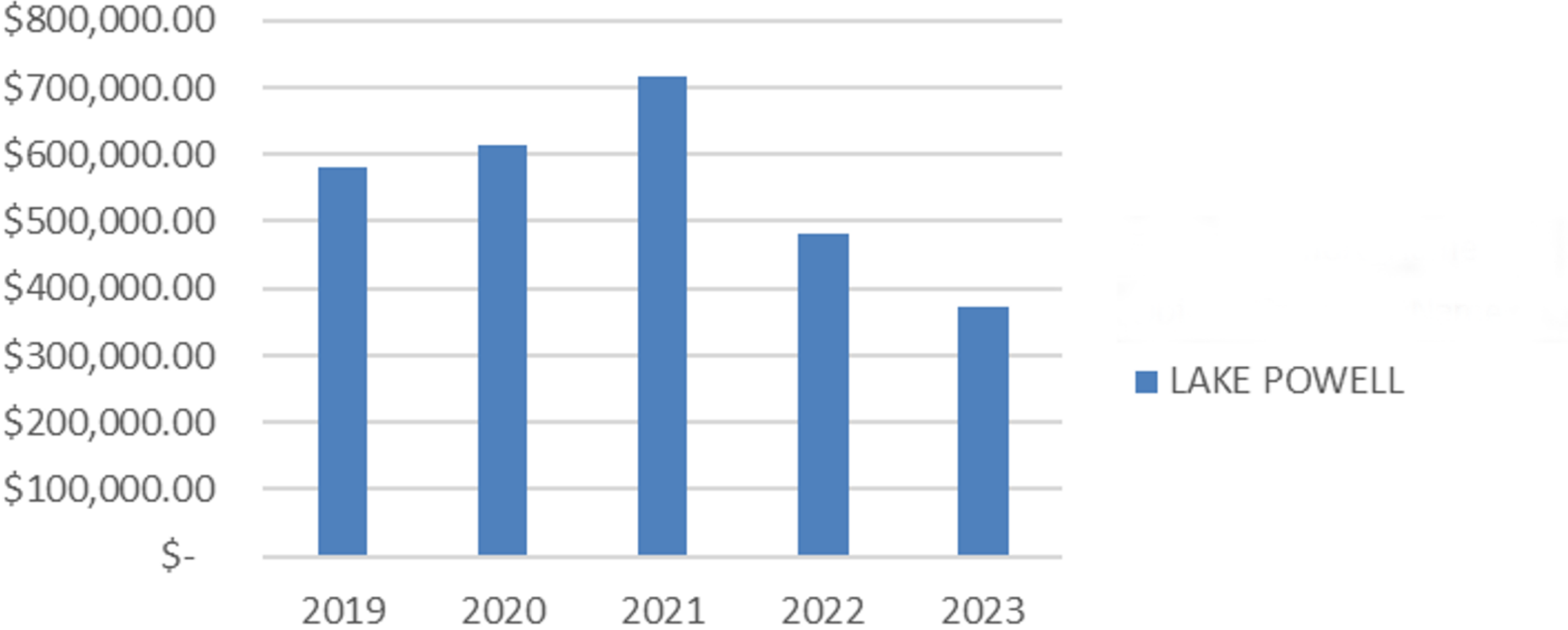


# LAKE POWELL GETS THE MOST EFFORT

Lake Powell FTE Count

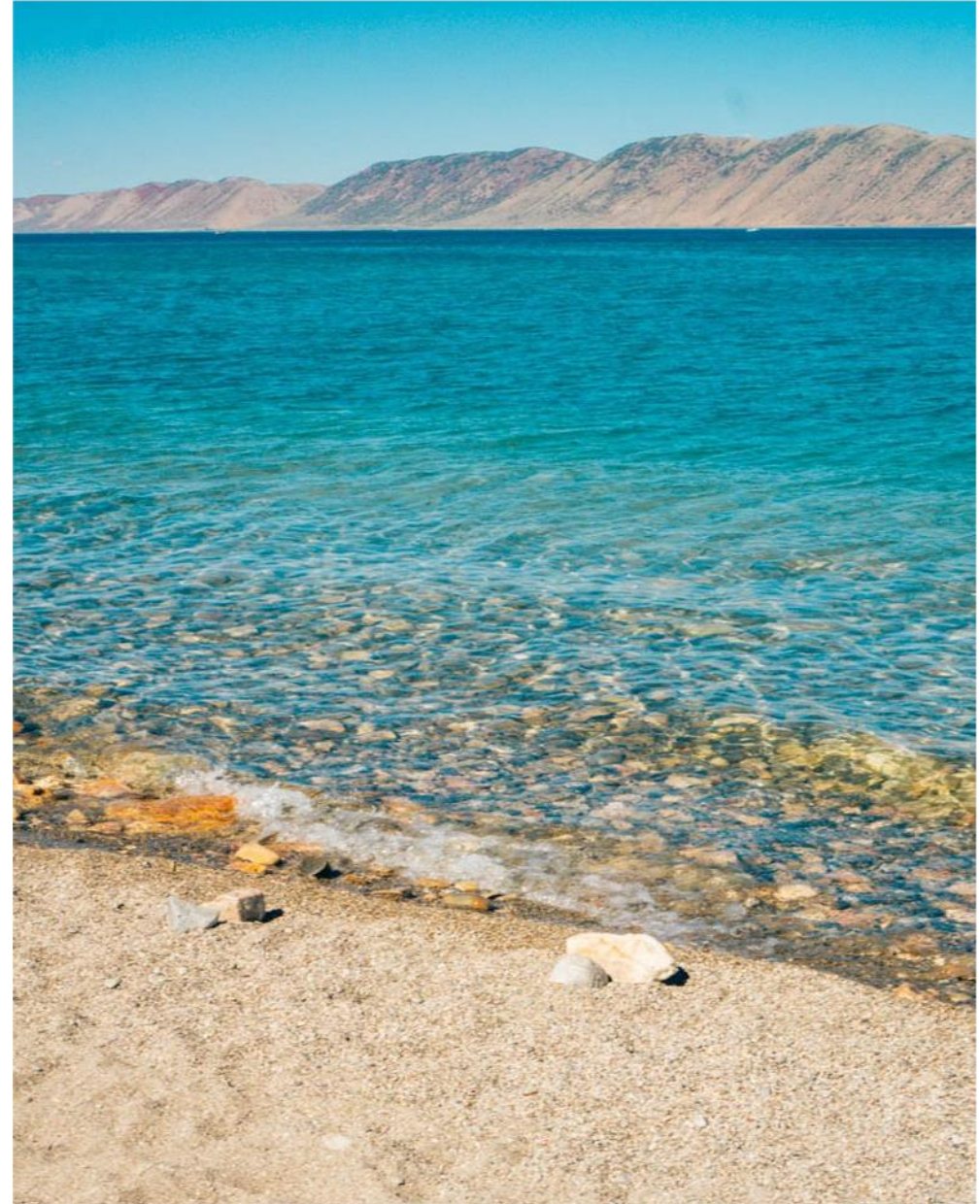


# LAKE POWELL: EXPENDITURES AND FTE COSTS



# BEAR LAKE

- Receives additional funds and resources because of partnerships
  - Bear Lake Commission
  - Idaho Department of Agriculture
- The DWR provides Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination training specifically for Bear Lake techs
- Extra coordination and communication because of proximity to our Garden City Overlook station
- Have put additional efforts into recording work efforts and meeting regularly to discuss program needs



# THANK YOU



Utah Division of  
Wildlife Resources

