

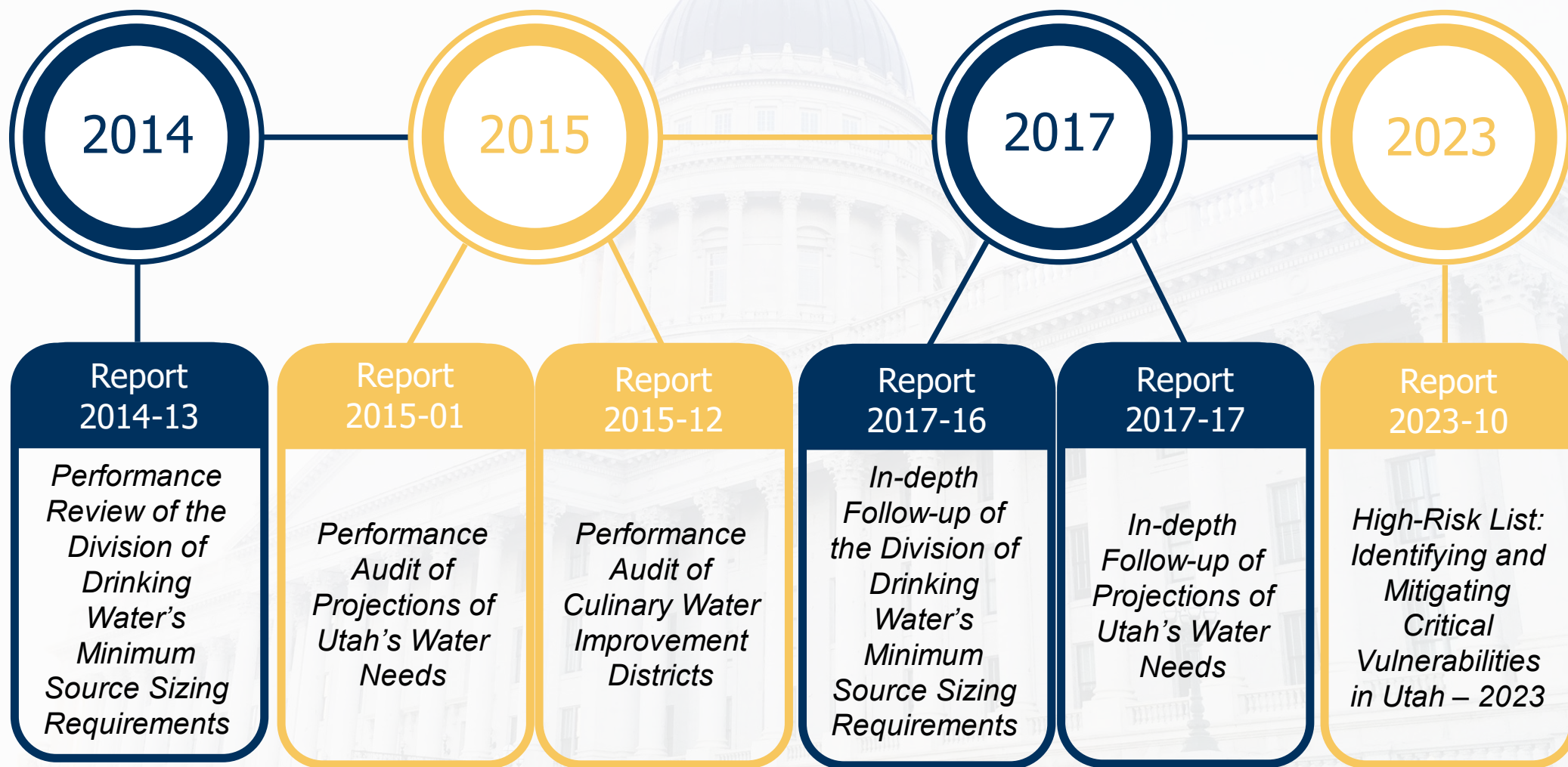


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A Performance Audit of Utah's Water Management: Ensuring Data Integrity, Program Best Practices, and Comprehensive Water Planning

Legislative Audit Subcommittee

November 14, 2023





Chapter 1

DNR Should Prioritize Robust Data Management to Effectively Monitor State Water

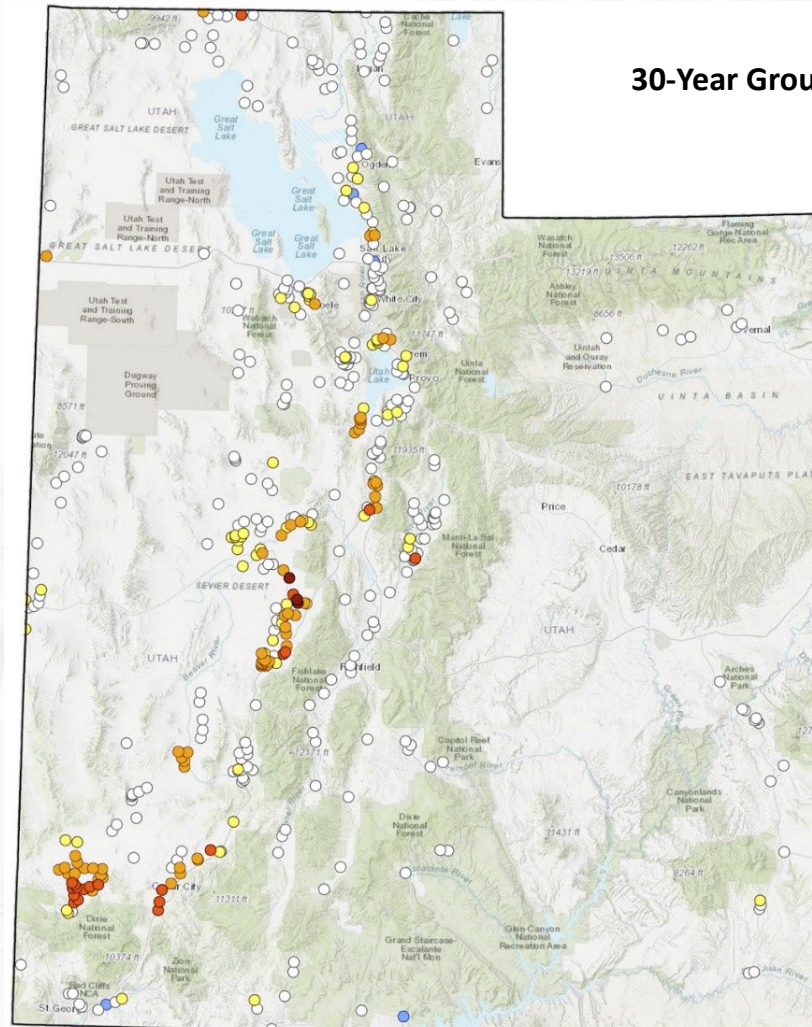


Water Use Accountability and Transparency Can Be Improved by Increasing Usability of Water Use Data

- DWRi is actively pursuing data system improvements.
- Restructuring Data from the Divert Database Would Provide Internal and External Benefits
 - Improve state water planning
 - Improve state oversight, accountability, and auditability of state water distribution



Declines in Groundwater Highlight the Need for Improved Monitoring



30-Year Groundwater Decline

This map shows wells where USGS measured water levels in the spring of 2023 or 2022 and in 1993 or 1992.

Measurements were obtained during the months of February and March.

Change per year (ft)

- -3 to -5
- -2 to -3
- -1 to -2
- -0.5 to -1
- +0.5 to -0.5
- +0.5 to +1.0



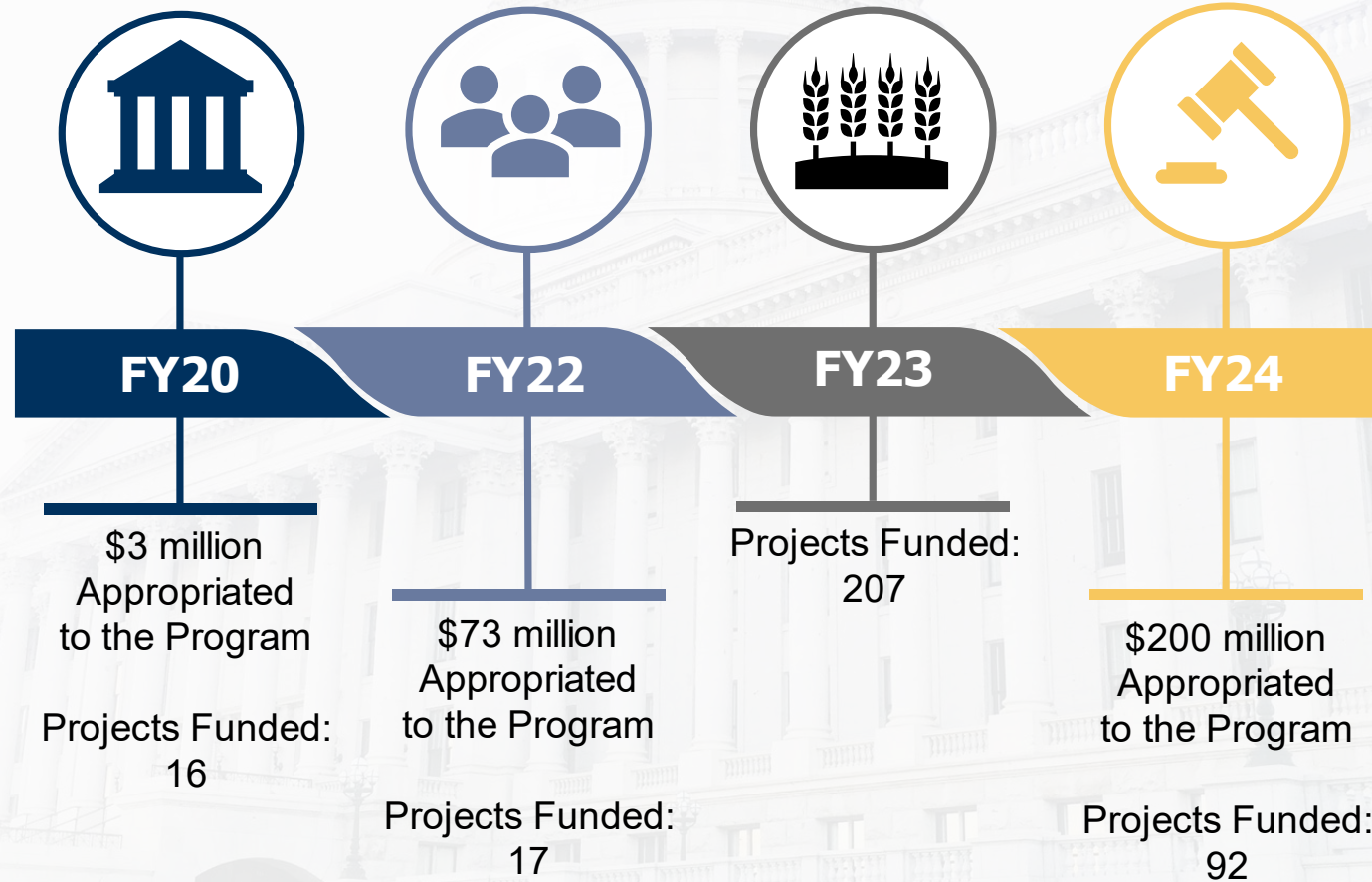
Because useful data is so important to achieving DWRI's purpose, strong data management practices are essential.



Chapter 2

UDAF's Agricultural Water Optimization Program Should Implement Best Practices to Help Ensure Maximum Success

Agricultural Water Optimization Program





Improved Planning, Performance Measures, and Transparency of Information Can Help Ensure Effectiveness





**Improved Planning and Monitoring is Needed
to Ensure Additional \$200 Million is Spent as Required**



Required Data Reporting Is Necessary for Program Evaluation and Accountability

Program Purpose:

"Improve water optimization by...reducing consumptive water use, while maintaining or even improving agriculture production and profitability, and provide increased operational flexibility for agriculture water users moving forward."



Chapter 3

Utah Is at a Water Crossroads and Needs Comprehensive Water Planning to Meet Future Demands



Statutory Strengthening Needed for More Effective Water Planning to Ensure the State's Water Future

Utah Code 73-10-15

Requires entities to cooperate

Utah Code 73-10-17

Allows entities to refuse cooperation



Holistic Statewide Planning Needed to Account for Growth and Future Water Use and Needs

Recent plans:



Questions



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