The importance of rivers, streams and creeks Healthy Waterways

Background

Flooding Hazard in Utah

- Flooding hazards have caused significant damage to structures and property, resulting in at least 101 fatalities in Utah since 1847, with 80% of deaths from floods and flash floods, 15% from debris flows, and 5% from dam and water conveyance structure failures.
- Sixteen major flood events since 1923 have caused over \$1.3 trillion in damage, and to date, flooding is Utah's most costly geologic hazard to the economy.

Source https://geology.utah.gov/hazards/flooding





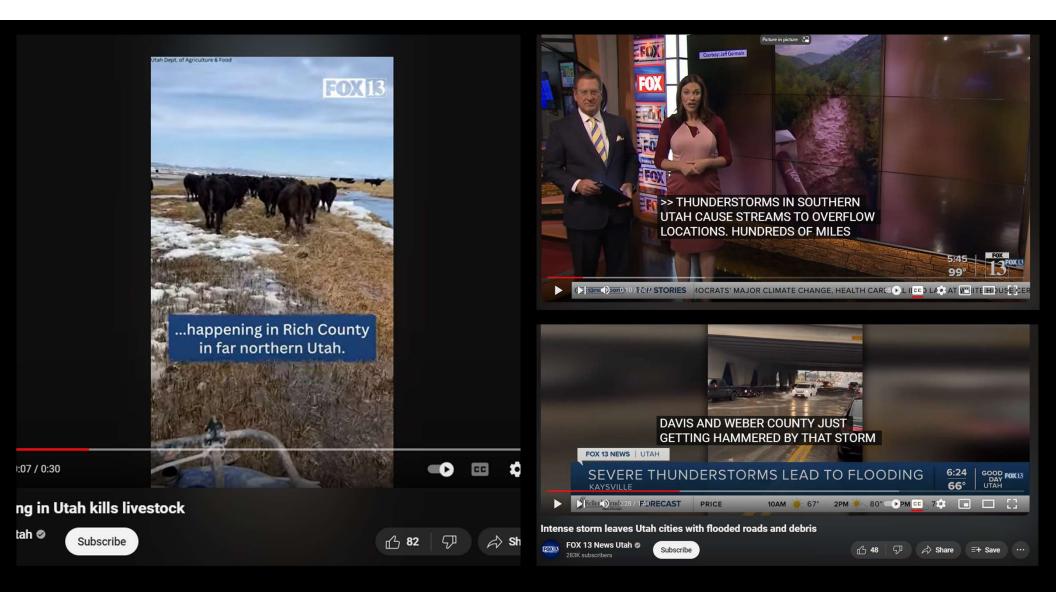
e than 7 inches of rain between Sunday and Monday – the third-highest two-day rainfall total on record. verages 14.25 inches of rain annually and has received half of that total in just 48 hours.

800,000 without powe atmospheric river brin and flooding

A SHARE CC

alahieh, CNN

:51 AM EST, Mon February 5, 2024







'Unprecedented': Spring snowmelt leaves farms underwater in Utah, Great Salt Lake rising Executive Director for Utah DNR Joel Ferry discusses the Great Salt Lake levels rising and what this could mean for the summertime as well

Utah sets aside millions of dollars in preparation for potentially historic flooding

Regions spanning from California to Colorado are anticipating potentially damaging flooding as winter's record snowpack melts Associated Press

Published May 18, 2023 9:19am EDT

Legislative Proposal

The primary purposes of HB 243 are to:

- recognize the public and private value of healthy natural water ways
- reduce risks from natural disasters
- enhance agriculture, community and economic development opportunities, recreation, and wildlife habitat, and
- provide statewide technical support and resource maps

Potential path forward to protect community values and economic vitality



Examples from Rural Utah on successful river and riparian corridor planning

Community Driven Successful planning

- Helper City Major Fire up Price Canyon sending debris and sediment down corridor
- Recent improvements created no major damage to structures, farms, or infrastructure

How to develop plans, Healthy Waterways Bill







HB 243 – Healthy Water Ways

What is IN the Bill

- 5-year funded Department of Natural Resource employee to
- provide technical expertise and support to local governments
- – One-time funding for coordination and consolidation of a
- statewide riparian resource map
- - Optional recommendations for a municipality to include a
- · riparian element in its general plan or to adopt riparian
- planning tools
- Counties are already required to address "riparian areas" as part
- of their Natural Resource Plan the Bill adds definitions and
- clarifying language
- – Annual "Healthy Water Ways" recognition

What is NOT IN the Bill

- A 'one-size fits all' approach
- - A requirement to update general plans, adopt new code, or
- conduct costly restoration work
- Specific or detailed state mandates or regulations
- • All implementation is determined at the local level
- Prohibition of economic activity or development within riparian
- areas
- Recommends development tools that respect private property
- rights and increase public and private value and reduce risks
- Control of invasive species, noxious weed and fire suppression
- activities

Potential changes to Bill

- Focus only on Great Salt Lake Basin
- Remove canals, irrigation ditches, pipelines and flumes from this discussion
- Focus on education and assistance in planning