



Division of Water Resources Current Studies

05/15/24



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Water Infrastructure Funding Study (2023 SB 34)

- Detailed water financing data obtained from several dozen water suppliers throughout the Western US
 - These entities include districts (wholesalers and retailers) and cities
 - Utah is not unique in how property taxes are used for water
 - Property taxes largely used by local and regional entities
- A handful of entities with property tax authority, don't use it
- A survey to gather more information from entities outside of Utah is underway
- Interviews with nearly 30 Utah water suppliers was conducted
- The report will also include water rate structures and average water pricing for entities in Utah and other states
- Trends and practices will be identified on the impact of eliminating a property tax here in Utah
- The report will be available later this summer / early fall



Water Development Coordinating Council (WDCC)

The WDCC was established to:

- Coordinate funds to promote the conservation, development, treatment, restoration, and protection of Utah's waters
- Promote the coordination of the financial assistance programs and the most economically advantageous financing alternative
- Promote the consideration by the Board of Water Resources, Drinking Water Board, and Water Quality Board of regional solutions to the water and wastewater needs of individual political subdivisions of this state; and
- Assess the adequacy and needs of the state with respect to water-related infrastructures and advise the governor and the Legislature on those funding needs.



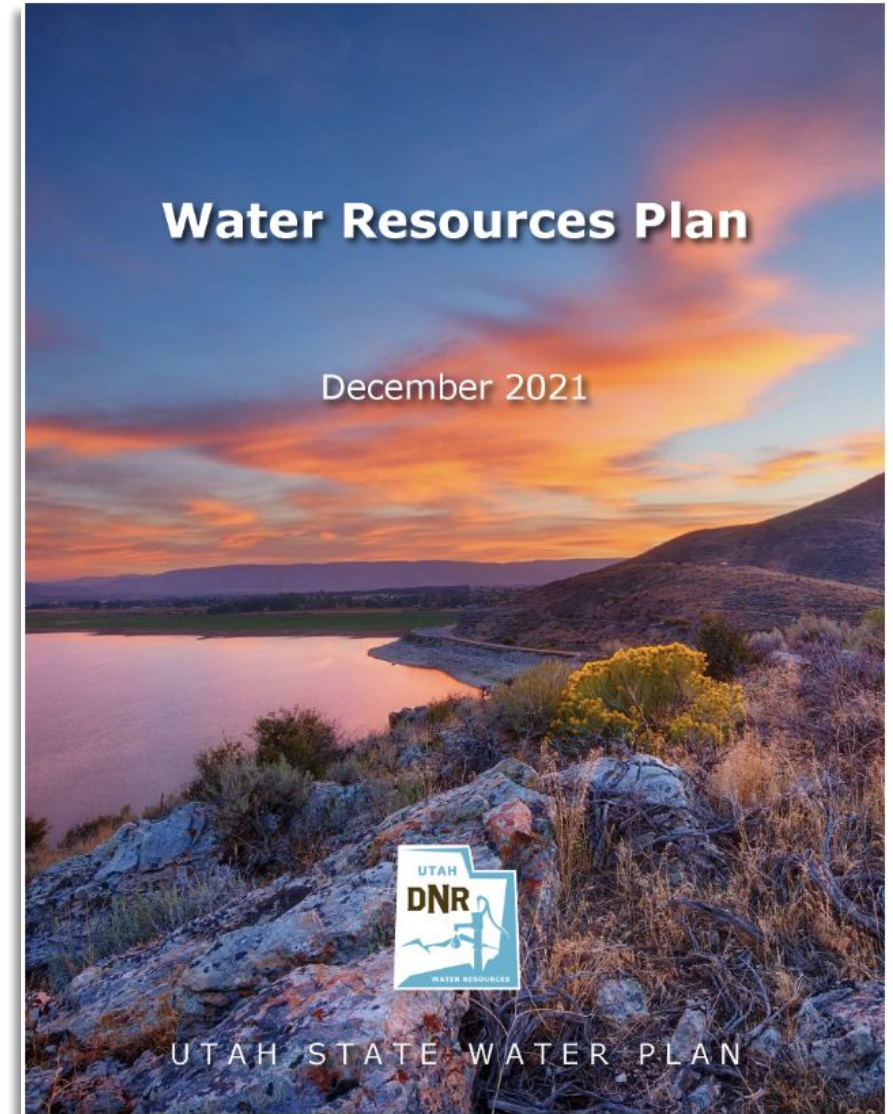
Existing Funds Study (2024 HB 280)

- **Existing Funds Study** - Overview of existing funds/boards, status of funds, discussion on consolidation of funds, process framework, council makeup, recommendations
- Developing a policy review committee
- The Water Development Coordinating Council (WDCC) has put together a work group to study the financing of water infrastructure projects
 - Working on a process framework to gain an understanding and get buy-in
 - The group plans to hire an outside consultant to assist with the study
 - Reviewing needs of WDCC



State Water Plan

- HB 280 modifies how the state water plan is created
 - Requires entities to work with the division to create the plan
 - Requires the division to complete the next plan by the end of 2026
- Project lead has been identified
- Division is organizing a policy work group

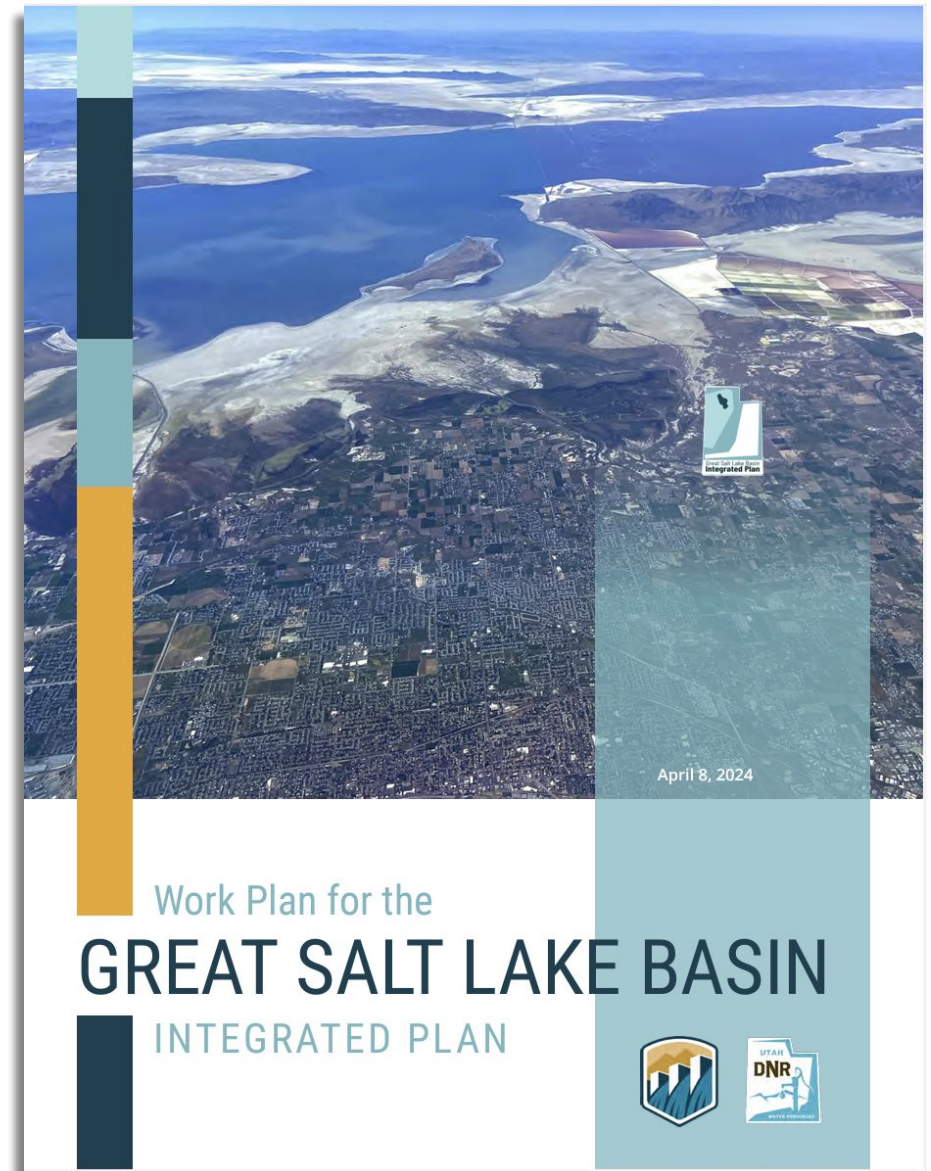
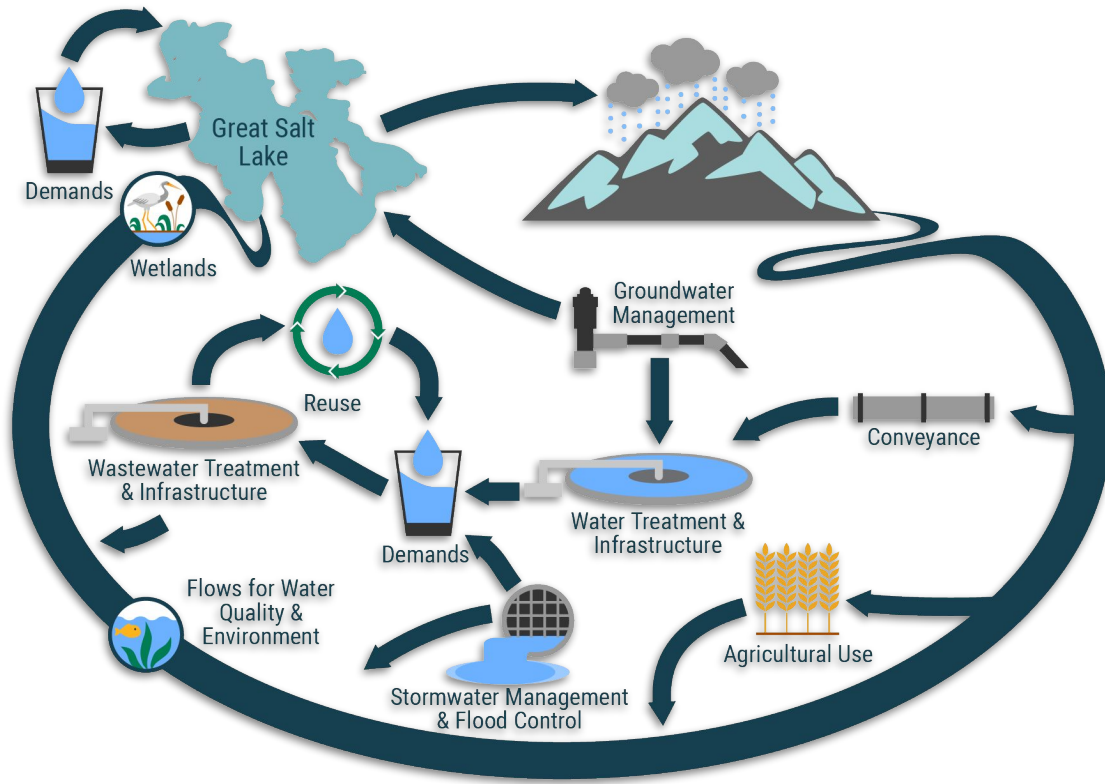


Cloud Seeding

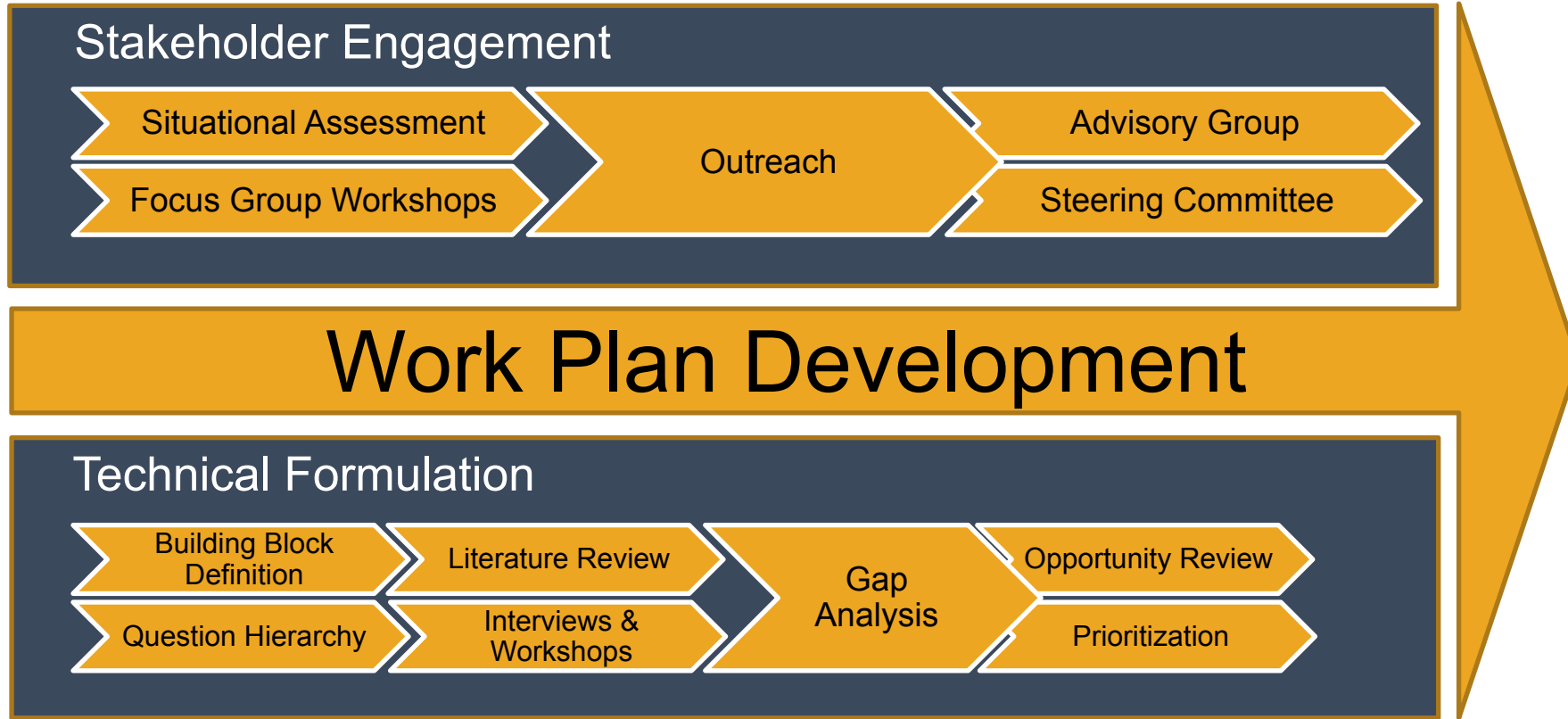
- USU Climate Center is analyzing precipitation and inversion frequencies during the seeding season (November-April), evaluate the suitable seeding conditions and test the trajectory for ground-based seeding generators for the Provo and Ogden areas.
- Depending on the outcome of this feasibility study, the staff meteorologist will investigate potential sponsors for operational programs starting in the winter of 2024-2025. This report will be completed by the end of May. Additional studies statewide can be expected during the summer and fall of 2024.



Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan

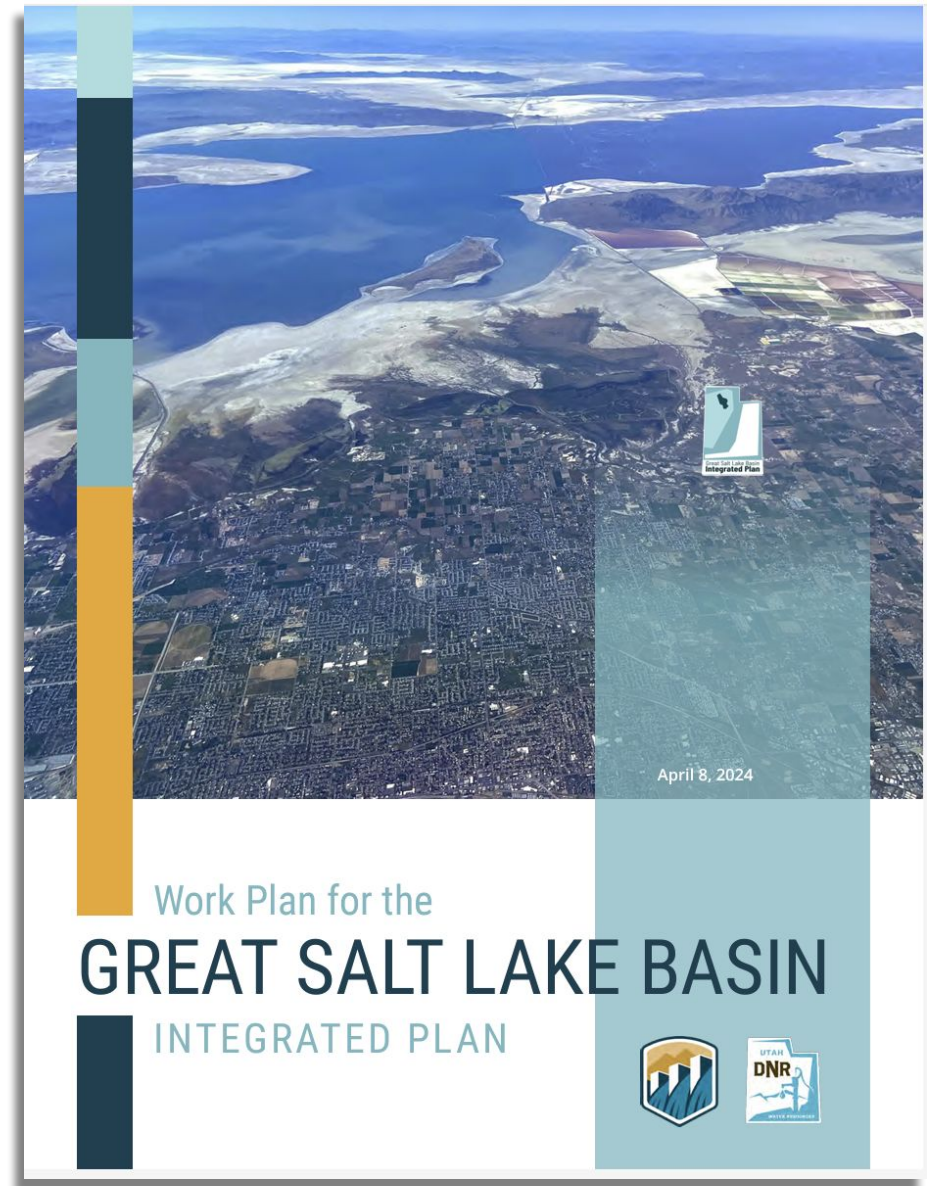


Work Plan Development



What's happening now?

- The recently-completed Work Plan provides a road map for the completion of the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan.
- Working on a “mega model”
- Evaluating alternatives
- Developing trade-off analyses
- Database management



Western Cedar/Beaver Study

- In 2024 the legislature appropriated \$500,000 for the division to do the study
- Initial meeting has been held with Central Iron County
- The division will likely do a phased approach to complete the study
- Literature review, GAP analysis, overview of conservation policies put in place



Water Value Study

Overall Goals:

- Understand how to motivate Utahns to reduce water use.
 - Understand the kinds of messaging that will motivate people to reduce water use.
 - Understand policies that might help Utahns reduce water use.
- Understand Utahns' values and priorities related to water.

Study Partners:



Water Value Study

“BRIGHT BOARDS” - Phase 1

Qualitative Research:

- Gather the ideas to be tested in the quantitative phase
- Generated through a Multi-day online focus group, Early Summer 2024

“VALUES STUDY” - Phase 2

Quantitative Research:

- Random, 800-person sample, statistical survey
- Oversampling in key areas
- Sampling from all river basins, late summer 2024



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Thank you.

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