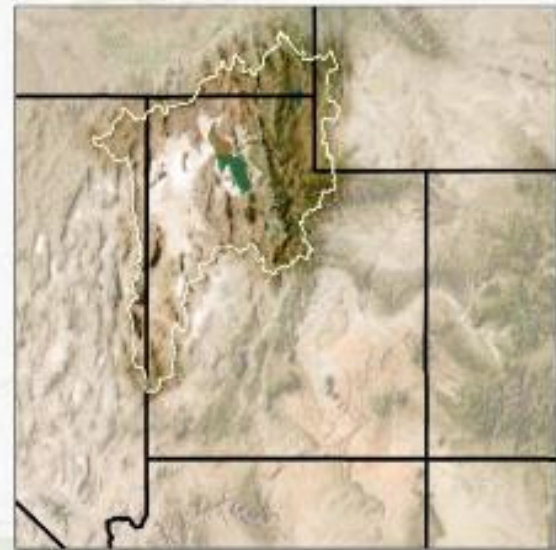
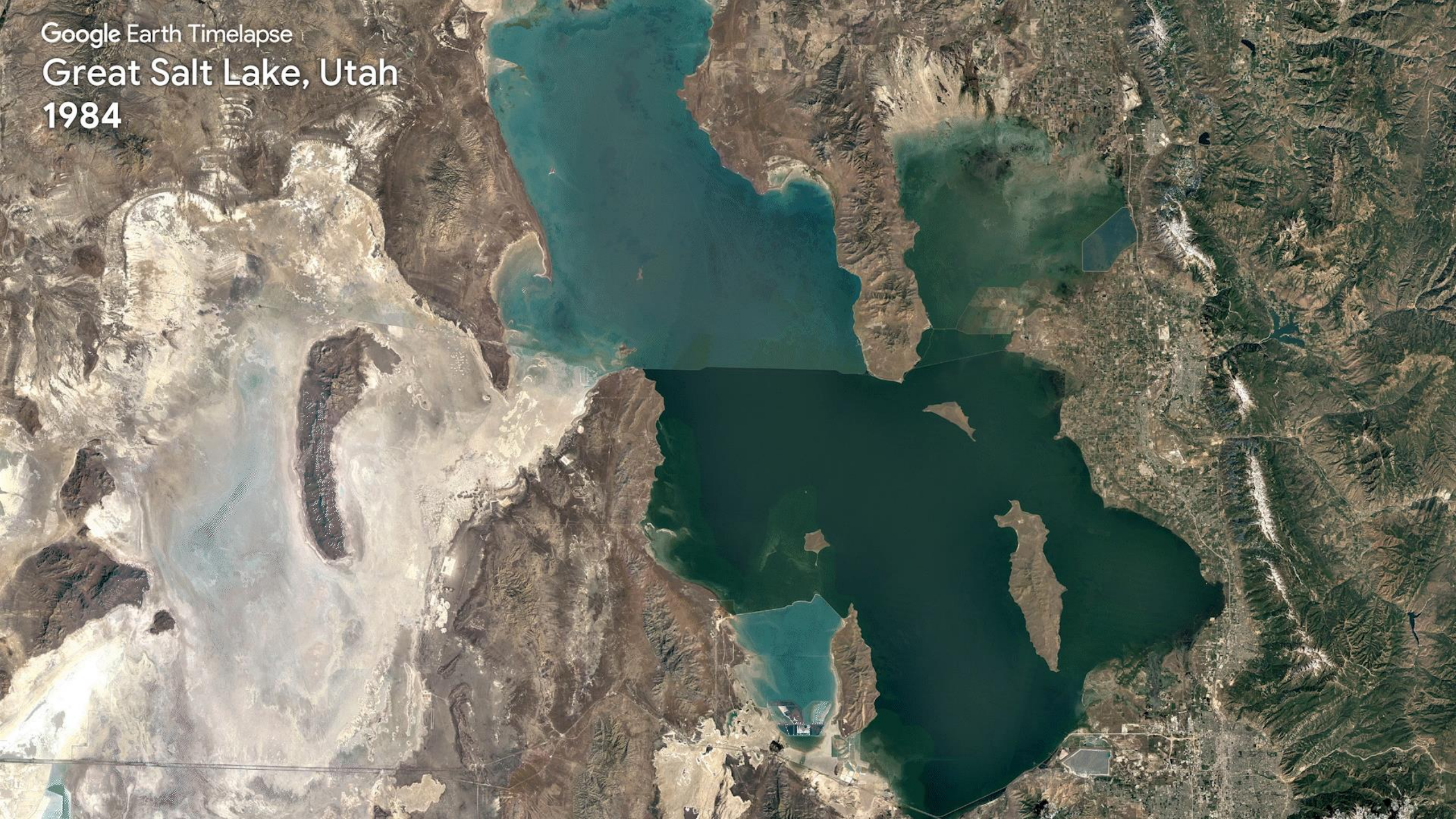




The Great Salt Lake

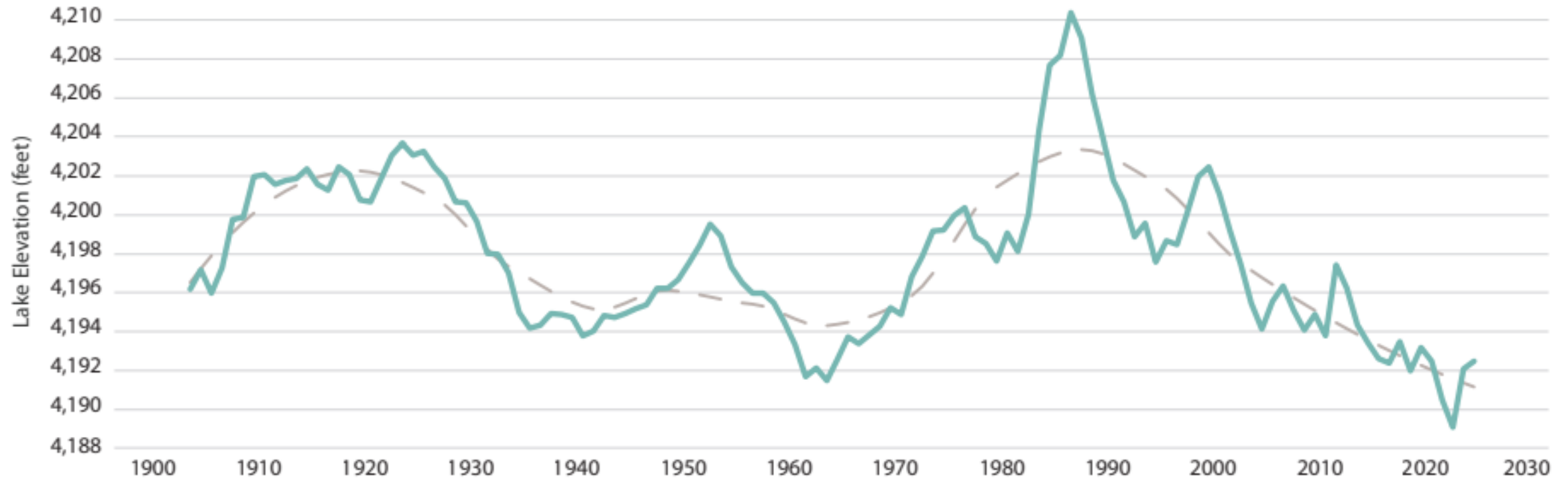


Google Earth Timelapse
Great Salt Lake, Utah
1984



The trendline lately has been down

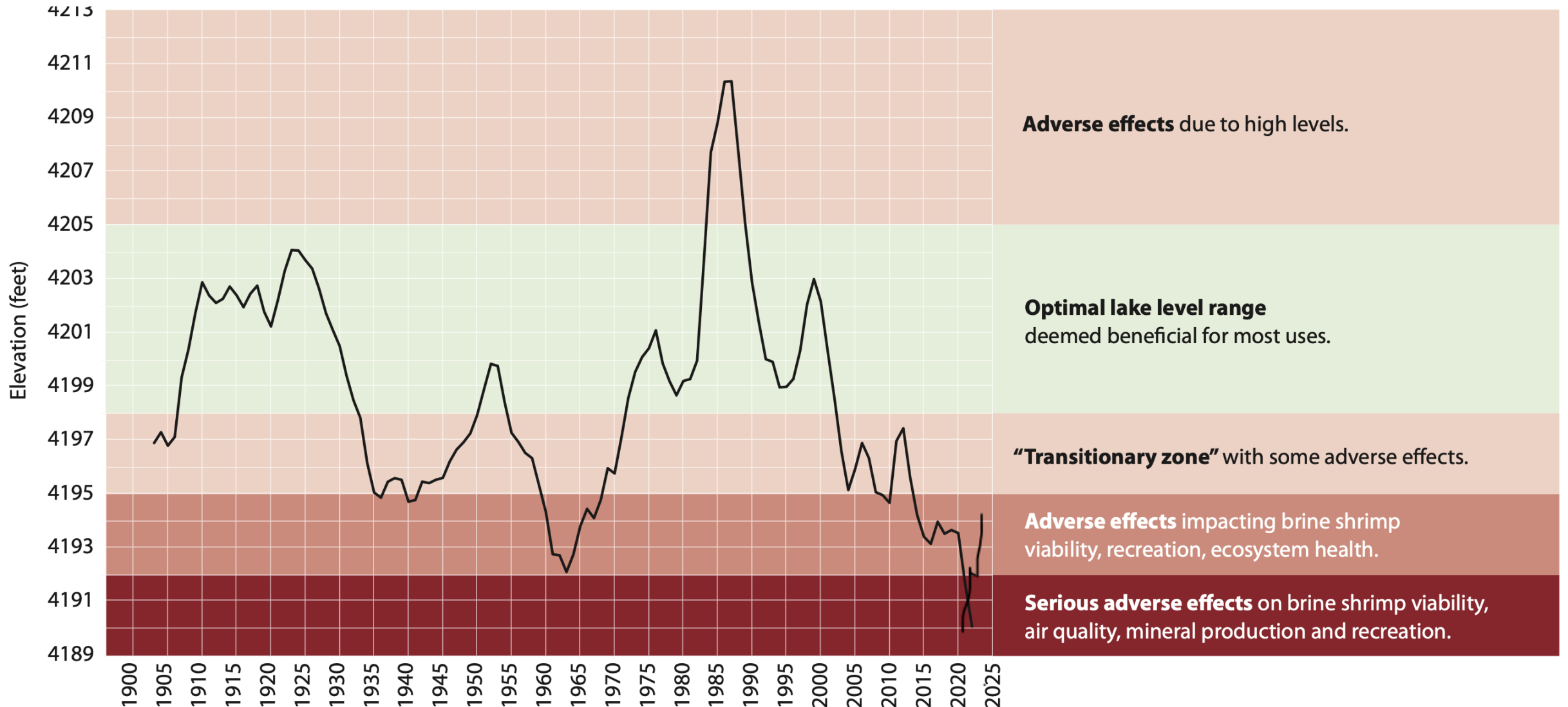
Water-year-end Elevation of Great Salt Lake South Arm, 1903-2024



Note: Solid line shows actual lake levels. Dashed line shows the smoothed trend line.

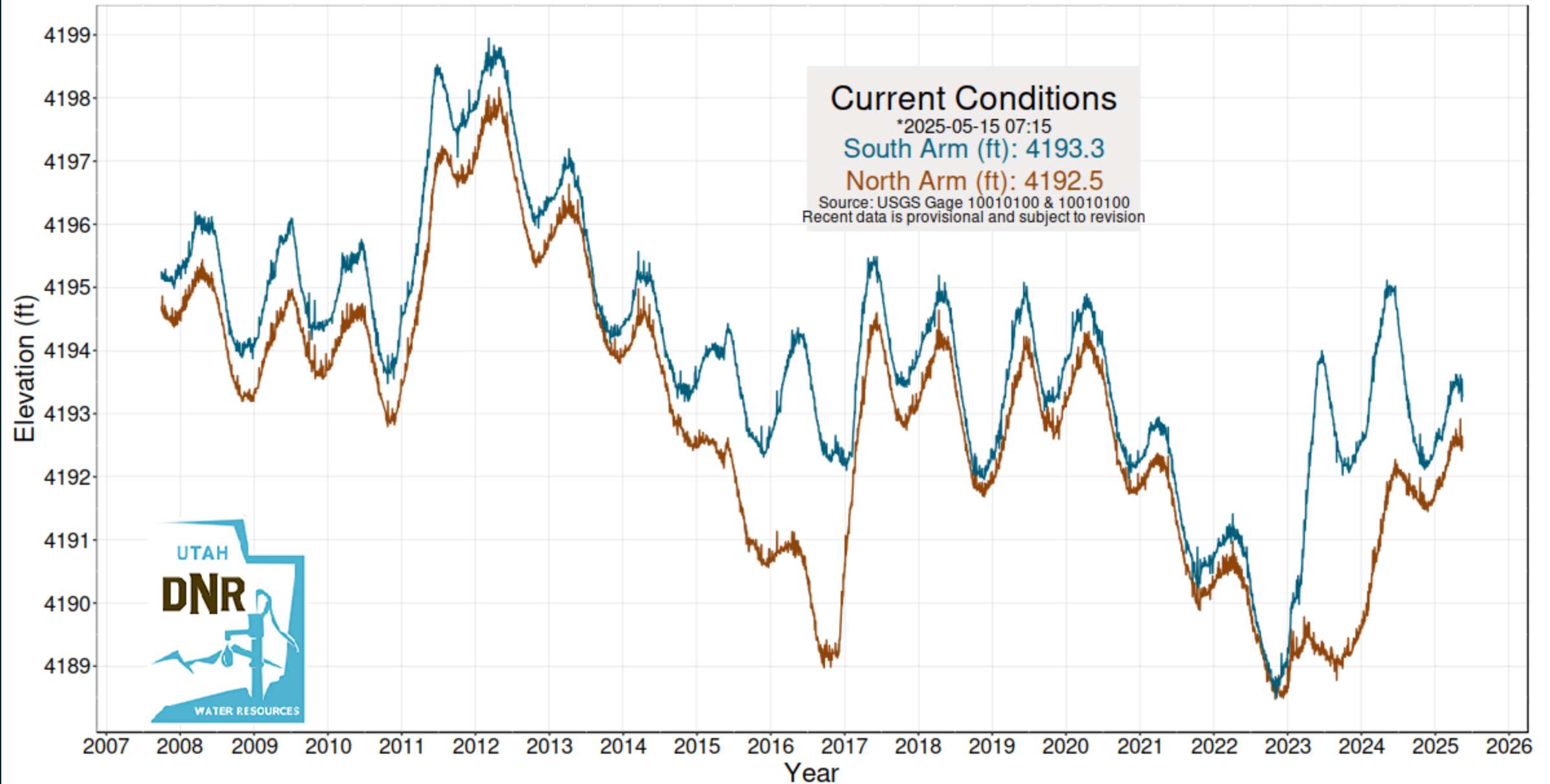
Source: US Geological Survey Historical Elevation at Saltair Boat Harbor

Not all water levels provide the same benefits



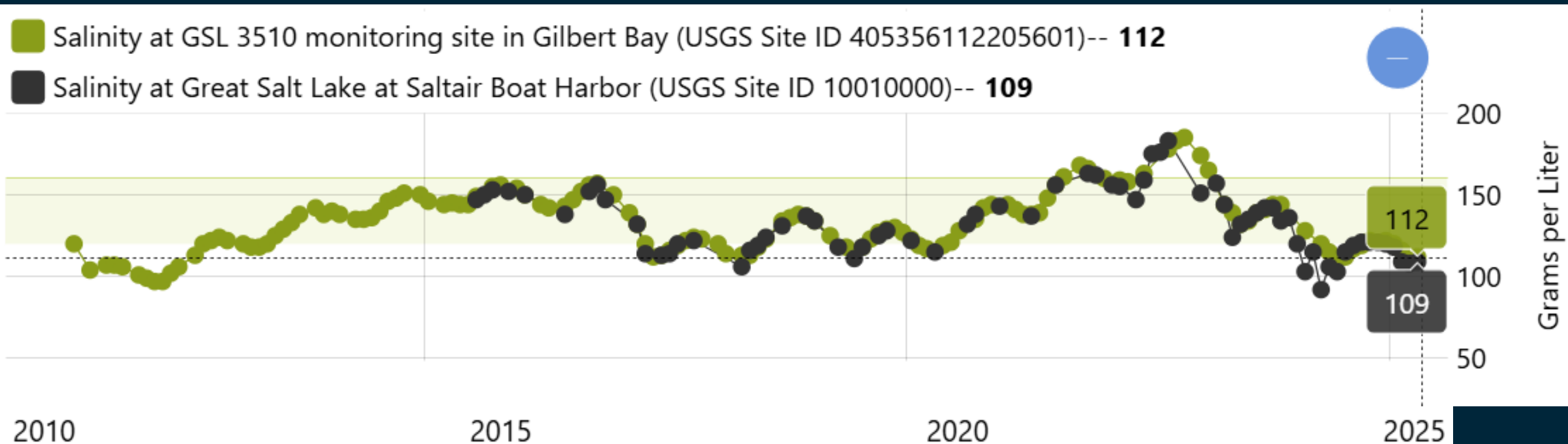
Great Salt Lake Elevations

Updated 05/15/2025



Salinity at GSL 3510 monitoring site in Gilbert Bay (USGS Site ID 405356112205601)-- **112**

Salinity at Great Salt Lake at Saltair Boat Harbor (USGS Site ID 10010000)-- **109**





Concern: Dust

“Dust mitigation is estimated to be at a minimum **\$1.5 billion** in capital costs with ongoing annual maintenance of **\$15 million.**”

Office of the Legislative Auditor General (2023)

Figure 12: Great Salt Lake Dust Hotspot Locations



Bear River Bay enlargement



Farmington Bay enlargement



● > 4,202 feet: Adverse effects
(High lake level)

● 4,198 - 4,202 feet:
Healthy lake level

● 4,195 - 4,198 feet:
Transitionary zone

● 4,192 - 4,195 feet: Adverse
effects (low lake level)

● 4,192 - 4,195 feet:
Serious adverse effects

Concern: Potential Endangered Species



Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilson%27s_phalarope#/media/File:Wilson's_Phalarope,_Oregon_03_\(cropped\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilson%27s_phalarope#/media/File:Wilson's_Phalarope,_Oregon_03_(cropped).jpg)

Concern: Litigation





Great Salt Lake

JANUARY 15, 2024

THE GREAT SALT LAKE STRATEGIC PLAN

SUBMITTED BY:

Brian Steed, JD, PhD
Great Salt Lake Commissioner

Great Salt Lake Strategic Plan Year 1

- 1) Better coordinating efforts on the lake;
- 2) Ensuring that we have the best available science and data to govern future strategies and actions;
- 3) Getting more water to the lake; and
- 4) Increasing monitoring and management of salinity levels, dust levels, and water quality to ensure that public health is protected and that the lake's ecosystem and the businesses that rely upon it remain viable in the future.

GSL Strategic Plan Year 1: Better Coordinating Efforts on the Lake

- Monthly coordination meetings between the state agencies
- Working with Division of Water Resources on completing the Great Salt Lake Integrated Basin Plan
- Coordination of efforts with the federal government
 - \$50-million-dollar grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



GSL Strategic Plan Year 1: Examples of Getting the Best Available Science

<u>Contracted Entity</u>	<u>Description</u>
Utah State University	Assist with water budgeting and planning and planning scenarios with Utah State Water Research Lab
University of Utah	Studying the role of groundwater inflow in sustaining the Great Salt Lake and adjacent wetlands
Utah Division of Water Resources	Funding “Wings Over Weber” project, using LIDAR to more accurately and completely record snowpack levels in Weber River Basin
Utah Geologic Survey	Funding for installation of groundwater monitoring wells on and adjacent to the lake

GSL Strategic Plan Year 1: Examples of Getting More Water to the Lake

- Accounting for how much water is already dedicated to the lake
 - 288,000 Acre-Feet have been approved for beneficial use within the lake and its managed wetlands. Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust and Great Salt Lake Commissioner's Office working to find additional water to lease.
- Working with the Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust and the Commissioner's Office in delivering more water to the lake
- Working with water districts to maximize wet water years and getting water to the lake
- Working with mineral companies to reduce the amount of water used
- Working with municipalities to have better conservation and dedicate and deliver water to the lake
 - Secondary Water Meters
 - Water Pricing

GSL Strategic Plan Year 1: Increasing Monitoring and Management

- Monitoring and managing salinity with the causeway berm
- Working with Division of Wildlife to monitor bird populations
- Working with the Department of Environmental Quality on implementing needed dust monitoring efforts

GSL Strategic Plan – action items

- Increased water delivery with the City of Ogden
- Increased Phragmites removal with the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Increased coordination with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to increase water optimized agriculture, and dedicate and deliver water savings to the lake

Questions or Discussion?

