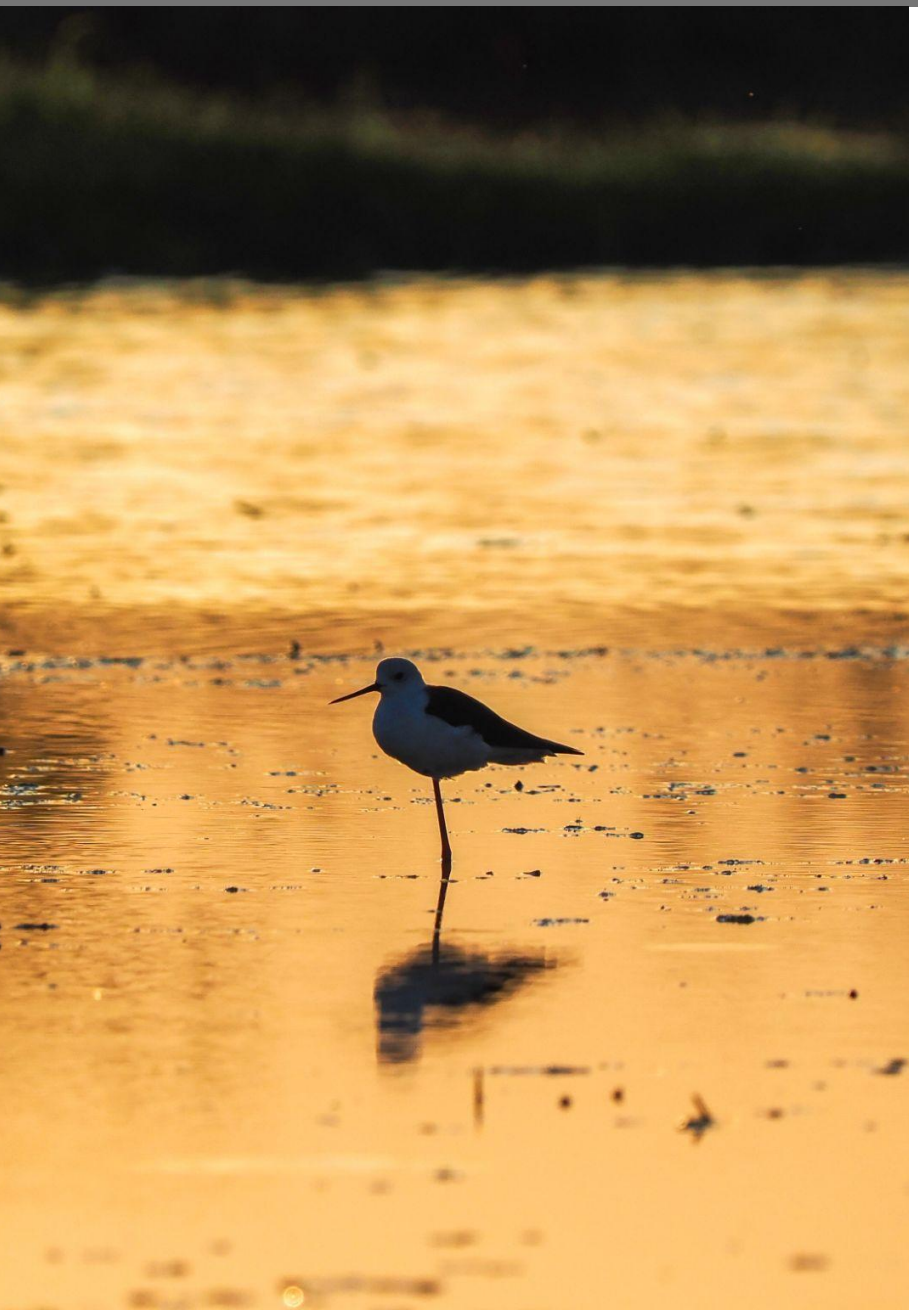
Heard in the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on 6/18/25

Department of Natural Resources

NRAE update
June 18, 2025

Emy Lesofski | Office of Energy Director
Tyson Plastow | Internal Auditor Director
Redge Johnson | Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office Director



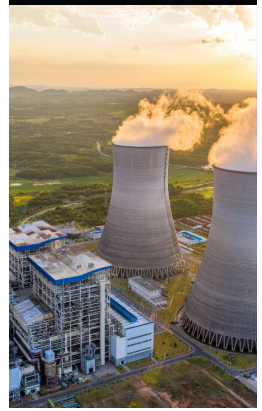
Managing and Protecting Utah's Natural Resources

The department includes 9 divisions and 2 offices

UTAH DNR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
UTAH DNR WILDLIFE
UTAH DNR STATE PARKS
UTAH DNR FORESTRY
UTAH DNR WATER RESOURCES
UTAH DNR WATER RIGHTS
UTAH DNR OIL, GAS & MINING
UTAH DNR RECREATION
UTAH DNR LAW ENFORCEMENT
UTAH OFFICE OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
UTAH PUBLIC LANDS

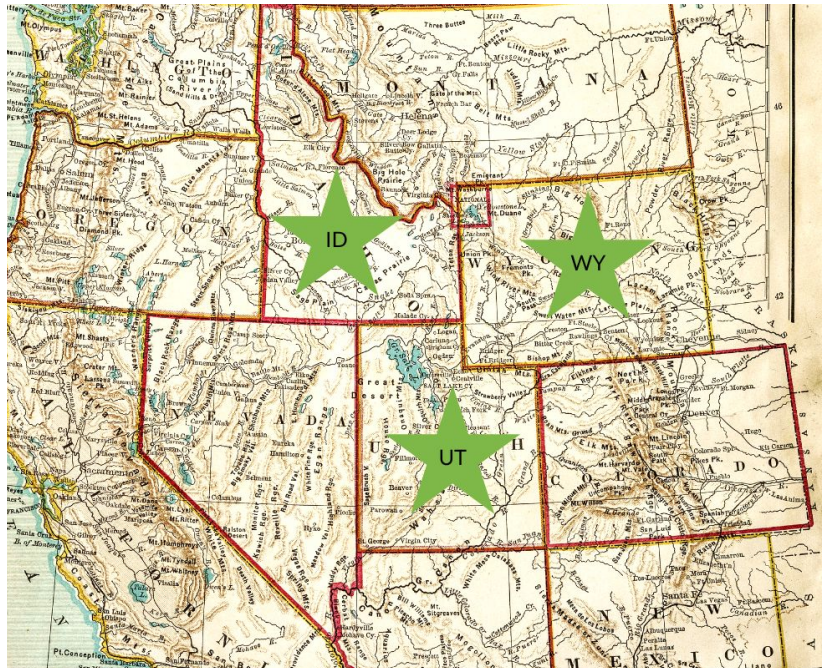
Pursuing energy abundance

- Energy demands are increasing
  - Increasing demographics
  - Rise of energy-intensive industries (one AI or data center can demand an economy's worth of energy)
  - Increased electrification
- Utah is securing reliable baseload through sound policy to avoid the energy deficit other states are facing
- New energy resources are needed to meet energy goals and keep our economics competitive



Energy Compact

The Tri-State Energy Compact between Utah, Idaho and Wyoming per HCR 9 aims to:



- Align state energy policies to stimulate innovation and private investment
- Build shared critical infrastructure and coordinate grid resilience
- Advocate for regulatory reform
- Create and implement workforce development programs
- Ensure affordable, reliable energy across the three states

Energy Compact Update

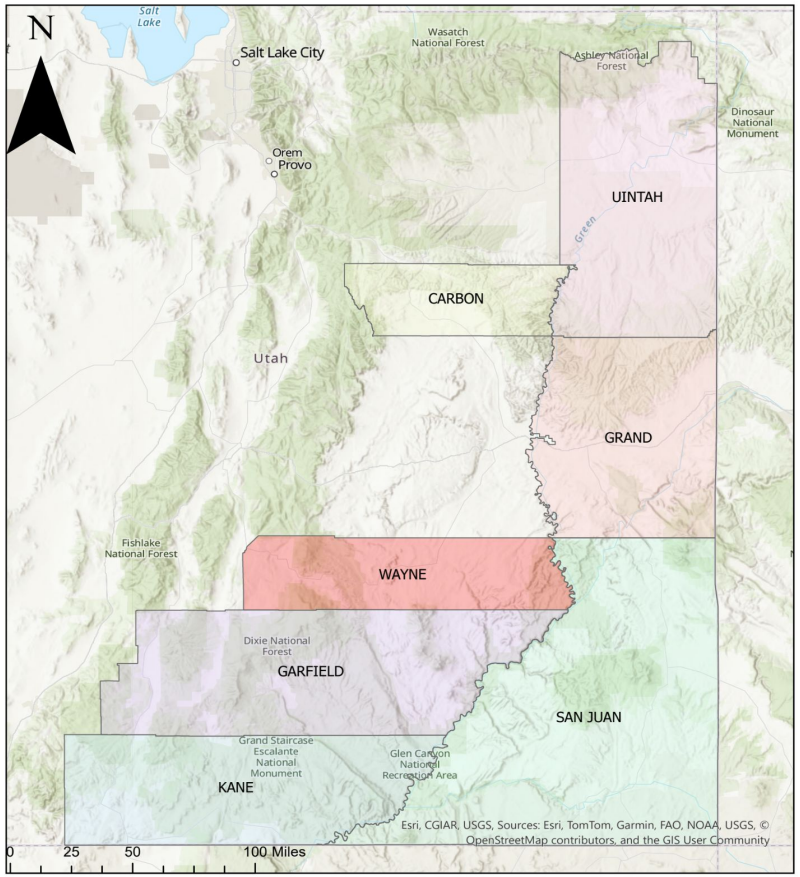
OED is engaged with Idaho and Wyoming and actively implementing the Compact and shaping regional energy policy through:

- Proactive discussions on transmission, nuclear development, regulatory reform
- Strengthening Compact with INL MOU
- Sharing information and project updates
  - Visit to Terra Power, MOU

House Bill 103

PLPCO and SITLA identifying certain class D roads <u>on</u> state lands per HB103

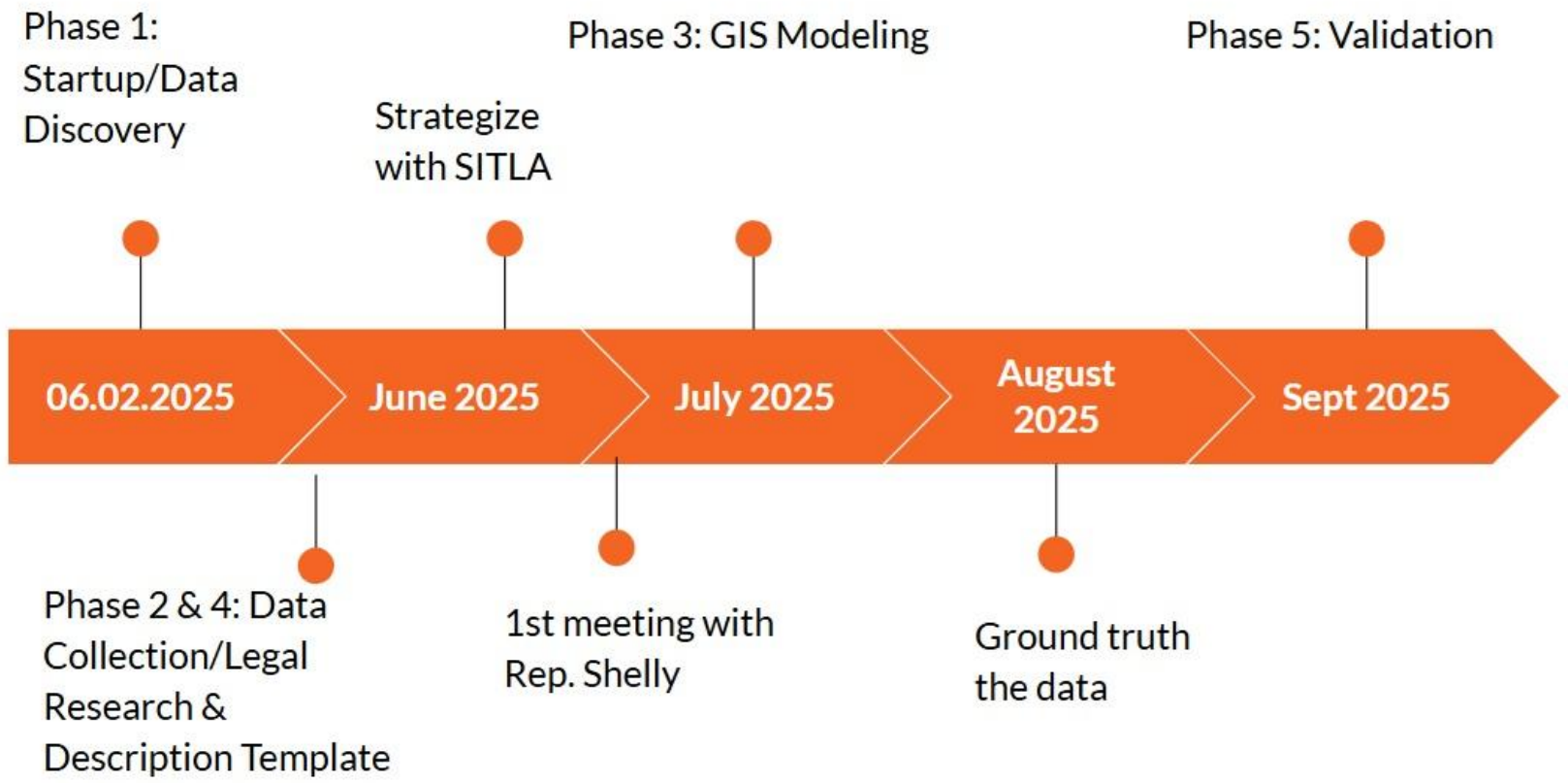
- To identify and record public access roads on state lands in Carbon, Garfield, Grand, Kane, San Juan, Uintah, and Wayne Counties
- This includes collecting data, developing GIS analysis tools, developing legal documentation templates, and a tested, replicable process for filing notices with county recorders
- New GIS Manager at PLPCO (May 5th)
- HB103 GIS Intern (June 2nd)



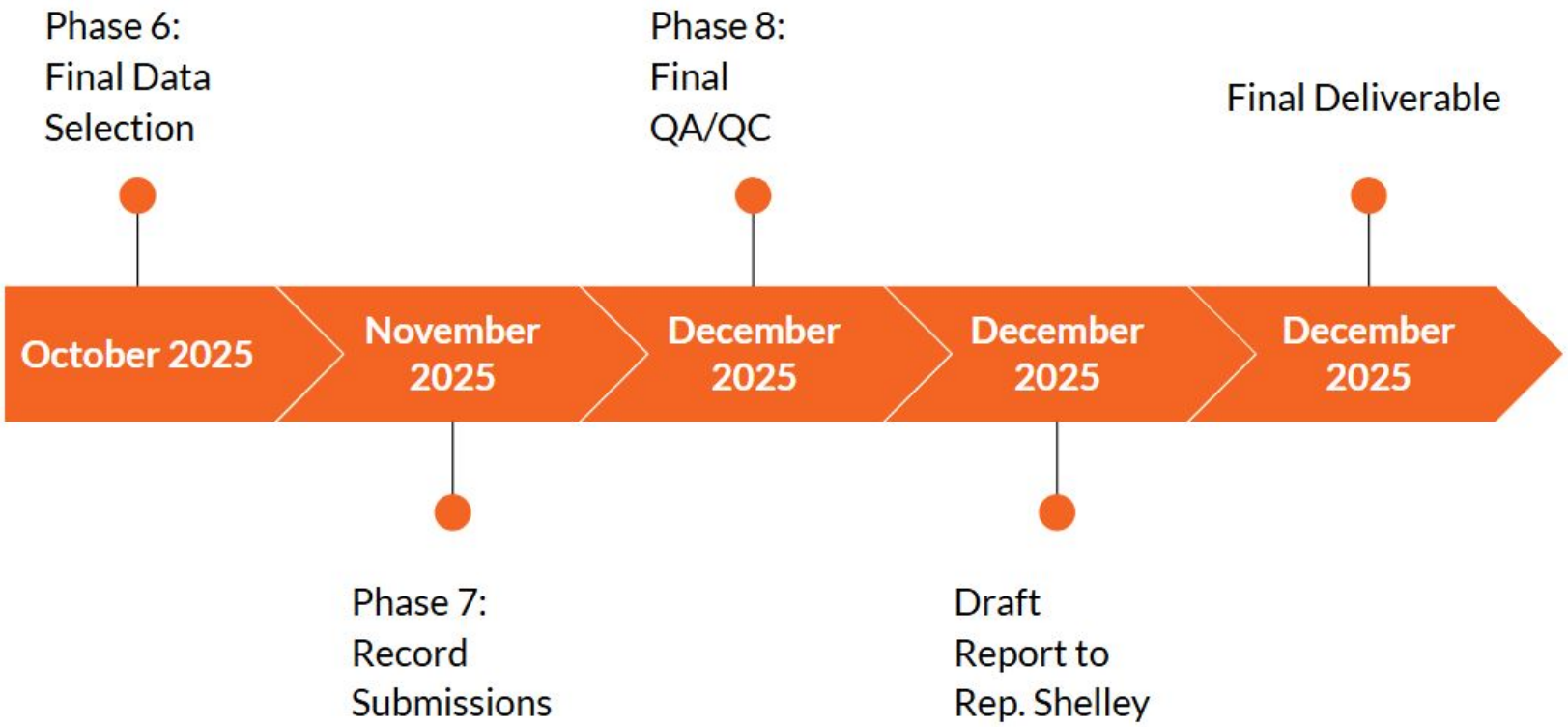
H.B. 103 Counties

Counties:
NAME
CARBON
GARFIELD
GRAND
KANE
SAN JUAN
UINTAH
WAYNE

Class D Roads



House Bill 103



State Parks Fee Audit

State Parks conducted a fee audit per LFA review and SB3

- Evaluate implementation of fees
- Compare current charges to authorized fees
- Identify overcharges

DNR Internal Audit will continue to monitor progress and follow up

State Parks Fee Audit

Three audit findings:

- Some services charged at higher than authorized rates: 0.26% of total fee revenue
  - Fee reimbursement is underway and the higher rates will no longer be charged
- Charges assessed for services not included in the fee schedule: $1,804
  - Fee schedule updates are underway
- Certain approved rates are unclear:
  - Fee clarification has been initiated

Thank you.

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