

# HUNTING/FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENT TO ENTER WMAS

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# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

DWR owns and manages 149 WMAs across the state as Wildlife or Waterfowl Management Areas, totaling nearly 600,000 acres.

WMAs are owned and managed for:

- Conserving critical wildlife habitats
- Helping to minimize and mitigate wildlife damage on private property
- Providing places where Utahns can go to hunt, fish and enjoy wildlife-based recreation



# FY25 WMA YEARLY MANAGEMENT BUDGET

- \$6,548,695 WMA operation and maintenance budget
- \$2,563,274 WMA infrastructure and one-time projects budget

This funding comes from license dollars and associated federal funds



# WMA MANAGEMENT

- Costs are significant
- Many people, especially along the Wasatch Front, are using and enjoying these lands without contributing to the cost of management



# H.B. 309 CHANGES TO WMA ACCESS

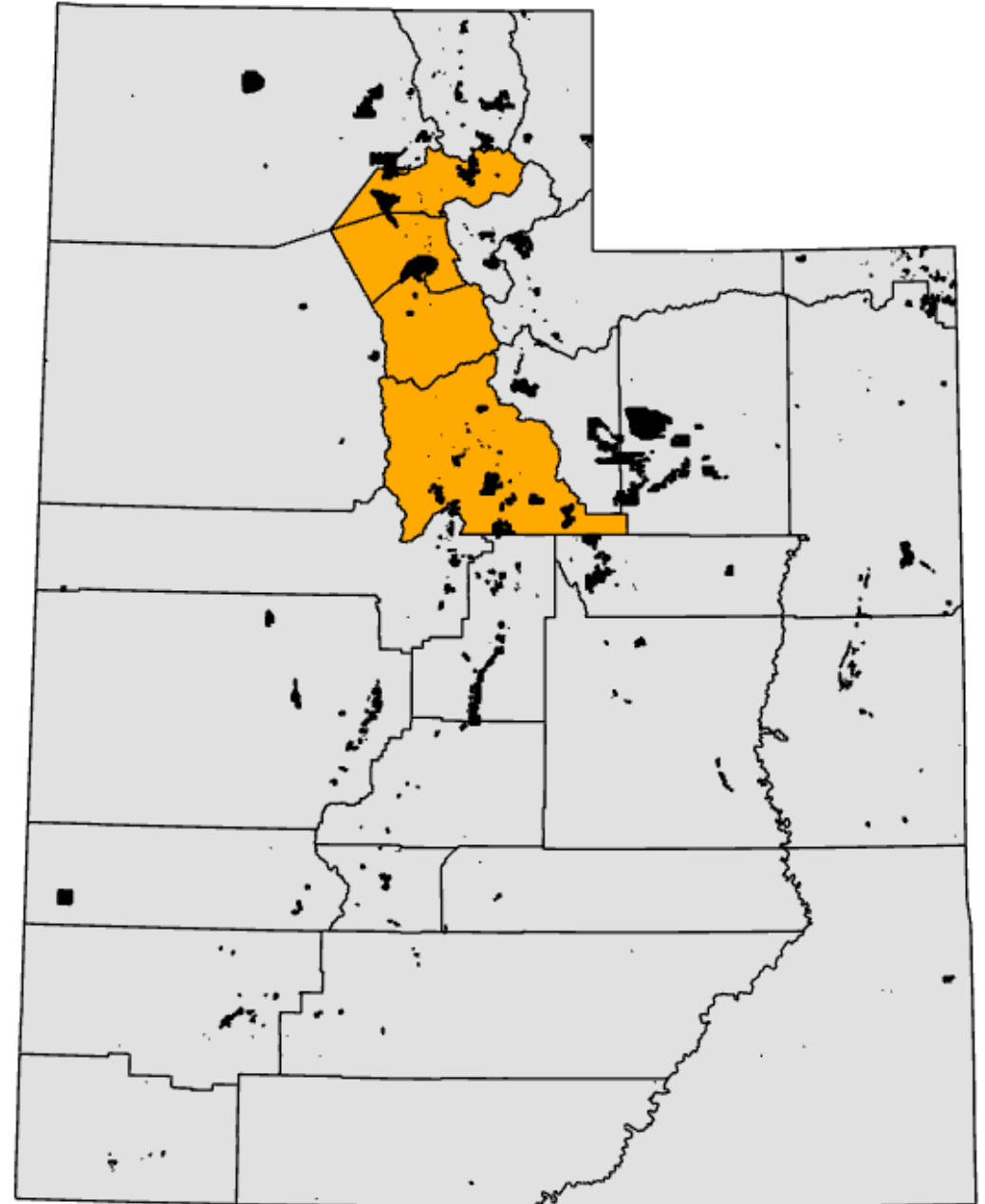
During the 2025 session, House Bill 309 was passed, which requires a person 18 or over to have a hunting, fishing, or combination license to enter a WMA in a county of the 1st or 2nd class



# COUNTIES OF THE FIRST OR SECOND CLASS

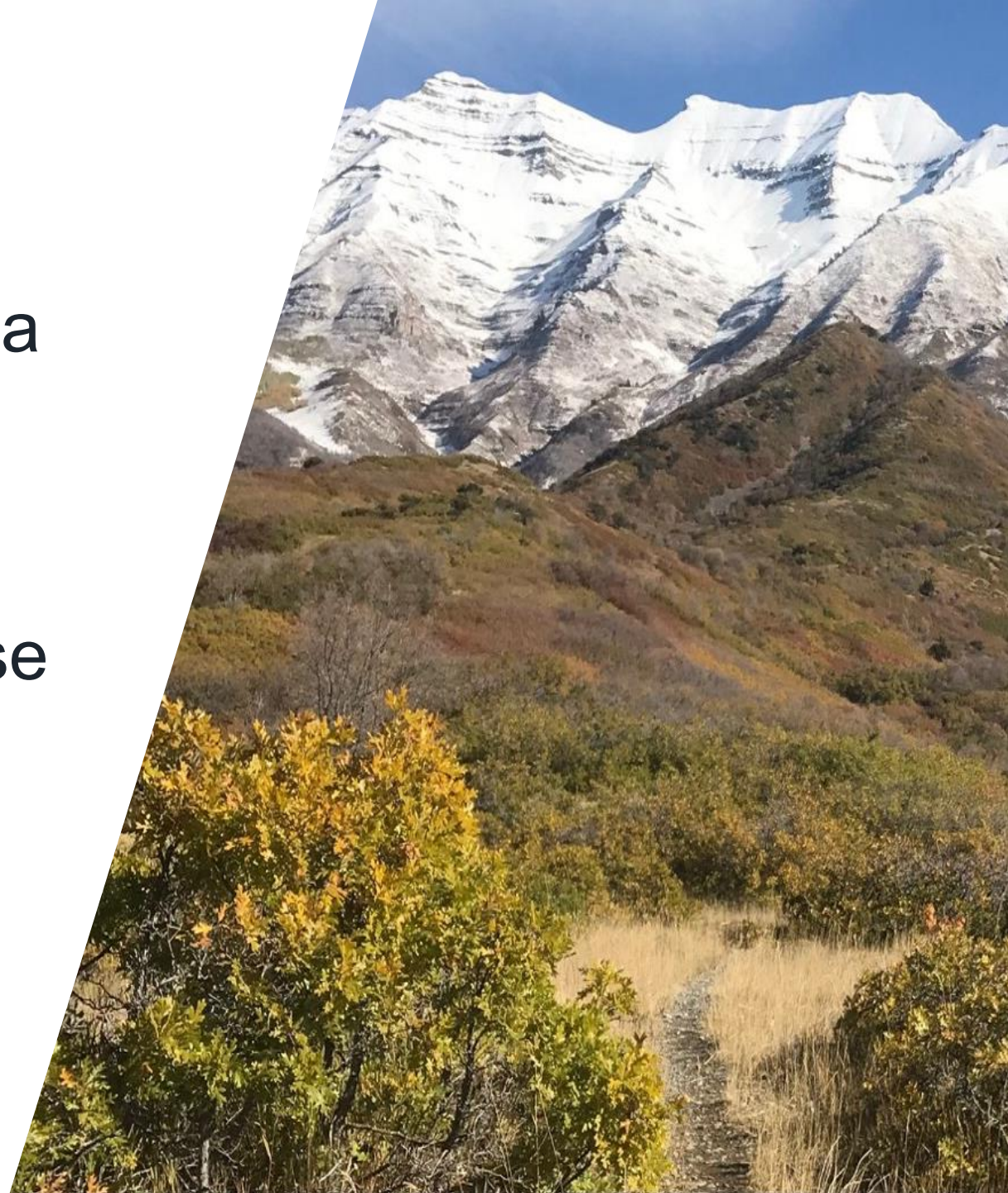
- Weber
- Davis
- Salt Lake
- Utah

This impacts a total of 30 WMAs



# LICENSE FEES

- A fishing or hunting license for a Utah resident costs \$40, and it is good for 365 days after purchase
- In addition, each hunting license provides \$80.49 in federal matching funds to DWR, and each fishing license provides \$16.19 in federal matching funds to DWR



# ESTIMATED REVENUE GENERATED

- DWR estimates that 300 new people may purchase a license due to this new requirement
- The additional revenue will go right back into WMA maintenance activities to keep the lands valuable for wildlife and useful to the public





THANK  
YOU



Utah Division of  
Wildlife Resources