



INTERIM STUDY ITEMS

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, & ENVIRONMENT | May 20, 2026

2026 Study Item List

Agricultural Burns

Examine inconsistencies among statute, rule, and permitting practices to clarify when agricultural burning is allowed and how clearing index thresholds apply.

Animal Depredation

Review predator control authorities, strengthening management of invasive pests such as feral swine, and depredation fees.

Aquaculture

Evaluate whether regulatory changes could better support the growth and operation of Utah's aquaculture industry.

Carbon Credits

Study the management, sale, and oversight of carbon credits generated on state and federal lands to assess risks, transparency, and protection of Utah's interests.

Emergency Preparedness

Study strategies and policies to strengthen emergency preparedness across the state.

Food Donations

Examine opportunities to better facilitate meat donations and surplus to food banks and schools, including improving plant processing access for donated livestock and game.

Native Plants

Study how the state can encourage access to and use of native plant species.

Rare Earth Elements

Study the management and development of rare earth elements, including research activities occurring within the state.

Resource Value Assessments

Assess the feasibility and implications of including mineral rights in property value assessments.

Waste and Recycling

Study feasible methods for the collection and recycling of antifreeze and waste tires.



Water

In coordination with the Legislative Water Development Commission, study:

- 40-year water demand planning and public system water loss
- Colorado River and Colorado River Authority issues
- Drinking water data and safety (electronic reporting, lead testing in childcare facilities)
- Drought response planning and strategy
- Groundwater protection, recharge, and river connectivity
- Hydropower expansion feasibility
- Long-term infrastructure funding and water use transparency
- Quantifying water needs and goals (Great Salt Lake and statewide)
- Retention/detention basin use
- Rule against perpetuities (water right subordination agreements)
- Statewide water conservation and entity coordination (agricultural efficiency, secondary meters, turf buyback, land use, interagency cooperation, funding, and canal piping depletion savings)
- Water supply augmentation and diversification (infrastructure, storage, recovery, and reuse)