



WATERLINES

Utah Rivers Council Unveils Two More Bills at Utah Legislature to Raise Great Salt Lake Levels

The Utah Rivers Council wrote two pieces of legislation to protect the waters of the Great Salt Lake and unveiled them in a widely attended press conference during the 2023 Utah Legislative Session. While the two bills did not pass during the session, they received overwhelming support from conservationists, environmental scientists and the public.

SCR 6: Utah Needs a Plan for the Great Salt Lake

Many Utah politicians love to host the Utah media on the shores of the Great Salt Lake to talk about how much they care about the American West's largest wetland ecosystem, yet there still is no plan to save the Great Salt Lake. Legislators refuse to define what 'saving' the Great Salt Lake means. What follows is that even the most minor progress can be celebrated as a success, even if those efforts are wholly inadequate. A range of peer reviewed science makes clear that Great Salt Lake water levels must be raised to at least 4,198 feet in elevation, the minimum healthy water level.

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Left: Satellite images from 2022 shows just how far the shoreline of the Lake has receded. The URC wrote a resolution during the 2023 Utah General Legislative session to create a goal of raising water levels in the Great Salt Lake to at least 4,198 feet (the Lake's minimum healthy level). Despite being widely supported, the resolution was killed in committee. Photograph: USGS



State Engineer Warns Colorado River Cuts Coming to Utah

The Utah State Engineer made history in February when she testified to the Utah Legislature that Colorado River water cuts are coming to Utah. This marks the first time a Utah water official has acknowledged the true magnitude of the Colorado River crisis. It likely came as a shock to Utah legislators who have long echoed the false claim that Utah has surplus Colorado River water.

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RainHarvest Returns in 2023 With 13 Municipalities

The Utah Rivers Council unveiled our popular rain barrel program in March with 13 municipal partners offering discounted rain barrels to their residents. With drought weighing heavily on Utahns over the last few years, more municipalities than ever signed up to incentivize their residents to collect rainwater at their homes, reducing demand on local water supplies and improving water quality.

The 13 municipal partners that joined RainHarvest this year included Millcreek City, Sandy City, Salt Lake County, Cottonwood Heights City, Murray City, Herriman City, Lehi City, City of Orem, Park City, Summit County, customers of Mountain Regional Water, North Ogden City and Weber County. Residents of these municipalities were able to purchase rain barrels for a greatly subsidized price of just \$55 at www.rainbarrelprogram.org/urc.

Nearly 8,000 barrels have been purchased through our RainHarvest program over the last eight years, meaning every time it rains enough to fill a 50-gallon barrel, nearly 400,000 gallons of water can be saved from municipal water supplies. Over time this means we have saved millions of gallons of water.

Capturing rainwater also improves water quality by preventing urban runoff from flowing over streets and gutters which deposits pollutants into streams and the Great Salt Lake. The environmentally-friendly program uses the Ivy Rain Barrel, made by Rain Water Solutions of 100% recycled plastic.

Rain barrels were also available for just \$83 for residents outside of these municipalities, a significant discount from the American-made barrel's \$139.99 retail price. Purchased rain barrels are being delivered to several locations for pick up in mid-May. Volunteers will be on site to teach participants about the importance of rainwater harvesting and other water conservation strategies.



An enthusiastic Utah Rivers Council volunteer displays the Ivy Rain Barrel made by Rain Water Solutions in North Carolina.

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BLM Proposes to Give Away Federal Lands & Desert Tortoise Habitat for Unnecessary Reservoir

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to give 1,000 acres of taxpayer-owned federal lands away that are valuable desert tortoise habitat for an unnecessary reservoir. The Washington County Water District (WCWD) wants the land to construct a new reservoir by initiating a land swap in which only 90 acres of land are given to the public in exchange for disposing of 1,000 acres of habitat on public lands.

The proposed Red Cliffs Warner Valley Land Exchange is in the scoping phase with a draft environmental document forthcoming later this year or next. Under the proposed swap, the BLM would give away 1,000+ acres of federal land in Warner Valley – where the WCWD hopes to build its new reservoir – in exchange for less than 90 acres of private land sandwiched between municipal development and the path of a forthcoming highway.



The Mojave desert tortoise is a threatened species found in several areas throughout Washington County. The proposed land exchange between the BLM and WCWD could advance a new reservoir that would destroy hundreds of acres of tortoise habitat.

The BLM favors the deal because the land it would receive in the swap is inside the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, a piece of protected land designed to safeguard habitat for the threatened Mojave desert tortoise. Yet, the BLM has thus far failed to evaluate whether 90 acres of land stuck between a highway and municipal development would provide any adequate habitat for the desert tortoise. The 10 to 1 ratio of land taken from the public makes it a sweetheart deal for the water agency.

The proposed construction of a new reservoir in Warner Valley raises many concerns that have yet to be addressed. The water district is eager to construct unnecessary water projects and has been on a propaganda campaign to scare Utahns into believing the region is running out of water. The water agency is virtually entirely unregulated and has been shoveling out such nonsensical claims to the public and the media about its water needs for more than a decade.

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Colorado River Cuts Coming to Utah

Continued from cover

More than two decades of climate change-induced megadrought and unsustainable water use have pushed reservoir water levels on the Colorado River and its tributaries to historic lows. Upper Basin states are on the brink of failing to provide minimum water deliveries to Lower Basin states, as established in the 1922 and 1948 Colorado River compacts. If that occurs, Lower Basin states could force Upper Basin states to “curtail,” or cut back on their Colorado River water use. Such a scenario is what the State Engineer was warning Utah legislators about.

The Utah Rivers Council raised the alarm about curtailment water cuts in 2021, when we released our *Future on Borrowed Time* report. The report demonstrates that Utah, Colorado and New Mexico are overusing their rights to the Colorado River and have not reduced their use in the face of a declining water supply. The Central Utah Water District General Manager downplayed the likelihood of curtailment in news stories and even promoted the Lake Powell Pipeline fiasco, which threatens water users of the Central Utah Project.



The Colorado River just upstream of the start of Grand Canyon National Park. Decades of climate change impacts and overuse have greatly depleted water flows in the Colorado River. Utah’s State Engineer told legislators this past session that Utah’s water users may be forced to curtail their water use as a result. Photo by herdphoto on Wikimedia Commons.

Refusing to admit there is no water for the Lake Powell Pipeline threatens existing Utah water users in cities and on farms who use Colorado River water and who may be forced to take water cuts when curtailment comes. Many Utah legislators and the governor are eager to advance the lobbyists’ Pipeline fantasy, since they are taking their marching orders from these water district lobbyists. The Lake Powell Pipeline would exacerbate Utah’s Colorado River overuse, and its advancement depends on politicians and lobbyists playing down the realities of climate change.

In February, Senator Mike Mckell presented a bill in which he referenced the idea that Utah has a surplus of Colorado River water. Sitting next to him and whispering in his ear were the lobbyists from the Central Utah Water District and the Jordan Valley Water District. These water agencies are threatening your water supply by advancing this climate change denial. The lobbyists who want your tax money are leading Utahns towards the curtailment cliff. If left unchecked, these well-funded players could end up sticking the burden of curtailment on taxpayers, cities, and farmers.

Federal Plan for Colorado River Fails to Solve the Biggest Problem in the Basin: Glen Canyon Dam’s Antique Plumbing

In April, the Bureau of Reclamation released a supplemental environmental impact statement that laid out a plan to force an additional ~1 million acre-feet of water cuts to California, Arizona, and Nevada in 2024 to keep water levels in Lake Powell from falling to levels which threaten downstream water delivery to 30 million people. Unfortunately, the Bureau’s plan completely misses the target.

The need for water cuts comes from the grave engineering flaws inside Glen Canyon Dam, which will prevent downstream water delivery past the dam in coming years. The Utah Rivers Council and a coalition of partners released a 2022 report documenting these engineering flaws and urging the Bureau to immediately act to retrofit a permanent construction solution to the plumbing problem inside the dam. The Bureau has failed to take substantive action on solving this looming water-delivery crisis.

The public can comment on the Bureau’s new proposal until May 30th by emailing crinterimops@usbr.gov. We encourage you to tell the Bureau it is time to retrofit bypass tubes around the base of Glen Canyon Dam because its antique plumbing is wholly inadequate to weather our climate change future.

Canary in the Coal Mine: Lake Powell Reaches Historic Low

In February, water levels in Lake Powell reached a new historic low of 3,522 feet in elevation, a level that hasn’t been seen since the reservoir began filling in the early 1960’s. The reservoir’s desperately low water levels are the result of a two-decades long, climate-change-induced megadrought that most scientists agree will continue for decades to come. Although a big runoff year is expected on the Colorado River, the water levels of Lake Powell and Lake Mead – America’s two largest reservoirs – will not even come close to recovering this year.

The future of Lake Powell itself threatens to imperil 40 million Americans as a function of inaction by the federal government and the seven states. Lake Powell reservoir water levels came within a few dozen feet of dropping below the water level needed to generate hydropower. But the most serious problem is not about hydropower.

Once water levels drop below the hydropower turbines, another set of water tubes must be used to deliver water through the Grand Canyon to the Lower Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada. Once that happens, it’s only a matter of time before not enough water is being released through the dam to meet the water delivery obligations of the 1922 Colorado River Compact. Violating this compact has serious ramifications, not just for the 30 million residents downstream of Glen Canyon Dam, but for residents of the Upper Basin states who could be forced to cut their water use via a process known as curtailment.



Boaters enjoying the remarkable sights of the Grand Canyon. Antique plumbing inside Glen Canyon Dam and inaction by the Bureau of Reclamation threatens to dramatically reduce water flows in the Grand Canyon and water deliveries to the millions of residents that live downstream.

Utah Rivers Council Unveils Great Salt Lake Legislation

Continued from cover

Utah Rivers Council staff wrote a resolution to establish 4,198 feet above sea level as the official goal for the State of Utah. Although the resolution is non-binding, creating an official goal for the state of Utah is vital to raising water levels of the Great Salt Lake, as it allows specific plans to be devised to deliver specific amounts of water to the Lake over time.

One can think about it like a first-time homeowner wanting to buy a house. Having enough money for a down payment requires devising a savings goal and enough income over many years to make loan payments. Saving the Great Salt Lake requires that Utahns devise a long-term plan to deliver enough water to the Lake to maintain the ecosystem. In the fall of 2022, the Great Salt Lake needed more than 6 million acre-feet of water to reach this water level. That's equivalent to all the water used by every city resident and every farmer in the Great Salt Lake watershed for 3 or 4 years in a row.



Water levels in the Great Salt Lake have plummeted, in large part because the Utah Legislature continuously favors water development interests over environmental ones. The Legislature's refusal to even discuss HB 286—a bill that would have redirected tax dollars away from Bear River Development and towards Great Salt Lake restoration efforts—shows they are failing to take the Great Salt Lake crisis seriously.

Clearly, we can't deliver all this water the Great Salt Lake needs in a single year. We are having a huge water runoff this spring because of the big winter snowpack, but our changing climate is forcing us to change our water wasting habits in Utah to save the Great Salt Lake. That's why a real plan – one that sets a target elevation and works to acquire water for it – is critical to the future of the Great Salt Lake.

Yet in the face of this common-sense solution, prominent politicians have given Utahns lip service, propaganda and even outright hostility to raising Lake levels. When asked about this SCR 6 in his monthly press conference, Governor Cox called the effort to set a minimum lake elevation goal “a dumb thing.”

In 2022, the Speaker of the House heralded the supposed dedication of 30,000 acre-feet of water to the Great Salt Lake from the Weber Basin Water District and the Jordan Valley Water District. That amount of water is less than one-half of one percent of the water needed to raise the Great Salt Lake to the minimum healthy water level of 4,198.

Utah Rivers Council Unveils Great Salt Lake Legislation

HB 286: A Pause on Funding \$3 Billion Bear River Development to Raise Great Salt Lake Water Levels

The Utah Rivers Council also wrote legislation to redirect sales tax funding for proposed Bear River Development. HB 286 would redirect the \$60 million in annual sales tax money being collected for proposed Bear River Development and the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline to instead use these funds to raise water levels at the Great Salt Lake.



An American Avocet prowls the shallow waters of the Great Salt Lake. The Lake ecosystem is suffering due to low water levels, turning once bountiful feeding grounds into dusty playas.

Many Utahns are unaware that they are helping to finance these massive water projects every time they buy a stick of gum or purchase an automobile. These sales tax earmarks were put in place by a bill written in 2015 by the lobbyists at the Jordan Valley Water District, the Central Utah Water District, the Weber Basin Water District and the Washington County Water District. These lobbyists' bill was sponsored by the current Senate President, Sen. Stuart Adams.

Although this annual funding stream would only have been paused for five years under HB 286, some \$300 million would have been set aside to raise Great Salt Lake water levels over this time. Yet opposition from republicans prevented this legislation from even going to committee for debate.

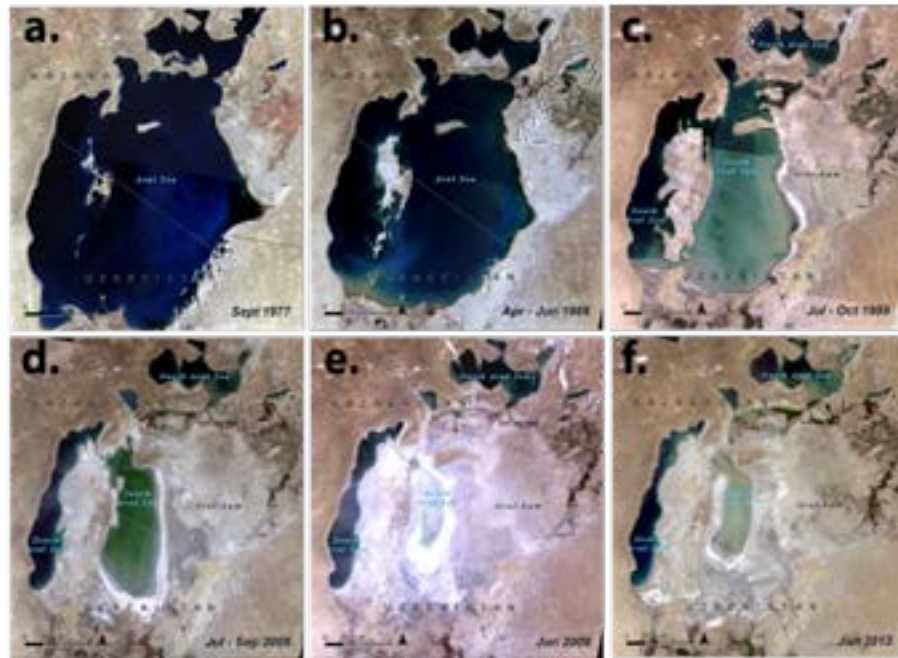
Proposed Bear River Development is a \$3+ billion diversion of the largest water source to the Great Salt Lake, the Bear River, which would lower the Great Salt Lake two to four feet in elevation or more. Everyone that cares about the Great Salt Lake, including vast numbers of Utahns, are worried about this destructive proposed water project and its impact on the Lake.

Yet HB 286 did not even get out of the House Rules Committee to allow Utah legislators to have a discussion about the future of this funding. Rep. Casey Snider, who often claims to oppose Bear River Development, is the Rules Committee Chairman who refused to let the bill out of committee. When asked about the bill, Rep. Snider complained that the Utah Rivers Council held a press conference to talk about the bill as the reason for him refusing to let the matter be discussed in committee.

Bear River Development is entirely unnecessary for Wasatch Front cities, yet lobbyists from both construction companies and several water districts are eager to divert the waters of the Great Salt Lake. Although we are disappointed these important Great Salt Lake saving measures were defeated, the Utah Rivers Council isn't giving up! Help us advance these measures in future legislative sessions by contacting your elected officials and asking them if they will stand with the Great Salt Lake by supporting these two bills.

Utah Legislature Plans to Fail at Great Salt Lake

The Utah Legislature passed a series of destructive bills that will further reduce water flows to the Great Salt Lake, though many legislators don't understand what they voted for during the session. Although several meaningful water bills were introduced to conserve water or raise Lake levels, those bills were shot down by the statehouse, in favor of legislation that will lower Great Salt Lake levels. These harmful bills are masquerading as water conservation efforts, with the Speaker of the House acting as chief salesman of such propaganda to scare off critics.



Time-lapse photos of the Aral Sea from 1977-2013 showing the dikes constructed to push the remaining water to a more concentrated area, in a planned shrinking of the lake. Utah is racing towards the same future on the Great Salt Lake after the 2023 Legislative Session and with the passage of several bills.

HB 513: Planned Failure at the Great Salt Lake

Representative Casey Snider's HB 513, is one of the worst bills passed by the Utah Legislature because it gives the state near limitless power to berm, dike, and split up the shrinking Great Salt Lake into smaller volumes. HB 513 directs the Division of Forestry, Fire, and Sovereign Lands to build dikes and berms in the Great Salt Lake through a free-for-all of construction activities. The bill provides no limitations or guidelines on how, when or where the dikes will be built. Although the measure is designed to maintain salinity levels, Utah leaders have turned their back on delivering the minimum amounts of water to the Lake and are instead planning on shrinking the Lake with this new law.

HB513 is a bold-faced admission that the Utah Legislature has both failed to plan and is now planning to fail in raising Great Salt Lake water levels. The bill sets the stage for a doomsday future in which the Lake as we knew it is replaced by a much smaller lake and a vast playa of dry lakebed, through a series of dikes after its waters are diverted to the lawns of the Wasatch Front.

Utah Legislature Plans to Fail at the Great Salt Lake

SB 277: Pork for Bear River Development

Another bad bill is SB 277, by Senator Scott Sandall. This bill will benefit a small handful of people with taxpayer dollars, packaged up and disguised as water conservation. The new law appropriates \$200 million to transfer water from farms into cities. Although Utahns have been told the Agricultural Water Optimization program will deliver water to the Great Salt Lake, most of this water is anticipated to be transferred to other farms or to urban uses, including proposed Bear River Development. The bill specifies that any water transferred can be sold or used however the owner of the water right (typically the farmer or canal company) sees fit. This means taxpayers will be subsidizing the transfer of water to other farms or to destructive Bear River Development instead of flowing to the Great Salt Lake.

HB 491: Cloaking Shadowy Water Rights Transfers for Bear River Development

HB 491 creates a new Great Salt Lake Authority which has the ability to reduce water flows that would have otherwise gone to the Great Salt Lake, while shielding this activity from the public. The new water authority could advance a range of new uses of Great Salt Lake water which have nothing to do with raising water levels or restoring the Lake. This new water agency is likely to negotiate water rights for proposed Bear River Development or for new mineral development, without the public knowing these negotiations are happening.

This camouflage from the public's watch will happen because the activities of this new Great Salt Lake Commissioner are exempt from the Government Records and Access Management Act (GRAMA). GRAMA is the Utah law granting the public the right to know what its government is doing. Governor Cox signed into law HB 491, which will now conceal what water lobbyists are working to accomplish using Great Salt Lake water.

Although presented as the solution to provide water to the Lake, this shadowy new water agency will hide from the public what is really happening as destructive water projects like Bear River Development move forward in the shadows by acquiring water rights from farmers, as funded by SB 277.

The Spiral Jetty at the Great Salt Lake was once submerged under water but is now high and dry. Despite the dire state of the Great Salt Lake, Utah leaders continue to pass harmful legislation, like HB 491, that allows the state to redirect water away from the Great Salt Lake without the public knowing.



SB 119: Utah Legislature Passes Gag Order on Water Waste in Utah

One of the most disingenuous water bills passed during the 2023 Legislative session was SB 119, which demonstrates the special interest power of the Jordan Valley Water District and their lobbyists. The special interest that is proposing \$6-8 billion in unnecessary government spending has gotten tired of media outlets across the country citing Utah’s nation-leading municipal water use.



The Great Salt Lake at sunrise. As bills like SB 119 — which discourages water conservation measures by hiding Utah’s astronomical water use — are implemented, the Lake’s water level will continue to plummet in the long term.

But instead of addressing the root causes of Utah’s water waste, the spending advocates at Utah’s largest water districts wrote a bill to make it illegal to fully estimate how Utahns are wasting water. SB119 simultaneously encourages water waste and decreases transparency about how much water Utahns use each year. SB119 ensures secondary water suppliers an easy way to hide their water waste in their service areas because the bill allows state water agencies to ignore immense quantities of secondary water by omitting these unmetered connections from their total water use calculations. Utah has the country’s largest secondary water supply system which is used to provide water for lawns.

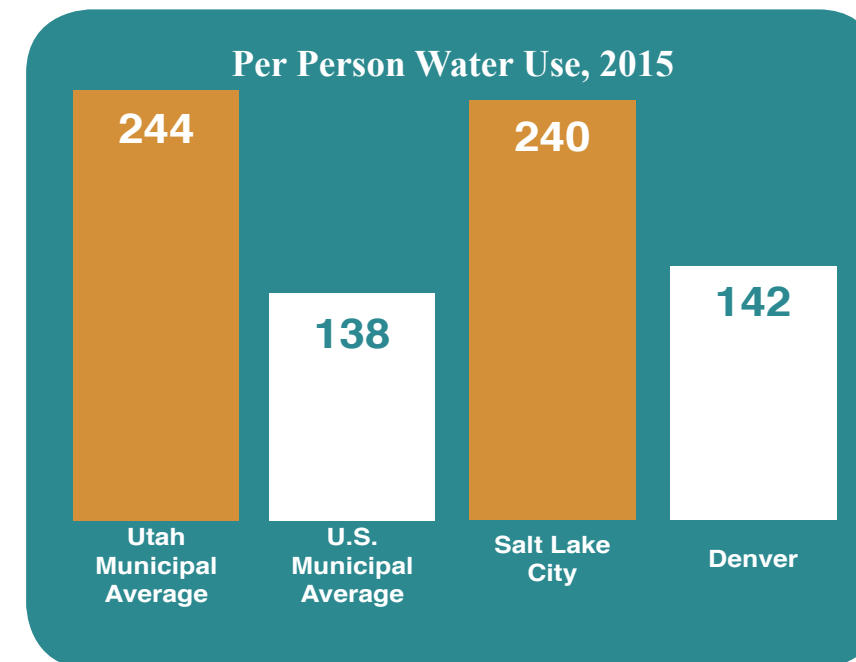
To make matters worse, SB119 explicitly discounts the need for a standardized method of water use calculation, allowing every supplier calculating their service area’s usage to do so differently. This allows the government water agencies collecting our property taxes to hide water waste more easily from the public, comparing apples to oranges for the sake of obscuring the state’s encouragement of wasteful water use. As a crowning blow to transparency, SB119 prohibits any state agency from calculating or publishing a statewide water use figure if that figure disagrees with the number published by the official proponent of both \$3 billion Bear River Development and the \$3 billion Lake Powell Pipeline. That agency is the Utah Division of Water Resources. The only rationale for this prohibition is that this dam-building agency doesn’t want the public – or any entity outside Utah that might criticize the state’s astronomical water use—to easily understand how wasteful Utah’s water use figures truly are.

Utah’s Astronomical Water Use Glossed Over in 2023 Legislative Session

Utah is the country’s most wasteful urban water user, using more municipal water per person than any state in the U.S. — a fact that has landed the state in an unfavorable national spotlight on multiple occasions. The ongoing reality of Utah’s exorbitant water use has two significant contributing factors.

Utah has America’s cheapest water rates, due to the high property tax collections that subsidize our water. The property taxes that make Utah’s water so cheap are collected on housing, businesses and automobiles among other goods and services, and are used to lower the price of municipal water for large water users.

Utah also has the country’s largest secondary water system, the users of which pay a tiny fraction of the water rates that other Utahns and Americans do. Secondary water users are under no legal obligation to meter their use for seven more years, meaning that much secondary water use currently goes uncounted for. Even once metering is legally mandated, these secondary water users will still have America’s cheapest municipal water rates.



Utah is the highest per person municipal water user in the nation. Data comes from the Utah Division of Water Resources, USGS, Denver and Salt Lake City. Utah has America’s cheapest municipal water rates and the country’s largest secondary water system, a highly wasteful use of water.

Despite Utah’s continuing water waste, the 2023 legislative session provided little evidence that legislators intend to take meaningful action on water conservation. Instead of taking proactive steps in response to persistent drought, state legislators hid behind the year’s above-average snowpack, turning a blind eye to the severity of Utah’s irresponsible water use and holding up legislation that would incentivize conservation and provide transparency on how Utah uses its water.

HB469: Free-For-All on Utah Cougar Hunting

Utah hunters now enjoy permission to hunt a keystone Utah predator year-round with unlimited hunting opportunities. HB 469, sponsored by Rep. Casey Snider and Sen. Scott Sandall, allows any hunter 12 years of age and older to hunt cougars all year long. Added on the 43rd day of the 45-day legislative session, the amendment to adjust the permitting for cougar hunting was not in the first draft of the bill and was injected at the last second with no notice or opportunity for the public to comment.

Utah legislators continue to hold anthropocentric ideas that predators are bad and should be removed from the planet to make life easier for humans. As a keystone species, cougars help manage deer and elk populations from becoming larger than their habitat areas can support. In areas where cougars have been eliminated or driven out, researchers have found landscapes overrun by herbivores that are overgrazing the land.



Utah is now an outlier amongst Western states regarding cougar hunting and management. Signed into law by Governor Cox, Utah's mountain ecosystems are now made less healthy by the ability of hunters to permanently alter the population of one of the state's keystone species.

Left: Utah cougars, like this mother and cub, are now in the crosshairs of hunters' scopes year-round thanks to HB 469's passing into law. Photo: Utah Humane Society

Fossil Fuel Legislators Advance HB 301 at the Expense of Electric Vehicles

HB 301 showcases Utah lawmakers' climate-change denialism by taking aim at electric vehicle owners. Utah EV owners already pay higher registration fees that will continue to climb to \$240 by 2032, but HB 301 further discourages electric vehicle adoption by imposing a 12.5% tax increase on electricity at vehicle charging stations.

Sponsored by Rep. Schultz and signed by Governor Cox, HB 301 lowers the gas tax on fossil fuel consuming vehicles by two cents per gallon but makes electric vehicle usage more expensive and disincentivizes individuals from reducing their carbon footprint by utilizing more climate-friendly transportation options.

Utah residents have lower life expectancy by two years compared to neighboring states due to the combination of topography, weather events, and pollution that creates inversions that trap noxious compounds in valleys, damaging human health. Rather than assist and address this crisis, Utah lawmakers have shown they would rather make it more difficult to own an electric vehicle to shore up fossil fuel interests in the state.

Bill to Override Local Control on Mining Doesn't Pass

Despite strong objections raised by Salt Lake County officials and elected officials from nearby cities, Rep. Keven Stratton put forth a bill which would have bypassed all municipal regulations regarding mine operations in Utah. HB 527 would allow somebody who holds a mining claim underneath the Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Temple in downtown Salt Lake City to begin mining operations, even if local officials denied the original mining permit. This bill did not pass the regular legislative session, but we are concerned it may return in the future.

HB 527 was written to override the opposition to a proposed limestone quarry at the mouth of Parleys Canyon in the Salt Lake Valley. The proposed quarry would mine up to 2 million tons of limestone a year on a 634-acre parcel owned near Mount Aire Canyon off I-80 and has been vehemently opposed by local officials. This massive pit would cause significant noise and air pollution, adding fuel to the fire that is the Wasatch Front's air quality crisis.

Local leaders said that HB 527 would encroach upon counties' abilities to safeguard the health and safety of Utahns by allowing toxic land uses in places they don't belong. This bill usurps local control and runs counter to arguments heard often in the state legislature that we should allow local control.



Left: Outlined in yellow, the proposed limestone quarry being pushed forth by special interests would exacerbate noise and air quality issues with its proximity to urban areas of the Salt Lake Valley. Photo: Save Parleys Canyon

Right: Utah's air pollution problem on full display with this particularly nasty inversion in the Salt Lake Valley, as seen from Grandeur Peak. Photo: Wikipedia



URC Hosts Five Citizen Lobbying Workshops at Utah Legislature

The Utah Rivers Council was joined this legislative session by scores of people who turned out to attend one of our five Citizen Lobby workshops that we hosted during the legislative session.

These workshops empowered Utahns to engage in the political process by speaking directly to legislators about proposed legislation. People from all walks of life joined Utah Rivers Council staff who lobbied during the 45 day legislative session in person, testifying to a multitude of bills in committee meetings and speaking directly to legislators time and time again.

It was a pleasure to be joined by fellow constituents at the statehouse and we are grateful to all the wonderful folks who turned out and helped us lobby to save the Great Salt Lake. Our staff was inspired to see fellow Utahns join us in the fight to try and dedicate water for the Lake. Thank You!

Right: Citizen lobbyists attend the Utah Rivers Council's lobby workshop, as they prepare to speak directly to legislators. Citizen voices are a crucial and necessary part of our democratic process.



Utah Rivers Council Details Future of the Great Salt Lake In New Video



The Utah Rivers Council made a short video which takes a step into the future and explores how the decisions of today can change the realities of tomorrow. The video has been seen more than 6,000 times since its release.

Watch the video at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ESUn4caXco>

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