

UTAH LAKE STUDY



Utah Division of
Forestry, Fire and
State Lands

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The 2024 Utah Legislature passed Senate Bill 270, "Utah Lake and Great Salt Lake Study Amendments," which tasks the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) with conducting a study to determine how to enhance Utah Lake. The bill specifies enhancing the following benefits associated with Utah Lake in a manner consistent with the division's management authority over sovereign lands under Section 65A-10-1:

- 1 Improving the clarity and quality of the water
- 2 Conserving water resources in and around the lake
- 3 Removing invasive plant and animal species (including phragmites and carp)
- 4 Restoring and improving the shallow waters (littoral zone) and other plant communities
- 5 Restoring and conserving native fish and other aquatic species (including Bonneville cutthroat trout and June Sucker)
- 6 Increasing the suitability of Utah Lake and its surrounding areas for shorebirds, waterfowl, and other avian species
- 7 Maximizing, enhancing, and ensuring recreational access and opportunities
- 8 Improving the use of UL for residents and visitors
- 9 Substantially accommodating an existing use on land in or around Utah Lake
- 10 Providing any other benefits identified by FFS

The Utah Lake Study will include: a review of existing information; public and stakeholder outreach, engagement, and coordination (including with the State Engineer); and the development of an implementation plan. The study team will be coordinating with other planning efforts and agencies throughout the study process.

A **Planning Team** of resource managers and scientists with expertise in the various benefits defined by the bill will serve as technical working group for the study.

A **Steering Committee** of state agency leaders will provide executive input on the processes and outcomes of the study to ensure that strategies are legally sound and scientifically defensible.

Schedule

The study will be completed and presented to Utah Legislators during the November 2025 interim legislative session.

Planning Team and Steering Committee Meetings

