

Utah Growing Water Smart

Utah Land Use Institute
October 25, 2022



BABBITT CENTER
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the *Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*



**WESTERN
RESOURCE
ADVOCATES**



CWEL
Center for Water-Efficient Landscaping

- 
- An aerial photograph of a city, likely Salt Lake City, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings, green spaces, and a large parking lot. In the background, there are rugged, brown mountains under a clear sky. The image is used as a background for a list of project steps.
1. Introducing the Growing Water Smart Project Team
 2. Integrating Water and Land Use Planning
 3. UT Growing Water Smart
 4. First Workshop, Fall 2022
 5. Next Workshop, Spring 2023
 6. Next steps

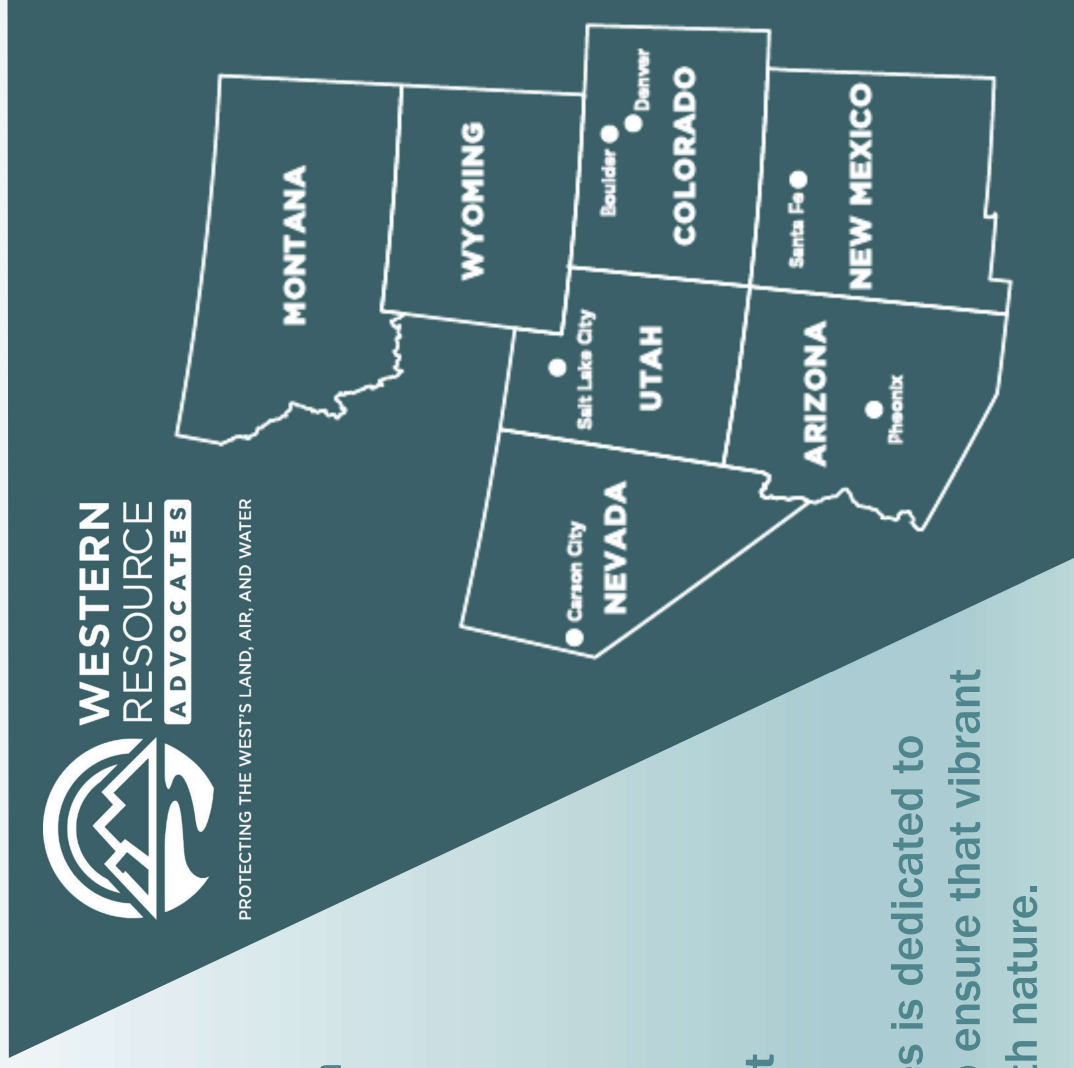
WHO IS WRA?

Western Resource Advocates

- We are a conservation organization with more than 30 years experience in the Intermountain West
- We use law, science, and economics to craft innovative solutions to the most pressing environmental challenges
- We work to conserve western lands, advance clean energy, ensure healthy rivers, and protect air quality throughout the region

Our Mission: Western Resource Advocates is dedicated to protecting the West's land, air, and water to ensure that vibrant communities exist in balance with nature.

www.westernresources.org



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4 Focus Areas:

- Research
- Technology Innovation
- Partnerships
- Education & Training



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The mission of the Center for Water Efficient Landscaping is “to sustain the quality of life enjoyed from landscaping while conserving water.”



Research



Education

Outreach



Utah Division of Water Resources

THE INTEGRATION OF WATER AND LAND PLANNING

Candice Hasenyager | Director
Division of Water Resources

Rachel Shilton | River Basin Planning
Division of Water Resources

Laura Vernon | Great Salt Lake Coordinator
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

Marcelle Shoop | Director, Saline Lakes Program
National Audubon Society

Why care about water and land use integration?


← Tweet

City of Las Vegas
@CityOfLasVegas

Low water levels at Lake Mead prompted the federal government to issue a water shortage declaration on the Colorado River, the source of most of our drinking water. 💧

Southern Nevada will have to take less water from Lake Mead beginning Jan. 2022.

👉 youtube.com/watch?v=05_2db...



4:44 PM · Aug 16, 2021 · Twitter Web App

📑 CNN politics The Biden Presidency Facts First 2022 Midterms

Biden administration outlines plan to pay for Colorado River water cuts as crisis looms

By Ella Nilsen, CNN
Published 2:23 PM EDT, Wed October 12, 2022



Lake Mead on the Colorado River — the nation's largest reservoir — is rapidly losing water amid a years-long drought and overseas. Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

(CNN) — As concerns grow over the future of the drought-plagued Colorado River system, the Biden administration has announced how it intends to pay farmers, cities and Native American tribes in the Southwest for significant, voluntary water cuts.

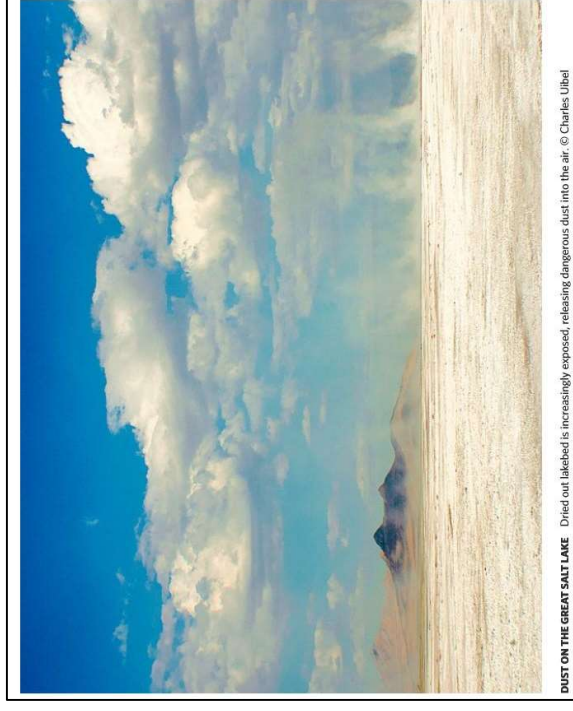
Why care about water and land use integration?

GREAT SALT LAKE ELEVATION



RECORD HIGH	AVERAGE	NEW RECORD LOW	CURRENT
4211.65 FEET	4202.2 FEET	4191.3 FEET	

Approximately 4,188.5 on October 24, 2022



DUST ON THE GREAT SALT LAKE Dried out lakebed is increasingly exposed, releasing dangerous dust into the air. © Charles Ulbrich

Is it too late to save the diminishing Great Salt Lake?

The lake is shrinking; its problems are growing
By Amy Jo O'Donoghue | March 6, 2022 10 p.m. MST

Utah's Great Salt Lake shrinks to unsustainable levels amid a decades-long megadrought

Oct. 18, 2022, 6:48 PM MST

EXPANDED TURF BUYBACK PROGRAM

Outdoor water use makes up 60% of our municipal and industrial use.



Expanded turf removal programs show we are serious about water conservation.

STATEWIDE INSTALLATION OF SECONDARY WATER METERS

1/3 of Utah uses secondary or untreated water. Systems with meters have saved between 20% and 30%.



Very few of these connections are metered. You can't manage what you don't measure.

INTEGRATED LAND USE AND WATER PLANNING

Land and water use planning are currently done separately. Adopting water efficiency standards is proactive and more cost effective than future turf replacement.



WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

AGRICULTURAL OPTIMIZATION

Agriculture accounts for approximately 75% of Utah's water use.

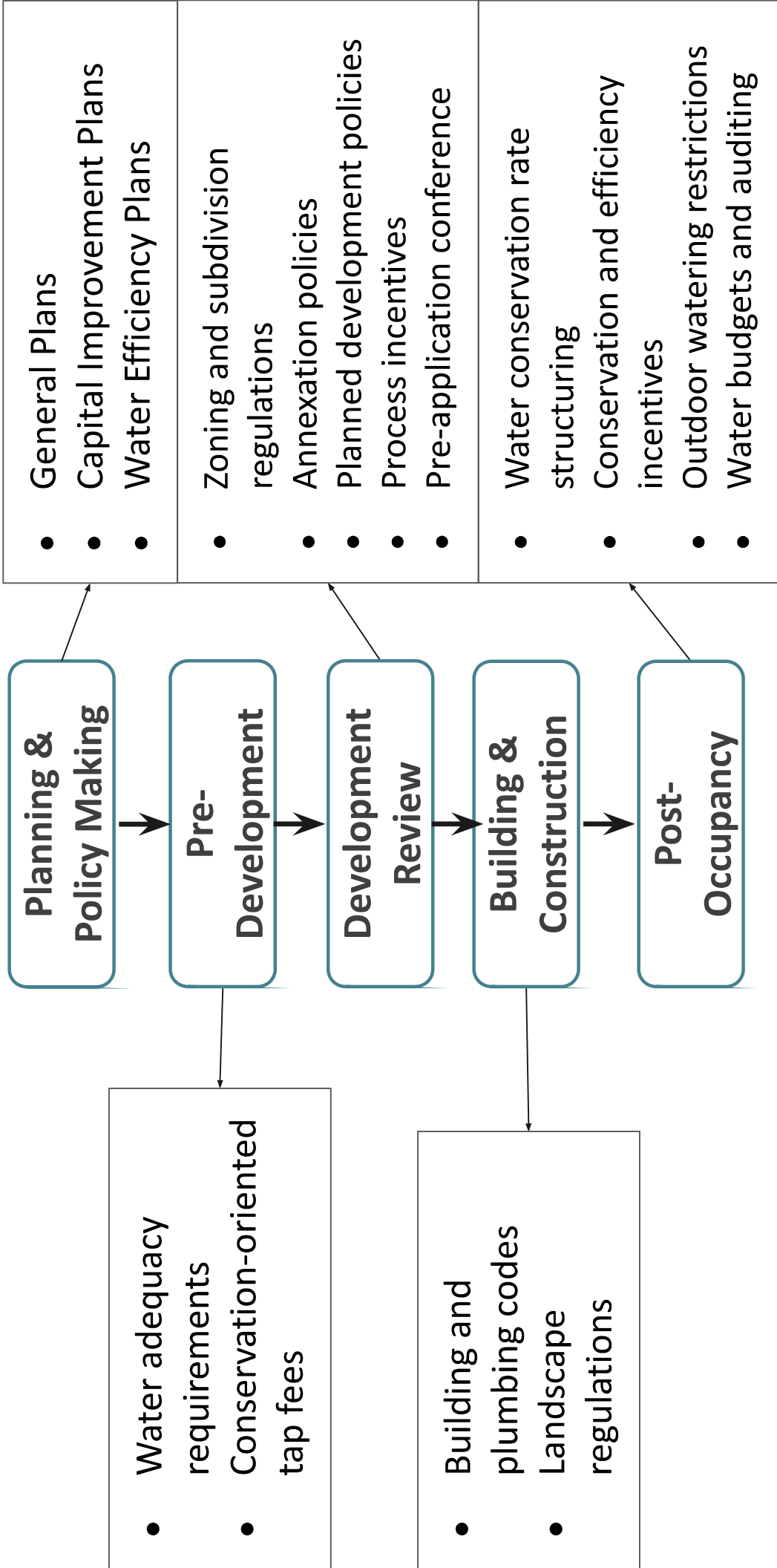
Investment in agricultural optimization will create supply flexibility, benefits for farmers and improve water quantity and quality.



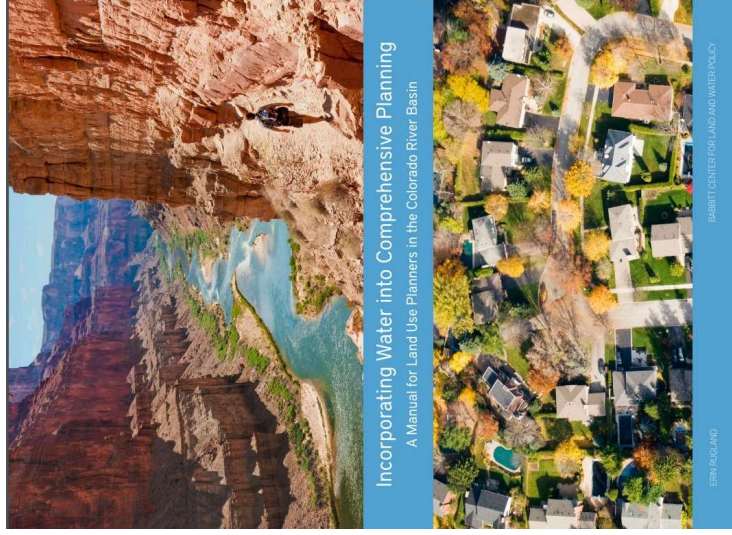
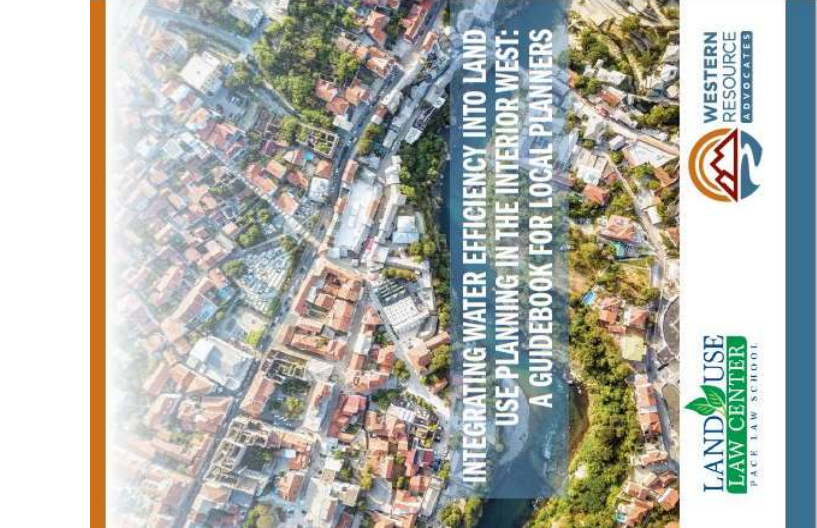
DROUGHT.UTAH.GOV TODAY

Why integrate water and land use planning?

- Historically siloed, leading to inefficiencies throughout the development process
- Can significantly reduce the water demands of new and re-development, bolstering water security
- Empowers communities to improve water efficiency within their own context, including aesthetics, culture, and values (i.e., every community is different)
- Increases resiliency to ongoing and future droughts
- Helps to align water supply and demands, even with population growth and declining supplies



Examples of land-water integration resources:

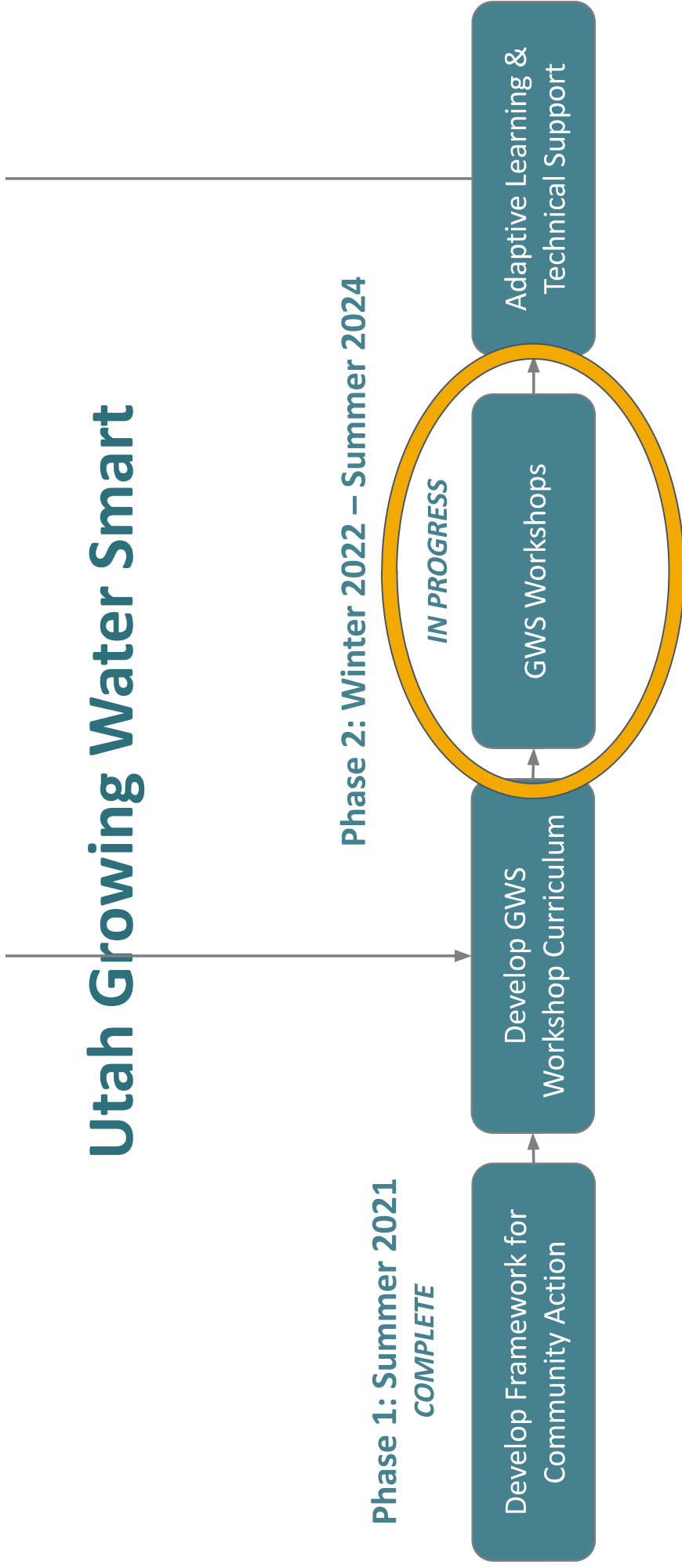




Growing Water Smart in Utah

growingwatersmartutah.org

Utah Growing Water Smart



UT Growing Water Smart Workshop



What is the
Growing Water
Smart Workshop?

UT Growing Water Smart Workshop

Who should attend?

Community teams (7-10 senior staff members and decision makers):

- Land use planners
- Water managers/public works
- Water providers
- Water conservancy districts
- Economic development
- Sustainability/resiliency
- City management
- Elected officials
- Community organizers
- Others?



UT Growing Water Smart Workshop

What is the format?



Day 1: Setting a Workshop Intention and Rapport Building

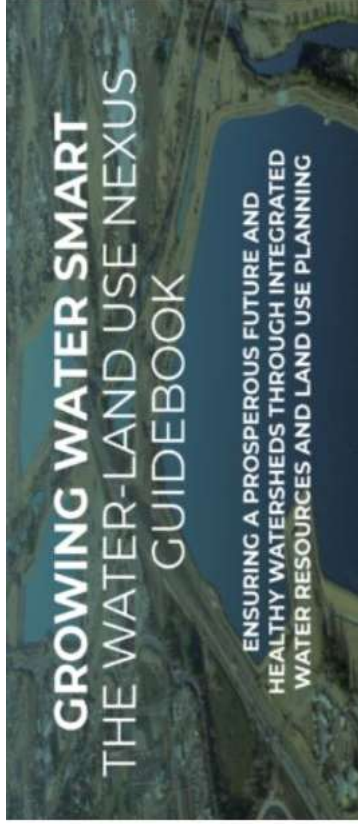


Day 2: Peer to Peer Roundtables & Team Breakouts



Day 3: Finalizing the Action Planning & Messaging

UT Growing Water Smart Workshop



What materials are provided to participants?

- UT GWS Guidebook
- Community Self-assessment
- Shared folder of all workshop materials

<https://water.utah.gov/integrated-water-land-planning/>

INTEGRATING WATER AND LAND USE PLANNING: COMMUNITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

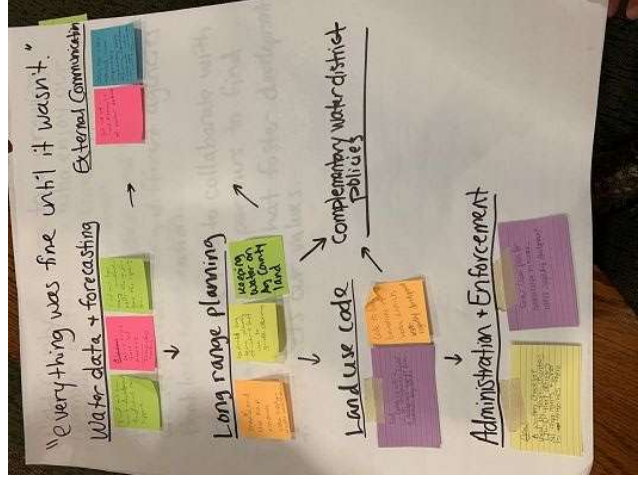
Instructions

The first step in becoming water smart is understanding your current conditions. This self-assessment is designed to guide your community through a data gathering process that will help inform your community's integrated water and land use planning efforts/actions.

The capacity of your community and history of planning will influence the thoroughness of the data available. Please collect as much existing data as possible on current conditions. Responses to this self-assessment do not need to be comprehensive status reports. Keep responses high-level and brief enough to guide discussions and provide a link, document, or page citation so additional information is easily accessible, when it is appropriate.

UT Growing Water Smart Workshop

What can participants expect to get out of the workshop?

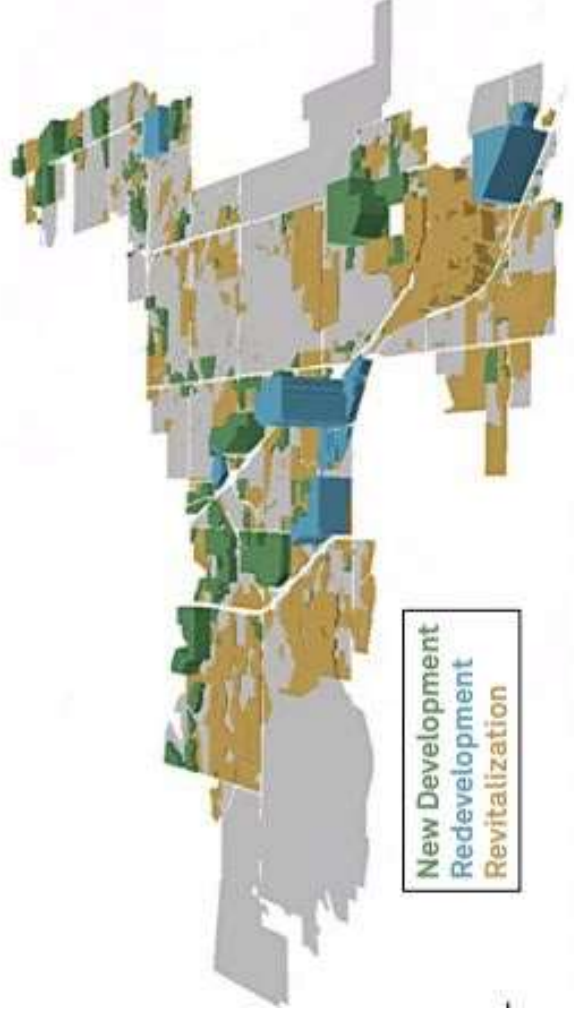


- **Insight** into current water and land use planning and programs
- Identification of **strategies and tools** to integrate water and land use planning at the local level
- Development of clear and concise language to **communicate goals and actions**
- Framework for continued **collaboration**
- Detailed **action plan** for implementing new water and land use plans/programs
- **Peer-to-peer network** with current and future GWS participants

UT Growing Water Smart Workshop

What about after the workshop?

- Workshop participants are eligible to receive **technical assistance grants and support** to help with implementation of the action plan
- Technical assistance can include:
 - Updating landscape regulations
 - Incorporation of water efficiency into General Plan update
 - Adoption of water efficiency standards
 - Land use code/ordinance redlines and updates



First UT Growing Water Smart Workshop

Dates: November 15, 16, and 17

Location: Wheeler Historic Farm

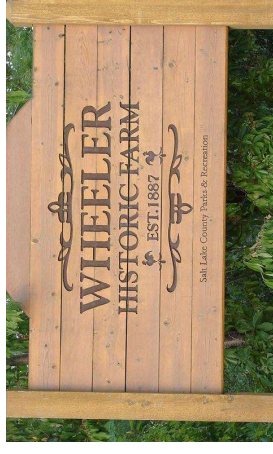
Eligibility: Towns, Municipalities, and Counties in Utah (including regional teams)

Costs: No cost to selected teams.
Participants cover their own travel.
Some meals and lodging provided.

What are the details?



© Crystal Nantz/Google





UTAH GROWING WATER SMART WORKSHOP APPLICATION

****** Applications due early 2023******

Five questions:

1. Community water awareness?
2. Current planning and policy efforts?
3. Community readiness for integrating water and land use planning?
4. Desired outcomes?
5. Team composition?

Applications will be available @
growingwatersmartutah.org



UTAH GROWING WATER SMART WORKSHOP APPLICATION

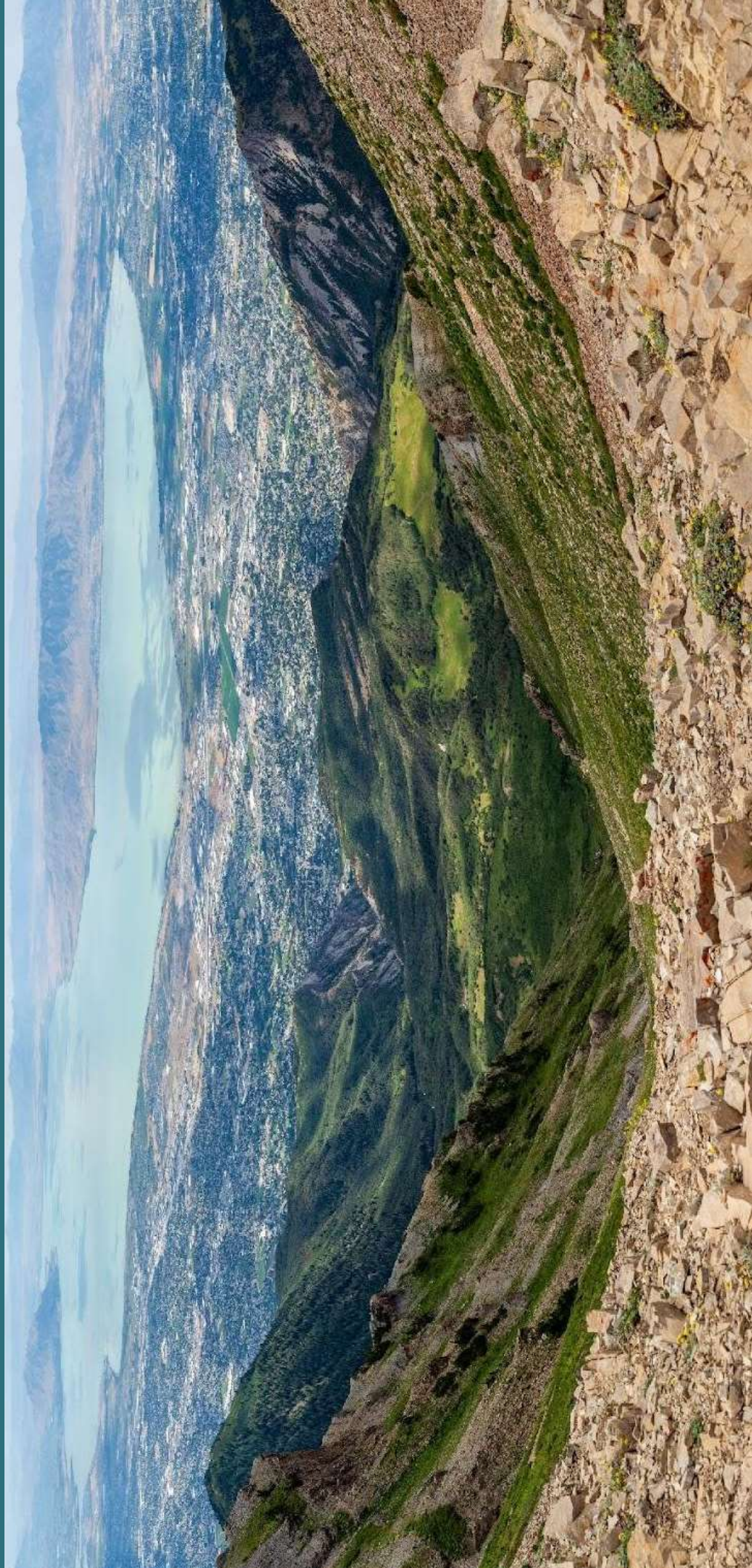
Tips for your application:

- **Diverse team composition**
 - Participation in the GWS workshop is much more productive when senior staff and key decision-makers (including elected officials) are an integral part of the team
- **Cohesive desired outcomes**
 - Have clear goals and objectives that are specific—what exactly are you hoping to get out of the workshop?
- **Demonstration of community needs and readiness**
 - Have any plans recently been adopted that need to be implemented? Has your community identified goals and objectives but are limited in resources? Has your community identified the appropriate team members?

Looking Forward

- Next workshop will be Spring 2023, expect RFA later this fall/winter
- Securing funding for additional workshops and technical assistance support
- Building partnerships to facilitate future workshops – please contact the Project Team if interested
- Continued evaluation and adaptive learning, integrating lessons learned into future workshops

Questions?



Acknowledgments

- Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources
- Great Salt Lake Advisory Council
- Phase 1 & 2 Water and Land Use Planning Team
 - Rachel Shilton, UT Division of Water Resources
 - Candice Hasenyager, UT Division of Water Resources
 - Laura Vernon, UT Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
 - Marcelle Shoop, National Audubon Society
- Water and Land Use Planning Stakeholder Committee

growingwatersmartutah.org

Additional questions?

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