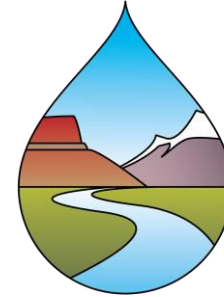


May 23, 2023

Western States Water Council
Water Resources Committee



Great Salt Lake and Colorado River Conservation Efforts



Todd Stonely | Assistant Director
Utah Division of Water Resources

Sarah M. Shechter | Legal Counsel
Utah Attorney General's Office
Natural Resources Division



Great Salt Lake

- Record low in 2021 and again in 2022
- Toxic dust could impact health all along the Wasatch Front
- “The lake could disappear within five years if no action is taken.”
- **National News** (CNN, NPR, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, New York Times, etc.)
- **International News** (BBC, The Guardian)

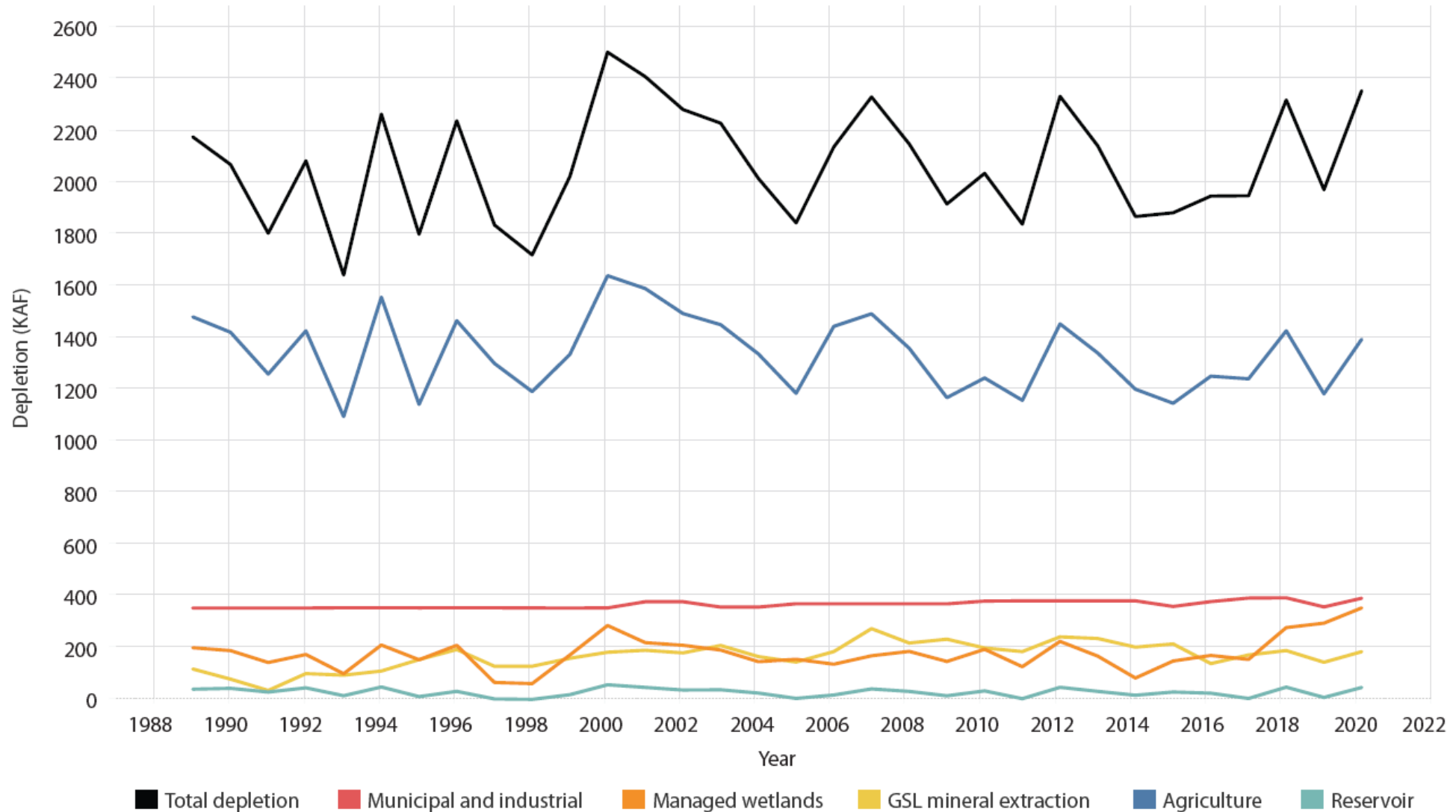


RECORD LOW*

4188.5 FEET

*PROVISIONAL

Great Salt Lake Water Budget



Source: Great Salt Lake Water Budget, Division of Water Resources, 2023



Why is the lake so low?



Direct Evaporation from Climate Warming

Estimated Impact: 8–11%



Natural Variability (Precipitation and Runoff Efficiency)

Estimated Impact: 15–23%



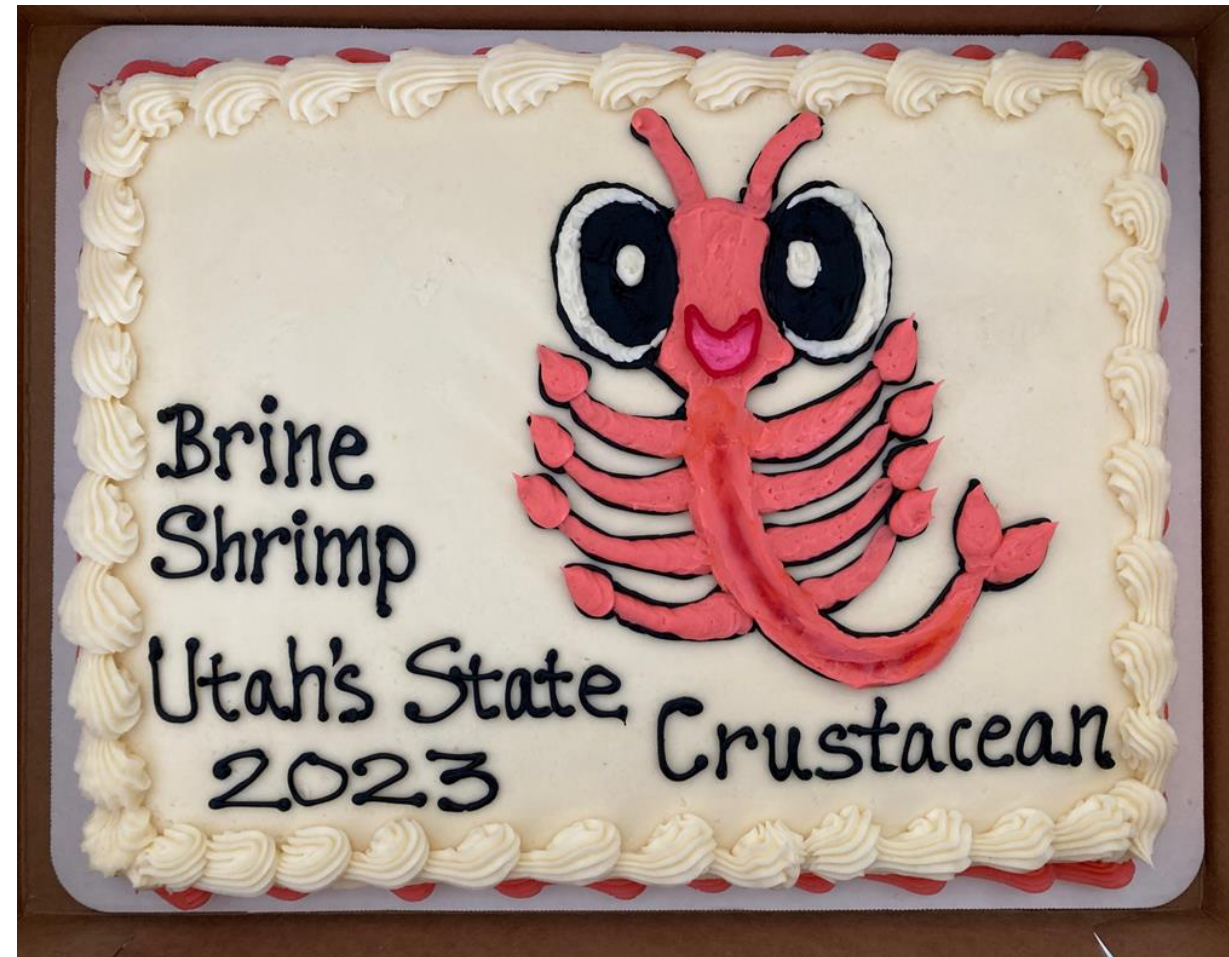
Policy Lever Natural and Human Consumptive Use

Estimated Impact: 67–73%

Source: Analysis from Great Salt Lake Strike Team, 2022; Mohammed, I., & Tarboton, D. (2012). An examination of the sensitivity of the Great Salt Lake to changes in inputs. *Water Resources Research*, Volume 48, Issue 11. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2012WR011908>

Good Things Are Happening!

- Agricultural optimization (\$270M)
- Secondary water meters (\$268M)
- Great Salt Lake Trust (\$40M)
- Landscape Conversion (\$13M)
- GSL Basin Integrated Plan (\$5M)
- Utah WaterWays (\$3M)
- Air quality monitoring
- Water monitoring and data enhancements



Key Takeaways

- Great Salt Lake is vital resource worth protecting
- Actions are being taken
- Conservation is key
- A little help from Mother Nature is appreciated
- We need to do our part!!



2023 System Conservation Pilot Program Update

**Colorado River Authority of Utah
Lily Bosworth, EIT, Staff Engineer**

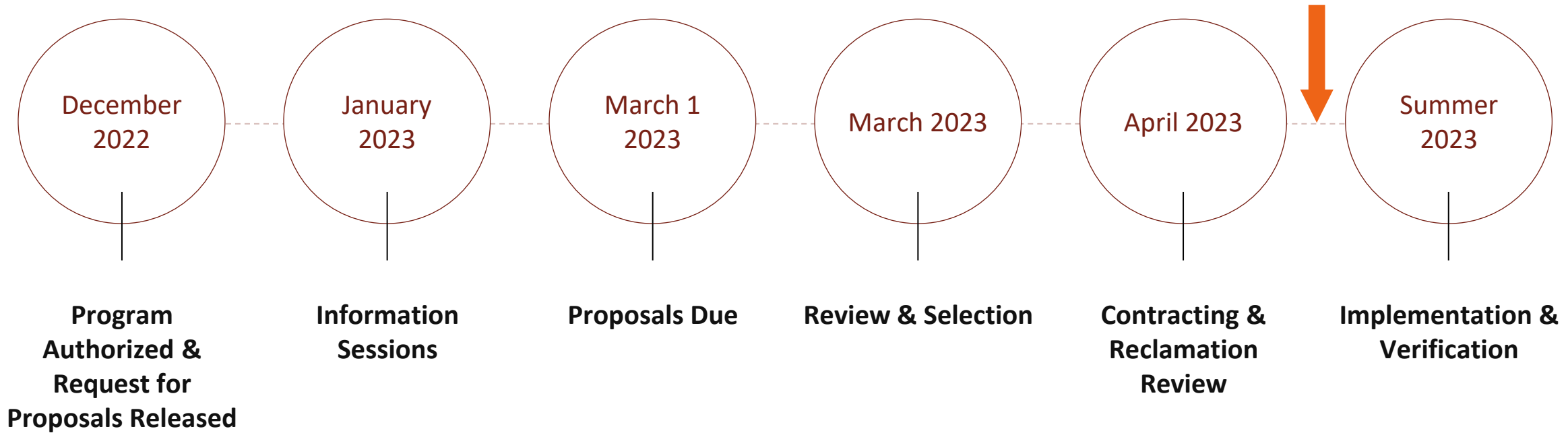
MAY 16, 2023
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



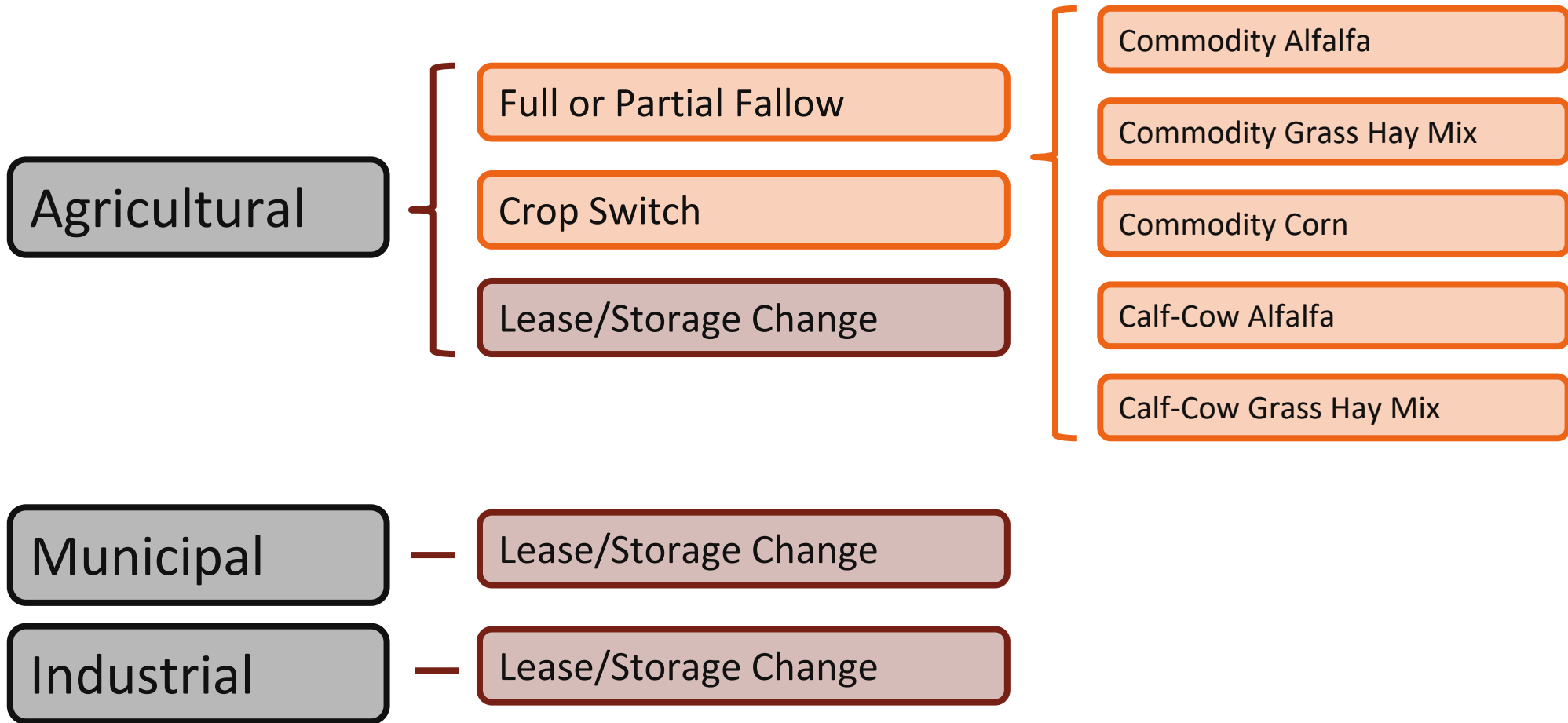
What is SCPP 2023?

- An opportunity for **Temporary, Voluntary, and Compensated** consumptive water use reduction in the Upper Colorado River Basin.
- Open to municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users.
- Federally funded, administered by UCRC

Timeline



Selected Project Types



2023 SCPP Update: Contracting Phase

Proposals by State:	Selected
Utah	21
Colorado	28
Wyoming*	22
New Mexico	1

Total:	4-State	Utah
Selected Projects	72	21 (29% of total)
Project Types	Ag, Municipal, Industrial	Ag, Municipal, Industrial
Conserved Volume (Acre-Feet)	39,178	15,462 (39% of total)
Total Expense	\$16,401,589	\$5,681,065 (35% of total)
Price Per Acre-Foot	\$418 Weighted	\$367 Weighted



2023 SCPP Update:

Bureau of Reclamation Pricing Decision – Utah Specifics

11 Impacted Projects

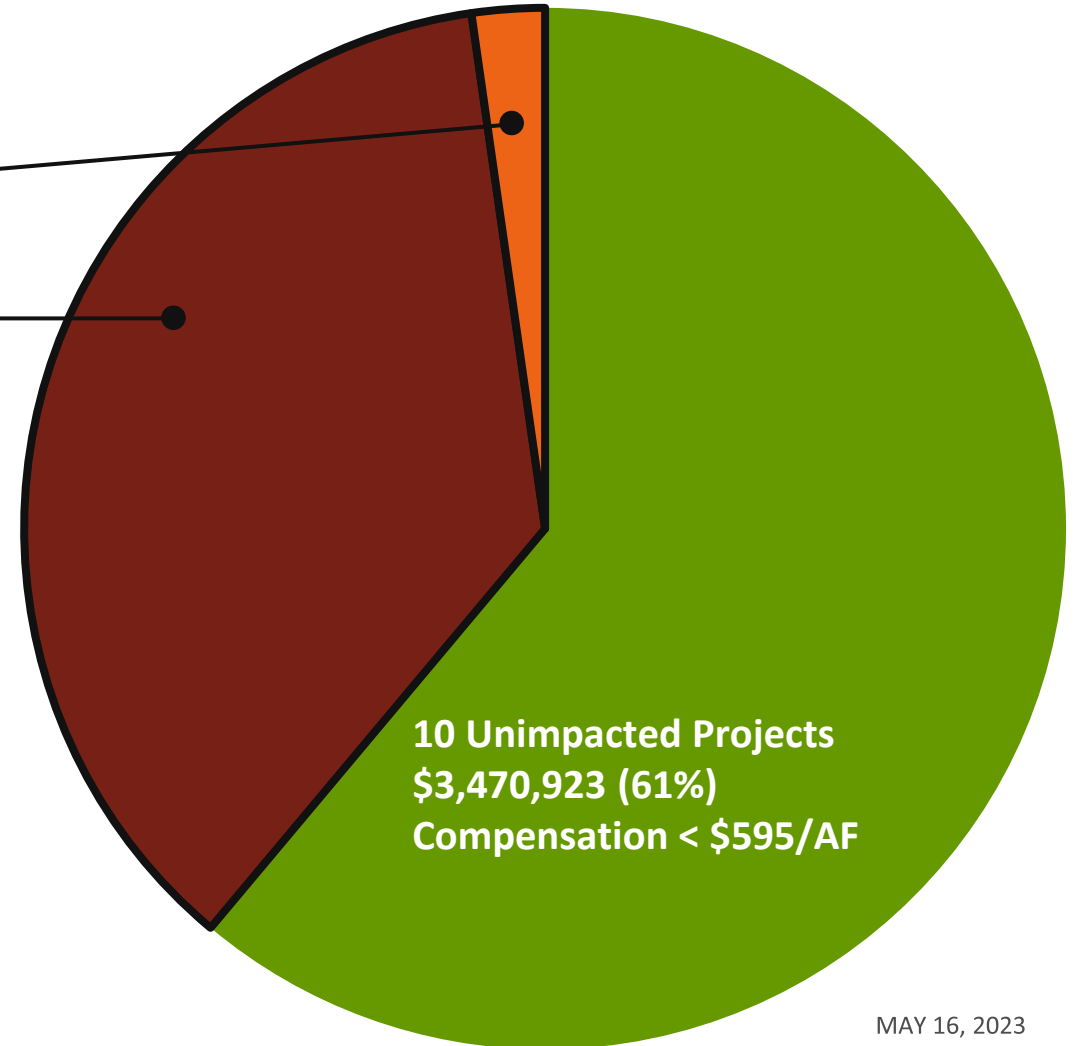
\$595/AF < Compensation < \$650/AF

State of Utah “Gap Fill”:
\$128,485 (2%)

Reclamation Decision:
\$2,081,657 (37%)

Late in the SCPP process and irrigation season, Reclamation lowered the per- acre-foot compensation cap from the original UCRC offer.

The State of Utah is “filling the gap” for 2023 in alignment with the Management Plan, striving to honor original offers to maintain trust with water users.



2023 SCPP Update:

Bureau of Reclamation Pricing Decision – Utah Specifics

11 Impacted Projects

\$595/AF < Compensation < \$650/AF

State of Utah “Gap Fill”:
\$128,485 (2%)

Reclamation Decision:
\$2,081,657 (37%)

UCRC Original Offer Cap: \$650/AF

Reclamation’s Utah Compensation Cap:

- Commodity Alfalfa: \$595/AF
- Calf-Cow Operation: \$621/AF

Individual Funding Gaps:

- ~\$500 - \$50,000
- ~\$11,000 average

