



## Great Salt Lake Dust Forum Priorities July 2024

On May 16th, the Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner hosted a forum with more than 50 university and agency experts to discuss current research and management of air, land and water related to dust from the Great Salt Lake. They also discussed gaps and opportunities for additional research. Participants were from the University of Utah, Utah State University, BYU, Westminster College, Salt Lake Community College, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Air Quality.

The Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner has identified the following priorities based on those discussions along with the lead funding agency. Many of these priorities will build upon or provide additional funding for work that has already begun. It should be noted that each priority includes that fiscal year (FY) when the lead funding agency is planning to secure or make funding available. The priorities include:

1. Invest in an improved monitoring network for dust including both particulate matter and filter monitors (Division of Air Quality, FY26).
2. Invest in additional research into surface crust dynamics, dust-associated contaminants, and dust hot spots (Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands – Tech Team, FY26).
3. Develop a better understanding of the health implications of dust from the Great Salt Lake including potential at-risk populations (Division of Water Resources – Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan, FY25).
4. Leverage and invest in remote sensing to be able to estimate and monitor crust and hot spot development, and identify areas for and monitor the effectiveness of mitigation (Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands – Tech Team, FY26).
5. Develop models to help characterize and differentiate dust from the Great Salt Lake and other sources including spatial distribution and impact of the dust (i.e., West Desert, Sevier Dry Lake, gravel pits) (Division of Air Quality, FY26).
6. Identify and test cost-effective mitigation measures while working to secure enough water to get the lake to the healthy, target range (Division of Water Resources – Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan to study mitigation measures, FY25 and Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands – Tech Team to fund pilot projects, FY26).
7. Develop real-time public education tools (GSL Commissioner's Office and Division of Water Resources – Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan, FY25).
8. Utilize quarterly Great Salt Lake Dust meetings to provide feedback on studies and implementation including monitoring plans and modeling (Division of Air Quality and GSL Commissioner's Office, FY25).

The Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner is committed to addressing the complex challenges posed by dust pollution from the Great Salt Lake. By fostering collaboration among experts, investing in research and implementing evidence-based management strategies, we aim to safeguard public health, protect the environment and preserve the unique ecosystem of the Great Salt Lake.