

# Great Salt Lake Water Delivery Program FAQ

## General FAQ

### **Q: What is the purpose of the Great Salt Lake Water Delivery Program (GSLWDP)?**

A: The GSLWDP aims to protect and preserve the Great Salt Lake by delivering conserved water to the lake, depleting less water within the Great Salt Lake basin, and more closely monitoring surface water flows throughout the complex system. It is funded by a \$50 million grant awarded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) through the Inflation Reduction Act to the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner (GSLCO).

### **Q: What are the three project categories of the GSLWDP?**

A: The three project categories are:

1. Voluntary Water Transactions
2. System Conservation
3. Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration

### **Q: How much funding is available for the GSLWDP?**

A: Up to \$50 million is available to be allocated across the three different project categories. The funding distribution will be determined by the GSLWDP evaluation committee based on factors like project readiness/feasibility, connectivity to other projects benefiting the GSL ecosystem, and water delivered to the Great Salt Lake.

### **Q: Is there a cap on funding requests for individual projects?**

A: No, there is no cap on funding requests, but the distribution of GSLWDP funds will be allocated across all three focus areas.

### **Q: Who is administering this program?**

A: The Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner (GSLCO) will administer the program.

### **Q: What is the overall timeline for the GSLWDP?**

A:

- **July 23, 2025:** First day to submit applications
- **October 24, 2025:** Last day to submit applications
- **October 27 - November 28, 2025:** Committee evaluation & grant recipient selection

- **December 2025 - January 2026:** Contracting
- **December 2025 - August 2030:** Execute projects
- **August 2030 - July 2031:** Closeout project contracts

**Q: How will applications be reviewed and selected?**

A: Applications will be reviewed and selected by the GSLWDP evaluation committee, composed of state resource experts, after the application due date. The committee will make recommendations to USBR, who will make the final determination. Successful applicants will be notified at the conclusion of the evaluation process. The following agencies and organizations are represented on the GSLWDP Evaluation Committee:

- Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- Utah Division of Water Rights
- Utah Division of Water Resources
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
- Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust

**Q: How will contracting and invoicing work?**

A: Contracts will be awarded through DNR and finalized within 60 days of project award. Invoicing for completed work will take place on a quarterly basis and require a brief explanation of project activities, budget information and an estimate of the percentage of work completed.

**Q: Where can I find the application materials?**

A: GSLWDP application materials (application form and budget template) can be found on the GSLCO [website](#).

**Q: How do I submit my application?**

A: Applications were due January 16, 2026 at 11:59 PM MST. Applications are no longer being accepted.

**Q: Is there a matching funds requirement?**

A: No, there is no funding match requirement. However, projects that provide matching funds will be given preference.

**Q: What are the permitting and access requirements?**

A: The Lead Applicant must complete necessary federal and state permitting, application, and access processes prior to project construction. This includes National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) project reviews (environmental assessment or categorical exclusion, determined in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation). The Lead Applicant is also responsible for legal access to project locations and appropriate consultation and approved change applications with the Division of Water Rights.

**Q: What are the reporting requirements for successful applicants?**

A: Successful applicants must submit annual reporting updates (due upon contract execution) including a summary of project activities, a financial summary, and a project completion estimation. A brief summary of project progress and budget information is required with reimbursement requests. A project close-out report is also required for Bureau of Reclamation documentation within 30 days of project completion.

**Q: Do I need to disclose potential conflicts of interest?**

A: Yes, the applicant (project team) must disclose any potential conflict of interest or relationships between the project team and the Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner, US Bureau of Reclamation, or GSLWDP Review Committee members.

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## **Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration Projects FAQ**

**Q: What is the focus of the Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration project category?**

A: This RFP focuses on restoring wetlands around Great Salt Lake and improving lake hydrology. It is similar to the wetlands and habitat grant program offered by the Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

**Q: What entities are eligible for Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration funding?**

A:

- Government entities (State of Utah agencies, federal, local governments)
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - Section 501(c)(3) non-profits
- Private landowners, private entities, higher education institutions (public or private) if working with a government entity or NGO, who will serve as the Lead Applicant.

**Q: What types of projects are eligible for Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration funding?**

A: Eligible projects may include any or a combination of activities that improve or restore the hydrological and ecological function of wetlands and connected habitats within the surrounding Great Salt Lake ecosystem with a hydrologic benefit to the lake. This includes projects within

seven (7) miles of the Great Salt Lake meander line, or projects outside this vicinity if a benefit to GSL hydrology can be demonstrated.

For more information, see the [Ecosystem & Habitat Request for Proposals](#).

## **System Conservation Projects FAQ**

### **Q: What is the focus of the System Conservation project category?**

A: This RFP focuses on projects that achieve verifiable reductions in the use of, or demand for water within the GSL basin. Water must be permanently dedicated to the lake through an approved change application and delivered to the lake as a condition of receiving funds.

### **Q: What entities are eligible for System Conservation funding?**

A:

- Government entities (State of Utah agencies, federal, local governments)
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - Section 501(c)(3) non-profits
- Private landowners, private entities, or institutes of higher education (public or private) if working with a government entity or NGO (who will serve as the Lead Applicant).

### **Q: What types of projects are eligible for System Conservation funding?**

A: Water delivery improvement projects in the Great Salt Lake Basin that reduce the consumptive use of, or demand for water to Great Salt Lake are eligible. Projects must describe infrastructure improvements and attempt to quantify water savings. Savings resulting from the implementation of the project must be verified through measurable data from functioning, new, or existing measurement/telemetry equipment shared with the Division of Water Rights.

Water must be permanently dedicated and delivered to GSL through an approved change application with the Division of Water Rights, although the water dedicated to the GSL need not be the same water conserved through the construction of the project. Eligible project types include, but are not limited to:

- Pipeline improvements (e.g., replacing aging distribution lines)
- Canal linings and enclosures
- Process improvements
- Other water delivery infrastructure improvements

For more information, see the [System Conservation Request for Proposals](#).

## **Voluntary Water Transactions FAQ**

### **Q: What is the focus of the Voluntary Water Transactions project category?**

A: This program seeks temporary, large-volume (minimum of 1,000 acre-feet of diverted water) lease proposals that result in the dedication and measurable delivery of the leased water through an approved change application to the Great Salt Lake or its surrounding habitats and wetlands. Preference will be given to proposals with greater water volumes dedicated for longer durations and most competitive cost.

### **Q: What entities are eligible for Voluntary Water Transaction funding?**

A: Eligible applicants include water right owners, and individuals who own shares to a mutual irrigation company or canal company who have obtained permission from the company board to lease their shares.

### **Q: What types of projects are eligible for Voluntary Water Transaction funding?**

A: Eligible voluntary water transaction proposals must meet the following criteria:

- Be beneficial to the hydrology of the Great Salt Lake Basin.
- Include water described in a perfected water right.
- Result in the filing and approval of a corresponding change application dedicating the water to the Great Salt Lake or its surrounding habitats and wetlands.
- Involve surface water native to the Great Salt Lake Basin.
- Be a full-season lease of a minimum of 1,000 acre-feet of water, OR be a lease associated with a system conservation or ecosystem & habitat project proposal submitted or to be submitted to the GSLWDP.

For more information, see the [Voluntary Water Transactions Request for Proposals](#).