

Great Salt Lake Advisory Council
Response of the Utah Division of Water Rights

1. What are your agencies regulatory or administrative responsibilities to the lake?

The state engineer (the state engineer is the director of the Division of Water Rights) is responsible for the general administrative supervision of the waters of the state and the measurement, appropriation, apportionment, and distribution of those waters (73-2-1). In the statutes for the Division there is one indirect reference to the Great Salt Lake and it is as follows:

Before the approval of any application for the appropriation of water from navigable lakes or streams of the state that contemplates the recovery of salts and other minerals therefrom by precipitation or otherwise, the applicant shall file with the state engineer a copy of a contract for the payment of royalties to the state.

The approval of an application shall be revoked in the event of the failure of the applicant to comply with terms of the royalty contract.

There are about 20 large water rights that divert water directly from the lake. In 2007 these water rights divert nearly 315,000 acre-feet. In addition, there are thousands of existing water rights on the tributary streams that flow into the lake. The Bear River watershed (Areas 21, 23, 25 and 29), Western Box Elder County (Area 13) and Skull Valley (Area 16) are open to new appropriation of water. The Utah Lake Jordan River, Weber River and Tooele Valley watersheds are closed to new appropriations of water.

2. What statutory or regulatory rules does your agency abide by? These statutes and administrative rules are as follows:

Statutes:

Title 73, Chapters 01 to 06 and Chapter 22.

Administrative Rules:

R655-1 to 7 and R655-10 to 15.

3. What are your revenue sources?

The Division of Water Rights receives nearly all of their revenue from the General Fund.