



The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

GLOBALLY

60 Years Old

Works in U.S. and 38 countries

1,000,000 Members

3,700 Staff Members

119 Million Acres of Land Protected

5,000 Miles of Rivers Preserved

In UTAH

246 Projects

Over 900,000 Acres Protected

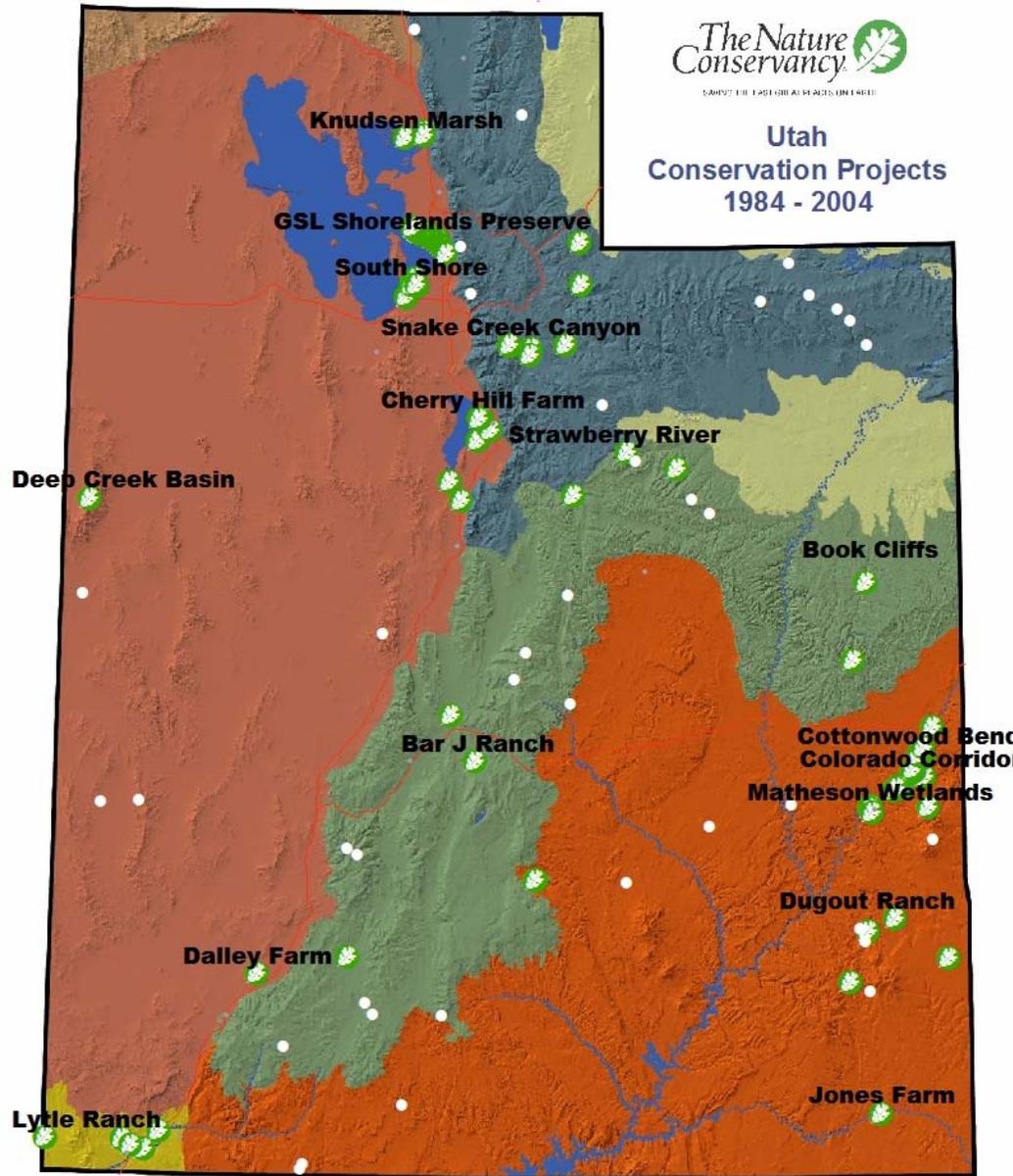
7,000 Members

400 Volunteers

21 Staff Members



Utah
 Conservation Projects
 1984 - 2004

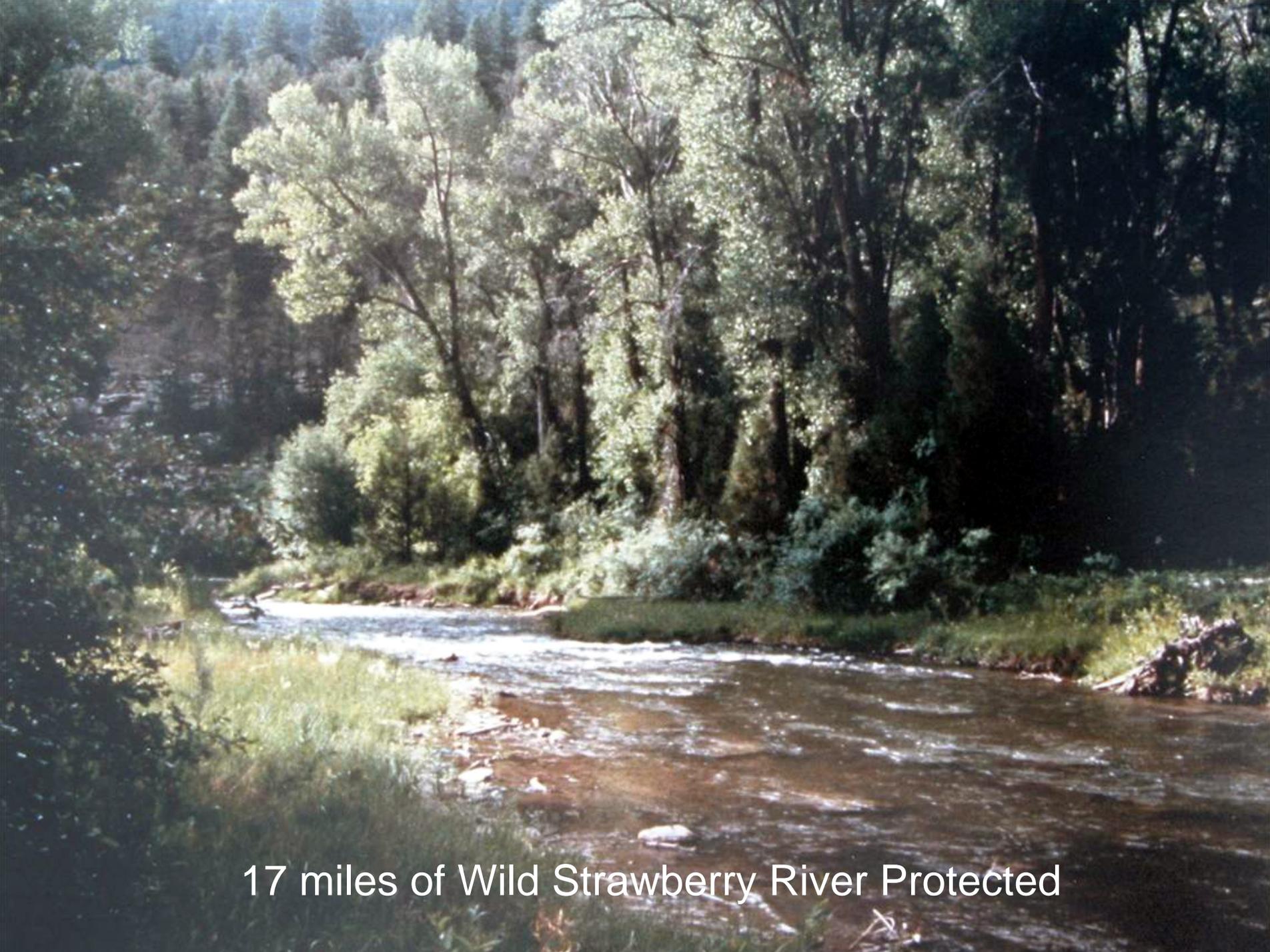


 Private Land Projects*

 Public Lands Projects

	Acres	Tracts
Private Lands	819,989	112
Public Lands	61,980	39
Total	881,969	151

* Includes leased and fee acres.



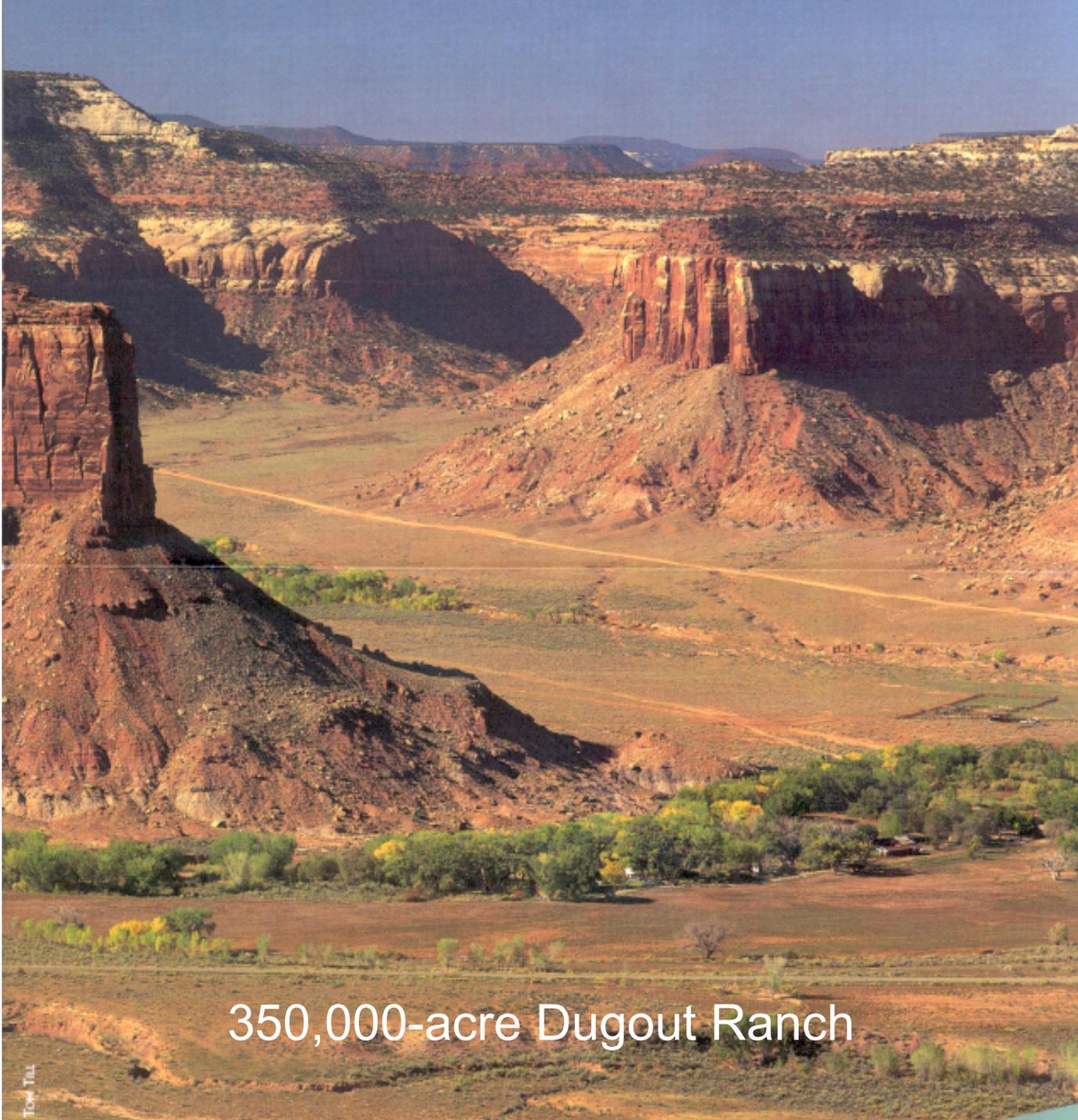
17 miles of Wild Strawberry River Protected

Final Populations of Globally-Rare Plants and Wildflowers

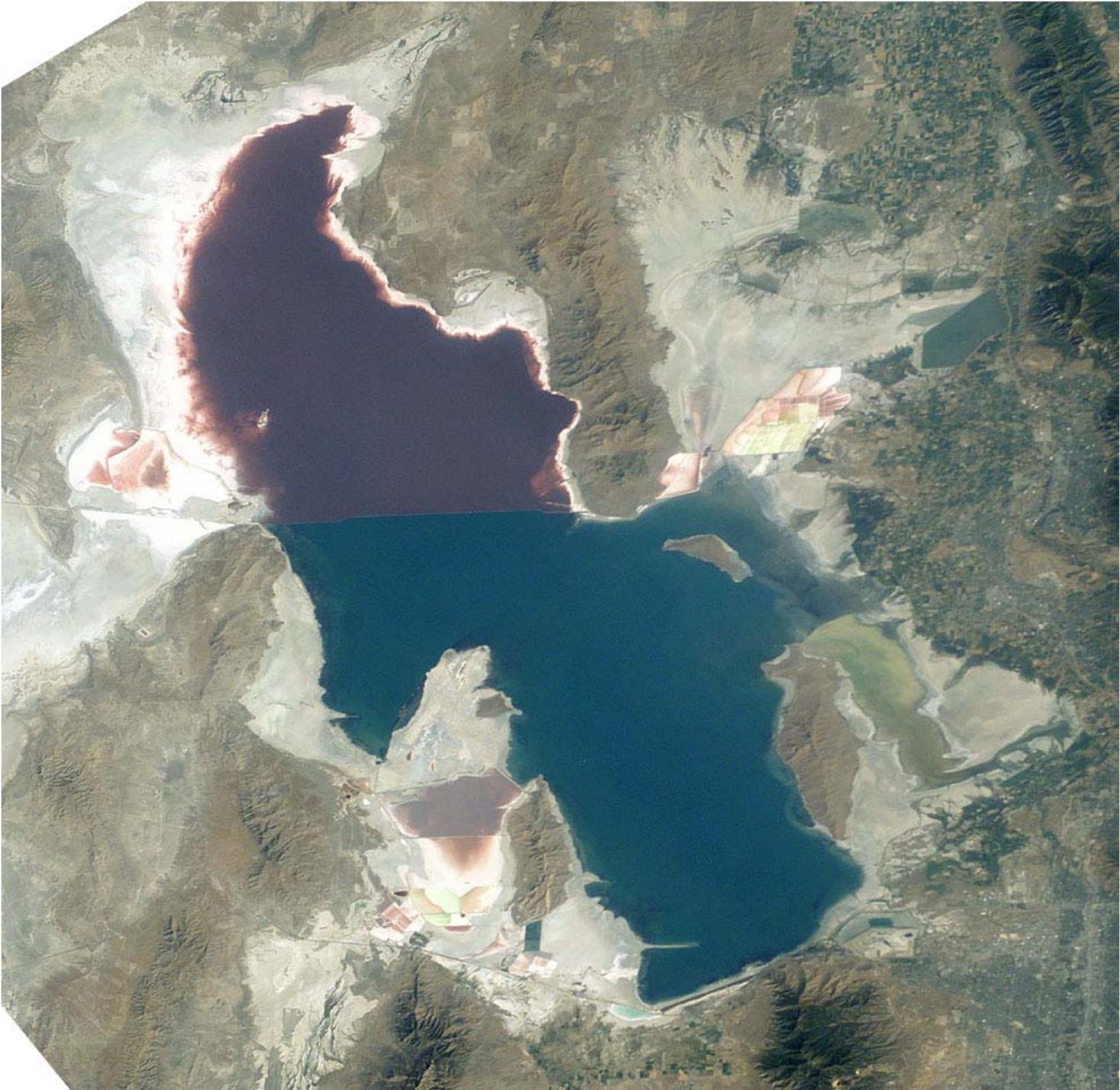


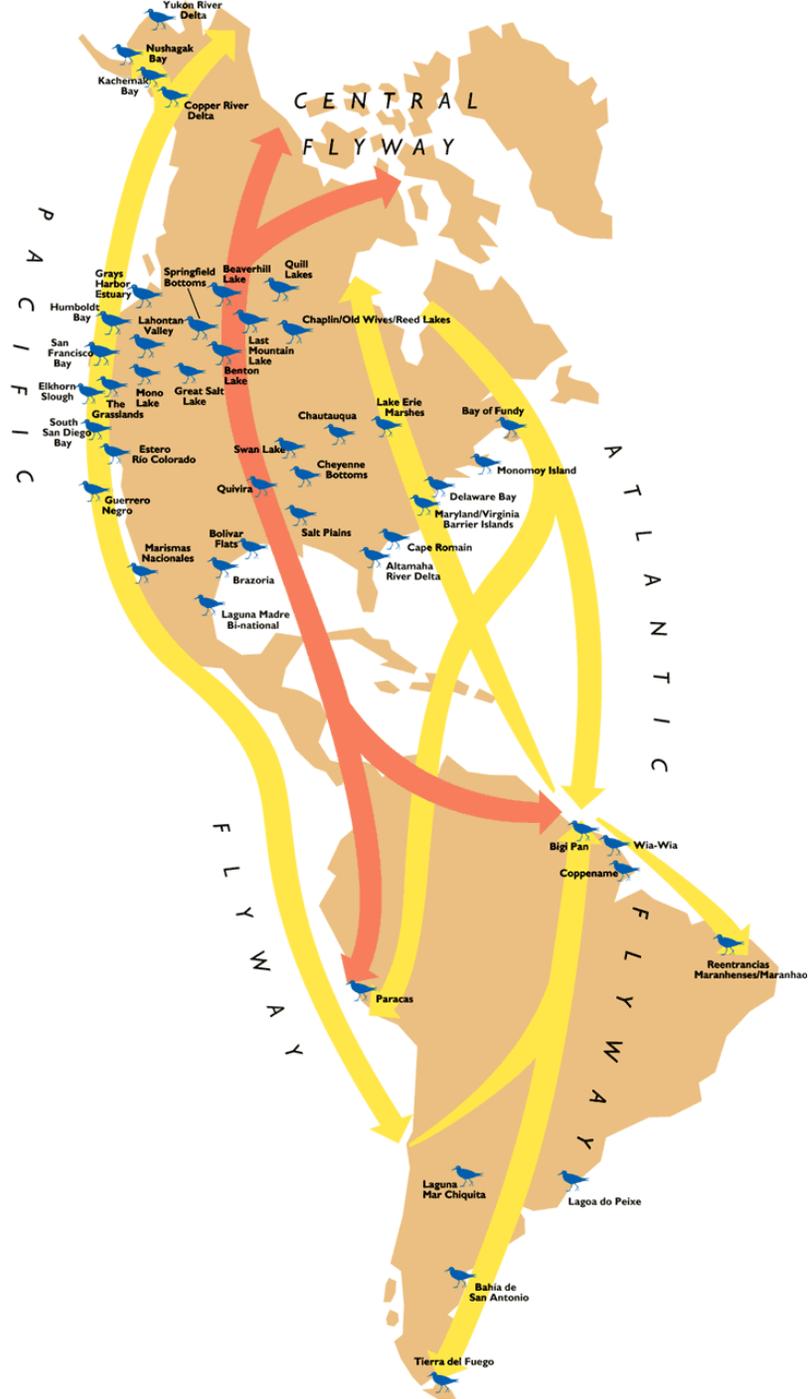


Deep Creek Mountains, West Desert



350,000-acre Dugout Ranch





“The Great Salt Lake is ornithologically the most impressive salt lake on the continent.”

Dr. Joseph R. Jehl

500,000 Wilson’s Phalaropes / World’s largest staging concentration

10,000 Snowy Plovers / World’s largest assemblage

7,500 White-faced Ibis / World’s largest breeding population

160,000 California Gulls / World’s largest breeding population

250,000 American Avocets / Largest concentration in the Pacific Flyway

65,000 Black-necked Stilts / Largest concentration in the Pacific Flyway

18,000 White Pelicans / One of the largest colonies in North America

400,000 Eared Grebes / 2nd largest staging population in North America

30,000 Marbled Godwits / Only staging site in U.S.

500 Bald Eagles / 1 of Top 10 winter populations in U.S.

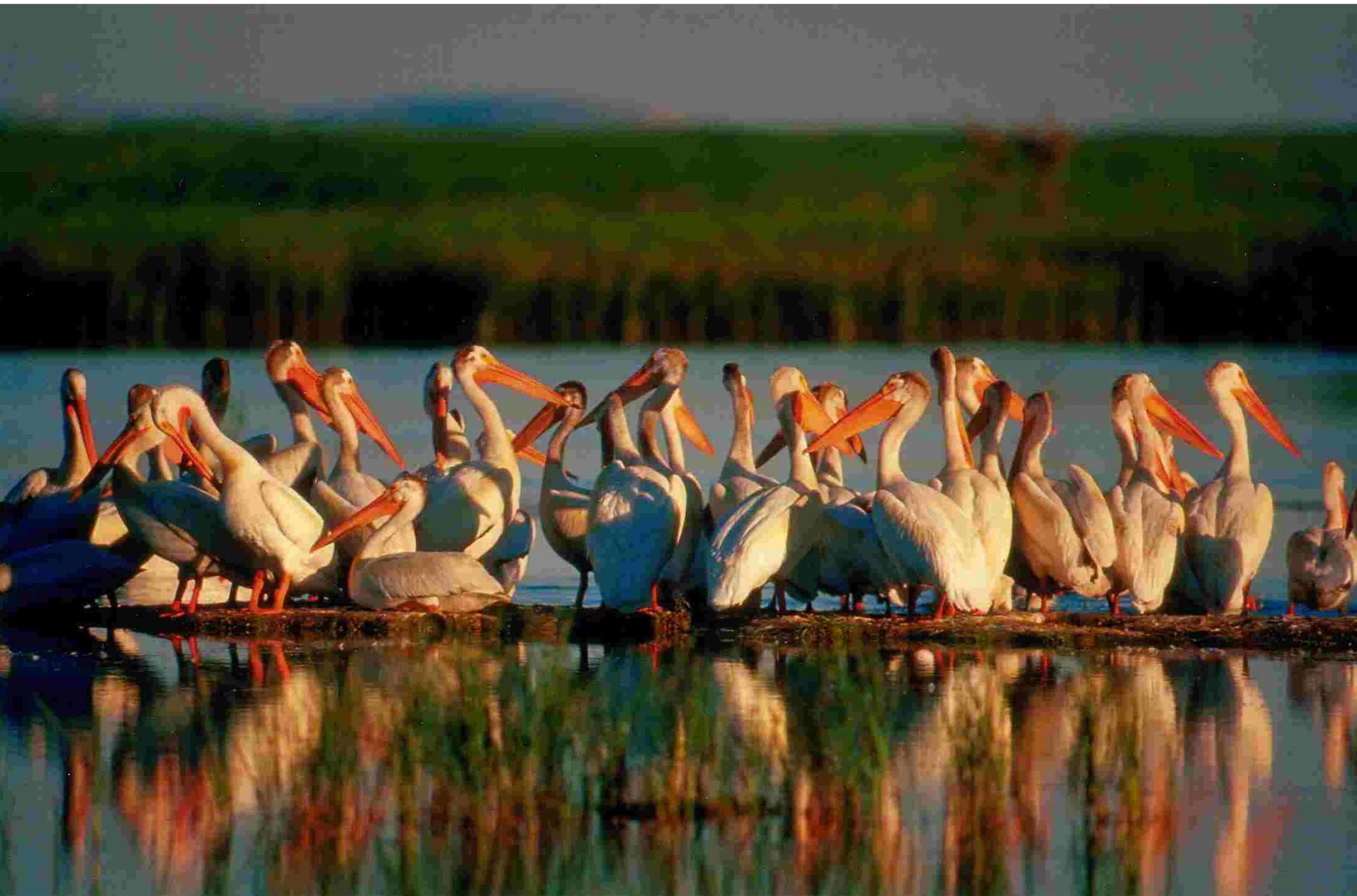
11 Pairs Peregrine Falcon / Endangered species

500,000 Wilson's Phalaropes

World's largest staging concentration







Waterfowl on the Great Salt Lake

60,000	Tundra Swans
1,000,000	Pintail
100,000	Gadwall
80,000	Cinnamon Teal
500,000	Mallard
60,000	Ruddy Ducks
600,000	Green-winged Teal
50,000	Canada Geese
150,000	Redhead
50,000	Canvasback
100,000	Shoveller

1,000,000 Pintails





South End of Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve



North End of Great Salt Lake Shorelands Preserve





THREATS: Loss of wetland habitat due to subdivision and infrastructure development, loss of agricultural buffer lands, loss of water quantity, threatened water quality



11 shoreline miles
44 transactions = 4,736 acres
Largest naturally-functioning wetland
complex on lakeshore

GSL Shorelands Preserve Visitor Center

Dedicated June 18, 2004



A group of children, mostly boys, are gathered on a wooden dock overlooking a wetland. They are looking into the water, which is surrounded by tall green reeds. Some children are holding water bottles. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a field trip or educational activity.

Wings & Water Wetlands Education Program

1,500 students per year

25 naturalist guides

Davis County School Districts

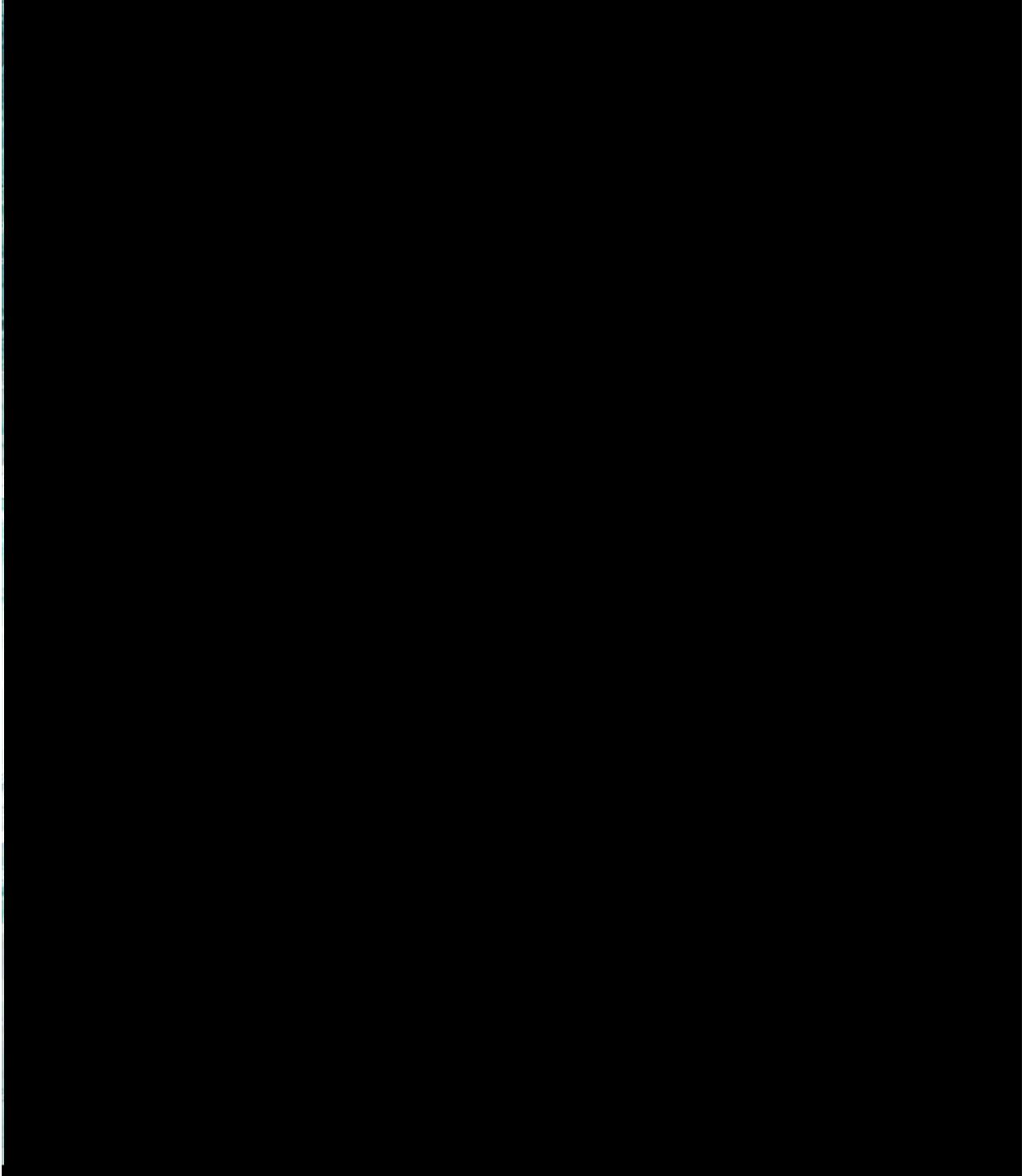
Annual Teacher Workshops

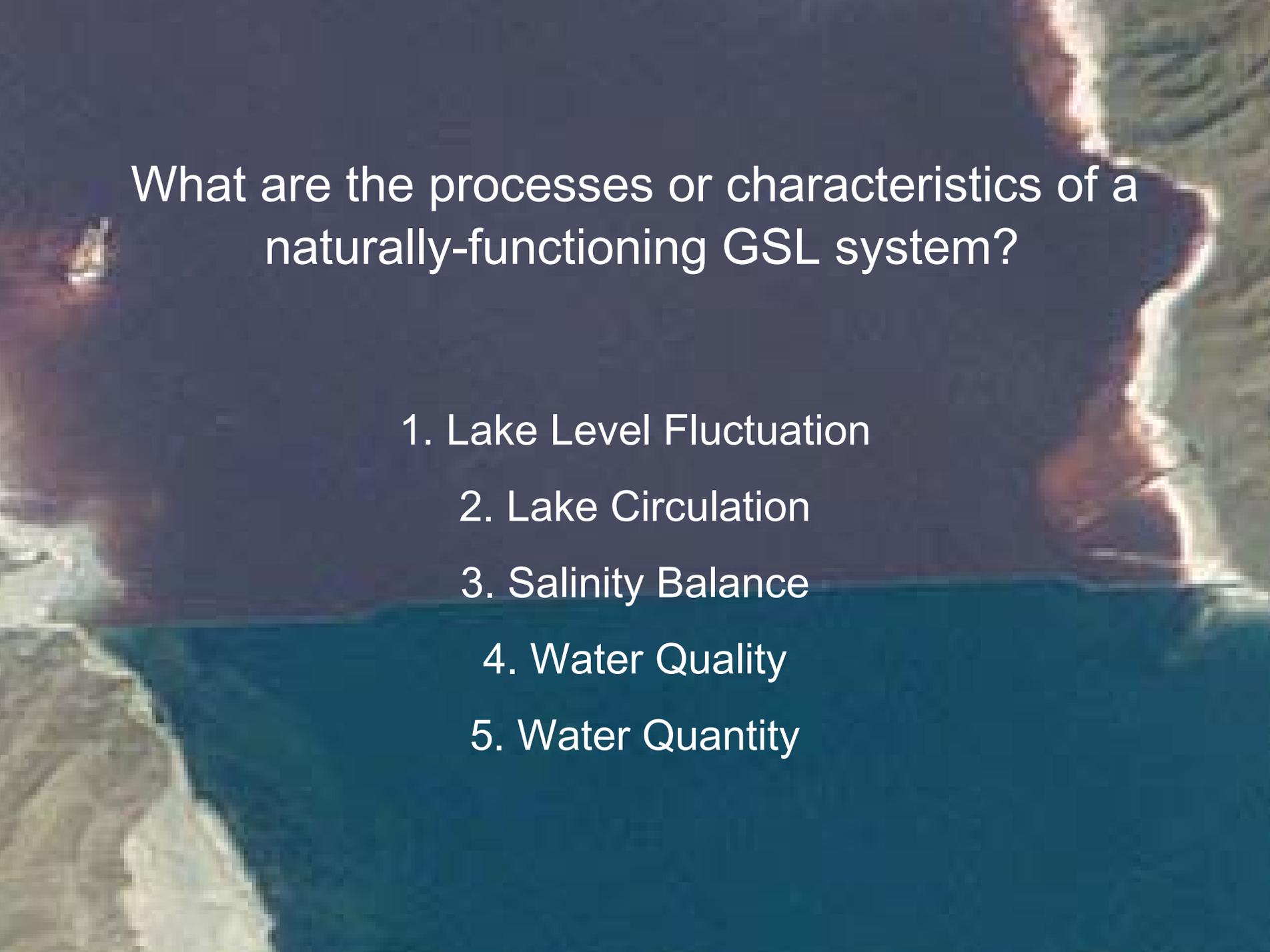
Acquisitions on GSL South Shore (7), Utah Lake (3) & Bear River Refuge (2)





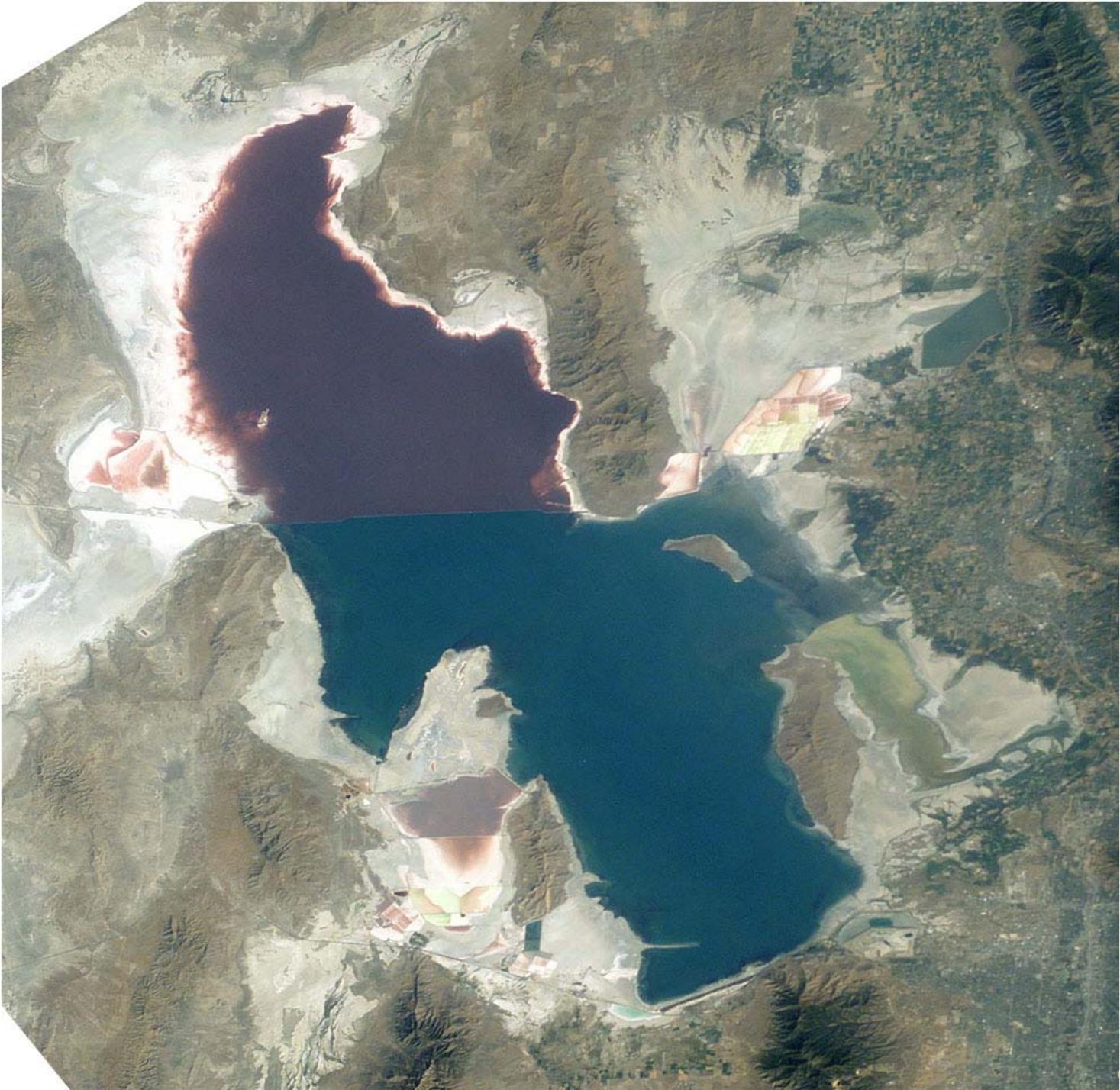




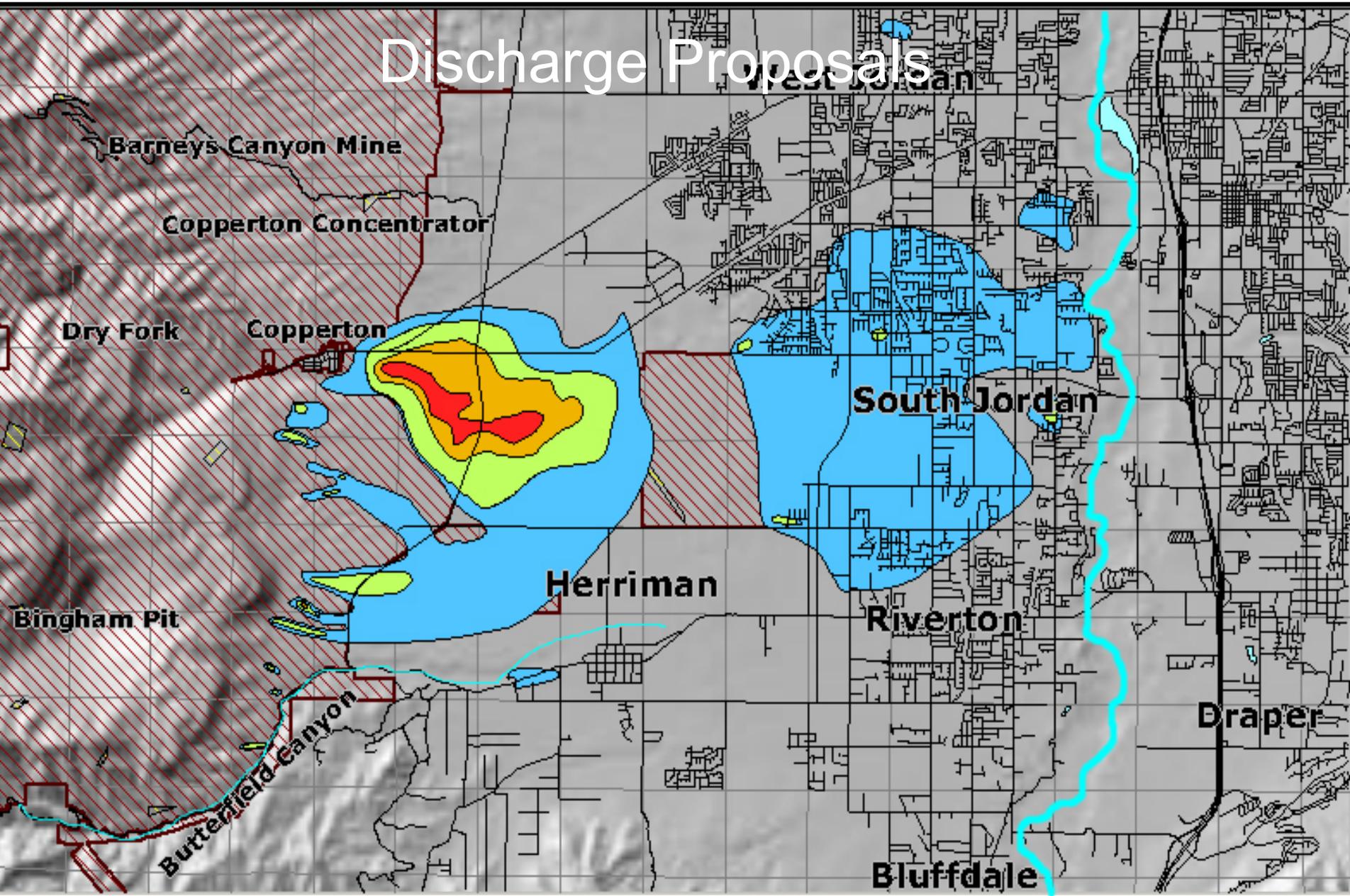
An aerial photograph of a large, deep blue lake. The lake is surrounded by a rugged, rocky shoreline with some sparse vegetation. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

What are the processes or characteristics of a naturally-functioning GSL system?

1. Lake Level Fluctuation
2. Lake Circulation
3. Salinity Balance
4. Water Quality
5. Water Quantity

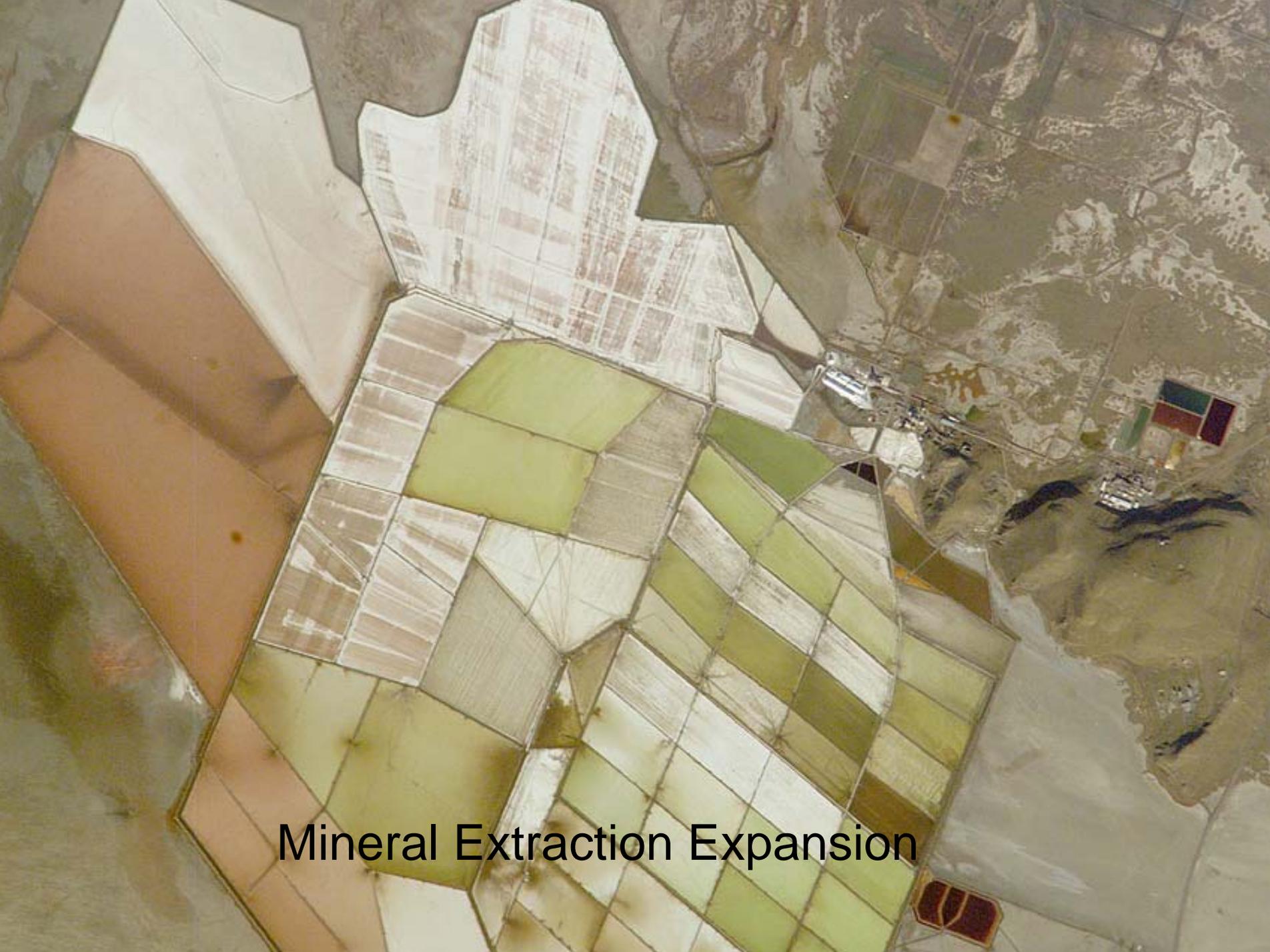


Discharge Proposals



Infrastructure Development: Legacy Highway I and II

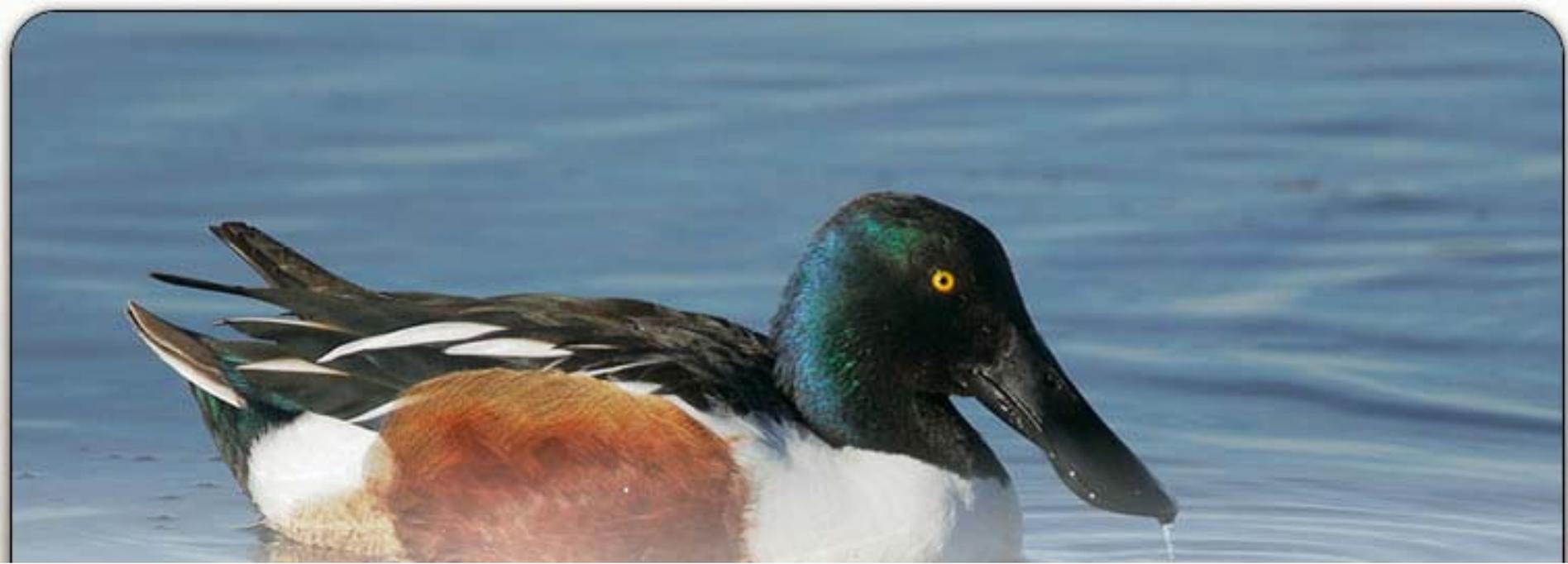




Mineral Extraction Expansion



Nutrient Loading



Utah Waterfowl Mercury Advisories

Cinnamon Teal

Northern Shoveler

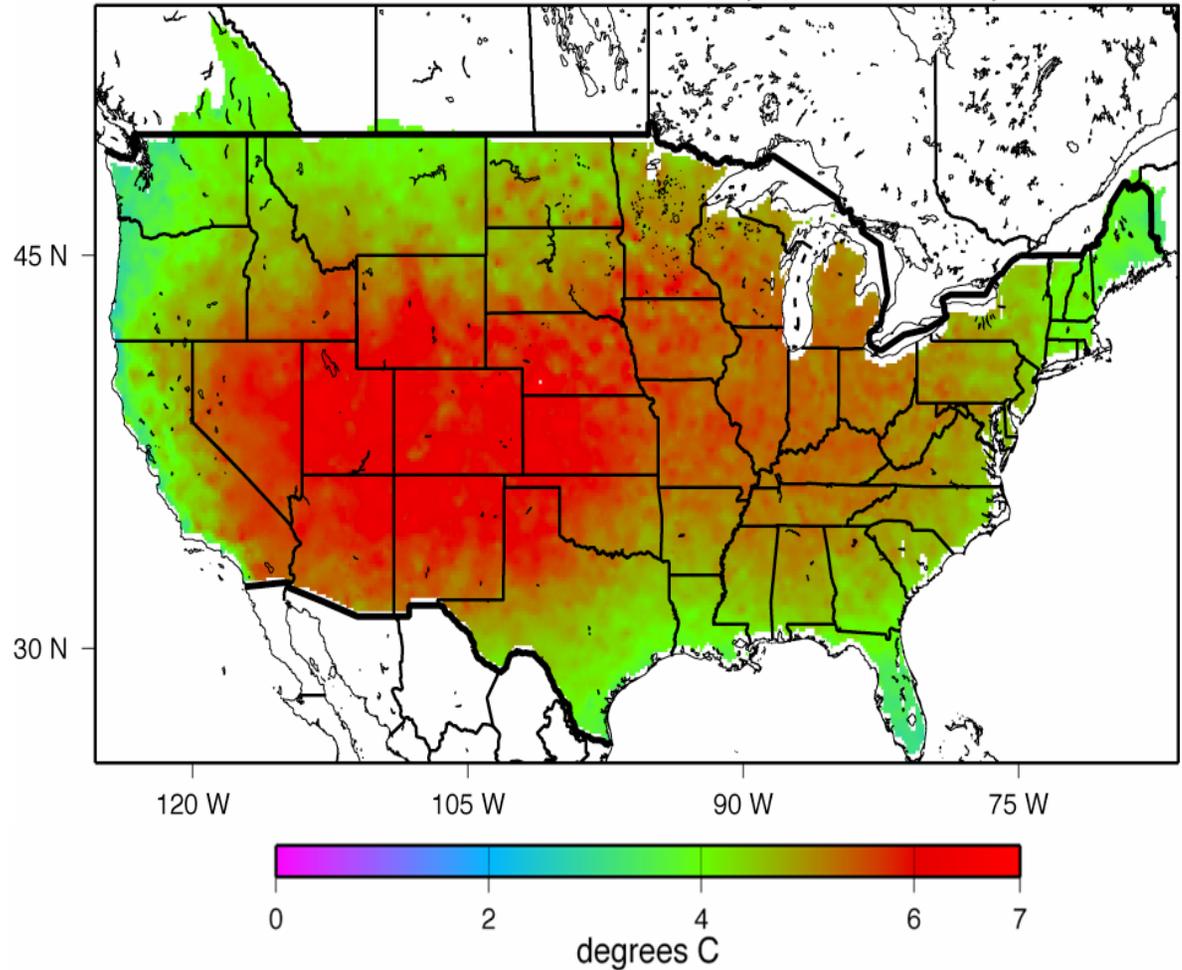
Common Goldeneye



Oil Leasing & Viewsheds

Climate Change & The West

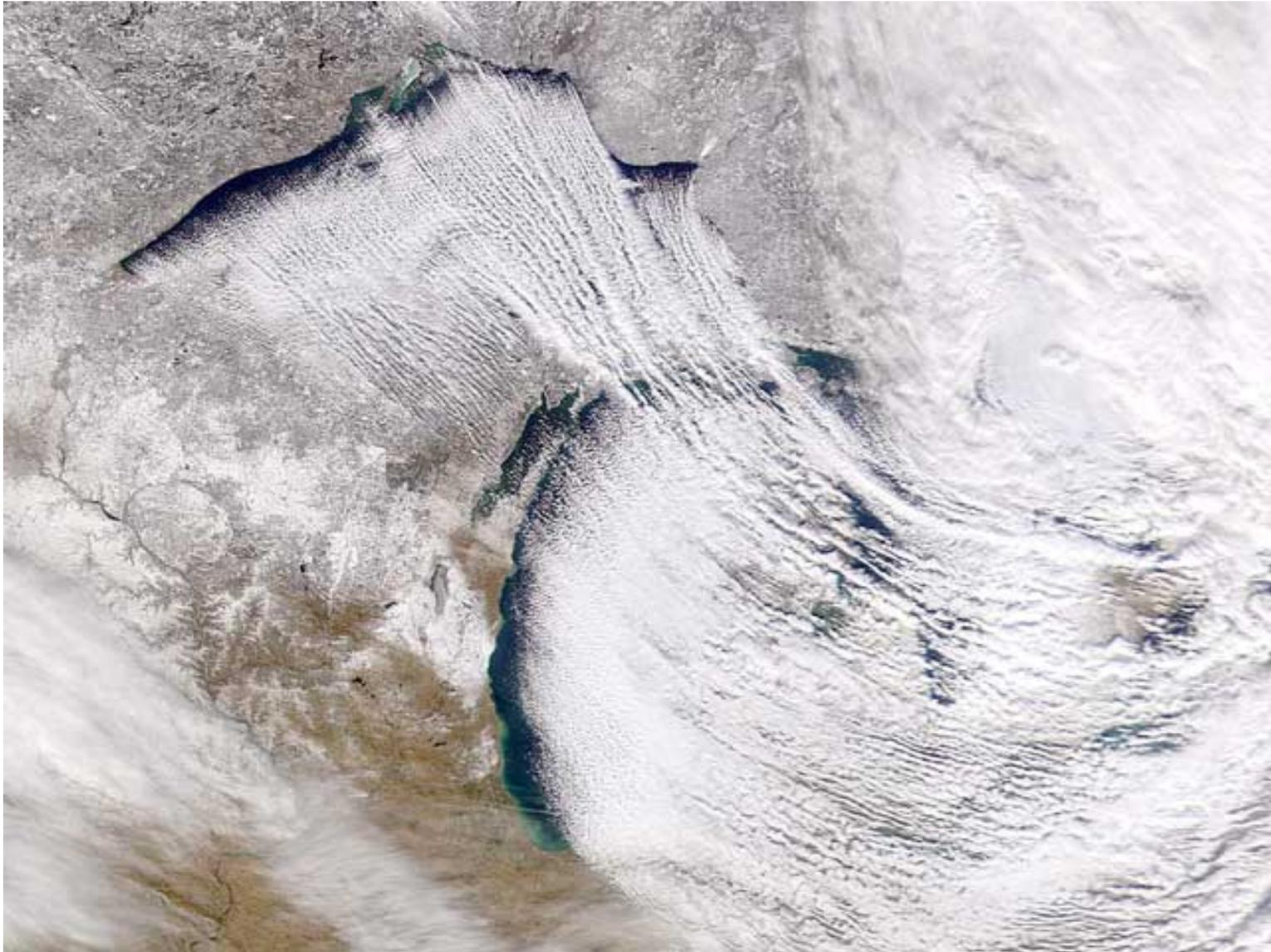
Trends in Annual-Mean Tmax's, 2001-2100, GFDL A2



Water Quantity for the Great Salt Lake

A satellite-style map of the Great Salt Lake basin. The lake is shown in shades of green and yellow, indicating varying water levels and salinity. The surrounding terrain is brown and hilly. Several blue squares are placed on the map, likely representing monitoring stations. A yellow line represents a major road, with two highway shields: a blue and red shield with the number '15' and a red and blue shield with the number '215'.

Air Quality / Human Health Issues?
Loss of Ecosystem Function?
Surface Area Loss / Possible Watershed Effects?



Lessons learned from controversial issues....

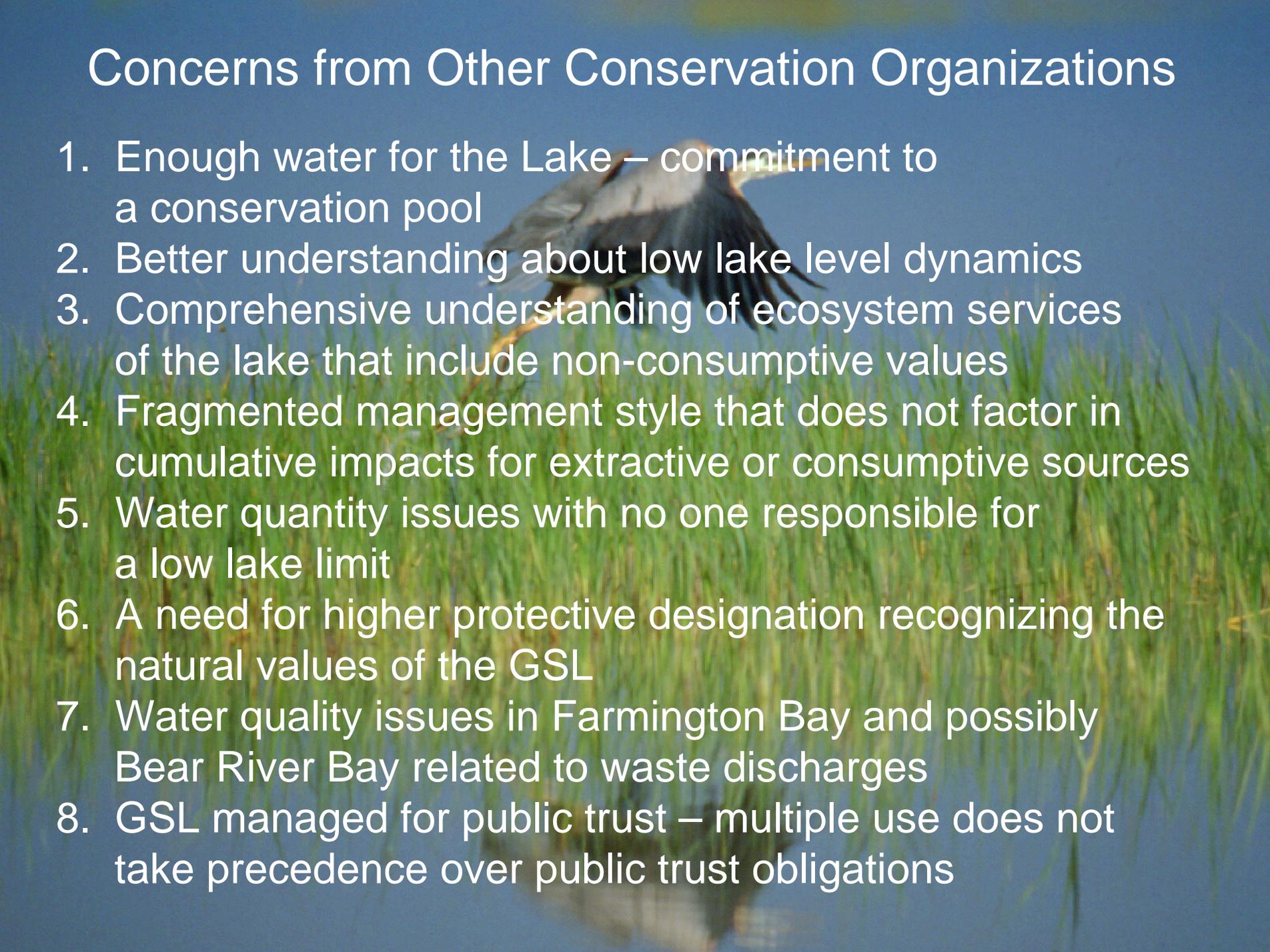
1. Lake is finite
2. All beneficial uses are more interconnected than we thought (“zoning” dilemma)
3. Mandate to protect/utilize not clearly articulated
4. No “limits” set for any beneficial use
5. Some state agency charters/purposes do conflict
6. No single entity with final analysis responsibility and final decision-making authority on all use or protection proposals



The Nature Conservancy's Concerns

1. No clear definition of lake health
2. "Coordinated Management" does not presently include whole-system health analysis
3. There is often inadequate science data for decision-making
4. No tracking of cumulative effects of all permitted uses (each proposal is stand-alone)
5. An overall plan for preserving/restoring the Great Salt Lake's key processes (lake level fluctuation, circulation & salinity balance, water quality, water quantity) does not yet exist

Concerns from Other Conservation Organizations

1. Enough water for the Lake – commitment to a conservation pool
 2. Better understanding about low lake level dynamics
 3. Comprehensive understanding of ecosystem services of the lake that include non-consumptive values
 4. Fragmented management style that does not factor in cumulative impacts for extractive or consumptive sources
 5. Water quantity issues with no one responsible for a low lake limit
 6. A need for higher protective designation recognizing the natural values of the GSL
 7. Water quality issues in Farmington Bay and possibly Bear River Bay related to waste discharges
 8. GSL managed for public trust – multiple use does not take precedence over public trust obligations
- 
- A bald eagle is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, against a clear blue sky. The eagle is positioned in the upper center of the frame. In the foreground, there is a dense field of tall, green grasses that appear to be growing near a body of water. The water is visible at the bottom of the image, reflecting the sky and the grass. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.



What other benefits does the Great Salt Lake system provide?

1. Recreation: sailing, airboating, birdwatching, photography, hunting, solitude, viewshed value
2. Public Education / Scientific Laboratory
3. Storm water, industrial contaminant, and waste discharge assimilation
4. Brine shrimp harvest
5. Mineral extraction
6. Benefits for mountain water supplies and ski industry ("Lake Effect")
7. Transportation corridors
8. Grazing



Premise:

A naturally-functioning, healthy Great Salt Lake best provides for all human beneficial uses (mineral extraction, recreation, brine shrimp harvest, discharge capacity, migratory wildlife protection, other)

TNC Working Goal

“A healthy Great Salt Lake system that protects the natural processes which support all beneficial uses, and management decision-making that allows only those human uses that do not degrade the health of the lake, are sustainable, and do not damage other beneficial uses.”



To Move Forward Towards....

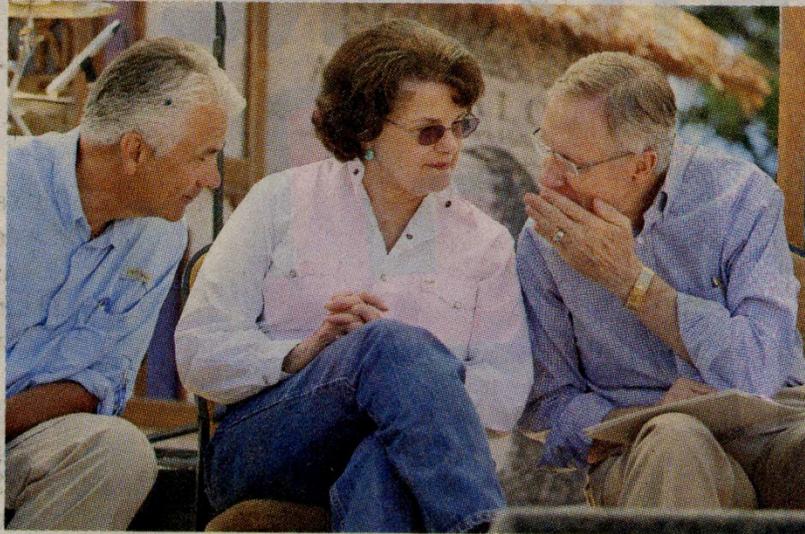
A Healthy Lake System, Sustainable Uses, Reduced Conflict

1. Develop a measurable definition of GSL health to be incorporated into all state planning/management
2. Ensure GSL Comprehensive Management Plan includes management of lake processes/system, in addition to management of human beneficial uses
3. Expand the role of science in decision-making



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TAHOE SUMMIT



CATHLEEN ALLISON | *The Associated Press*

U.S. Sens. John Ensign, left, Dianne Feinstein and Harry Reid talk Tuesday during the annual Tahoe Summit near Incline Village, Nev. During the summit, decision-makers assess the state of Lake Tahoe while identifying which policies can sustain the lake as a national treasure.

Animal Waste Management



Lessons learned from controversial issues....

1. Lake is finite
2. All beneficial uses are more interconnected than we thought (“zoning” dilemma)
3. No clear definition of lake health
4. Mandate to protect/utilize not clearly articulated
5. “Coordinated Management” leaves out whole-system health analysis
6. Often inadequate science data for decision-making
7. No “limits” set for any beneficial use
8. No tracking of cumulative effects of all permitted uses
9. Some state agency charters/purposes do conflict
10. No single entity with final analysis responsibility and final decision-making authority on all use or protection proposals



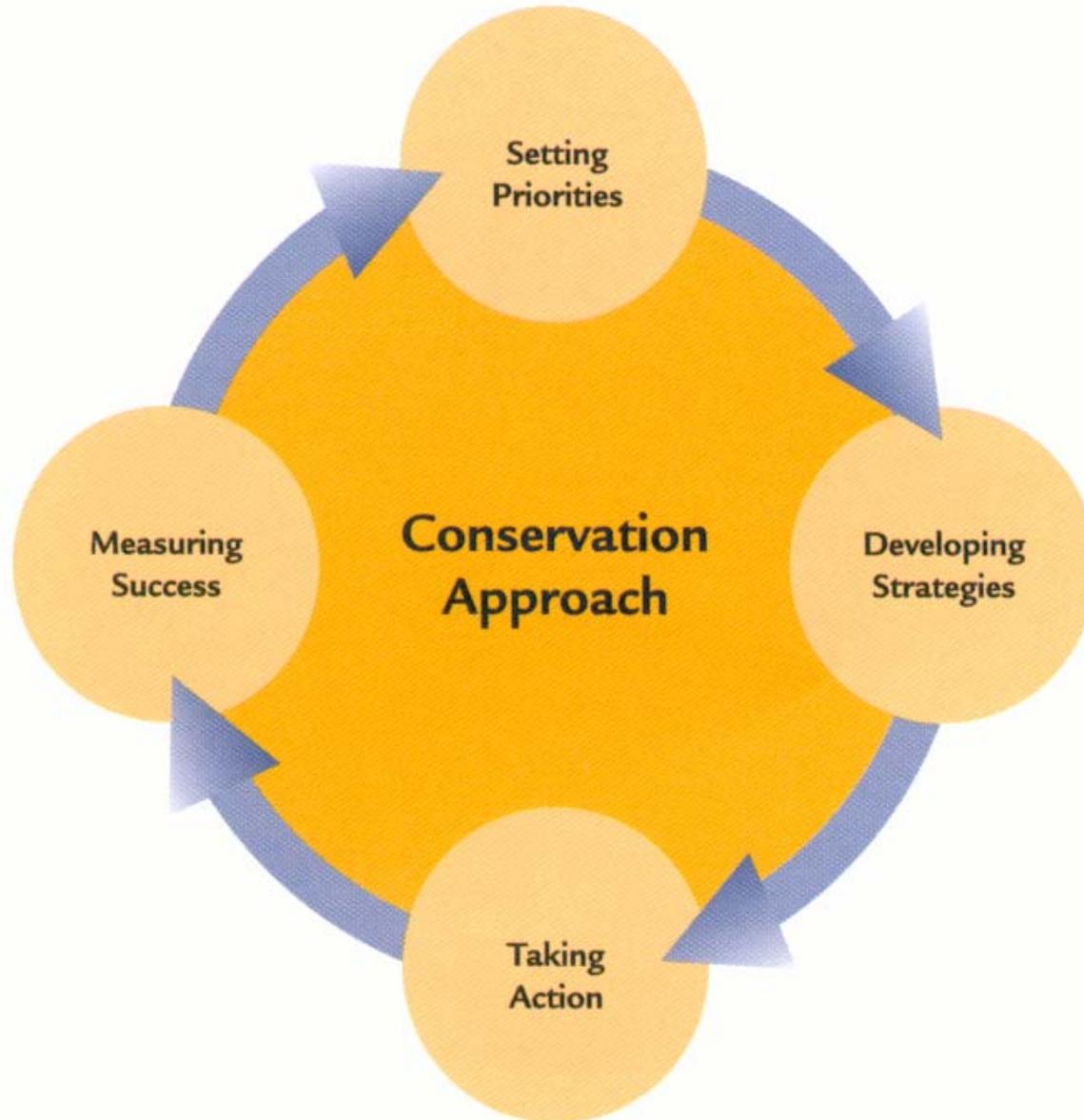
A naturally-functioning, healthy Great Salt Lake best provides for all human beneficial uses (mineral extraction, recreation, brine shrimp harvest, discharge capacity, list others etc.)

AND

best provides habitat and food sources for migratory birds and other animals.

Working Goal: A healthy Great Salt Lake system that protects the natural processes which support all beneficial uses and a management regime in place that allows only those human uses that are sustainable, do not damage other beneficial uses, and do not degrade the health of the lake.

Conservation By Design







Mineral Extraction Expansion Proposals

