



2025 REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS
Issued by the Utah Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
For Great Salt Lake Research Projects



1.0 STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (“Division”) requests proposals for research projects that will further knowledge of Great Salt Lake (“GSL”). Research projects will provide lake managers with a better understanding of the complexities of GSL in order to best inform management decisions. Research project deliverables will be publicly accessible for use and dissemination.

The Great Salt Lake Technical Team, through its Research and Grants Subcommittee, has identified four general “hot topics” that research proposals might address, either individually or in combination. Research proposals that do not adhere to any “hot topics,” but pose a significant enhancement of GSL knowledge and/or management need, will be evaluated.

1. Impacts of Water Level and Water Quality on GSL Biota – Historically low water levels in GSL have exposed hundreds of thousands of acres of lakebed and increased salinity in the South Arm. GSL biota adapted to submerged conditions, and/or narrow salinity ranges, are stressed as a result. The cascading effects of decreasing water level and increasing salinity on GSL biota need further examination at finer detail. GSL biota include, but are not limited to, brine shrimp, brine flies, microbialites, vegetation, and birds.
2. Mapping, Surveying, and Data Repository – Robust baseline data of GSL is essential to enhance our understanding of the system, as well as all associated impacts. Geographic, morphometric, water quality, and ecological maps and/or surveys collected in a repository establish a foundation for future research to build upon. Monitoring data is an additional and essential component.
3. Ecosystem Dynamics – Biotic and abiotic factors of the GSL ecosystem interact to provide a multitude of services. The extent to which these components and functions interact requires further study. It is necessary to better understand the interconnection of GSL ecosystem components and functions to guide management.
4. Water Budget and In-Lake Routing – Historically low water levels in GSL necessitate a deeper understanding of the lake’s water budget and an assessment of potential in-lake projects to prioritize areas of conservation need. An enhanced understanding of water inputs, interactions, evaporation, salinity and consumption in GSL will inform more robust management schemes at unprecedented water levels.

The outcomes and deliverables of this Request for Grant Applications are deliberately non-specific to allow the submitting entity to craft an approach that will bring understanding to and/or define future research needs. The successful applicant must indicate the relevance and importance of the work to GSL, demonstrate how it will benefit the Division’s understanding of GSL, and connect the work to improved management of GSL.

Additionally, the successful applicant must advance the goals and objectives of the GSL Comprehensive Management Plan and GSL Commissioner’s Strategic plan through project work.

Proposals are solicited for one- to two-year research projects that address an aspect of one or more of the “hot topics” listed above. Priority will be given to one-year projects. Applicants wishing to receive a second year of funding must reapply for funding the following year.

All deliverables are due on June 27th, 2025. If the project is a two-year project, an interim report is due on June 27th, 2025; with the final deliverable due no later than June 26th, 2026. Expenditures eligible for funding under this proposal include labor, supplies, travel, materials and equipment.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Division, as part of its statutory responsibilities, recognizes the need to understand the complex aspects of Great Salt Lake in order to manage the lake and protect its resources. The authority for this Request for Grant Applications comes from Utah Code 65A-10-8 that outlines the management responsibilities of the Division for GSL. Available funding under this Request for Grant Applications comes from the Utah State Legislature to the Division.

3.0 APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY/REQUIREMENTS

This request is directed to Federal, State, Tribal and local governments, communities, businesses, universities, colleges and non-profit organizations.

Applicants may apply for up to **\$125,000** for any project. It is anticipated that a total of approximately \$400,000 will be available for projects and that more than one project will be funded. Two-year projects may be considered, however, 60% or more of the total grant request must be spent before June 27th, 2025.

Applying organizations or businesses must have the ability to ensure fiscal accountability.

4.0 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Funds may be used for a range of approaches to the “hot topics” including: to conduct pilot projects; synthesize new or existing information; develop methods to address a research questions; apply existing knowledge to a specific problem; define and study an aspect of a specific research question; connect new or existing research to management enhancements; or define future research needs.

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Those submitting proposals must examine all contract documents, noting particularly all stipulations that in any way affect work output. Failure to fully understand the amount and nature of the work required to fulfill all terms of the contract documents will not be considered as a basis for extra compensation after a contract has been awarded.

- 5.2 If discrepancies, omissions, or ambiguities are found in contract documents, the Division will be notified at once. The Division will send written corrections or explanations. The Division will not be responsible for any oral instructions.
- 5.3 Proposals that substantially add to, subtract from, or otherwise change the provisions of this request will be considered void.
- 5.4 Proposals must certify that all entities responsible for authorizing activities have agreed that their proposal should be submitted as written.
- 5.5 Proposals must certify that funds awarded to the proposing entity by the Division through any contract issued pursuant to this Request for Grant Applications will not be used to supplant funds that it may have at its disposal from other sources.
- 5.6 Due to that the source of grant monies are public funds, submitted proposals become the property of the Division and will become public records following the award of the grants. Content of unsuccessful proposals may be protected to the extent allowed by law at the request of the submitter. The request should be part of the proposal on the basis of proprietary ideas, processes, equipment, copyrights, etc. Information of the cover sheet will not be protected information.
- 5.7 Research reports will be available to the public through the Division and will be published online.
- 5.8 When submitting invoices for payment, grant recipients will provide the Division with detailed accounting information. Personnel costs should detail the charges per individual staff member working on the project. Copies of invoices and receipts from the purchase of materials and supplies for project should be submitted. Travels costs should be detailed (i.e. mileage reimbursement and cost per mile, vehicle rental charge).
- 5.9 The overhead for each project budget shall not exceed 10%.
- 5.10 In addition to the project deliverable, researchers will be required to present research findings at a Great Salt Lake Technical Team Meeting and provide a 1–2 page project summary.

6.0 PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

To be considered, project proposals must include the following components:

6.1 COVER SHEET

Use attached form.

6.2 PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please limit to eight (8) pages single sided, singled spaced, 12-point type document not including resumes (see list of appendices, below). The narrative should provide:

- A. Information about the principal investigator and project team members.
- B. Name and nature of the sponsoring institution, including relevant financial information such as overhead rate or 501(c)3 status.

- C. Declaration of close associations of research team members with staff of the Division, members of the GSL Technical Team, or members of the Utah State Legislature.
- D. Plan of work including goals, objectives and methods of the research project. This section should include a discussion of how the requested funding and approach will be adequate to accomplish the goals and objectives of the research project.
- E. Discussion of the importance of the project to the public interest, to a better understanding of a significant research issue, and to management of GSL.
- F. Discussion of how the project addresses an aspect of at least one of the “hot topics” listed in 1.0 Statement of Intent.
- G. Discussion concerning related work done or in progress by principal investigator and members of the project team.

6.3 COLLABORATION/PROJECT PARTNERS

Please restrict to a summary section of two (2) pages single sided, singled spaced, 12-point type document not including letters of commitment (see list of appendices, below).

- A. Identify partners and their contributions to the proposed project.
- B. Letters of commitment describing the specific commitment (provided by the project partner and included as an appendix).
- C. Potential for future leverage associated with the research project.

6.4 PROJECT BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project proposals must present a budget table in a format similar to that of the example below. The budget table should include expenses expected to be covered with grant funds, plus any state and local match sources.

- A. Total Projected Costs by Category. Categories are: personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, administration, other.
- B. Identification of matching funds or contributed resources, whether cash or in-kind services. If in-kind, state the category: personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, administration, other.

6.5 APPENDICES

- A. Resumes of key project team members.
- B. Letters of support from community leaders, community groups, agencies, etc.
- C. Letters of commitment from declared partners.

SAMPLE BUDGET TABLE

BUDGET CATEGORY	UNIT COST (\$)	NO. OF UNITS	GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED	MATCHING FUNDS (CASH OR IN-KIND)	TOTAL
Personnel					
Equipment					
Materials/Supplies					
Travel					
Administrative Overhead					
Other (List)					
TOTAL PROJECT COST					

SAMPLE ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF WORK

ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	QTY	MONTH 1-3			MONTH 4-6			MONTH 7-9		
University of Bluffdale	Literature search	1			█						
University of Bluffdale	Field work	1				█	█	█			
University of Bluffdale	Data analysis and report	1						█	█	█	

7.0 RANKING CRITERIA

The Division will follow guidelines developed by members of the GSL Technical Team to review and evaluate proposals. A Research and Grants Subcommittee made up of GSL Technical Team members will evaluate proposals. The evaluation process will be based on how project elements contribute to the stated goals, the qualifications of the proposal and the information asked for in this Request for Grant Application. Proposals will be evaluated based on following criteria:

WEIGHT	CRITERIA
20%	Potential to demonstrate an early “success” with respect to an aspect of one or more of the four “hot topics.”
20%	Project potential to assist and/or improve the management of GSL
20%	Project importance to the Utah public AND/OR Novel GSL Research AND/OR Project potential to increase understanding of a research need
20%	Project advances the goals and objectives of the 2013 GSL Comprehensive Management Plan and 2024 GSL Commissioner’s Strategic Plan
5%	Understanding and articulation of the research concern
5%	Specific work plan elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ milestones ❑ reasonable and rational budget ❑ reasonable work plan and scope of work ❑ quality of presentation ❑ completeness of proposal
5%	Qualifications and past performance of investigators
5%	Project potential for current or future partnerships with funding and/or collaboration

8.0 PROPOSAL APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All proposals must be electronic and received attached to an email as a PDF document. Each proposal must be received no later than **Friday, March 8th, 2024 at 5:00 PM**. Absolutely no exceptions will be made for proposals not received by the appointed time. **Proposals shall be submitted to Marisa Weinberg at the email address below.** Questions regarding the Request for Grant Applications should also be addressed to Marisa Weinberg.

Marisa Weinberg
Great Salt Lake Coordinator
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
mweinberg@utah.gov
(385) 226-3333

9.0 CONTRACT DURATION

The contract period will extend from the date of contract approval by the Division until June 30th, 2025.

10.0 FUNDING NOTIFICATION AND GRANT AWARD

Proposals selected for funding will be notified within 30 days of the submission deadline. This initial notification should not be construed as an official grant award. The Division is responsible for follow-up with the appropriate documentation to award the grant. Successful candidates are encouraged to consult with the awarding agency before incurring any expenses, as pre-award costs are not usually allowed.



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COVER SHEET

PROJECT TITLE			
LEAD PROJECT SPONSOR			
PROJECT CONTACT	NAME		
	MAILING ADDRESS		
	PHONE NUMBER		
	EMAIL		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION /ABSTRACT			
PROJECT FUNDING	AMOUNT REQUESTED	MATCHING FUNDS	TOTAL PROJECT COST
	\$	\$	\$

