March 21, 2023

Water Users Workshop Adjudication Update

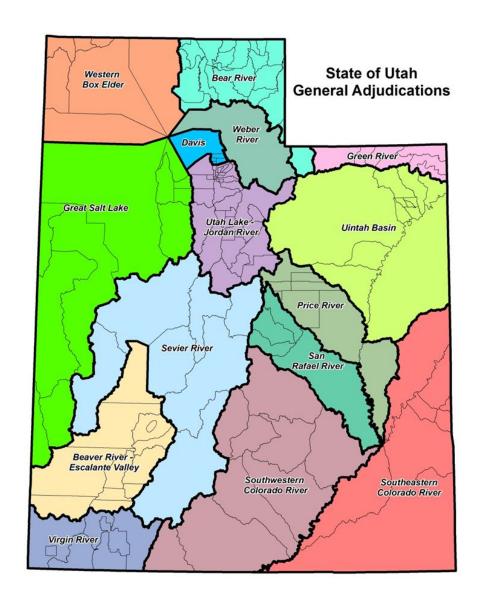
#### **Division of Water Rights**



#### What is a General Stream Adjudication?

#### What it IS...

- Action in State District Court
- Joins and binds all water users and the State Engineer (Division of Water Rights)
- Governed by Utah State Code: Title 73, Chapter 4
- To determine the nature and extent of all existing water rights within each river drainage





#### Why Do We Conduct General Adjudications?

- Bring all claims on to the permanent record:
  - Pre-Statutory Claims
    - Diligence Claims (1903)
    - Underground Water Claims (1935)

Article 17: All existing rights to the use of any of the waters in this State for any useful or beneficial purpose, are hereby recognized and confirmed

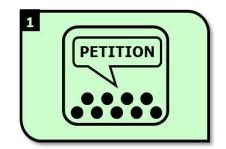
- Federal Reserve Rights
  - Winter's Doctrine (1908)
  - McCarran Amendment (1952)
- To prevent a "multiplicity of suits" and bring clarity to the water rights picture.
- Remove/reduce rights which have been wholly or partially forfeited through non-use.
- To obtain final comprehensive decrees on all water rights within the respective drainage.

## Types of Rights that are Adjudicated

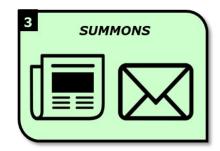
- Perfected Rights
  - Certificated, No Proof Required, and Decreed Rights
- Pre-Statutory Claims
  - Diligence Claims, Underground Water Claims, Pending Adjudication Claims.
- Federal Reserve Rights
- Adverse Use Claims
- Elections
- Lapsed Small Domestic Applications
- Also Included:
  - Perfected Share Statements, Approved Exchange Applications.

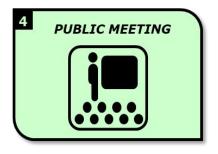


# The Adjudication Process

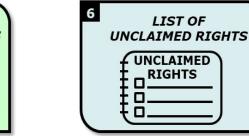




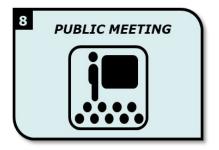






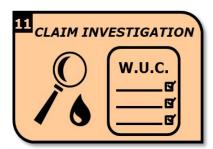


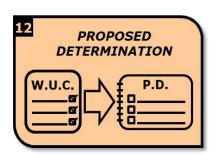












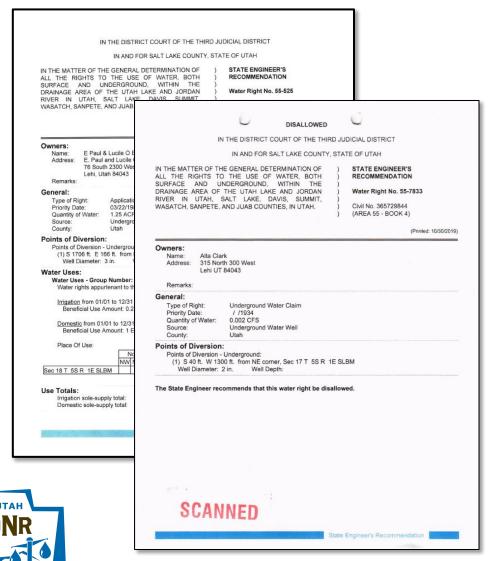








#### State Engineer's Recommendation (SER)

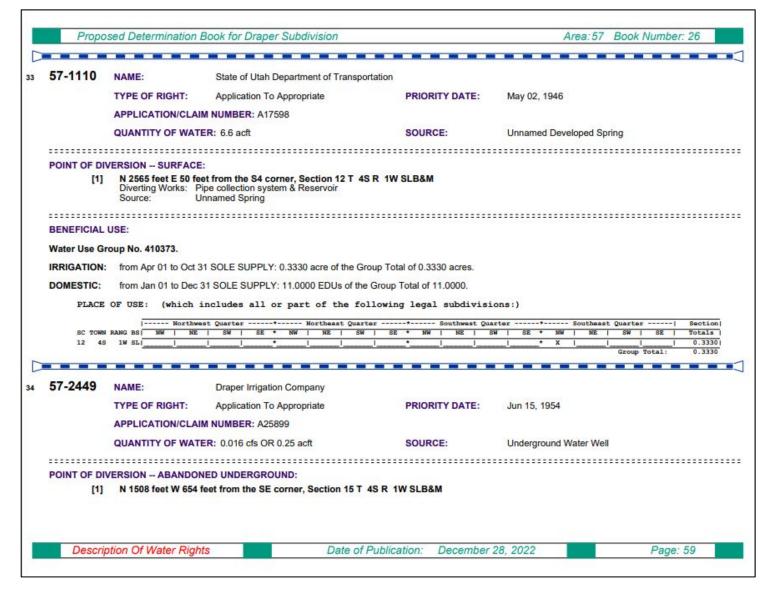


WATER RIGHTS

- Recommended definition of the water right based on the file and field reviews.
- A water right may be disallowed based on evidence of non-use (i.e., forfeiture); or a claim may be disallowed due to its invalidity (having no legal basis).
- A copy of the memo, SER, and map (if applicable) will be mailed to the claimant and/or owner of record.

#### **Proposed Determination**

- Proposed Determination (PD) represents the State Engineer's official recommendation of rights within an adjudication boundary.
- Filed with the District Court.
- Distributed to water users within the adjudication boundary.



## Frequently Asked Questions

- Why did I receive a summons?
  - Summons are sent to <u>all known water right holders</u>
     and <u>all property owners</u>.
  - Also published in a local newspaper.
  - This is done to make the general adjudication comprehensive.





## Frequently Asked Questions

- Why isn't my name on the water right?
  - A Water User's Claim (WUC) does not update title.
  - Out-of-date title <u>does not</u> prevent someone from filing a WUC.
  - Submit a Report of Conveyance (ROC)

#### Lapsed Applications

- Lapsed applications for small amounts of water can be reinstated.
- UTAH DNR
  WATER RIGHTS

Submit a Water User's Claim <u>and</u> an Affidavit of Beneficial Use.



## Frequently Asked Questions

- Irrigation Shares or Share Statements
  - If a right is based on ownership of shares in a local irrigation company, you typically don't need to file a Water User's Claim.
  - The irrigation company will file on your behalf.
  - However, shareholders may file if desired.





### **Current Issue**

- Claiming a Provo Decree Right
  - Identify an exact award if possible.
  - If award is not known:
    - Identify the point of diversion from the Provo River
    - Identify the place of use.
    - Claim ownership of relevant classes.
  - Ownership/Awardee
    - Identify an awardee in your chain of title.
    - Title to a 1980's Water User's Claim is <u>not</u> sufficient by itself.





#### Current Issue

- Claiming a Provo Decree Right, cont'd
  - Stockwatering: Decree is ambiguous

"[T]hat all the rights...include the right to divert and use water for irrigation, culinary, domestic and agricultural purposes connected therewith." (emphasis added)

- We will be looking for "diligence claim-like" evidence for agricultural uses.
- Stockwatering claimed in 1980's WUC is <u>not</u> sufficient Still unclear?...File a Water User's Claim and the Division will investigate further.





#### Current Issue

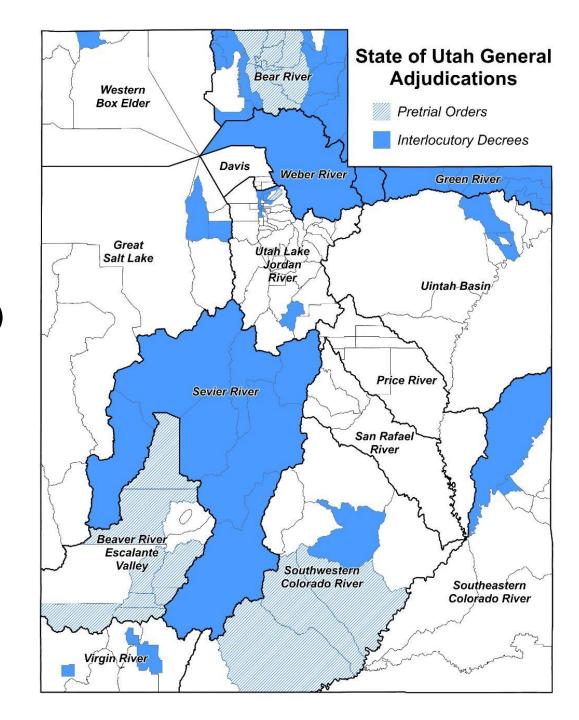
- Evaluation of an Irrigation Company
  - The Division will map actually irrigated acreage.
    - We appreciate your help in identifying these fields.
  - Factors that affect our evaluation:
    - Shares owned by a public water supplier.
    - Rights or shares under pending change applications.
    - Shares used supplementally with privately held rights.
    - Approved periods of nonuse.





### **Current Status**

- 15 General Adjudications
  - 1 Complete Adjudication
- 2 Historical Stream Adjudications
  - Weber/Ogden River (1937 & 1948)
  - Sevier River (1936)
- 4 Active Adjudications
  - Utah Lake/Jordan River
  - Virgin River
  - Southeastern Colorado
  - Bear River (Addenda and Objections only)



## 2022 Accomplishments

Proposed Determinations

Parleys (57-14)

W. Big Cotton. (57-17)

E. Murray (57-20)

Sandy/Mid. (57-21)

Dimple Dell (57-24)

Willow Creek (57-25)

Draper (57-26)

Moab South (05-5)

New Subdivisions

Navajo (09-1)

Jordanelle (55-13)

Francis-Wood. (55-14)

Upper Provo (55-15)



## Salt Lake County

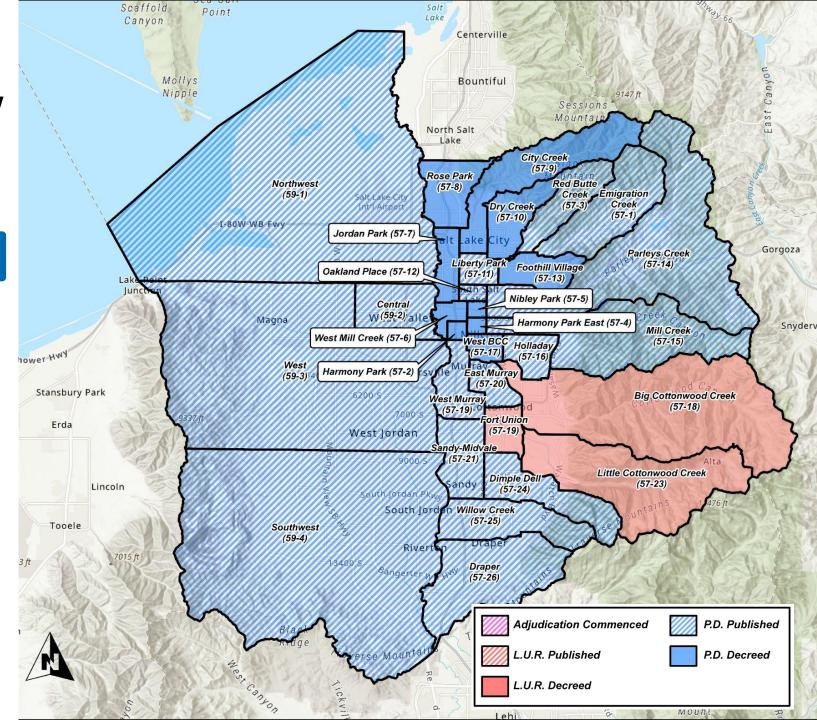
• PDs Planned in 2023:

Big Cotton. (57-18)

Fort Union (57-19)

Little Cotton. (57-23)

- What's left?
  - Objection Resolution
  - Addenda



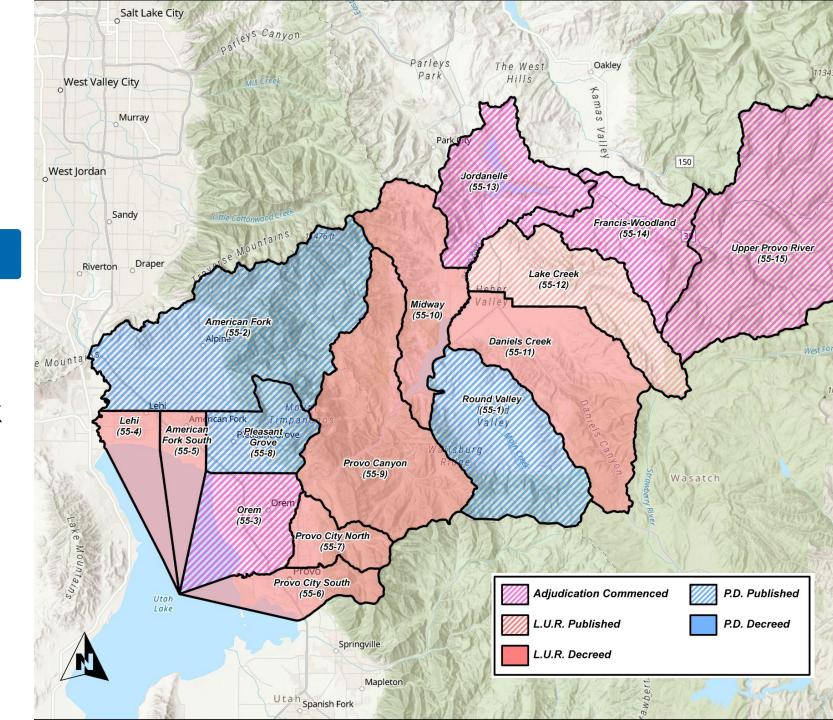
## Provo Division

PDs Planned in 2023:

Provo S. (55-6)

Provo N. (55-7)

- Future Division:
  - Santaquin-Spanish Fork
  - Mona-Nephi

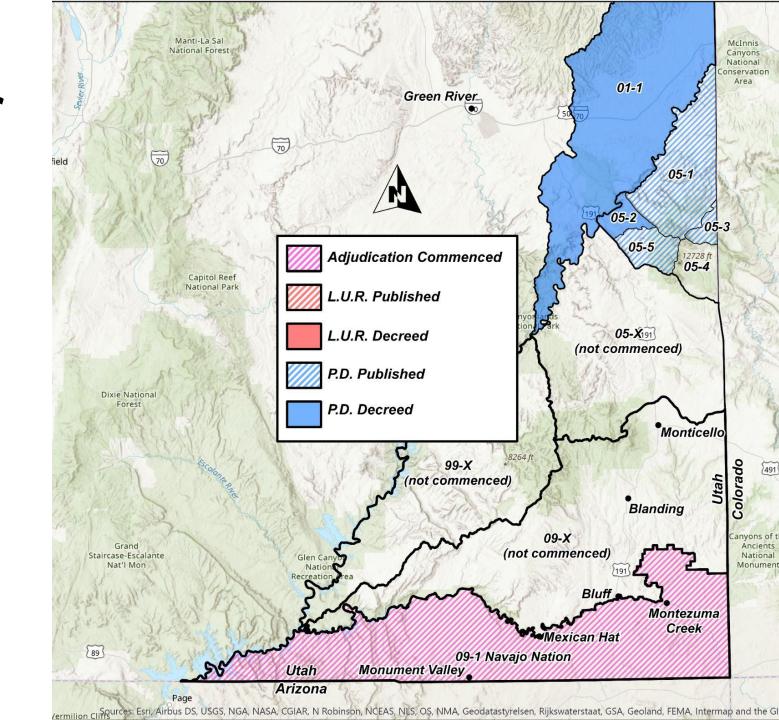


## SE Colorado River

PDs Planned in 2023:

Navajo Nation (09-1)

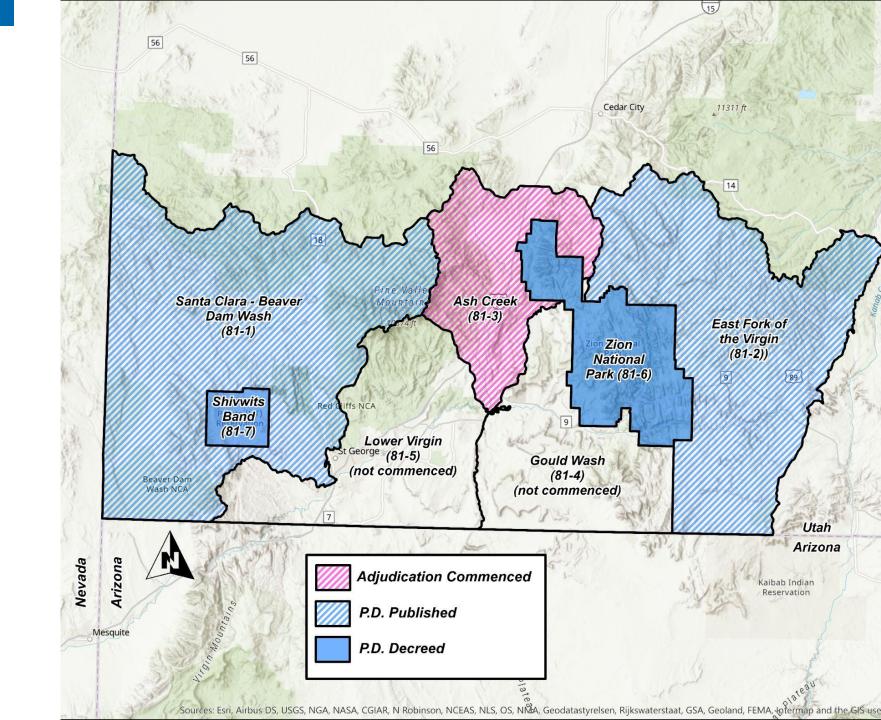
- Evaluating Future Options:
  - La Sal Area
  - Monticello Area
  - Blanding Area
  - Federal Joinder to Existing PDs



## Virgin River

Ongoing Work:

Ash Creek (81-3)





# THANK YOU