

OUR LAKE. OUR RESPONSIBILITY.



PHOTO: CHARLES UIBEL

The Great Salt Lake faces the **greatest threat** of our generation.

THE THREAT — MORE THAN THE LAKE CAN BEAR

Great Salt Lake Minerals Expansion

The company is proposing a massive expansion of its operations. Although six different companies extract minerals from the Great Salt Lake, Great Salt Lake Minerals (GSLM) is the largest, extracting potassium sulfate for use in agricultural fertilizers.

142 square miles of new evaporation ponds

To extract potassium sulfate from the Lake, GSLM concentrates the salts in evaporating ponds, separated from the main lake by dikes. GSLM's proposal would increase its footprint by 91,000 acres—a 194% increase over current operations. If allowed, GSLM's evaporating ponds would cover about 13% of the Lake's total surface area. That's bigger than the land area covered by Salt Lake City, Ogden and Provo, combined.

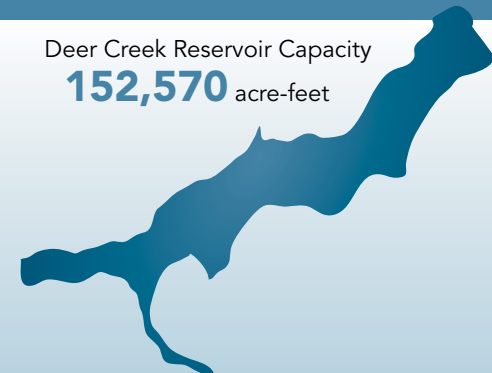
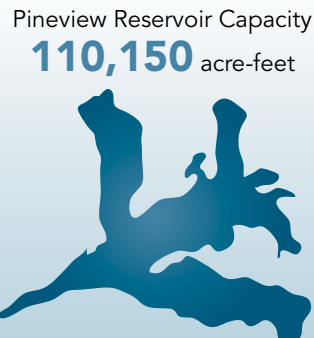
353,000 acre feet of water rights taken out of the Lake

After creating many miles of new dikes, GSLM would pump water from the Lake into its ponds, so evaporation can concentrate the minerals in the ponds' water. The company's proposed new water rights are about as much water as flows into the Lake every year from the Jordan River. Put another way, that's more water than the total storage capacity of Deer Creek Reservoir and Pineview Reservoir, combined.

Reduced lake levels and increased dry lake bed

The Governor's office estimates the GSLM proposal could reduce the lake level by 2.5 feet. Because the lake is quite shallow, this would expose 78 square miles of new dry lake bed.

AN ENORMOUS WATER DRAIN



IMPACTS ON PEOPLE. IMPACTS ON NATURE.

Dirty air

Already Utah has some of the worst particulate air pollution in the nation, and dust storms create a real public health problem for parts of Davis and Weber counties. Enormous new areas of dry lake bed could dramatically worsen particulates in the air we breathe.

Poisonous water

Experts are concerned that the water flushed from GSLM's evaporation ponds causes elevated levels of methyl mercury in Bear River Bay. Expanding operations would tend to increase mercury contamination. Methyl mercury is toxic to humans and wildlife.

Destruction of critical wildlife habitat

Great Salt Lake is a globally significant ecosystem, which serves as a stopping place for more than 5 million water birds each year. GSLM's proposal has the potential for many significant wildlife impacts, not the least of which is the loss of more than 8,000 acres of important bird habitat in Bear River Bay. Various habitat losses would negatively impact the thousands of Utah birdwatchers and hunters who enjoy ducks and other water birds on the lake.

Loss of recreational access

Already, low lake levels make the Salt Lake Marina virtually useless. Reducing lake levels even further would make many areas of the lake unnavigable by boaters and close down the last remaining marina. Hunters and birdwatchers would have limited access and fewer birds to see.



PHOTO: CHARLES UBEL



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HAVE A REAL LAKE EFFECT

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Please Donate

Those who would profit off the Lake are well financed. It's an expensive proposition to research all of the proposal's impacts, hire experts, and prepare for a potential legal fight. Every penny of your donation will go directly to helping face this threat. Donate online at www.keepthelakegreat.com.

Stay Informed, Get Involved

We're continuing to learn all the dangers of this proposal. Keep up-to-date and volunteer to help at www.keepthelakegreat.com.

Connect with the Coalition

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THE COALITION TO KEEP THE LAKE GREAT

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Utah Waterfowl Association • Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
League of Women Voters of Salt Lake • Sierra Club of Utah
League of Women Voters of Utah • National Audubon Society
Western Wildlife Conservancy • Bridgerland Audubon

PHOTO: GARY CRANDALL

