UTAH CONSERVATION COMMUNITY

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2026 General Legislative Session Week 2 31 January, 2026

2025 Legislative Update

Each update provides key highlights for the prior week's General Legislative Session and what is expected for the week ahead. The focus of this update are the Utah state legislation and actions for protecting wildlife and the environment. Questions and comments can be directed to Dan Strauch: strauchmail@yahoo.com.

About the Legislative Update

The *Legislative Update* is made possible by the Utah Audubon Council and contributing organizations. Each *Update* provides legislative actions, descriptions and updates throughout the Session and important dates and progress of key committees. For the most up-to-date information and for the names and contact information for legislators, check the Legislative website at www.le.utah.gov. The *Update* focuses on legislative information pertaining to wildlife, sensitive and invasive species, public lands, state parks, SITLA land management, energy development, renewable energy and conservation and water issues. The *Update* is distributed after each Friday of the Session. Additional Action Alerts may also be distributed during the session. Please use this information to prepare you to contact your legislator with your opinions and concerns!

Week 2 Update

HB 60 Water Rights Amendments, a bill that we strongly oppose, has completed its second reading in the House which means it is up for a final House vote this week. Now is the time to let your representative know to vote NAY.

There has been positive progress on several bills we SUPPORT.

HB 76 Data Center Water Policy Amendments
SB 46 Water Wise Landscaping Amendments
SB 130 River Restoration Amendments

Unfortunately, other key SUPPORT bills are moving slowly. Please continue to express your support for these bills to you representatives and senators.

Finally, SB 225 Utah Inland Port Amendments was published on Friday. This bill can only be read as a means to simplify the expansion of UIPA projects. This is a High priority, Oppose.

BILL TRACKING LIST

Position: Underline means initial position … investigating further and position may change.

Bill	Sponsor	Description *Italics are UAC commentary/explanation* *Comments in orange are new/changed vs prior week.*	Topic	Status	Priority	Position
H.B. 60 - - Water Rights Amendments	Rep. David Shallenberger	This bill: ‣ addresses actions related to an application to appropriate public water; ‣ modifies the extent to which the state engineer may consider a protest; ‣ addresses temporary applications; ‣ modifies the grounds that the state engineer may consider in approving or rejecting an application, including what the state engineer may consider related to public welfare; ‣ clarifies who is an aggrieved person for purposes of seeking judicial review; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *Some mild concerns expressed by committee members. Strong public objection. Passed with two no votes. Supporters making strong argument that this is a bill that supports getting water to the GSL, which outside of government this bill is simply not read that way.* *This bill makes significant changes to the process by which the state engineer makes a determination on a water application. Essentially this bill:* *- eliminates the requirement that the state engineer consider public*	Water	House 3rd reading calendar	1	Oppose

		recreation in the decision process. *- makes it much more difficult for the public to track and protest any water application changes.* *Per the Utah Constitution the waters of the state are for the people, but this bill eliminates the consideration of the people in a water application.*				
H.B. 76 -- Data Center Water Policy Amendments	Rep. Jill Koford	This bill: ▸ defines terms; ▸ directs land use authorities to issue certain notices; ▸ requires certain large data centers to communicate with water providers; ▸ requires reporting by operators of certain data centers before construction and annually; ▸ addresses disclosure of the reported information; ▸ provides for enforcement mechanisms; ▸ addresses rulemaking; and ▸ makes technical and conforming amendments. *1st sub very positive changes ... reduced the size of data center required to report and also requires that the water estimate and use data be non-anonymized when published. Original bill anonymized the data when published.* *Utah Rivers Council recognized positive changes of 1st sub but pointed out that bill still allows for confidentiality agreements between companies and municipalities which could make water use non disclosable.*	Water	1st Sub Passed House Economic Dev Committee Passed House to Senate	2	Support
H.B. 154 -- Water Loss Study Amendments	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill: ▸ defines terms; ▸ requires the division to conduct a study regarding water loss; ▸ requires the division to report the findings of the study; ▸ imposes a repeal date; and ▸ makes technical and conforming amendments.	Water	House 1st Reading	3	Support

S.B. 130 - - River Restoration Amendments	Sen. Lincoln Fillmore	This bill: ‣ modifies how the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) expends money related to a Jordan River improvement project, including: •allowing the division to expend money for an activity along the entire length of the Jordan River; and •requiring the division to consult with the Jordan River Commission before expending money for an improvement project; ‣ creates a matching grant program for counties and municipalities to fund improvement projects that increase access to a recreational activity on the Jordan River; ‣ directs funding from the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account to the matching grant program; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *1st sub changes funding source to General Fund from Adventure Fund, questions whether there will be any appropriations.*	Water	1st sub Passed Senate House 1st reading	4	Support
H.B. 155 - - Water Rates Amendments	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill: ‣ provides for increasing block units for residential water use in certain water rate structures; ‣ addresses the purpose of increases in rates charged for additional blocks; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments. *Allows for increase water rates for outdoor watering.*	Water	House 1st Reading	5	Support
S.B. 46 - - Water Wise Landscaping Amendments	Sen. Keven Stratton	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ imposes landscaping requirements related to state government facilities; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Water	Passed Senate House 1st reading	6	Support

H.B. 30 - - Wildlife Management Area Amendments	Rep. David Shallenberger	This bill: ‣ creates the Wildlife Management Area Stewardship Fund; ‣ repeals language related to access to wildlife management areas requiring a hunting,,fishing, or combination license; ‣ defines terms; ‣ requires that an individual meet certain conditions to access a wildlife management area; ‣ directs the Division of Wildlife Resources (division) to approve an educational video and provide digital verification of completion of the educational video; ‣ provides for exceptions to the conditions to access a wildlife management area; ‣ authorizes rulemaking and requires reporting regarding rulemaking; ‣ provides for voluntary financial contributions for the benefit of wildlife management areas; ‣ permits the division to oversee the provision of volunteer labor to benefit a wildlife management area, including addressing liability issues; ‣ enacts nonrefundable tax credits for contributions to wildlife management areas in accordance with statute and rules; ‣ addresses apportionment of a nonrefundable tax credit; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *1st sub eliminates the tax credit portion. I decided not to challenge the Wildlife Board make up as I did not see this inhibiting the bill. Having separate conversations with the sponsor on that aspect. Change to full Support.* *This bill adds requirement that all parties 18 and older must complete an on-line education course to receive a digital pass for access to a WMA. The requirement for "all parties" to obtain a pass has raised questions. Speaking to sponsors this requirement is meant to address users in groups that may not remain together, such as bikers or off road vehicles where allowed. Often those parties do not travel all together.* *This bill modifies the WMA access requirements of HB309'25. That bill, HB309'25, also limited allowable participants on the Wildlife*	Lands	1st Sub Passed House Committee House 2nd Reading	7	Support

		Board to individuals with hunting licenses, removing fishing only or non-consumptive members. I will take the opportunity to object to that change and request that be addressed as part of this bill as well.				

H.B. 187 -- Water Amendments	Rep. Colin Jack	This bill: ‣ exempts from provisions related to abandonment or forfeiture for nonuse certain water rights of a water conservancy district that are related to the lower basin; ‣ prohibits certain instream flow change applications related to the lower basin; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments. *Would bar water rights holders from participating in in-stream flow incentives as streams in lower basin flow to other states.*	Water	1st Sub To House Natural Resources Committee	8	Oppose
H.B. 348 -- Dedicated Water Amendments	Rep. Jill Koford	This bill: ‣ addresses provisions applicable to dedicated water applications; ‣ prohibits segregation of an underlying water right from dedicated water; ‣ addresses process for approval of instream flow and related actions; ‣ defines terms; ‣ provides for the filing and approval of a dedicated water application; ‣ addresses land in agricultural use; ‣ authorizes the state engineer to require certain reporting; ‣ addresses lapsing of a dedicated water application; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments.	Water	House 1st Reading	9	Support
H.B. 410 -- Water Leasing Amendments	Rep. Jill Koford	This bill: ‣ makes appropriations to the Great Salt Lake Preservation Program (program) non lapsing; ‣ addresses diversion or impoundment by an intervening user of leased water; ‣ provides for streamlined leasing of certain water; ‣ directs the Great Salt Lake commissioner to facilitate leasing of water for the Great Salt Lake; ‣ creates the program; ‣ defines terms; ‣ creates the Great Salt Lake Preservation Board (board); ‣ provides for rulemaking by the board; ‣ establishes the leasing process;	Water	Fiscal Note	10	Support

		‣ addresses fixed time change applications related to a lease of water; ‣ authorizes the board to take action if a person violates a lease; ‣ requires reporting by the board and the state engineer; ‣ enacts a sunset date; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments				
		HOUSE BILLS				
		PRE-SESSION				
H.B. 16 -- Solar Power Plant Amendments	Re. Colin Jack	This bill: ‣ establishes eligibility criteria for state incentives for solar power plants based on land characteristics; ‣ provides for reduction of incentives for solar power plants located on certain protected farmland; ‣ creates exemptions for solar power plants with existing agreements or incentives; ‣ requires wildlife impact consultation with state or federal agencies for solar power plants; ‣ establishes requirements for decommissioning plans and financial assurance for solar power plants; ‣ creates a permitting process for solar power plants; ‣ requires submission and approval of development plans for solar power plants; and ‣ provides for severability. *This bill modifies the state incentives paid for solar projects based on the type of land that the project will convert. Projects that will be on "prime farm land, farm land of statewide importance, farm land of local importance, or farm land of unique importance, as designated by the Natural Resource Conservation Service" will not be eligible for state level tax incentives. This bill does not prohibit such projects but only limits available incentives for new projects proposed after May 6, 2026.*	Solar	Passed Senate Committee	L	Support

H.B. 18 - - Public Land Access Amendments	Rep. Nelson Abbott	This bill: ‣ repeals requirement that under certain circumstances an individual is required to hold authorization to hunt or fish to access wildlife management areas; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments. *This bill eliminates the requirement for a hunting or fishing license for parties 18+ years to access a WMA. However, a new requirement is added in HB30'26 also detailed in this tracker.*	Lands	House 1st Reading	H	Support

H.B. 30 - - Wildlife Management Area Amendments	Rep. David Shallenberger	This bill: ‣ creates the Wildlife Management Area Stewardship Fund; ‣ repeals language related to access to wildlife management areas requiring a hunting',fishing, or combination license; ‣ defines terms; ‣ requires that an individual meet certain conditions to access a wildlife management area; ‣ directs the Division of Wildlife Resources (division) to approve an educational video and provide digital verification of completion of the educational video; ‣ provides for exceptions to the conditions to access a wildlife management area; ‣ authorizes rulemaking and requires reporting regarding rulemaking; ‣ provides for voluntary financial contributions for the benefit of wildlife management areas; ‣ permits the division to oversee the provision of volunteer labor to benefit a wildlife management area, including addressing liability issues; ‣ enacts nonrefundable tax credits for contributions to wildlife management areas in accordance with statute and rules; ‣ addresses apportionment of a nonrefundable tax credit; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *1st sub eliminates the tax credit portion. I decided not to challenge the Wildlife Board make up as I did not see this inhibiting the bill. Having separate conversations with the sponsor on that aspect. Change to full Support.* *This bill adds requirement that all parties 18 and older must complete an on-line education course to receive a digital pass for access to a WMA. The requirement for "all parties" to obtain a pass has raised questions. Speaking to sponsors this requirement is meant to address users in groups that may not remain together, such as bikers or off road vehicles where allowed. Often those parties do not travel all together.* *This bill modifies the WMA access requirements of HB309'25. That bill, HB309'25, also limited allowable participants on the Wildlife*	Lands	1st Sub Passed House Committee House 2nd reading	H	Support w/ amends

		Board to individuals with hunting licenses, removing fishing only or non-consumptive members. I will take the opportunity to object to that change and request that be addressed as part of this bill as well.				

H.B. 60 - - Water Rights Amendments	Rep. David Shallenberger	This bill: ‣ addresses actions related to an application to appropriate public water; ‣ modifies the extent to which the state engineer may consider a protest; ‣ addresses temporary applications; ‣ modifies the grounds that the state engineer may consider in approving or rejecting an application, including what the state engineer may consider related to public welfare; ‣ clarifies who is an aggrieved person for purposes of seeking judicial review; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *Some mild concerns expressed by committee members. Strong public objection. Passed with two no votes. Supporters making strong argument that this is a bill that supports getting water to the GSL, which outside of government this bill is simply not read that way.* *This bill makes significant changes to the process by which the state engineer makes a determination on a water application. Essentially this bill:* *- eliminates the requirement that the state engineer consider public recreation in the decision process.* *- makes it much more difficult for the public to track and protest any water application changes.* *Per the Utah Constitution the waters of the state are for the people, but this bill eliinates the consideration of the people in a water application.*	Water	House 3rd reading calendar	H	Oppose
H.B. 63 - - Livestock Watering Amendments	Rep. Scott Chew	his bill: ‣ provides for sub-basin livestock watering claims.	Water	Passed House Committee House 2nd Reading	L	Support

H.B. 64 -- School and Institutional Trust Lands Amendments	Rep. Carl Albrecht	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ creates a process for a county to nominate a culturally or scientifically significant site located on school and institutional trust lands (trust lands) for potential preservation; ‣ establishes requirements for the nomination of a proposed culturally or scientifically significant site; ‣ requires the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration(administration) to: •notify a county with trust lands of the opportunity to nominate a culturally or scientifically significant site; •approve a nomination for a culturally or scientifically significant site if the director determines that the nomination is consistent with the established requirements; and •maintain and periodically review a list of approved culturally or scientifically significant sites; ‣ allows the director of the administration to: •reject a nomination if the director determines the nomination is inconsistent with the established requirements; and •consider a preservation measure if the culturally or scientifically significant site is at risk; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Lands	Passed House Committee House 2nd Reading	L	Support
H.B. 76 -- Data Center Water Policy Amendments	Rep. Jill Koford	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ directs land use authorities to issue certain notices; ‣ requires certain large data centers to communicate with water providers; ‣ requires reporting by operators of certain data centers before construction and annually; ‣ addresses disclosure of the reported information; ‣ provides for enforcement mechanisms; ‣ addresses rulemaking; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments. *1st sub very positive changes ... reduced the size of data center required to report and also requires that the water estimate and use data be non-anonymized when published. Original bill anonymized the data when published.*	Water	Passed House To Senate	H	Support

		Utah Rivers Council recognized positive changes of 1st sub but pointed out that bill still allows for confidentiality agreements between companies and municipalities which could make water use non disclosable.				
H.B. 78 - - Nuclear Regulatory Amendments	Rep. Carl Albrecht	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ establishes the Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office within the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control; ‣ grants rulemaking authority to the division for nuclear energy regulation; ‣ authorizes establishment and collection of fees for nuclear energy licensing and oversight; ‣ directs the division to pursue expanded Agreement State status with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission; ‣ authorizes the director to enter cooperative agreements with federal agencies; and ‣ authorizes new positions for the Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office. *No NAY votes on House floor.* *Early step in the process to build nuclear facilities and process nuclear waste. State needs more expertise in these areas before proceeding.*	Nuclear	Passed Senate Committee	L	Oppose
H.B. 93 - - Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area	Rep. Doug Welton	This bill: ‣ provides for the creation of the Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments.	Lands	Passed House Committee House 2nd Reading	H	Support

H.B. 111 -- Wildlife Amendments	Rep. Bridger Bolinder	This bill: ‣ addresses who may provide verification of illness, injury, or disability in relationship to a license, certificate, or permit issued under the Wildlife Resources Act; ‣ amends provisions related to notice of acquisition of real property; ‣ provides for the management of grizzly bears; ‣ grants rulemaking authority; ‣ modifies when conservation easements held by the Division of Wildlife Resources maybe terminated; ‣ addresses discharge of a dangerous weapon related to a waterfowl management area or wildlife management area; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments *1st sub eliminates the termination of easement capability. During discussion it was stated that the grizzly bear management language mirrors that for wolves.* *This bill allows for the termination of a conservation easement if "...the Division of Wildlife Resources determines that the conservation values of the conservation easement are no longer met..." however it is unclear what the criteria the DWR would use in making such a determination. It also sets compensation for acquisition of the land.* *This bill also directs the DWR to manage grizzly bears to prevent their establishment in any areas in the state as well as direct the removal of grizzly bears that are discovered. The bill gives authority to the Wildlife Board to set rules to manage grizzly bears. If passed need to follow this rule-making, concern this would be opportunity to institute a hunt.*	Wildlife	Passed House Committee House 2nd reading	L	Oppose
H.B. 154 -- Water Loss Study Amendments	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ requires the division to conduct a study regarding water loss; ‣ requires the division to report the findings of the study; ‣ imposes a repeal date; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments.	Water	House 1st Reading	H	Support

H.B. 155 - - Water Rates Amendments	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill: ‣ provides for increasing block units for residential water use in certain water rate structures; ‣ addresses the purpose of increases in rates charged for additional blocks; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments. *Allows for increase water rates for outdoor watering.*	Water	House 1st Reading	H	Support
H.B. 157 - - Department of Natural Resources Amendments	Rep. Rex Shipp	This bill: ‣ removes language related to determining the work period for certain Department of Natural Resources' employees; ‣ transfers property, rights, interests, powers, and functions of the Provo-Jordan River Parkway Authority to the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands; ‣ modifies provisions related to records kept by the Division of Water Rights, including to allow for the records to be kept in physical or electronic form; ‣ corrects citations; ‣ removes a cap on low-interest loans related to secondary water metering; ‣ clarifies rulemaking authority related to rules enforced by the Division of Law Enforcement; ‣ modifies the duties of the Utah Geological Survey; ‣ modifies the makeup of the Board of the Utah Geological Survey; ‣ changes the term "buffalo" to "bison" in certain circumstances; ‣ repeals section specifying funding sources of the Watershed Restoration Initiative; ‣ repeals the Alternative Energy Development Tax Credit Act; ‣ repeals outdated language related to the Provo-Jordan River Parkway Authority; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments. *Complex bill with many changes, need to monitor.*	Admin	House 1st Reading	L	Oppose

H.B. 187 - - Water Amendments	Rep. Colin Jack	This bill: ‣ exempts from provisions related to abandonment or forfeiture for nonuse certain water rights of a water conservancy district that are related to the lower basin; ‣ prohibits certain instream flow change applications related to the lower basin; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments. *Would bar water rights holders from participating in in-stream flow incentives as streams in lower basin flow to other states.*	Water	1st sub To House Committee	L	Oppose
H.B. 215 - - Political Subdivision Landscaping Authority	Rep. Thomas Peterson	This bill: ‣ defines terms; and ‣ restricts a municipality or county from prohibiting a property owner from removing vegetation on property located in a wildland-urban interface area. *I must have mis-read this initially. Switch to Oppose.*	Lands	Passed House Committee	L	Oppose
H.B. 247 - - Great Salt Lake Funding Amendments	Rep. Raymond Ward	This bill: ‣ directs revenue generated by the brine shrimp tax to the Sovereign Lands Management Account instead of the Species Protection Account; ‣ provides for how the revenue is to be spent; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *Moves taxes from brine shrimp industry from the Species protection account and into the Sovereign Lands Management account. The bill directs all money collected to be used in benefit of the Great Salt Lake. While losing money from the SPA is not ideal since this is dedicated to the GSL will support.*	GSL	House 1st Reading	L	Support
-		**HOUSE BILLS WEEK 1**				

H.B. 285 - - Land Use Planning Amendments	Re. Doug Owens	This bill: ‣ requires municipalities and counties to consider development impacts on wildlife in the process of considering and adopting general plans and land use regulations; ‣ requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide information relevant to a municipality's or county's consideration of the development impacts on wildlife; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Lands	Waiting Fiscal Note	H	Support
H.B. 296 - - Water Commitment Amendments	Rep. Hoang Nguyen	This bill: ‣ permits a commitment of available water to uses on the Great Salt Lake to be included in a water conservation plan; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	GSL	Passed House Committee House 2nd reading	H	Support
H.B. 323 - - Solar Panel Disposal Amendments	Rep. Colin Jack	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ mandates additional disclosure language by a solar retailer related to testing and disposal requirements of a solar panel; ‣ authorizes the Waste Management and Radiation Control Board to make rules for: •testing solar panel waste; and •disposing of solar panel waste; ‣ creates the Solar Panel Waste Restricted Account; ‣ requires a solar panel installer to register with the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control (division); ‣ provides for the division to collect a registration fee and installation fee from a solar panel installer; ‣ provides for the division to require an owner or operator of a solar panel, beginning on July 1, 2027, to: •complete a hazardous waste analysis on the solar panel before disposal; and •dispose of hazardous solar panel waste at a solar panel waste disposal site or solar panel waste recycling facility; ‣ allows an operator of a landfill to submit an application to register with the division as a solar panel waste disposal site; ‣ establishes that the director of the division may enforce the solar panel waste	Solar	House 1st Reading	L	Oppose

		requirements by bringing a civil action in a court; ‣ requires the division to report annually to two legislative committees; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *Given sponsor hard not to read as an effort to make solar power more difficult in the state.*				
H.B. 328 - - Water Usage Modifications	Rep. Clinton Okerlund	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ directs municipalities and counties to take certain actions related to land use regulation including providing notice of the prohibition on the use of overhead irrigation; ‣ encourages municipalities and counties to take certain actions related to land use regulation; and ‣ prohibits an owner of specified land who undertakes new development or redevelopment of specified land from using overhead irrigation under certain circumstances, with exceptions.	Water	Waiting Fiscal Note	L	Support

H.B. 348 -- Dedicated Water Amendments	Rep. Jill Koford	This bill: ‣ addresses provisions applicable to dedicated water applications; ‣ prohibits segregation of an underlying water right from dedicated water; ‣ addresses process for approval of instream flow and related actions; ‣ defines terms; ‣ provides for the filing and approval of a dedicated water application; ‣ addresses land in agricultural use; ‣ authorizes the state engineer to require certain reporting; ‣ addresses lapsing of a dedicated water application; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments.	Water	Waiting Fiscal Note	H	Support
		HOUSE BILLS WEEK 2				
H.B. 367 -- Solar Power Utility Amendments	Rep. Raymond Ward	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ authorizes the Public Service Commission to establish an optional time-of-use export pricing tariff for net metering customers; ‣ requires differential pricing for customer-generated electricity based on time of day or real-time market conditions; ‣ establishes a minimum floor for export credits; and ‣ provides customer protections including voluntary participation and retention of existing options.	Solar	Waiting Fiscal Note	L	Support
H.B. 371 -- Grazing Permits Amendments	Rep. Tiara Auxier	This bill: ‣ requires the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)to prioritize multiple use and sustained yield in the management of school and institutional trust lands (trust lands); ‣ prohibits the director of SITLA from issuing permits for the non-use of trust lands if the trust lands may be used for grazing; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Lands	Waiting Fiscal Note	L	Oppose

H.B. 376 -- Land Management Funding Amendments	Rep. Carl Albrecht	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ establishes the Utah Forest Restoration Institute (institute) in connection with Utah State University; ‣ provides funding to the institute; ‣ requires the institute to: •conduct research as provided by state and federal law; •study how the state can improve forest and watershed health; •recommend mitigation strategies that reduce the risks and impact of wildfire; •coordinate with the Watershed Restoration Initiative to fund watershed and forest restoration projects; •review and respond to, in a timely manner, an emergency request for funding a watershed restoration project in response to a natural disaster; and •monitor the long-term effectiveness of watershed and forest restoration projects; ‣ requires the Watershed Restoration Initiative to: •coordinate funding decisions with the institute on partnership watershed restoration projects; •coordinate the long-term monitoring of a watershed restoration project with the institute; •collect data required by the institute; •provide research and learning opportunities for higher education students and faculty associated with the institute; and •submit an annual report to the institute and two legislative committees; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Lands	To House Committee	H	Support
H.B. 400 -- Landscaping Water Amendments	Reg. Doug Owens	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ directs a municipality or county to adopt, maintain, and enforce certain water efficient landscaping requirements related to new development; ‣ permits a municipality or county to consider regional-based water use efficiency standards; ‣ addresses the Division of Water Resources keeping records, reporting compliance, and providing assistance related to the landscaping requirements; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Water	House 1st reading	H	Support

H.B. 401 -- Geothermal Study Amendments	Rep. Christine Watkins	This bill: ‣ directs the Office of Energy Development (office) to conduct a study to examine the feasibility of developing geothermal energy facilities at or near existing coal-powered electrical generation facilities; ‣ requires the office to report annually on or before the November interim meeting to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee; ‣ requires the office to publish the study on the office's website upon completion; and ‣ provides a repeal date.	Energy	House 1st reading	L	Support
H.B. 410 -- Water Leasing Amendments	Rep. Jill Koford	This bill: ‣ makes appropriations to the Great Salt Lake Preservation Program (program) non lapsing; ‣ addresses diversion or impoundment by an intervening user of leased water; ‣ provides for streamlined leasing of certain water; ‣ directs the Great Salt Lake commissioner to facilitate leasing of water for the Great Salt Lake; ‣ creates the program; ‣ defines terms; ‣ creates the Great Salt Lake Preservation Board (board); ‣ provides for rulemaking by the board; ‣ establishes the leasing process; ‣ addresses fixed time change applications related to a lease of water; ‣ authorizes the board to take action if a person violates a lease; ‣ requires reporting by the board and the state engineer; ‣ enacts a sunset date; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments	Water	House 1st reading	H	Support
H.B. 412 -- Water Leasing Amendments	Rep. Doug Owens	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ requires consultation with the Division of Wildlife Resources (division) as part of local government approval of utility scale solar and wind power plant projects; ‣ specifies consultation requirements; and ‣ provides rulemaking authority to the division.	Lands	House 1st reading	H	Support

H.B. 431 -- Wildlife Crossing Amendments	Rep. Scott Chew	This bill: ‣ sets aside funding in the Transportation Investment Fund of 2005 for projects that improve wildlife safety and connectivity and livestock safety; ‣ directs the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Division of Wildlife, to recommend projects to the Transportation Commission for prioritization; and ‣ makes technical changes.	Lands		L	Support
H.B. 437 -- Environmental Permitting Amendments	Rep. David Shallenberger	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality (department) and Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (division) to make rules to: •identify a permit administered by the department or division as a permit eligible for expedited review; •establish requirements for the expedited review process; •certify a qualified reviewer; •authorize a qualified reviewer to complete an expedited review of an eligible permit ;and •establish the maximum number of a days for a qualified reviewer to complete an expedited review; ‣ requires the department and division to conduct a technical review and make a final administrative decision for a permit application upon completion of an expedited review; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Mining		L	Oppose
H.B. 439 -- Water Planning Amendments	Rep. David Shallenberger	This bill: ‣ defines and modifies terms; ‣ provides that the state engineer may grant a non-use application for a qualified entity's water right; ‣ requires counties, municipalities, and special districts to adopt a written plan for determining the reasonable future water requirement of the public before imposing a water exaction; ‣ requires the state engineer to make rules to establish standards for the written plan; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Water			Watch
H.B. 444 -- State Land Access Road Amendments	Rep. Troy Shelley	This bill: ‣ provides an expedited deadline for the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office and the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to identify certain roads located on school and	Lands		L	Support

		institutional trust lands and state lands and to record with the relevant county recorder's office notice of the roads relevant to state lands and school and institutional trust lands; ‣ provides a process necessary for a county and the state to abandon a class D road; ‣ requires public meetings and notice before abandonment of a class D road; ‣ ensures that existing easements and access rights for public utilities and water infrastructure are not impacted by the abandonment of a class D road; ‣ amends provisions related to the closure of a class D road due to lack of public use to include roads across property owned by a public entity or an institution of higher education; and ‣ makes technical changes.				
		HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS				
H.C.R. 1 - - House Concurrent Resolution Regarding Advanced Nuclear Manufacturing	Rep. Carl Albrecht	This resolution: ‣ expresses Utah's support for the advanced nuclear industry; ‣ expresses Utah's desire to have nuclear manufacturing done in Utah; ‣ expresses Utah's commitment to helping technology companies overcome challenges regarding safety in manufacturing, transportation, and waste management; and ‣ signals that Utah is committed to fostering the development of technical solutions to remaining challenges.	Nuclear	Passed House Passed Senate Committee	H	Oppose

H.C.R. 5 - - House Concurrent Resolution on State Management of Federal Public Lands	Rep. Steve Eliason	This resolution: ‣ highlights the need to develop and maintain state parks, monuments, and campgrounds to provide the people of Utah with outdoor recreational opportunities; ‣ suggests land that the Division of State Parks (division) may consider for a potential state park, state monument, or state campground; ‣ encourages the division to work with federal agencies to acquire, lease, or manage properties considered suitable for use as a state park, monument, or campground; ‣ urges Congress to establish a framework for state operation of federal public lands, under a joint management agreement, to improve public land management and reduce federal expenditures; ‣ requests that the division petition the Bureau of Land Management to transfer land to the state for the creation of the Little Sahara State Park; ‣ requests that the division negotiate with the United States Forest Service to transfer the Antelope Flat Campground to the state for the creation of the Flaming Gorge State Park ;and ‣ requests that the division update the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on the division's study regarding new state parks and state campgrounds. *Need to monitor, could be a mechanism for state to manage federal properties like National Parks or National Forests.*	Lands	House 1st Reading	H	Oppose
		SENATE BILLS				
		PRE-SESSION				
S.B. 20 - - Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes	Sen. Keven Stratton	This bill: primarily repeals outdated language but clarifies procedure for the Great Salt Lake Commissioner to submit a strategic plan by October 1st of each year.	GSL	Passed Senate Assigned to House Natural Resources Committee	L	Support

S.B. 21 - - Geothermal Amendments	Sen. Michael McKell	This bill: ‣ clarifies the purposes of the geothermal chapter; ‣ addresses definitions; ‣ modifies provisions related to ownership of geothermal resources or fluids; ‣ amends powers of the Division of Water Rights related to confidentiality of information; ‣ addresses bonding requirements; and ‣ makes technical and conforming amendments.	Geothermal	Senate Not Considered	L	Support
S.B. 23 - - Airborne Chemicals Amendments	Sen. Ronald Winterton	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ establishes that the release of a chemical or substance from an aircraft for the purpose of solar geoengineering is a third-degree felony; ‣ provides a means for a person to submit information regarding suspected solar geoengineering; ‣ requires the Department of Transportation to report credible instances of suspected solar geoengineering to the Office of the Attorney General; ‣ requires an airport operator to report suspected solar geoengineering activity to the Department of Transportation; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Air	Senate 1st Reading	L	Support
S.B. 46 - - Water Wise Landscaping Amendments	Sen. Keven Stratton	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ imposes landscaping requirements related to state government facilities; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Water	Passed Senate House 1st reading	H	Support
S.B. 53 - - Public Land Management Advisory Board Amendments	Sen. Karen Kwan	This bill: ‣ adds as a member of the Public Land Management Advisory Board: •the state historic preservation officer or the officer's designee; and •the director of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration or the director's designee; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.	Lands	Passed Senate Committee Senate 2nd reading	L	Support

S.B. 130 - - River Restoration Amendments	Sen. Lincoln Fillmore	This bill: ‣ modifies how the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) expends money related to a Jordan River improvement project, including: •allowing the division to expend money for an activity along the entire length of the Jordan River; and •requiring the division to consult with the Jordan River Commission before expending money for an improvement project; ‣ creates a matching grant program for counties and municipalities to fund improvement projects that increase access to a recreational activity on the Jordan River; ‣ directs funding from the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account to the matching grant program; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes. *1st sub changes funding source to General Fund from Adventure Fund, questions whether there will be any appropriations.*	Water	1st sub Passed Senate House 1st reading	H	Support
S.B. 135 - - Nuclear Reprocessing Amendments	Sen. Derrin Owens	This bill: ‣ creates the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program; ‣ directs the Nuclear Energy Consortium (consortium) to administer the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program; ‣ requires the consortium to coordinate with federal agencies, national laboratories, and private entities to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a nuclear fuel recycling facility in the state; ‣ requires the consortium to conduct a feasibility study and site evaluation; ‣ requires the consortium to implement a public outreach and education program; and ‣ requires the consortium to report findings and recommendations to the Public Utilities,Energy, and Technology Interim Committee. *1st sub is a completely new bill. Does not change position.* *This has never been done successfully even on a national level.*	Nuclear	1st sub Passed Senate Committee Senate 2nd Reading	L	Oppose
		SENATE BILLS WEEK 1				

S.B. 176 -- Landscaping Procurement Amendments	Sen. Stephanie Pitcher	This bill: ‣ defines terms; and ‣ subject to specified exceptions, requires that when a state entity procures landscape maintenance equipment, the landscape maintenance equipment be electric-powered *1st sub does not significantly impact intent and benefit of bill.*	Air	1st sub Passed Senate Committee Senate 2nd reading	H	Support
-		**SENATE BILLS WEEK 2**				
S.B. 198 -- Water Project Management Amendments	Sen. Scott Sandall	This bill: ‣ defines terms; ‣ creates the Office of Water Management (office) within the Division of Water Resources(division); ‣ establishes the duties of the office; ‣ provides for a water manager to administer the office; ‣ establishes the role of the water manager; ‣ requires the Division of Water Resources Board to create a process for a political subdivision, special district, or state agency to nominate a water project for management by the office; ‣ requires the office to: •adopt a capital asset management plan; and •report to two legislative committees on the capital asset management plan no later than July 1, 2030, and every five years thereafter; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes	Water	HELD	L	
S.B. 225 -- Utah Inland Port Authority Amendments	Sen. Jerry Stevenson	This bill: ‣ defines terms and modifies definitions; ‣ clarifies the process by which the Utah Inland Port Authority (authority) maintains an official boundary of the authority jurisdictional land; ‣ provides that the description of a boundary of a project area created by the authority may include a legal description, parcel number, property identification number, or other method of description that accurately depicts the project area; ‣ provides a process for the authority to make an adjustment to a project area boundary;	Lands		H	Oppose

		‣ modifies the process by which a transition date and a trigger date are established for a parcel; ‣ modifies a prohibition on the use of property tax differential as a business recruitment incentive for certain development within authority jurisdictional land that is in the capital city; and ‣ makes technical and conforming changes.				
		SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS				
S.C.R. 1 - - Concurrent Resolution Regarding Nuclear Energy	Sen. Darrin Owens	This resolution: ‣ highlights Utah's support for nuclear energy development and deployment; and ‣ expresses Utah's intent to pursue agreement state status for additional elements of the nuclear fuel cycle.	Nuclear	Senate 2nd Reading	H	Oppose
S.C.R. 3 - - Concurrent Resolution Regarding Nuclear Weapons Testing	Sen. Kathleen Riebe	This resolution: ‣ urges the government of the United States to not resume explosive nuclear weapons testing.	Nuclear	Senate 2nd Reading	L	Support
S.C.R. 4 - - Concurrent Resolution Regarding Permitting of Oil, Gas, and Mining	Sen. Ronald Winterton	This resolution: ‣ discusses the intent to enter into and the benefits of a memorandum of agreement (MOA)with the BLM; ‣ supports the drafting of an MOA to formalize an enhanced cooperative and consultative relationship with the BLM; ‣ affirms the authority for the BLM to enter into such an MOA; ‣ urges the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining to immediately initiate negotiations with the BLM to formalize the MOA; ‣ recognizes benefits of the MOA; and ‣ recognizes that the final MOA must explicitly state that the Secretary of the Interior or the authorized officer of the BLM retains the ultimate, non-delegable authority and final decision-making authority over the issuance of federal leases and permits.	Lands	Senate 2nd Reading	H	Oppose