**Summary Notes**

**Save Our GSL Organizing Training, December 9, 2023**

**Great Salt Lake Institute**

* The GSL is shrinking due to consumptive use.
* Climate change has increased evaporation, and it is now at 13 percent, up from a low of 3 percent.
* The net benefit from the 2023 snowfall was 3-4 feet (3 feet from storms, 3-4 feet from runoff, less 3 feet from evaporation).
* GSL Institute supported the breach of the berm to help regulate salinity. Best salinity for bugs is 15 percent.
* Loss of pelicans in 2023 was due to the land bridge to Gunnison Island – coyotes prayed on eggs and young birds, so no nesting occurred in 2023. No one knows where they went to nest.

**Great Basin Water**

* The lake needs short- and long-term solutions.
* It needs 1 ½ million-acre feet per year. (One acre foot equals 325,851 gallons) 2023 legislative session had several bills but did not accomplish much.

HB 33 changed the water law regarding instream amendments, but this change hasn’t had much traction yet. HB 410 allowed for existing water rights to be transferred to the lake. The LDS church transferred 21,000-acre feet of rights equaling 1% of the total need

**Save Our Great Salt Lake**

*To Do List for Legislators*

* Legislators are not policy experts and have hundreds of bills to address each session.
* The water lobby is blocking all conservation.
* Engage and push the range.
* Remember it’s long-term work.
* Encourage incentives for agriculture to grow local products.
* Build partnerships.
* Translate science to policy.

*Lobby tactics*

* Find common ground.
* Know the bill.
* Make an explicit ask.
* Be respectful.
* Stay on message.
* Be honest.
* Follow up.
* Use Interim session to build relationships.

**Resources and Partners**

Grow the Flow Utah (BYU) <https://growtheflowutah.org/>

4200 Project, Restoring the GSL (Utah Rivers Council) – they have several pieces of legislative proposals already prepared. <https://4200project.org/>

Alliance for a Better Utah, <https://betterutah.org/>

Utah.gov – legislature

Utah Audubon Society

Sierra Club

**SAVE THE DATES - Rally for the GSL**

January 20, Utah State Capitol, 3:00 PM (Terry Tempest Williams will be speaking)

Nan Seymour GSL Vigil, 8-9 am every day of the session starting January 16.

**Legislative session:**

January 16-March 1