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# State of Utah

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News Release  
For Immediate Release  
July 7, 2009  
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## Research Funding Targets Great Salt Lake

Salt Lake City, Utah -- The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) has finalized the contracts that award funding for seven research projects that will help the State of Utah tackle the most critical issues facing the Great Salt Lake. Five so-called "hot topics" were identified by the multi-agency "Great Salt Lake Technical Team":

1. Effects of a Drying Lake
2. Assessing Habitat Quality
3. Effects of Diking
4. Mercury
5. Monitoring

A selection committee, made up of members from industry, environmental, water resource and sovereign land interests then screened and ranked 12 proposals seeking more than \$500,000 in research money. The committee chose seven proposals from independent scientists representing a variety of research entities including the University of Utah, Utah State University, Weber State University, Westminster College, the U.S. Geological Survey, Bio-West Inc. and CH2M Hill.

Applications aimed at these concerns came from universities, federal agencies, state agencies, and private companies. The Great Salt Lake Technical Team is expecting the research to generate information that will increase the understanding of the Great Salt Lake so that better management decisions can be made regarding the lake's use. The lake is a complex, dynamic ecosystem that scientists, managers, and users are trying to understand.

The effort to fund research on the Great Salt Lake is an ongoing program in its second year. The funding comes mostly from royalties received from extractive industries that use the brines of the Great Salt Lake. More information is available at the Great Salt Lake Technical Team website: <http://www.gsltechteam.utah.gov/>.

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