

# GREAT SALT LAKE

The Great Salt Lake benefits our economy, our environment, and our ecology.

## economy



- Contributes **\$1.3 billion** to Utah's economy each year and provides **over 7,700 jobs**.
- Supports ski industry which is worth **20,000 jobs and another \$1.2 billion dollars**.
- Leads the western hemisphere in the production of sulfate of potash (a premium fertilizer).
- Provides **14% of world's magnesium**.
- Produces **40% of the world's brine shrimp eggs**, essential to aquaculture production.



## environment



- Responsible for **5-10% of the snow** that falls south and east of the lake.
- Lake effect snow extends ski season by **5 to 7 weeks**.
- **90%** of the dust comes from dry lakebeds.
- Airborne mineral dust increases hospital visits for respiratory diseases.



## ecology



- **10 Million Birds** visit Great Salt Lake annually as essential stopover and breeding ground.
- Provides a critical link in the Pacific Flyway for over **330 species of birds**.
- Supports **80% of Utah's** valuable wetlands.



## Great Salt Lake needs our help.

It has always been here, and with proper care, it always will be. **But it's never been under greater threat.**

- The Great Salt Lake has **lost half its water** due to our usage.
- Due to our heavy consumption, the **water level is down 11 feet**.
- Lower water levels could cost our economy **up to \$32 billion**.
- We divert **871 billion gallons of water** each year before it enters the lake.
- Anticipated water demand could lower the lake **another 10 feet**.

## It's our turn to protect the lake.

The benefits of the lake often go unnoticed. But if it were gone, **it'd be impossible to miss the consequences.**

- Work with state and local government leaders to get water to the lake.
- Encourage new ideas and policies that will help us with water conservation.
- Contact your legislators and share your concerns.
- Ask for optimized water use.
- Reduce water use in your household.
- Visit [gslcouncil.utah.gov](http://gslcouncil.utah.gov)

When we take care of the lake, we help our economy, our environment, our wildlife and our future.