

Groundwater Recharge Plan, 2026. GWSSA.

Recharge for these sources mainly originates from the La Sal Mountains, where winter snowpack helps replenish both groundwater and surface water. In contrast, the valley floor receives about 8–10 inches of annual precipitation, leading to minimal direct recharge. Protecting upland recharge zones and monitoring aquifer levels are essential for the long-term stability of the water supply.

The region is working to reduce reliance on groundwater by developing water infrastructure for the Colorado River, which is essential for future water supply. To secure water from the Colorado River, Grand County, Utah, needs to build infrastructure to divert and transport water using existing water rights while complying with strict interstate, federal, and state water policies. This involves constructing pipelines, possibly utilizing the Grand Water & Sewer Service Agency to facilitate connections, and following Utah Division of Water Rights policies.

Key actions include:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Building diversion and transport infrastructure, which is considered necessary to access the river for the upper Spanish Valley and Moab.
- **Cooperation and Joint Projects:** Working with neighboring San Juan County, which owns water rights in the Colorado River, to develop a shared system for delivery.
- **Water Rights & Permitting:** Filing, maintaining, and finalizing water rights through the Utah Division of Water Rights, specifically within the Lower Green River Division.
- **Conservation and Demand Management:** Participating in state-run programs like the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program (DMPP) to ensure sustainable use and avoid future mandatory cuts.
- **Adherence to Compacts:** Operating within the frameworks of the 1922 Colorado River Compact, 1944 Mexican Treaty, and 1948 Upper Colorado River Compact.
- The region is focusing on reducing reliance on groundwater by developing this infrastructure, which is crucial for the future water supply.