

Media Information

Utah Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry,
Fire and State Lands

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FFSL Updating Comprehensive Management Plan for Bear Lake

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – The Utah Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) is updating the 2009 comprehensive management plan (CMP) for the state-owned, sovereign land sections of Bear Lake, specifically the sections of the lake in Rich County, Utah. The ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of Bear Lake is generally recognized to be at 5,923.65 feet above mean sea level. The bed of Utah’s part of Bear Lake lying below the OHWM is sovereign land. Utah Admin Code R652-2-100 authorizes FFSL to prescribe land management objectives for sovereign lands. The beds of navigable waters within the state are owned by the state but held in trust for the public. FFSL is required to ensure that all uses on, beneath or above the bed of Bear Lake are regulated to protect navigation, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic beauty, public recreation, and water quality. The updated comprehensive management plan will ensure that FFSL follows clear and consistent guidance on the management of Bear Lake’s resources.

FFSL, with assistance from its contractors (SWCA Environmental Consultants and CRSA), will present information regarding the CMP process and seek public participation at an open house meeting in Rich County. The meeting will be held:

- September 27th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Garden City Town Offices in Garden City (69 N. Paradise Parkway);

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public open house meeting. “Public involvement is an important part of the Bear Lake CMP planning process” stated FFSL’s Project Manager Laura Vernon, adding “suggestions and concerns regarding the lake will play an integral role in issue identification and developing management plan goals and objectives.” An additional open house will be held in October in Salt Lake City, at a date and time yet to be determined.

Resource management issues identified during the public involvement process will be used during the development of the Draft CMP, which will include a range of management actions appropriate for fluctuating lake levels. The Draft CMP will be available for review during a second round of public meetings scheduled for last summer/early fall 2020. A formal 45-day comment period on the Draft CMP will occur in the fall of 2020. It is anticipated that the Final CMP and Decision Documents will be completed in late spring/early summer 2021.

For more information about the project and/or to be added to our mailing list, contact Gretchen Semerad at 801-322-4307 or gsemerad@swca.com, or Laura Vernon at 801-673-0227 or lauravernon@utah.gov. Project information and additional public meeting information will soon be available on the FFSL project website at <https://ffsl.utah.gov/state-lands/bear-lake/>.