

Water Banking in Utah

Water banking is increasingly being considered as a framework for solving water supply and distribution problems throughout the West. In 2020, the Utah Legislature passed the Utah Water Banking Act to create a water banking framework for Utah. The Act was the result of a collaborative effort from diverse stakeholders across the state interested in utilizing water banking as a vehicle for better managing local water resources. In an effort to kickstart water banking, a pilot program was set up to design and implement three pilot water banks in the Price River Basin and sub-basins of the Bear and Weber Rivers. These water banks are designed to test the framework of the Act and provide a baseline for the implementation of water banking throughout Utah. This presentation will summarize the Utah Water Banking Act, briefly profile the pilot programs, and provide a comparison with water banking efforts in Colorado.

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