



Colorado River Management Plan Fiscal Year 2026 Work Plan

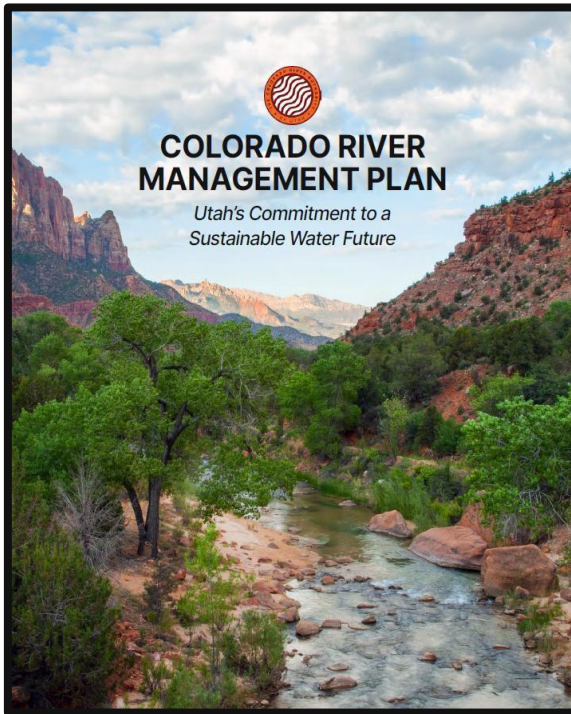
Colorado River Authority of Utah

June 17, 2025



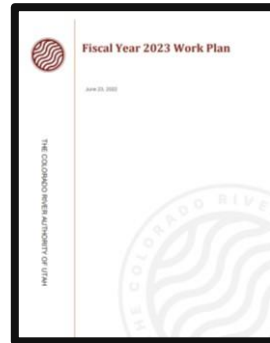


5-Year Management Plan: 3 Priorities & Annual Work Plans



**Board Approved
Mgmt Plan**

April 2022



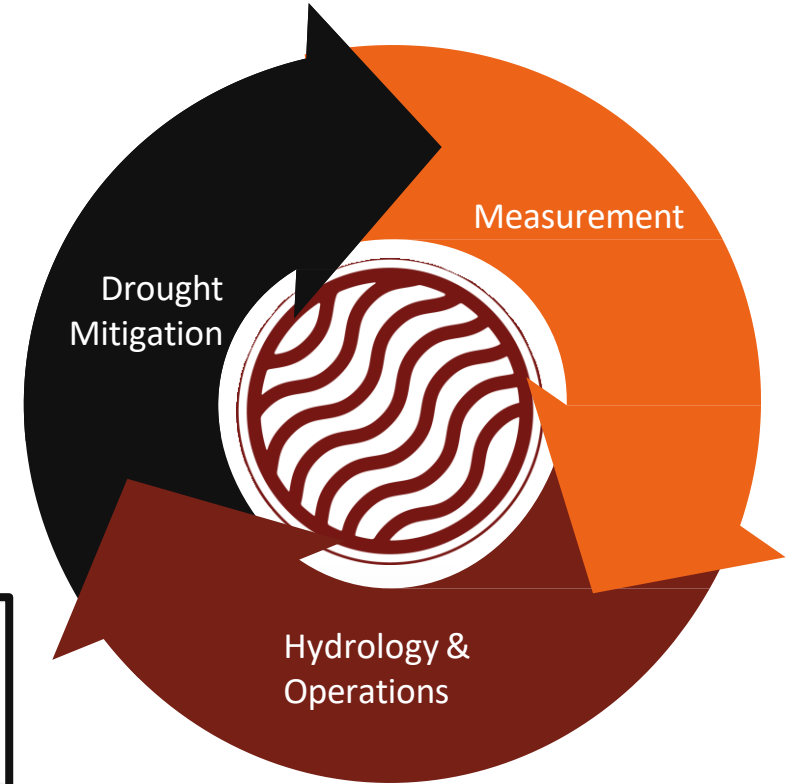
**Board Approved FY 23-
24 Work Plans**

June 2022/23



**Board Approved FY
25 Work Plan**

June 2024



**Seeking Board Approval
on FY 26 Work Plan**

June 2025



Work Plan Highlights



Interstate Negotiations

Provisional Accounting

- Objectives & Methodology



Advisory Councils

- Listening & Engagement



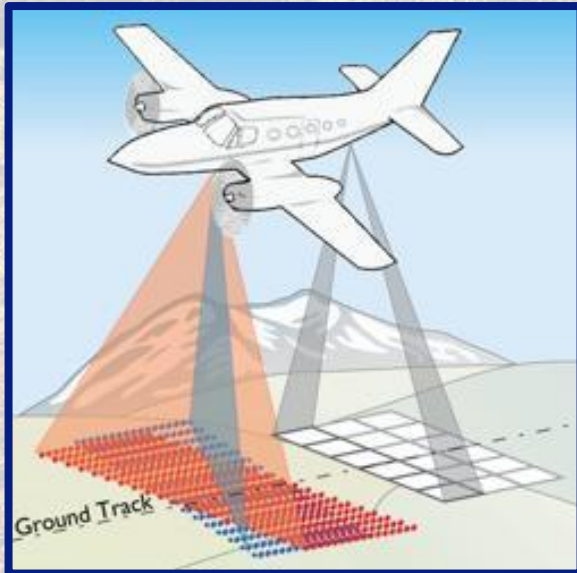


Work Plan Highlights

**UCRAF / Measurement
& Telemetry**



**Utah Demand
Management Pilot
Program**



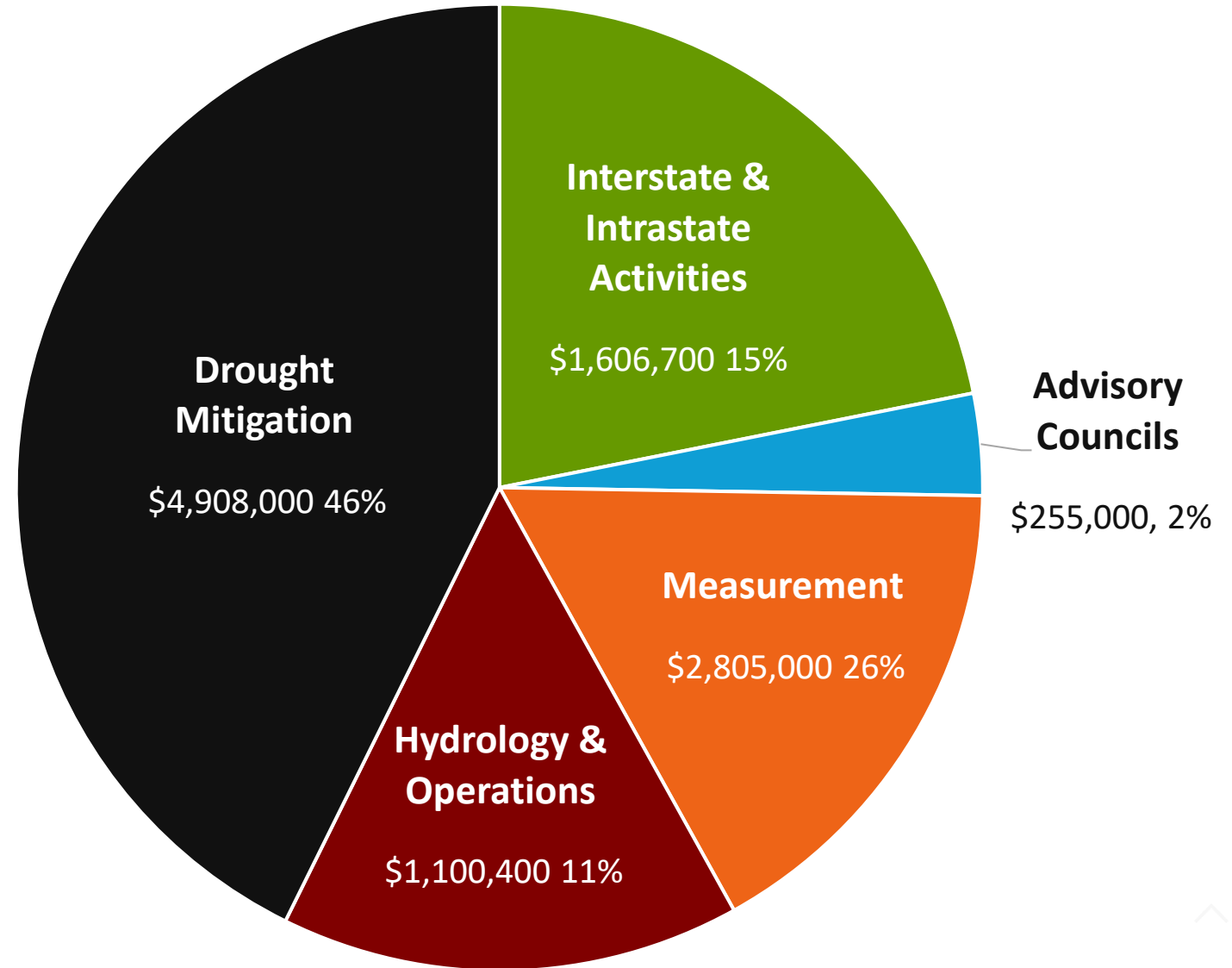
**ASO, Flakes, Flights, and
Forecasts: Snow Measurement
Enhancements in the Uinta
Mountain Headwaters**





Fiscal Year 2026 Estimated Budget Allocations

Total Proposed: \$10,675,100



*Work Plan budgets are subject to adjustment depending on conditions and activities in the Colorado River Basin that may be unknown when the Work Plan was developed.

**Projects that are part of the Work Plan but don't have planned expenses in FY26 are not included.



Interstate Negotiations: Post-2026 Operations

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- **Current criteria to operate the Colorado River system (Lake Powell & Lake Mead) expire in 2026**
- **Seven Basin States are negotiating a consensus framework agreement in parallel with a NEPA process**
- **Key concept under discussion: Natural Flow Based Operations**
- **Draft EIS anticipated in December 2025**
- **Final EIS and Record of Decision expected in August 2026**



A Year of Listening and Engagement

Advisory Councils of the Colorado River Authority of Utah – 2025 Focus

2025 PRIORITY: Public Engagement

- Councils will actively listen to local voices—residents, farmers, and water users across Utah.
- “Outward” orientation by hosting public meetings, field tours, and input sessions across all regions of the state.
- Focus on transparency, education, trust-building, and local partnerships.
- Ensuring community concerns shape Utah’s water policy going forward.

“The best water solutions start with the people who rely on it every day.”



Helping Guide Utah's Water Future

Council Recommendations: Focus on Storage and Conservation

Strategic Recommendations for 2025 and Beyond

- Expand water storage infrastructure to prepare for prolonged drought.
- Accelerate conservation strategies that work for agriculture, cities, and ecosystems.
- Support voluntary reduction programs that protect rural economies.
- Maximize use of state and federal funding for sustainable water management.



“Storing more—and wasting less—is key to preserving Utah’s share of the Colorado River.”



Provisional Accounting

Objective - Verify & Account for Volumes of Water from Upper Division States Delivered to an Upper Colorado River Basin :

- Conservation Projects – Reduction in Consumptive Use
- Demonstration Projects – Reduction in Use or Demand

Accounting Methodology:

- Direct Measurement &
- River Modeling for Transit Losses

UTAH QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES PROPOSAL

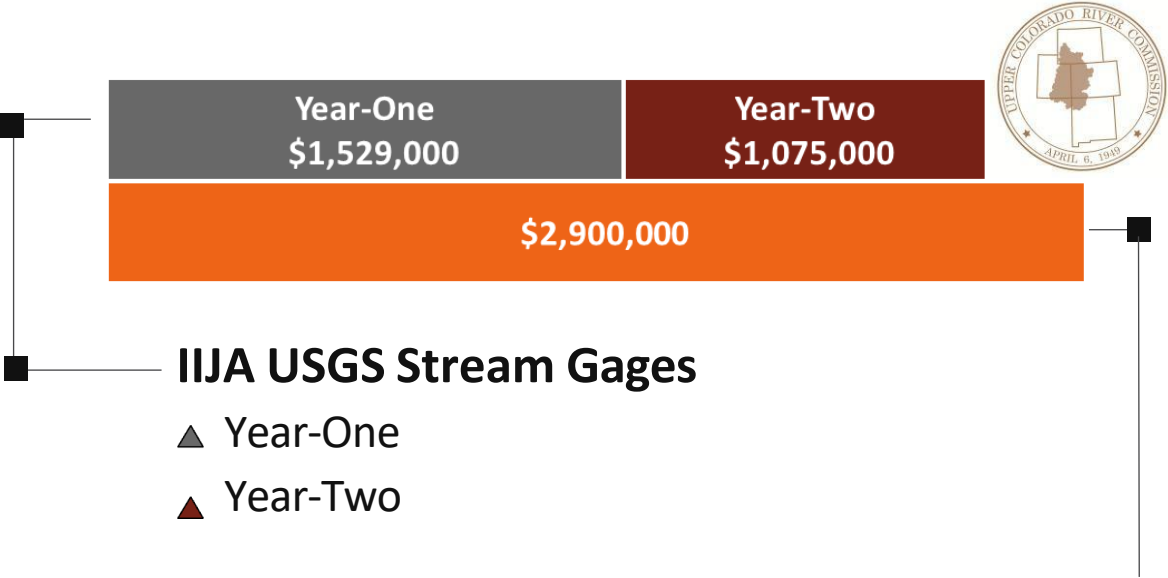
- Submitted to UCRC – May 30
- Utah Demand Management Pilot Program Projects
- UDS/UCRC ➡ BOR





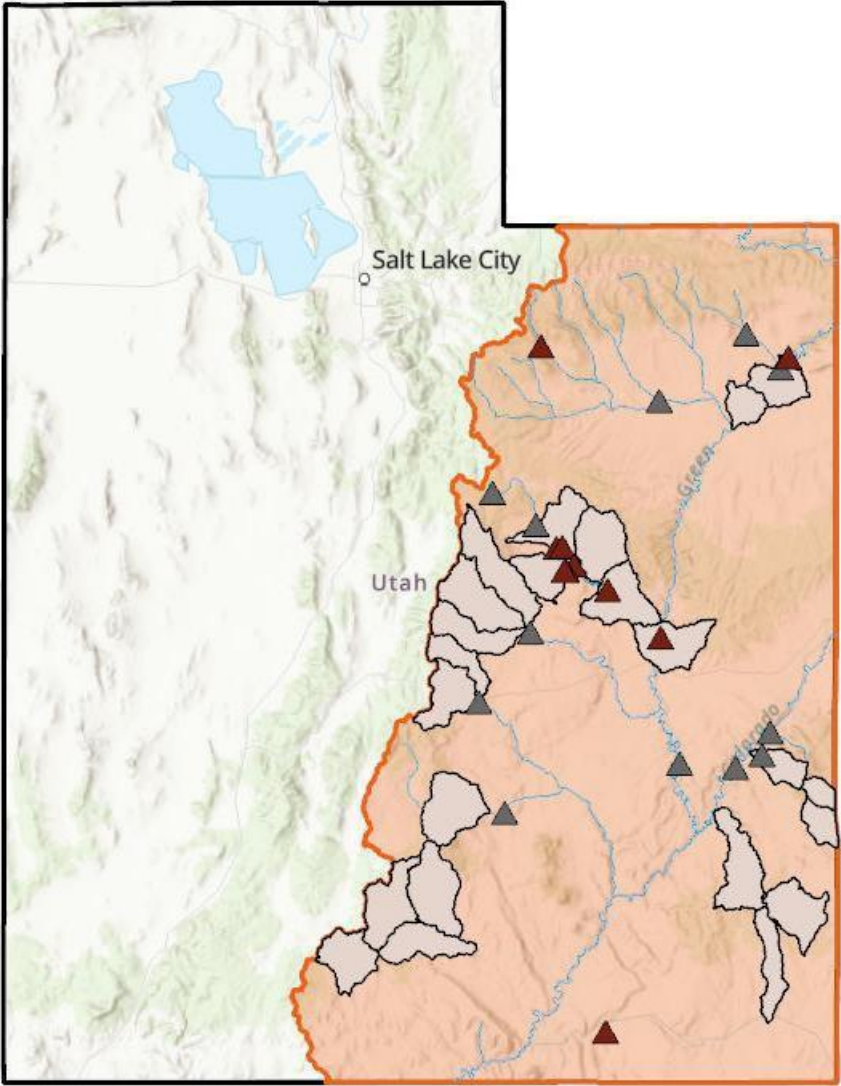
Flow Measurement – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Federally funded (IIJA), administered through the Upper Colorado River Commission



IIJA Diversion Measurement and Telemetry Program

- Program Extent
Open Application for interested water users
- Potential Target Areas
Identified through coordination with regional DWRi offices





Utah Colorado River Accounting and Forecasting (UCRAF) Decision Support Tool (DST) New Contract (FY26 – FY27)

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1

Maintenance, updates, and support for FY23 – FY25 UCRAF Models

2

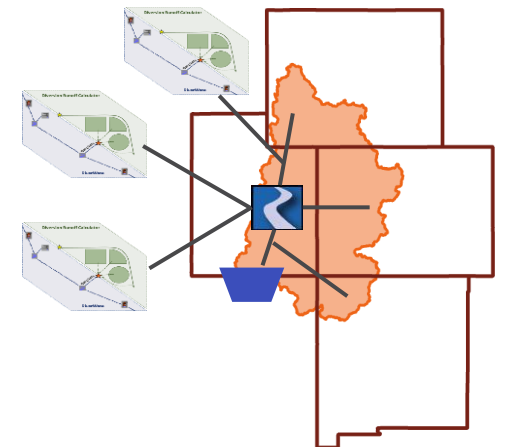
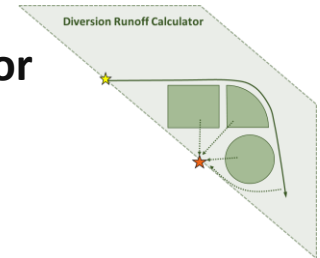
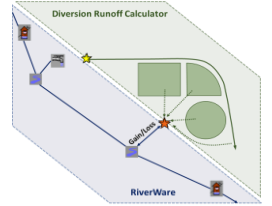
Full UCRAF-DST for the Brush Creek/ Ashley Creek system

3

Diversion Runoff Calculator buildout

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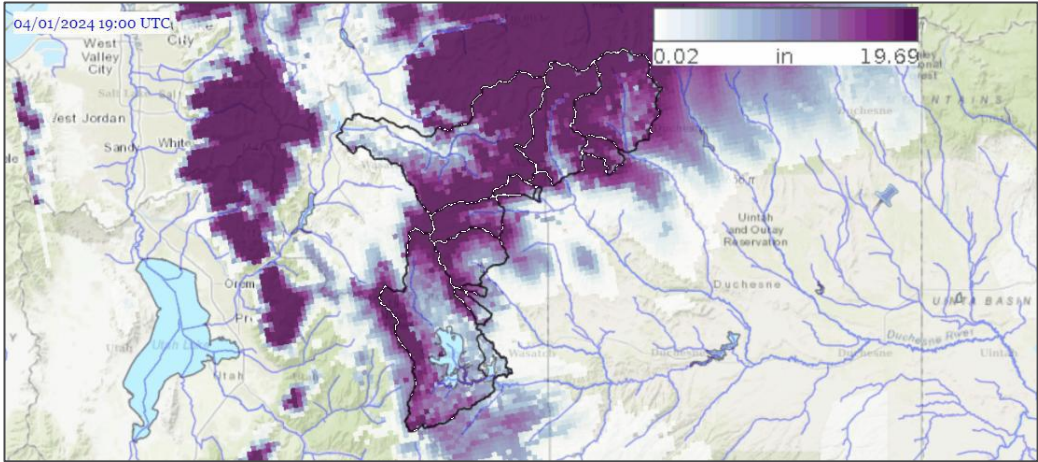
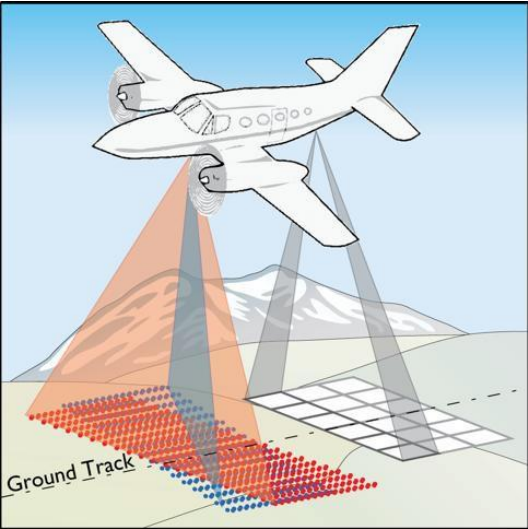
Colorado River System RiverWare Model



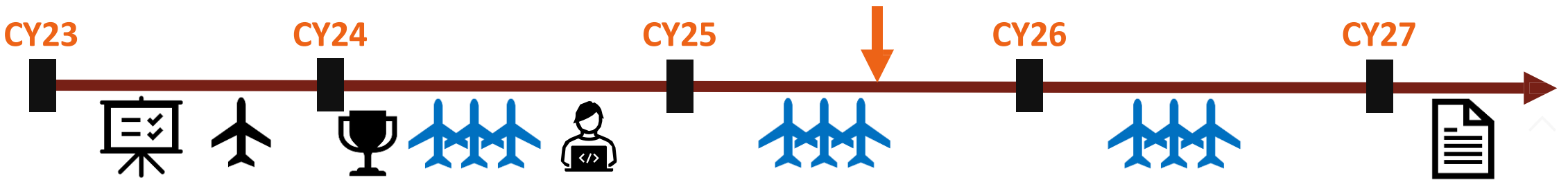


Airborne Snow Observatories Pilot Project

- \$2M from Authority, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Division of Water Resources, and Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Program

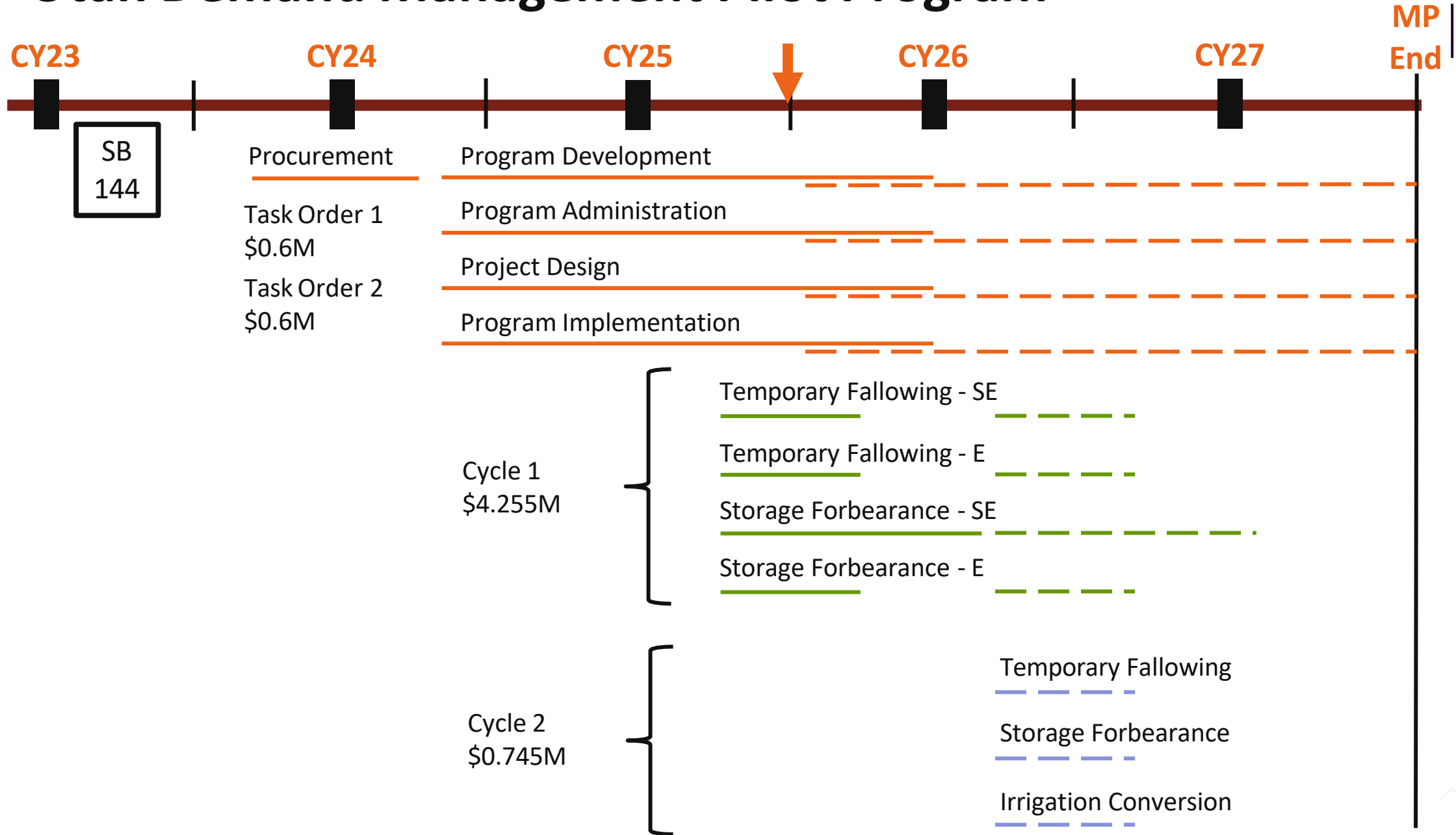


- Snow-Free Flight = Lidar
- Snow-On Flights = Lidar + Spectrometry
- Model Snowpack = iSnobal
- Forecast Runoff = WRF-Hydro
- Compare = CBRFC, SNOTEL
- **Operate** = SACS Model
- **Plan** = UCRAF Model





Utah Demand Management Pilot Program





Request approval for proposed FY 26 Work Plan to begin July 1



Defending Every Drop



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