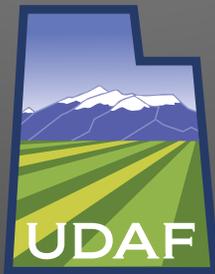


Utah Agriculture Report

Jan. 31, 2013

Commissioner Leonard M. Blackham
Utah Department of Agriculture & Food



Utah Department of
Agriculture and Food

Economic Contribution of Agriculture Has Grown

	2008	2011	
Production & processing	\$15.2 B	\$17.5 B (with multiplier)	
Employment: production/processing	66,500	78,200 (with multiplier)	
Total state output	13.9%	14.1%	USU Data 01/22/2013

General Conditions

- Crop farmers are doing very good
- Cattlemen are doing well in general
- Sheepmen are again making course correction
- Dairy and turkey producers are hurting
- Hog and egg sectors are impacted.

Major Issues for Agriculture

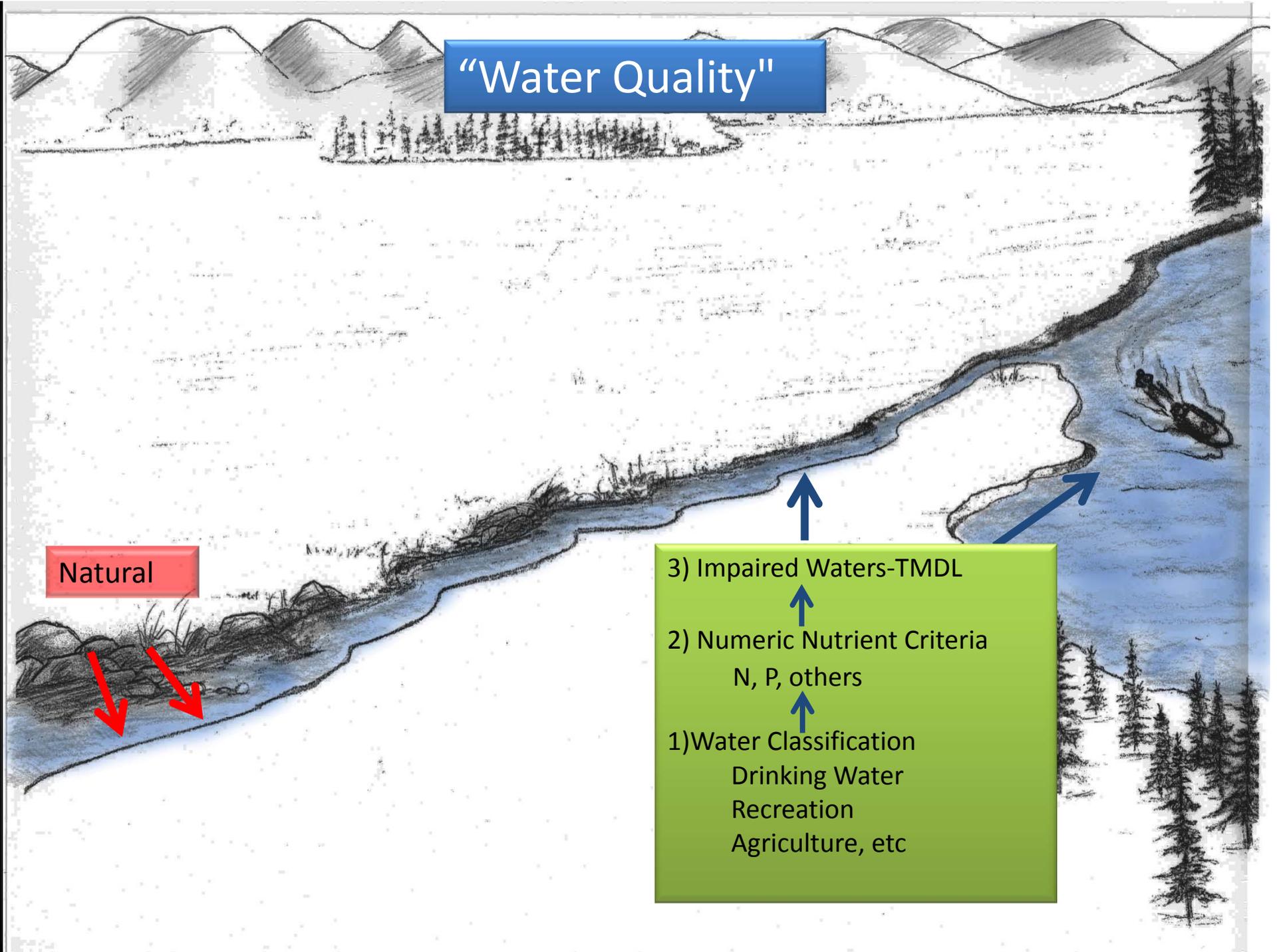
- Renewal of Grazing Permits
- Environmental clean water policy
 - (air may be challenge)
- Food & Drug new federal regulations ??
- Sage Grouse potential listing
- Catastrophic Fires.

Water Quality – EPA

“Water Quality”

Natural

- 3) Impaired Waters-TMDL
- 2) Numeric Nutrient Criteria
N, P, others
- 1) Water Classification
Drinking Water
Recreation
Agriculture, etc



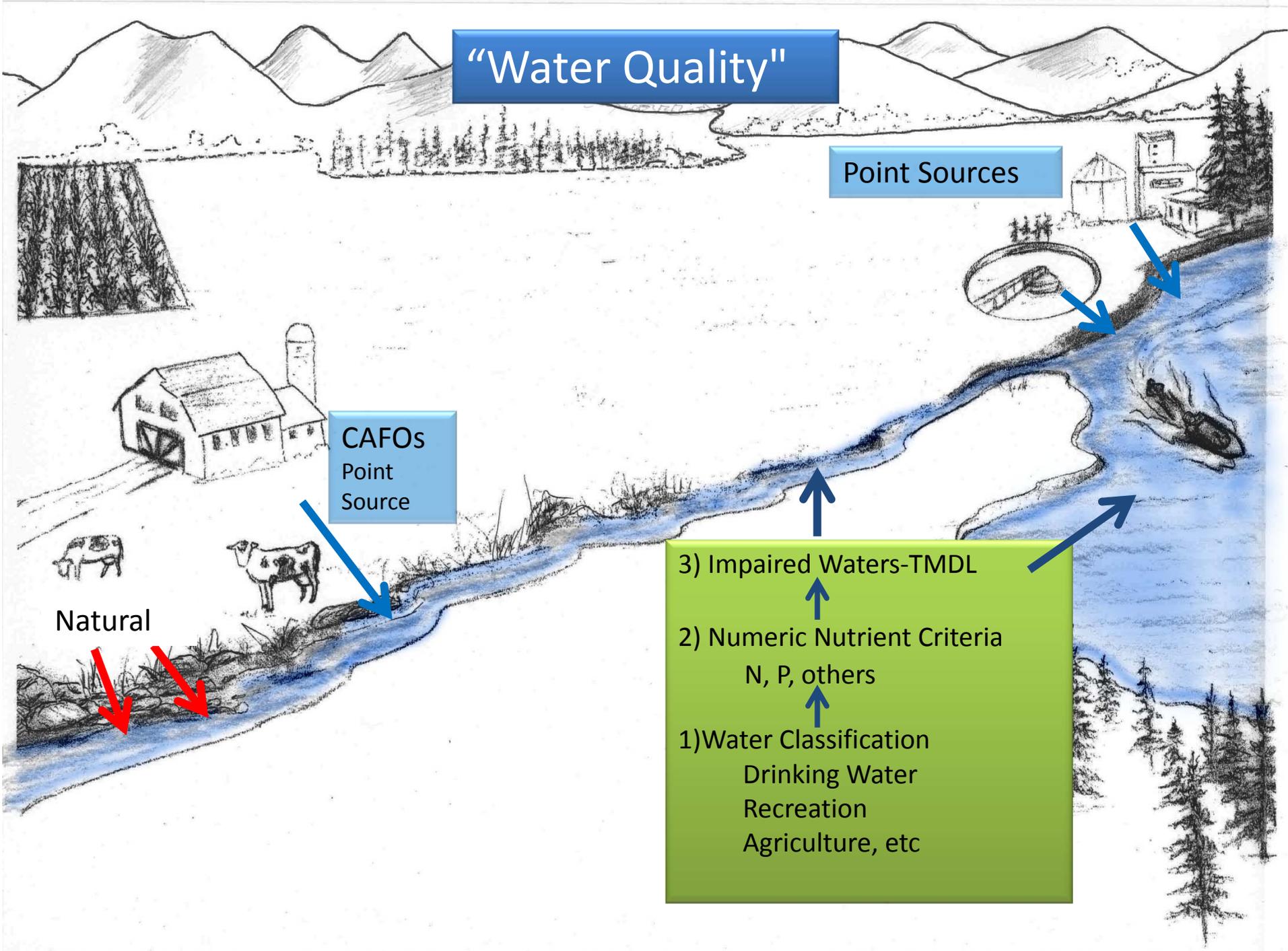
“Water Quality”

Point Sources

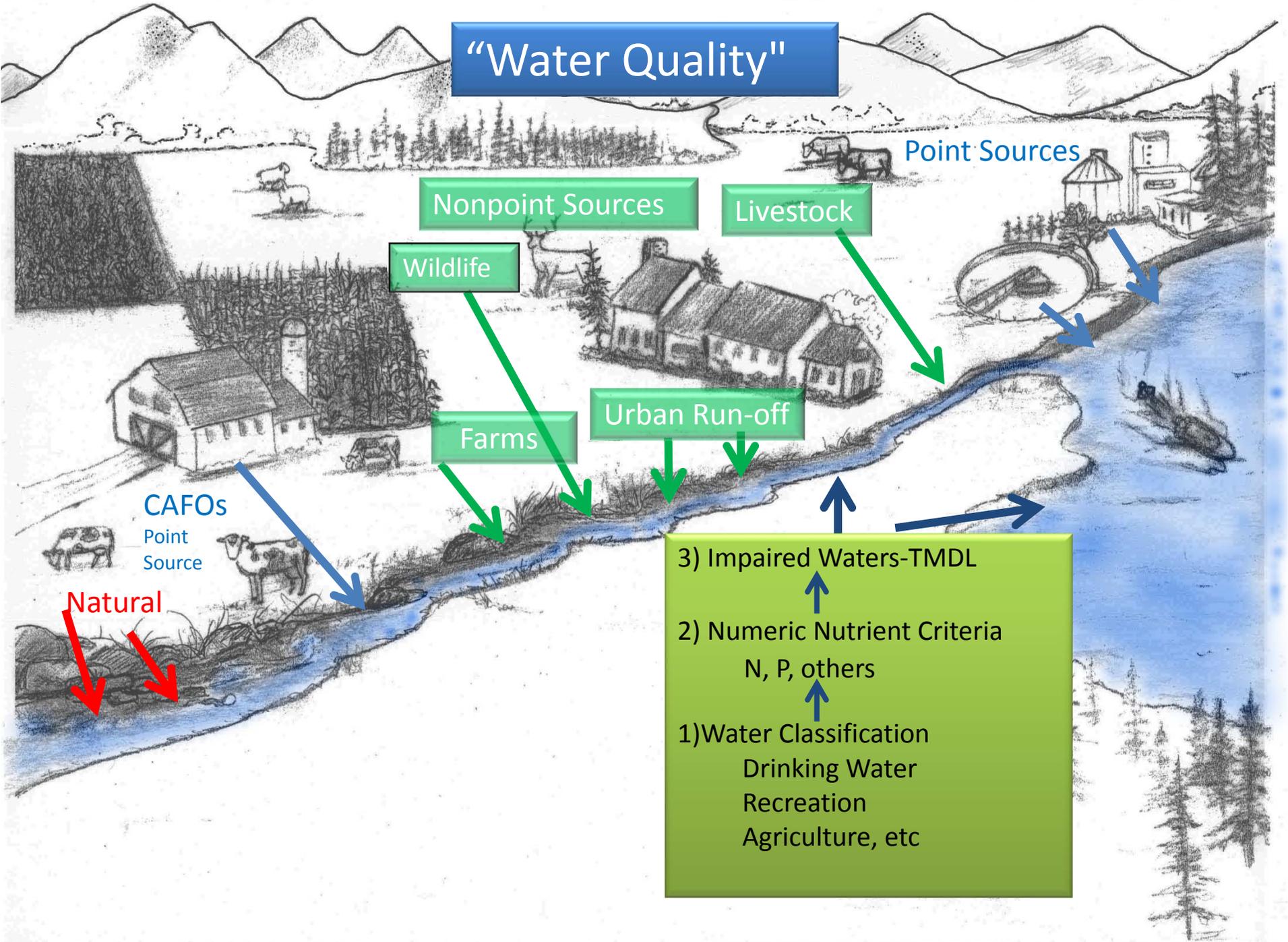
CAFOs
Point
Source

Natural

- 3) Impaired Waters-TMDL
- 2) Numeric Nutrient Criteria
N, P, others
- 1) Water Classification
Drinking Water
Recreation
Agriculture, etc



"Water Quality"



Point Sources

Nonpoint Sources

Livestock

Wildlife

Urban Run-off

Farms

CAFOs
Point
Source

Natural

- 3) Impaired Waters-TMDL
- 2) Numeric Nutrient Criteria
N, P, others
- 1) Water Classification
Drinking Water
Recreation
Agriculture, etc

SB ? (Sen. Okerlund) Water Quality Task Force

- Include: DEQ, UDAF, Legislators, Cities, Waste Treatment Facilities, Farmers
- Desired Outcome:
 - Improved water quality (reductions of Impaired waters)
 - Most effective and efficient manner
 - Least cost to the citizens, business, and farmers
 - Farmer program needs to be in a voluntary – partnership manner.

Fire





2012 Baboon Fire - Beaver Co.

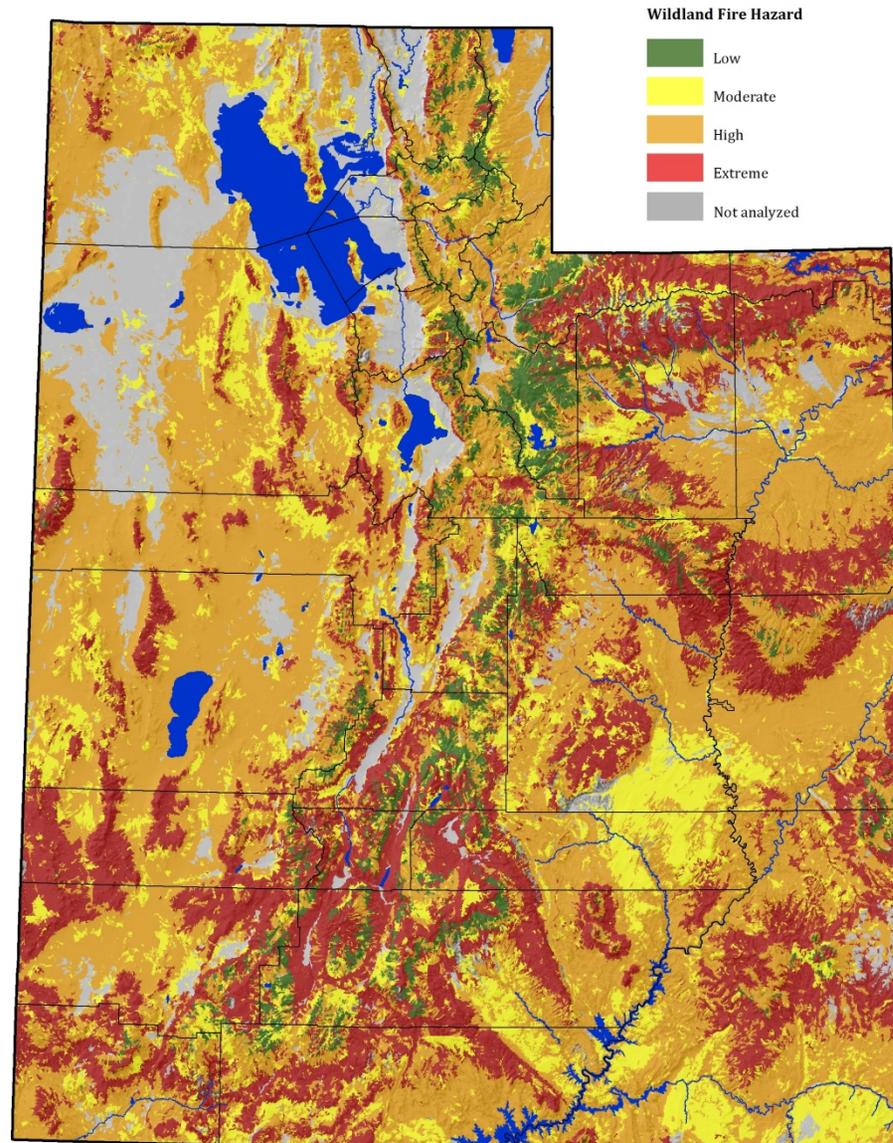
Not grazed

Livestock grazed

2012 Baboon Fire - Beaver Co.

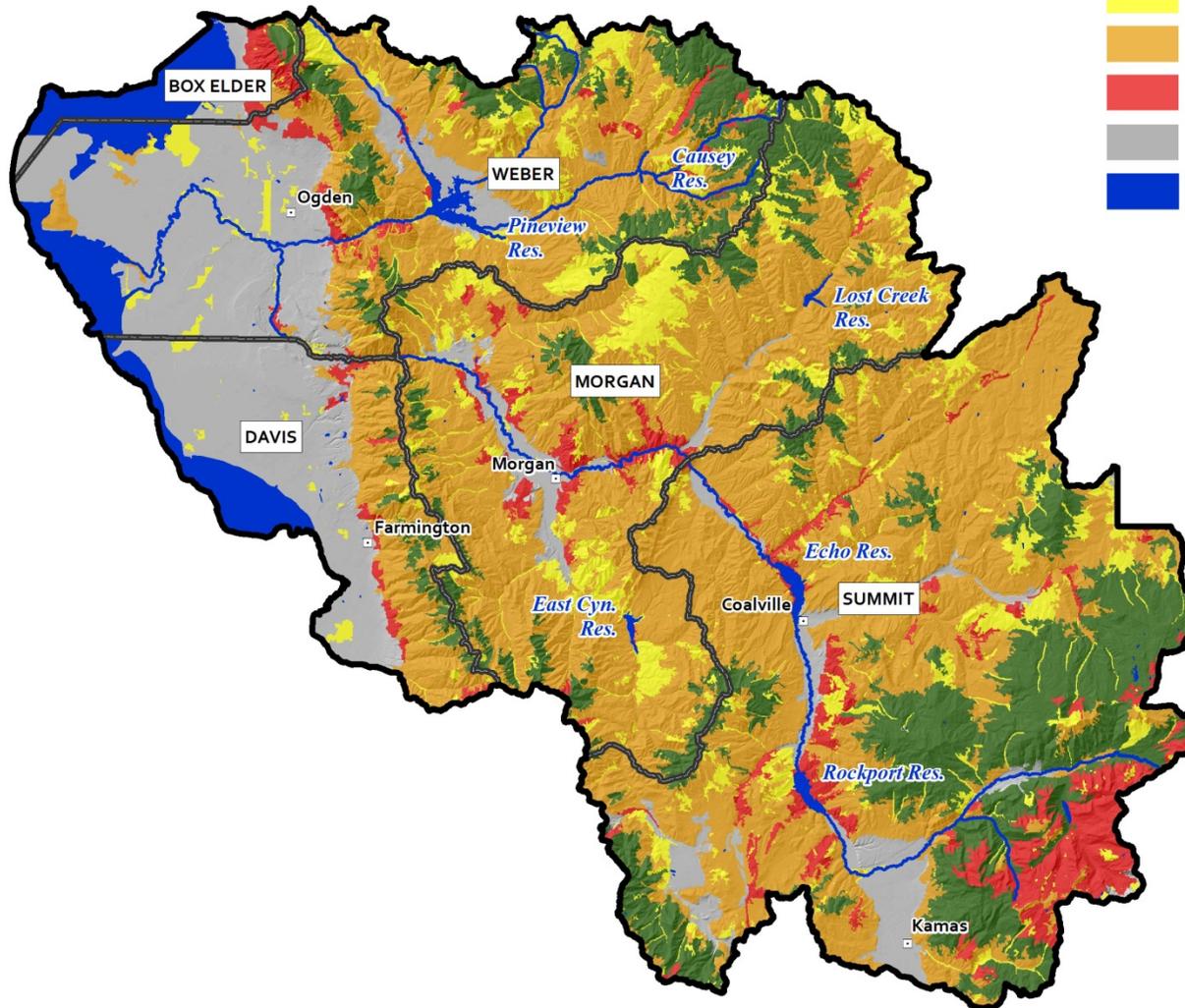
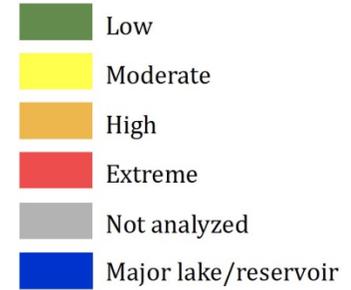


Utah Wildland Fire Hazards

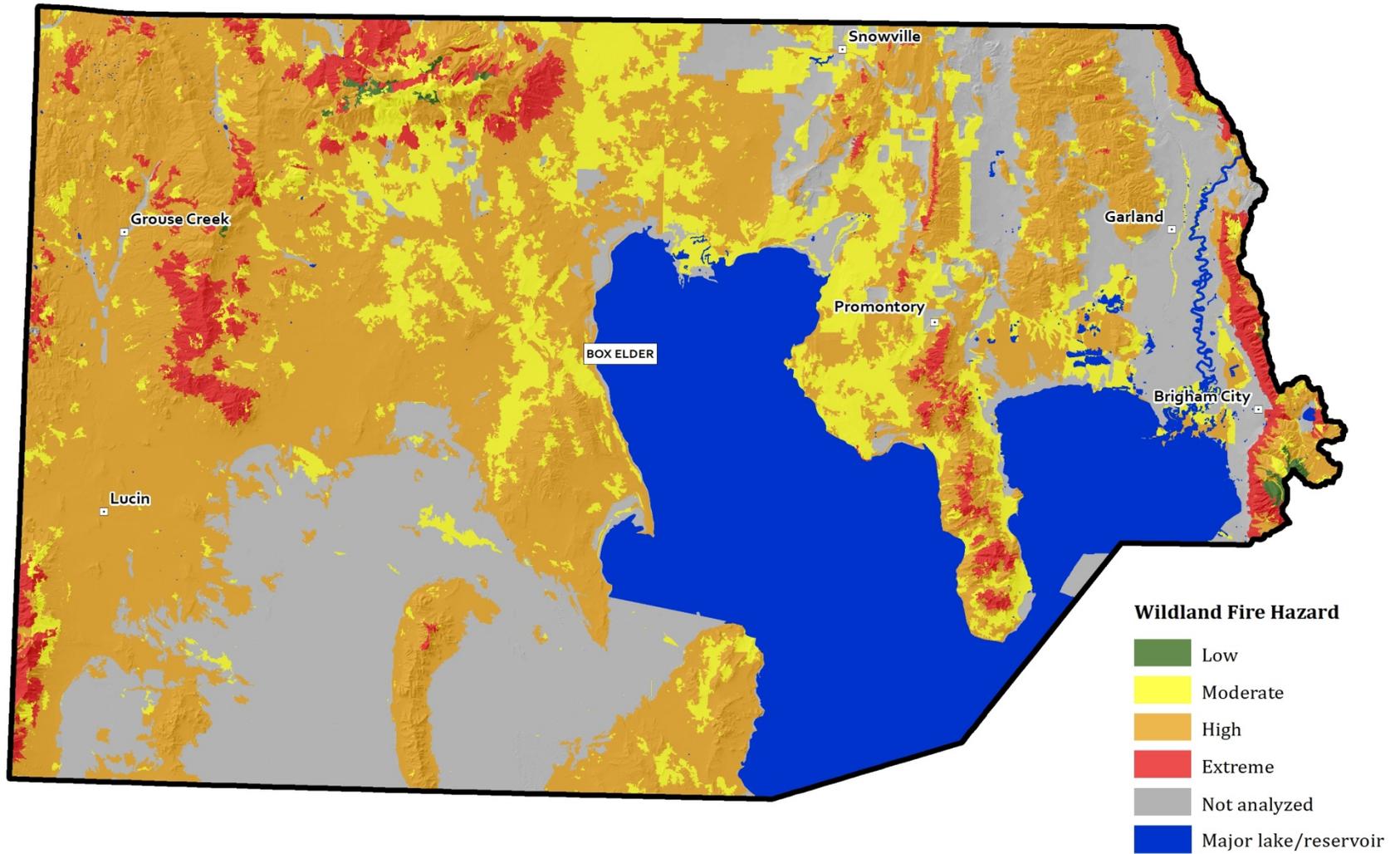


Weber County

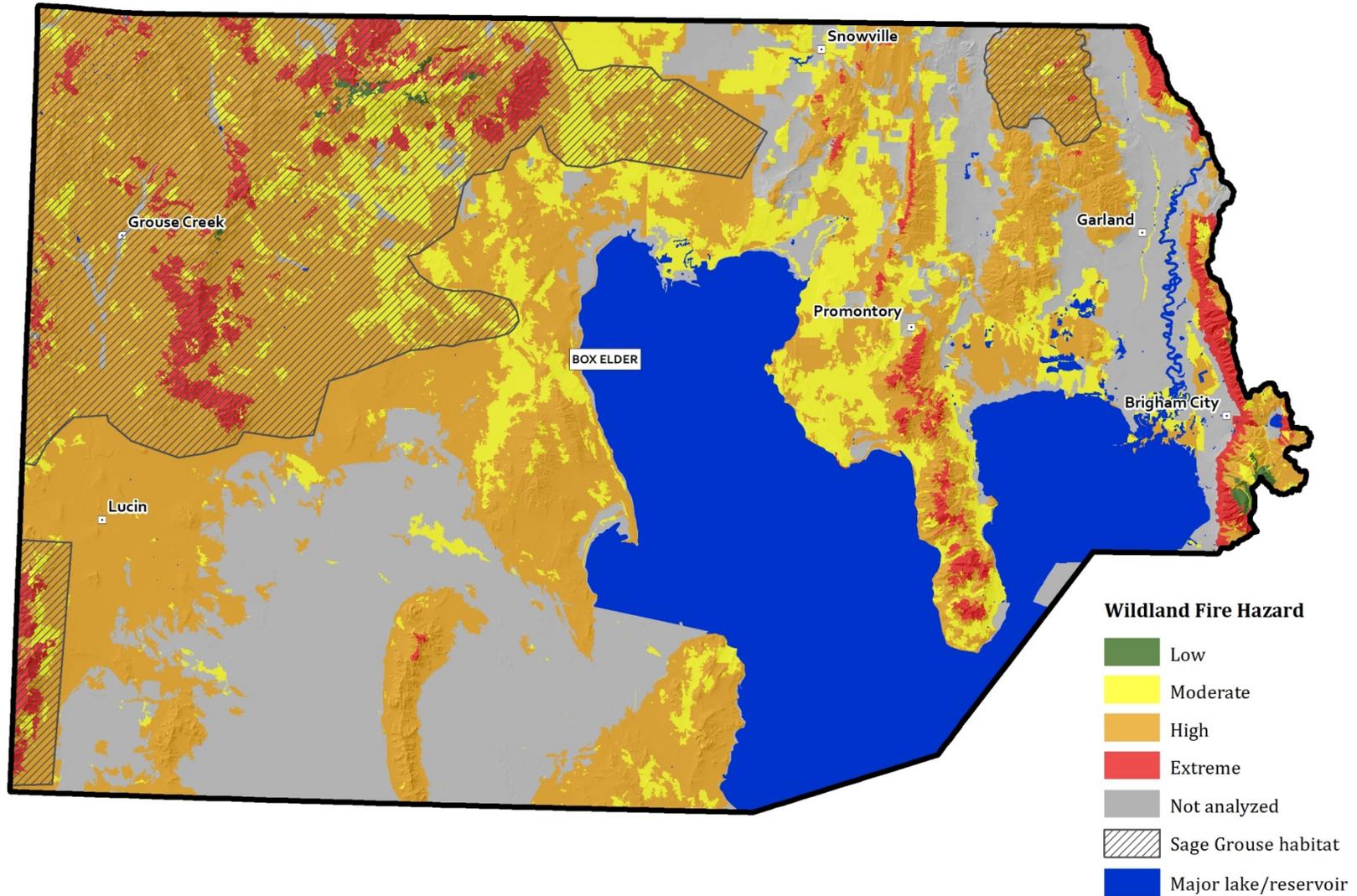
Wildland Fire Hazard



Box Elder County



Box Elder Co. Wildland Fire Hazards and Sage Grouse Habitat



Catastrophic Fires

- Governor's charge to UDAF to lead in the development of a comprehensive and systematic plan for reduction of catastrophic fires.
- Why? – Backside Cost is **HUGE**
 - \$15 million – state containment cost
 - \$7 million - reseeding
 - Community, ranching, & wildlife impacts

What is Solution?

- Currently have a taskforce with DNR, US Forest Service, BLM, counties, conservation org., others
 - Two major types of fires: 1-Range, 2-Forest
 - Reduction of fuels is the primary issue
 - Forest Service – Policy – lack of timber harvest industry
 - Range - “War on Cheatgrass”

“War on Cheatgrass”

- Started four years ago
- Derailed due to recession & budget problems
- Budget request:
 - \$1.5 million of on-going
 - \$.5 million of one-time
 - Note: some of these funds will go to weeds & phragmites.

Grazing Permit Renewals

- Renewal of grazing permits is becoming a BIG issue.
- Issues center on aspen recovery, sage grouse, riparian areas & vegetation health.
- GIP staff have been working with ranchers and other stakeholders on these issues.
- Grazing has some problems – solutions exist!

Deseret L & L

1984



2011



Deseret L & L



2011

1984
Musk Thistle
Infestation



Deseret L & L

2011



1920



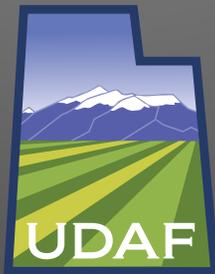
GIP Solution

- Follow the example of Deseret Land & Livestock
 - Improved management
 - Improved water systems
 - Vegetation rehabilitation projects
 - Flexibility in federal grazing permits
- Cost to get there: GIP request of \$.5 million of on-going funds

Thank you

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