

Technical Sufficiency Review Plan

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Project name:	Work Plan for the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan	6440 S. Millrock Drive
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1. Background

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), and the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources (WRe), the nonfederal partner, have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to work collaboratively to develop the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan (GSLBIP) as part of the WaterSMART Basin Study Program. Directive and Standard WTR 13-01, *Basin Studies* (Reclamation 2016a), states that a Technical Sufficiency Review (TSR) Plan (TSRP) be prepared and included in the Memorandum of Agreement and Work Plan for the GSLBIP. This memorandum will serve as the required TSRP.

The goal of this TSRP is to ensure that technical information, data, models, analyses, and conclusions resulting from development of the GSLBIP are technically supported and defensible. This TSRP serves to outline the approach and methods for reviewing this information. This TSRP does not apply to the decision analyses phases of the GSLBIP (Tasks 7 and 8) that WRe will lead and in which Reclamation is no longer participating.

2. Technical Sufficiency Review Team

Reclamation’s Upper Colorado Basin (UCB) Region will oversee the TSR process. The Reclamation Study Manager will work closely with the Reclamation UCB Regional Office, Reclamation Provo Area Office (PRO), and WRe to select reviewers who will serve on the TSR team and coordinate TSR activities and logistics.

A TSR team—a group of reviewers independent from all other teams and committees involved in the GSLBIP—will perform the TSR. The TSR team must not be directly involved with conducting the portion of the GSLBIP they are reviewing. There must be multiple reviewers and the reviewers’ scientific and technical background and expertise must be relevant to the content of the GSLBIP under review.

2.1 Technical Sufficiency Review Team Composition

The number of Reclamation and WRe representatives on the TSR team is yet to be determined. The selected individuals will be familiar with the scope of the GSLBIP and selected based on their expertise and background. The TSR team will not be directly involved in the component of the GSLBIP they are reviewing. Ideally, the TSR team will comprise the following:

- Nonfederal partners:
 - WRe representative, selected by WRe
 - Representatives/members of participating partners entities, selected by GSLBIP Steering Committee
 - Reviewers representing marginalized or underserved communities, if possible
- Reclamation:
 - UCB Region subject matter expert (SME)
 - Denver Technical Services Center SME
 - A PRO SME

Substitutions of outside reviewers or reviewers from other nonfederal partners may be made as deemed appropriate and as approved by the Reclamation Study Manager.

2.2 Technical Sufficiency Review Team Responsibilities

The main responsibility of the TSR team is to perform independent reviews of the GSLBIP deliverables in accordance with Paragraph 11 of Directive and Standard WTR 13-01 (Reclamation 2016a). The TSR team will identify and address potential concerns with the technical information, data, models, analyses, and conclusions of the deliverables. Each TSR team member will provide comments and/or suggestions to the Reclamation Study Manager in writing.

3. Technical Sufficiency Review Process

The Reclamation Study Manager will work closely with the Reclamation UCB Regional Office, Reclamation PRO, and WRe to coordinate TSR activities and logistics. Each TSR team member will be allotted 15 to 45 days for each review. Each TSR team member will provide comments and/or suggestions to the Reclamation Study Manager in writing. All reviewer comments must be considered and incorporated where relevant and appropriate. Work on the GSLBIP can continue during the reviews, as appropriate.

The Reclamation Study Manager will coordinate with the Reclamation UCB Regional Office, Reclamation PRO, WRe, and the study partner who prepared the deliverable to prepare a response to comments and suggestions submitted by TSR team members. The Reclamation Study Manager will then share both the comments and/or suggestions and responses with the GSLBIP Steering Committee and GSLBIP Advisory Group for review. The TSR team will also be afforded the opportunity to review responses. Technical uncertainties identified by TSR team must be identified and characterized in the Final GSLBIP Report. Upon completion of the GSLBIP, the UCB Regional Director will ensure the sufficiency of the GSLBIP.

3.1 Technical Sufficiency Review Level

Basin studies, or in this case Tasks 1 through 6 of the GSLBIP, are presumed to not be influential or highly influential as defined by the *Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review* (OMB 2005) or CMP P14, *Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments* (Reclamation 2016b), unless otherwise determined to be influential or highly influential by the appropriate regional director, in which case the *Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review* and CMP P14 will apply.

3.2 Technical Sufficiency Review Cost

The cost of conducting the TSR must be included in the overall GSLBIP costs and is subject to the 50-percent cost-share requirement.

4. Technical Sufficiency Review Deliverables and Timing

TSRs will be incorporated in the study process as noted in the GSLBIP Work Plan. TSRs will be completed for the key deliverables listed in Table 1; the GSLBIP Work Plan will have the most recent schedule.

Table 1. Key Deliverables for Technical Sufficiency Review

Task No.	Deliverable	Approximate Schedule
3	Watershed Water Resource Planning Tool Scoping Plan	February 2024
3	WRe VIC/RAPID Model Documentation	March 2024
2	Scenario Development Technical Memorandum	June 2024
3	River Basin Model Scoping Plans (five total)	July 2024
3	Watershed Water Resource Planning Tool Report	November 2024
4	Watershed Assessment	November 2024
2	Selected Scenario Matrix and Narratives	December 2024
4 and 5	Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies for Consideration Technical Memorandum (Draft)	February 2025
5 and 6	Strategy to Forge Consensus (Metrics and Trade-off Analysis Strategy)	May 2025
5	Evaluation of Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies Technical Memorandum (Draft)	September 2025
5	Summary of Scenario Analyses	December 2025
6	Results of Trade-off Analysis and Draft GSLBIP (summarizing alternative strategies)	December 2025
7	Alternatives and Decision Analysis Summary ^a	April 2026
8	Draft GSLBIP ^a	July, August, and September 2026

^a Tasks 7 and 8 will be completed solely by WRe. These Task 7 and Task 8 deliverables will not be reviewed by the Reclamation TSR team.

5. References

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). 2016a. *Basin Studies*. Directive and Standard WTR 13-01. December 16. <https://www.usbr.gov/recman/wtr/wtr13-01.pdf>.

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). 2016b. CMP P14, *Peer Review of Scientific Information and Assessments*. Last updated March 29, 2021. <https://www.usbr.gov/recman/cmp/cmp-p14.pdf>.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB). 2005. *Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review*. 70 Federal Register 2664, pp. 2664-2677. Document number 05-769. January 14. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2005/01/14/05-769/final-information-quality-bulletin-for-peer-review>.