Mineral extractors working on Great Salt Lake collectively hold over 600,000 acre-feet of water rights. The state is currently working with these companies to encourage innovative processes for new mineral development.

Summary

In 2020, mineral extraction companies working on Great Salt Lake depleted a total of 182,000 acre-feet of water. These companies rely upon the evaporation of lake brines in their extractive processes. However, brines have become harder to reach due to low water levels. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) is currently working with industry to encourage technologies that are not reliant on evaporation and those that reduce water depletions.

Key Facts and Insights

- **Economic Contribution** – A study was conducted in 2010 by the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council that reported approximately $1.13 billion in economic output from the Great Salt Lake mineral industry.*

- **Critical Minerals** – Three critical minerals of the state, Potash, Lithium, and Magnesium, are currently found in Great Salt Lake in marketable quantities and currently in production.

Evaporation Ponds on Great Salt Lake

Source: Aerial Image from Earth Science and Remote Sensing Unit, Johnson Space Center, 2022.

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