

# Recreational Value and Economic Impacts of Utah Lake

ULWQS - May 31<sup>st</sup> SC/SP Meeting



# 2013 ULC Community Interest / Opinion Survey

In July of 2013, a six-page survey was mailed to a random sample of 1,482 residents of Utah County.

- A link to an identical survey online was also sent to known users and user groups of the lake, who were encouraged to send the link to others.
- A link was also provided on the website [utahlakecommission.org](http://utahlakecommission.org)

## Results: Recreational activities and uses of Utah lake--

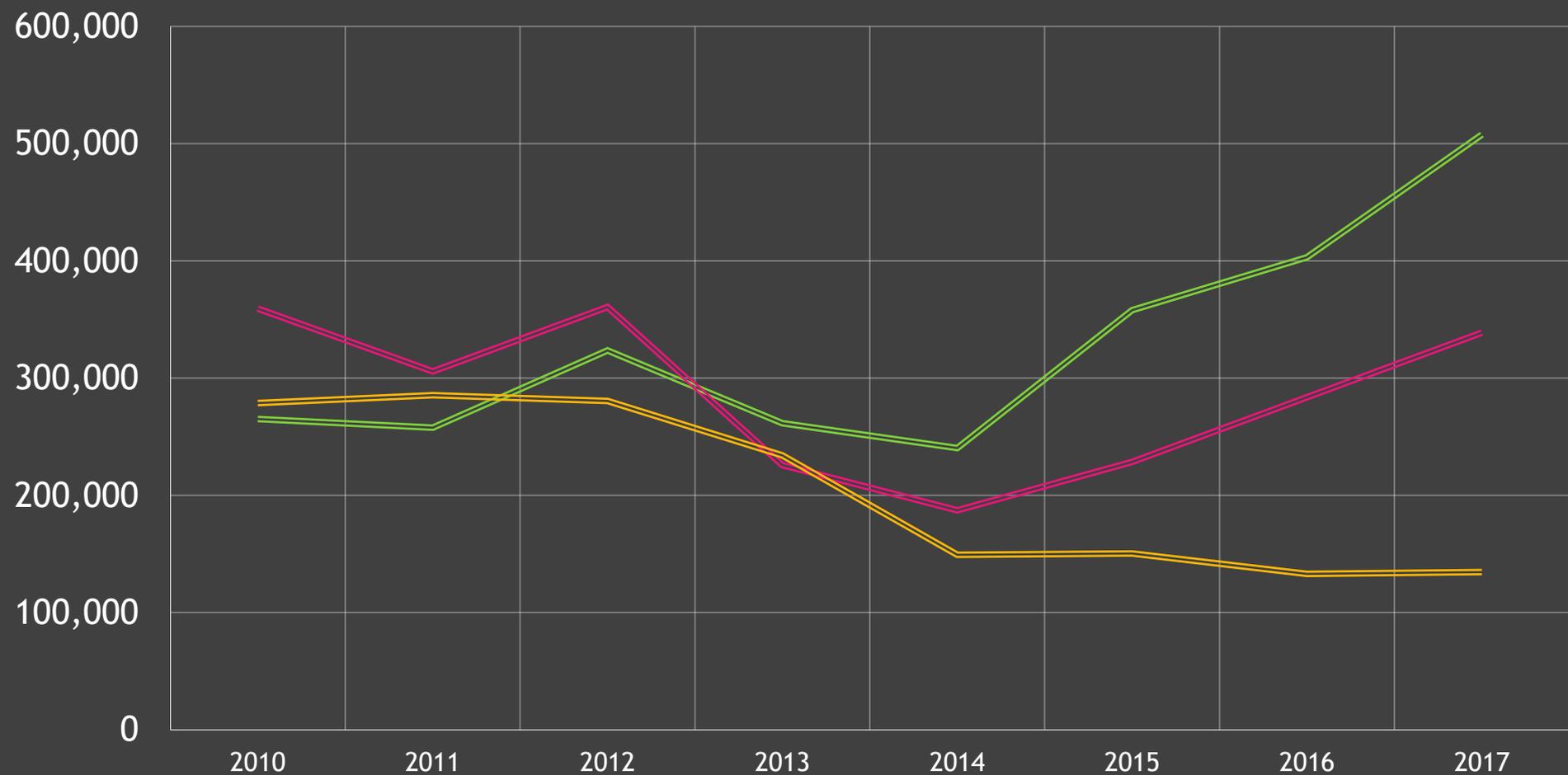
- Motor boating (51%),
  - waterskiing/wakeboarding (44%).
- Fishing (33%),
- Walking (27%)
- Picnicking (27%)
- Swimming 21%



# Visitation of Utah Lake vs Neighboring Recreational Waterbodies

## STATE PARK VISITATION 2010 - 2017

Jordanelle    Deer Creek    Utah Lake

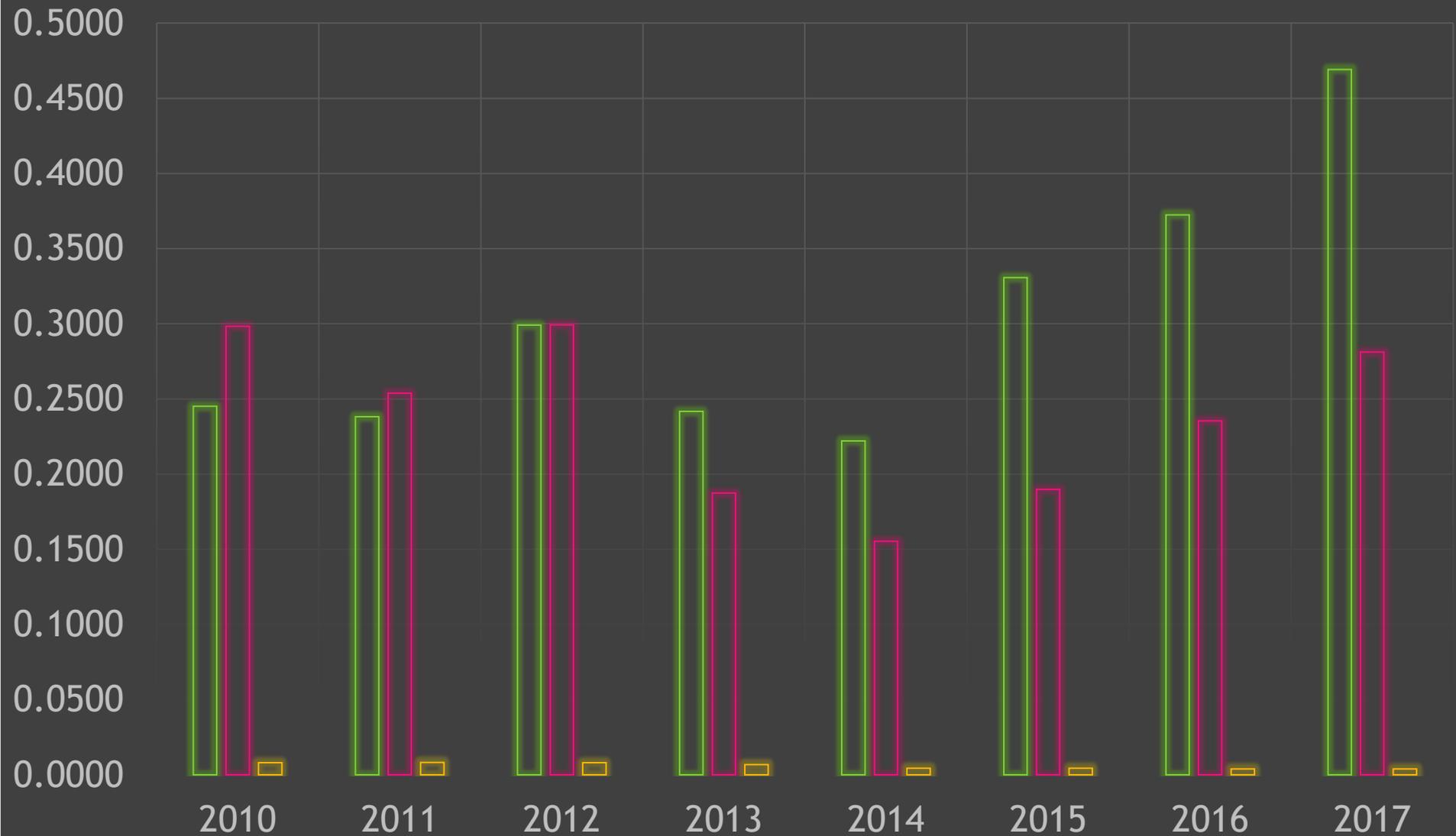


# Economics of HAB's on Utah Lake

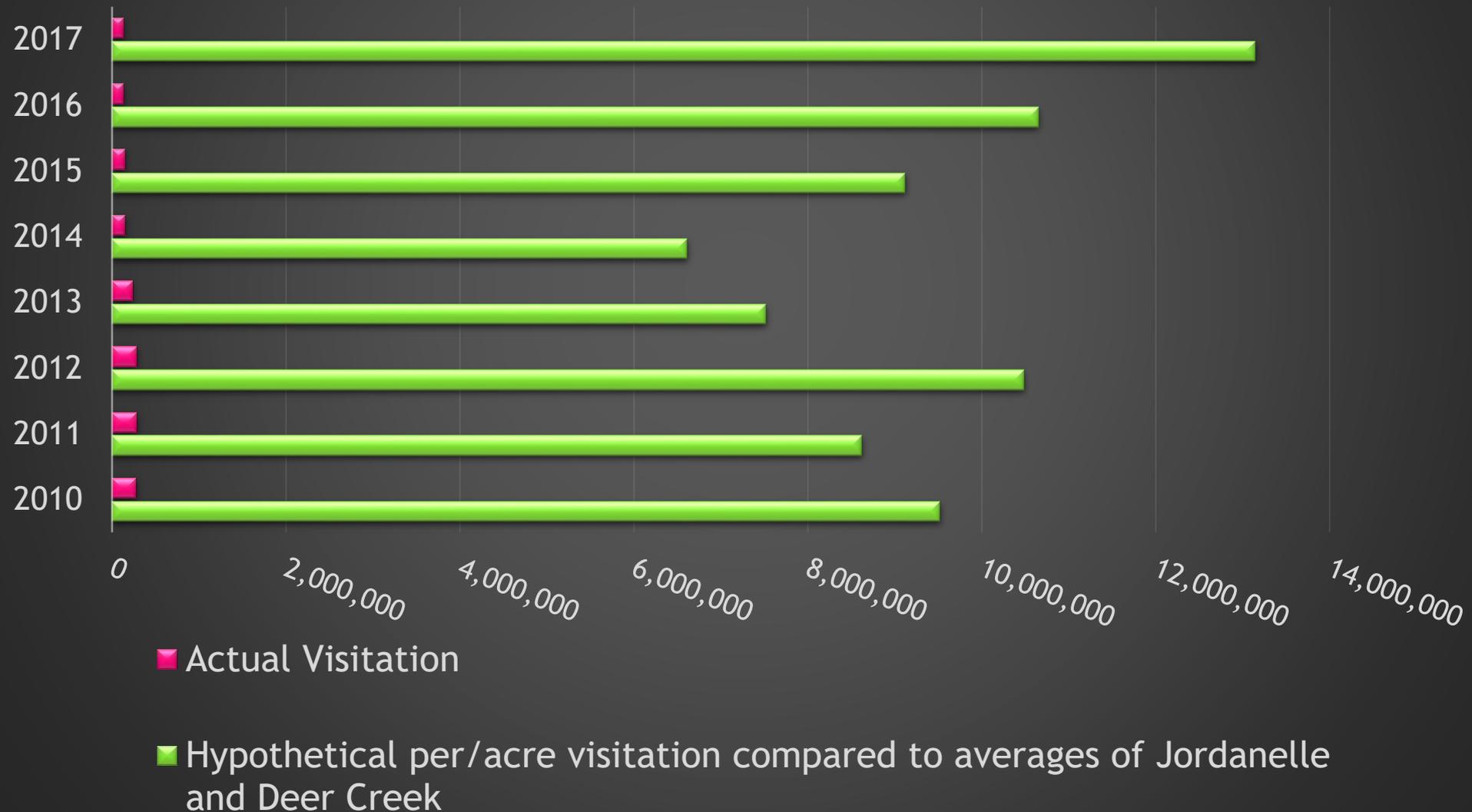
- 2014 - HABs present on Utah Lake
  - Visitation drops
- 2015 - No HABs reported on Utah Lake
  - Slight increase in visitation
- 2016 - HAB Closes Utah Lake for 11 days, additional caution and warning advisories are in place for weeks
  - Visitation drops again
- 2017 - HAB advisory in Place from July 1<sup>st</sup> - Oct
  - High Water year helped the summer visitation begin with high hopes and great visitation
  - Five Marinas and two Concessionaires estimated they lost almost \$2M in revenue as a result of the HAB on the lake
  - Visitation hovered at just 65% of 8-year average while Deer Creek is at 118% and Jordanelle is at 155% of their 8-year averages

# Average Daily Lake Visitation Based on # of Boaters / Acre

Jordanelle   Deer Creek   Utah Lake



# If Utah Lake Visitation Mirrored Neighboring Recreational Water Bodies on a Per/Acre Basis



# The Future of Utah Lake

- Population growth estimated to triple over the next 50-years this means Utah Lake will be within 30 minutes of over 1.5 million residents
- Unlike its crowded canyon neighbors, there is room for visitors on Utah Lake
- Water quality needs to improve
- A reduction in HAB's on Utah Lake allows users to focus on its back-door proximity, warm water, massive surface area, great fishing and other recreation opportunities

# A crucial point in time...

- Addressing HABs and Nutrient related water quality issues today has the potential to garner positive attention and the much needed support for continued conservation for Utah Lake as Population grows.
- A healthy Utah Lake is an incredible natural and economic resource to Utah County, neighboring Municipalities and the State as a whole

# HABs and Water Quality Impact Visitation

- Utah County Population ~575,000
- The Average Utah County Resident lives ~6 miles from Utah Lake
  - Lives an average of ~15 miles from Deer Creek Reservoir
- During the 2017 HAB, Deer Creek reached maximum boat launching capacity by ~noon on most weekends
  - During the same period Utah Lake averaged  $\approx$  <10 boats/day (State Park Manager Observation)