

Don't work remote.

Do real work.



BECOME A RAINMAKER.



100 MILLION AMERICANS LIVE WITH DROUGHT · THE SKY HOLDS 10.5B ACRE-FEET · DEMAND IS 3.7B · SEEDING ADDS UP TO 20%

RAINMAKER IS HIRING EXCEPTIONAL ENGINEERS AND OPERATORS.

[RAINMAKER.COM/CAREERS](https://rainmaker.com/careers)

The Utah Special.

One winter, two states, thirty-two aircraft, and the first rain anyone could prove. Field reports from the Bear River Basin.

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David T Phung, Editor-in-Chief & Art Director. Field reporting: the Rainmaker Press Field Desk. Published 2025–2026. RAINMAKER PRESS, Pressing 001.



THE CREW WALKS IN. SOMEWHERE BEHIND THAT RIDGE, WEATHER IS BEING MADE. · BEAR RIVER BASIN APPROACH

The weather report is now a job description.

This magazine exists because of a math problem. The American West is short on water: short for its farms, its aquifers, its power grids, and now its data centers. The Great Salt Lake, fed first and most by the Bear River, has been receding for decades. Everyone agreed it was a tragedy. Almost no one treated it as an engineering assignment.

Then a company in El Segundo did. This winter, Rainmaker flew the largest cloud seeding project in modern American history across 7,500 square miles of the Bear River Basin, hired by two states, watched by independent scientists, measured in acre-feet.

We went to Utah to meet the people doing it. What we found was not a tech company with a field hobby. It was a crew: engineers who design aircraft that fly into icing clouds on purpose, operators who drive sixteen hours to stand under a rain cloud they intend to open, forecasters who treat the sky as a supply chain.

The industry that raised most of these people sells a different dream: work from anywhere, touch nothing. This issue is about the opposite bet: that the most alive people of this generation want work that leaves a mark on the physical world. Work you can drink.

Don’t work remote. Do real work.

David T Phung
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & ART DIRECTOR, RAINMAKER PRESS · BEAR RIVER BASIN · 2025–2026



Cloud seeding, explained over coffee.

Clouds are warehouses that rarely ship. Most of the water that floats over a mountain range keeps floating. Cloud seeding gives a cloud that was already close to raining the nudge it needs: a speck for water to grab onto. That’s it. That’s the trick.

01

DISPERSION

A drone climbs into a cold, wet cloud and releases a whisper of silver iodide. Grams, not tons. The particles scatter through the supercooled mist.

02

ATTRACTION

Water in the cloud is colder than freezing but has nothing to freeze onto. The particles look, to a water molecule, like ice. Moisture rushes to them.

03

ACCRETION

Droplets pile on and crystals grow, snowflakes assembling themselves around each seed, growing heavier by the second.

04

PRECIPITATION

Gravity does the last mile. Snow falls on the peaks, banks all winter, and melts into rivers, reservoirs and aquifers all summer.

WHY BOTHER?

10.5B

acre-feet of water pass through the atmosphere, roughly three times what all of humanity uses in a year. The warehouse is full. We just never learned to ship.

IS IT SAFE?

<< EPA

Silver iodide is used in trace amounts. Concentrations in snowpack measure orders of magnitude below EPA drinking-water limits, monitored season after season.

DOES IT WORK?

+20%

The World Meteorological Organization cites seasonal precipitation increases of up to 20 percent from well-run winter programs.

The part that’s new: for seventy years, cloud seeding worked the way a lottery ticket works: you paid, you hoped, you argued about the results. Rainmaker’s bet is validation: weather radar that watches the phase change happen inside the cloud, so every operation ends with a number instead of an opinion. *Target. Seed. Validate.*

The winter two states hired the rain.

REPORTING FROM THE BEAR RIVER BASIN · BY THE RAINMAKER PRESS FIELD DESK



AN ELIJAH PILOT ON STATION. THE OFFICE, PICTURED.

OPERATIONS CARD

AREA	7,500 sq mi · Bear River Basin
STATES	Utah + Idaho
AIRCRAFT	32 Elijah V2 drones
SEED RATE	3 g/min silver iodide
SOFTWARE	Prophet forecasting · Seraph fleet C2
GROUND	Generators in Utah · 3 authorized in Idaho
SEASON	November 1 – April 30
VALIDATION	NCAR third-party + Rainmaker radar
FUNDING	\$950k Idaho · \$3.4M+ Utah

The Bear River is the largest river in North America that never reaches an ocean. It rises in the Uinta Mountains, wanders through three states, and empties into the Great Salt Lake. That is why, when the lake began to vanish, every serious conversation about saving it eventually arrived at this river.

In 2025, Utah and Idaho did something states had never done: they signed on to an interstate, drone-based cloud seeding program and asked to be shown the receipts. Idaho’s Water Resource Board committed \$950,000. Utah brought more than \$3.4 million, including \$3 million in one-time legislative funding. The National Center for Atmospheric Research was engaged to validate results independently. Nobody grades their own homework.

From November 1 to April 30, thirty-two Elijah V2 aircraft, each releasing about three grams of seeding material per minute, flew storm by storm, guided by Prophet’s forecasts and dispatched by Seraph, the fleet command system. Ground generators in Utah covered the terrain drones don’t, with three more already authorized across the Idaho line.

The proof of concept was already banked: 143 million gallons of validated, radar-confirmed precipitation from earlier operations: the first time anyone could point at falling snow and prove, instrument by instrument, that people put it there. This winter was the scale-up. The full accounting, NCAR’s, not ours, lands after the melt.

LARGEST CLOUD SEEDING PROJECT IN MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY, AND THE FIRST BUILT TO BE AUDITED.

TARGET · SEED · VALIDATE



THE ENGINEER AND THE AIRCRAFT. ELIJAH FLIES INTO WEATHER OTHER UAVS ARE GROUNDED BY.

PRINCIPALS OF RAIN · NO. 1 · AAYUSH A, HEAD UAV ENGINEER

The man who taught a drone to love ice.

Every aircraft ever certified has one instruction about icing clouds: stay out. Aayush’s job was to build one that goes in on purpose and comes back. Elijah is the result: a squat, unglamorous, utterly serious machine that climbs into supercooled storms at 15,000 feet, in glaze and rime that would bring down aircraft a hundred times its price, and releases the seed.

“The cloud you want is the cloud that’s trying to kill your vehicle,” he says. “Cold, wet, turbulent. That’s where the water is.” So the anti-icing system became the product: heated surfaces, sensors that feel ice forming before it matters, and a flight controller that treats a storm the way a river pilot treats rapids.

Ask him about metrics and he doesn’t mention uptime. “We measure success in acre-feet. An acre-foot is a family’s water for a year. Some weeks you can say: this team made a town’s worth of water. Try getting that feeling from a dashboard.”

“

One thing I discovered working at Rainmaker was that if you love what you do, the hours don’t seem to matter. I love what I do at Rainmaker so much, all those hours came so naturally that it no longer felt like work. It’s every engineer’s dream.

AAYUSH A, HEAD UAV ENGINEER

The hours are real. Storm windows don’t respect calendars, and neither does a hardware company iterating on airframes between them. But listen to him talk about watching radar bloom downwind of his own aircraft, and you understand the sentence above isn’t a slogan. It’s a diagnosis. Some people are simply built for work with weather in it.

PRINCIPALS OF RAIN · NO. 2 · ADAM D, PROGRAM MANAGER

Sixteen hours to stand under a rain cloud.



MISSION CONTROL IS WHEREVER THE TRUCK STOPS. OPS REVIEW BETWEEN STORM CELLS.

Adam D’s job title says Program Manager. His actual job, during a Bear River winter, is closer to expedition leader: picking the people, the launch sites, and the moments when a crew rolls out of a warm building toward a mountain storm on purpose.

How do you staff for that? Not with résumés alone. “You find out who someone is the third time the forecast changes at midnight,” he says. The crews launch from valley floors and ridgelines, in wind, in the dark, on dirt roads that stop pretending to be roads. The aircraft handle the icing. The humans handle everything else.

“The guys that we had picked to operate in Utah, they’re ready to go. Whether it was to drive out 16 hours just to go stand under a rain cloud. The guys were up for the challenge. They would not back down from a challenge.”

ADAM D, PROGRAM MANAGER

That’s the culture in one anecdote: sixteen hours of driving for a few minutes of weather, because the few minutes matter, and because standing under the cloud your team seeded is the kind of commute no office, home or otherwise, has ever offered. The hard thing, chosen on purpose, over and over. That’s the hiring bar.

How much water are we talking about?

143M

GALLONS · PROVEN

Radar-validated precipitation from prior operations, the first instrument-proven manmade water on record.

60k+

ACRE-FEET · MIDSEASON

Added snowpack reported by midwinter of the Bear River pilot, ahead of expectations, pending full NCAR accounting.

82

SEEDING SIGNATURES

Unambiguous radar phase-change events tied to operations, each one a falsifiable receipt in the sky.

WHERE THE WATER GOES

Aquifer recharge, snowmelt percolates into groundwater banks drawn down by decades of deficit.

Agriculture, irrigation season starts with fuller reservoirs and later curtailments.

Wildfire risk, wetter ground and greener fuels shorten the burn window.

Ecosystems, the Great Salt Lake’s largest tributary carries more of what the lake actually needs.

Utilities & food security, hydropower, municipal supply, and the price of produce all sit downstream of snowpack.

Why validation is the breakthrough: weather radar now watches the phase change happen inside seeded clouds, vapor becoming ice becoming snowfall, with NCAR running the independent audit. For the first time in seventy years of weather modification, buyers of water can see exactly what they paid for. That single fact converts cloud seeding from folklore into infrastructure.

THE RECAP · FOUNDER’S WORD

Augustus Doricko, interviewed in August

“

*Water is as critical as energy or steel.
Whether for agriculture,
reindustrialization, or AI data centers.
And right now, we simply don’t have
enough.*

RAINMAKER CEO AUGUSTUS DORICKO, “MADE IN AMERICA” INTERVIEW, SOURCERY, AUGUST 15, 2025

In the same conversation, Doricko described the stack end to end, “from forecast to rainfall,” and the customer honestly: “We’re not just selling to a farmer. We’re supplying water to entire economies.” The recap writes itself: water is an input to everything, and someone finally treats it that way.

SEASON ONE LOG · CACHE VALLEY UAV PROGRAM 2024-25 · WITH USU + NAWC FROM THE SEASONAL REPORT
10 ELIJAH UAVS CERTIFIED · 14 MISSIONS · 80+ FLIGHT HOURS · 8,637 G AGI · JAN 27 TO APR 30, 2025

Don’t work remote.
Do real work.

The office is a mountain valley in the Bear River Basin.
The desk is a dirt road at 3 a.m.
The output is measured in acre-feet, not Jira tickets.

THE NEW AMERICAN TRADE: RAINMAKING.



Rainmaker is hiring exceptional engineers and operators.

Base: El Segundo / Los Angeles: hands on hardware, 100% in person, with significant field deployment across the American West. You will stand under weather you helped make.

UAV Engineering APPLY

Airframes, anti-icing, autonomy. Build the only aircraft in its class that flies into icing on purpose.

Radar & Validation APPLY

Own the receipts. Phase-change detection, signal processing, and the instruments that turned this field into a science.

Weather Modeling APPLY

Prophet needs forecasters who think of storms as inventory. Numerical weather prediction, in production, with consequences.

Field Operations APPLY

Launch crews for the mountain West. Sixteen-hour drives, 3 a.m. windows, real weather. The best job title on Earth.

Brand & Community APPLY

Run the events, the towns, the newsstand. Make the people of the Basin proud this crew is here. This magazine is the audition.

If you have ever finished a sprint review and wondered whether any of it was real, this is your formal invitation to find out.

DON'T WORK REMOTE. DO REAL WORK.

[RAINMAKER.COM/CAREERS](#)



The sky is the office.

FIELD NOTES CONTINUE IN PRESSING 002 · WINTER 2027-28



END DROUGHT FOREVER.

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