

Improving Utah's Water Quality

Cub River Watershed



Revised November 2012

MAJOR WATERBODIES

Cub River

MAJOR CITIES

Lewiston, UT
 Richmond, UT
 Franklin, ID
 Preston, ID

MAJOR LAND USES

Agriculture
 Urban

LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Phosphorus
 Sediment

LOCAL CONTACT:

USU Extension
 Watershed Coordinator
 1860 N 100 E
 North Logan, UT 84341
 (435) 753-6029

Watershed Description:

The Cub River watershed, located in southern Franklin County, Idaho, and northern Cache County, Utah, covers an area of approximately 153,000 acres (239 square miles). The main stream of the Cub River flows in a southwesterly direction from its headwaters in the Bear River Range to its confluence with the Bear River, west of Richmond, Utah. The basin is about 21 miles long and 15 miles wide, containing 112 miles of perennial streams and 216 miles of ephemeral streams and canals.

Slightly over half the land in the watershed (56.8%) is privately owned. The U.S. Forest Service manages 39.5% of the watershed, with the Bureau of Land Management and state lands comprising the remainder.

Approximately 13,000 people live within the Cub River watershed (9,000 in Idaho and 4,000 in Utah). Most residents live within the Utah communities of Richmond, Lewiston, Cove, and the Idaho communities of Preston and Franklin. The majority of residents are employed in the towns within the basin in commercial, service or industrial positions, or in the surrounding regions in agricultural activities (dairies, animal feeding operations, farming, etc.). Many people also commute to Logan, Utah and other neighboring communities for employment (BRAG, 1990).



Photo courtesy of USU Water Quality Extension



Cub River Water Quality Improvement

Project Description:

The Cub River water quality improvement project was launched in 1999 with the help of the North Cache Conservation District, Utah State University Water Quality Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Utah Division of Water Quality, and local landowners. Projects focused on restoring stream corridors, re-contouring stream banks, installing in-stream structures, planting riparian vegetation to improve the river by filtering out pollutants, and improving wildlife habitat. Along with stream restoration projects, landowners voluntarily installed conservation practices that have helped improve the Cub River water quality and overall health of the watershed, including relocating animal feeding operations, implementing sprinkler irrigation systems, improving grazing management, installing riparian fences, and re-planting pastures. These practices help control erosion and reduce runoff of sediment and nutrients into the Cub River. For many landowners, participation in federal and state grant programs is possible thanks to the Utah Agriculture Resource Development Loan (ARDL) program. ARDL is a low interest loan used by landowners to pay their share of the cost of a project.



Partners

North Cache Conservation District
Utah Division of Water Quality
EPA
Utah State University Extension
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Utah Association of Conservation Districts
Local landowners
Local irrigation companies

Related Projects

Irrigation systems
Range and pasture planting
Soil testing and training
Bear River Watershed Celebration
4th grade natural resources field day
Stream restoration
Animal feeding operation inventory
Animal feeding operation improvements
Wildlife habitat improvement

Funding

Total (through 2008) \$1.9 million

For funding opportunities in the Cub River Watershed, contact the local Watershed Coordinator.

To learn how you can participate or lend your support to Utah community water quality projects, please contact your local conservation district or county agent.

Produced by USU Water Quality Extension, Utah Watershed Coordinating Council, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and Utah Division of Water Quality.

Utah State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and older), disability, and veteran's status. USU's policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and academic related practices and decisions. Utah State University employees and students cannot, because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status, refuse to hire; discharge; promote; demote; terminate; discriminate in compensation; or discriminate regarding terms, privileges, or conditions of employment, against any person otherwise qualified. Employees and students also cannot discriminate in the classroom, residence halls, or in on/off campus, USU-sponsored events and activities. This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle E. Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University.