

Improving Utah's Water Quality

Middle and Lower Sevier River Watershed



Utah State University
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

MAJOR WATERBODIES

- Sevier River
- Piute Reservoir
- Otter Creek Reservoir
- Yuba Reservoir

MAJOR CITIES

- Richfield
- Monroe
- Salina
- Delta
- Fillmore
- Scipio

MAJOR LAND USES

- Agriculture
- Public range & grazing
- Recreation

LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

- Salinity
- Sediment
- Phosphorus
- Poor aquatic habitat

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Watershed Description:

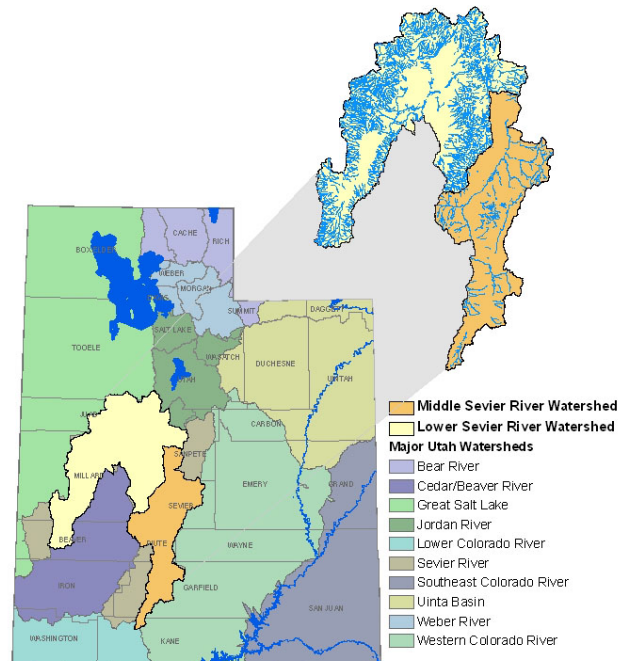
The Middle and Lower Sevier watershed includes all of the basins of the Middle and Lower Sevier River, and is located in all or parts of Piute, Sevier, Sanpete, Juab, Millard, Tooele and Beaver counties. This watershed includes drainage to the Sevier River and the Pahvant Valley.



The Sevier River originates in the mountains of Kane County in southern Utah. It follows a sinuous path of over 380 river miles ending in Sevier Lake, one of the major terminal lakes in the Great Basin. The Sevier River drains over 9,900 square miles, larger than the state of Vermont. The watershed ranges in elevation from almost

12,000 feet to less than 4,540 feet above sea level.

The Sevier River watershed was settled in the 1800s by pioneers who established an economic base built on agriculture. The communities have diversified since then, but the majority of the land is still tied to agriculture. These land uses have sustained the community, however, combined with the naturally erosive and high saline characteristics of the soil they have inadvertently resulted in nonpoint source water pollution to the Sevier River. This has led to non-support of its designated beneficial uses.



Middle & Lower Sevier Water Quality Improvement

Project Description:

The Sevier River Watershed project was launched in the fall of 2005 with the formation of a steering committee to help with the organization and development of the “Sevier River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan.” The data was gathered and supplied to Cirrus Ecological Solutions, LC who organized and completed the Management Plan in the fall of 2010.

To date, one Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) and three river restoration projects have been completed totaling 3,500 feet of stream bank restoration. Another AFO and 4,700 feet of stream bank restoration are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011. The stream bank restoration projects include: bank shaping, rock riprap, rock barbs, planting riparian vegetation, and fencing. In addition, the land owners along the Sevier River have installed many other conservation projects that help control erosion and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff.



Partners

Piute, Sevier, and Millard Conservation Districts
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Utah State University Extension
Utah Association of Conservation Districts
Fishlake National Forest
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
USDA Farm Service
Utah Department of Agriculture and Foods

Related Projects

Streambank Restoration
Range and Pasture Planting
Irrigation Systems
Water Quality Monitoring
Many other best management practices

Funding

EPA
Local landowners
Utah Division of Water Quality

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.

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