

**CHARTER**  
**for the**  
**UTAH WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE**

**The Mission of the Utah Water Quality Task Force** is to facilitate coordinated and holistic management of Utah's watersheds for the protection and restoration of Utah's surface and ground waters.

The Utah Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program is administered by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through the coordination and assistance of the Utah Water Quality Task Force, and its established ad hoc committees. The responsibility of the Utah Water Quality Task Force is to advise the DEQ and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) in the holistic management of Utah's watersheds, with a focus on reduction of nonpoint source pollution.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has been delegated management and implementation responsibility for agriculture NPS pollution mitigation via a memorandum of understanding with DEQ. The chairmanship of the Water Quality Task Force is shared by the Executive Directors of the DEQ and UDAF or their designated representatives. The UDAF is responsible for chairmanship on even numbered years and the DEQ is responsible on odd numbered years.

**The functions of the Utah Water Quality Task Force arise from its core values:**

- water quality is best protected and maintained through locally led coordinated resource management planning and implementation;
- all citizens of Utah have responsibilities and some level of accountability as stewards of our land and water;
- the most effective and proven approach to protecting and improving our water is through voluntary actions; and
- incentives in the form of financial and technical support are a critical component of effective water quality protection and watershed management.

### **Specific functions of the Utah Water Quality Task Force include:**

- Serve as a coordinating body for the review and direction of federal, state and local NPS management programs to assure that these programs are implemented consistent with the Utah Nonpoint Source Management Plan (approved by EPA in 2000 and as amended or revised);
- Promote and foster better alignment of relevant programs to assure efficient and effective watershed management efforts that improve water quality, in addition to other benefits;
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information on activities which reduce nonpoint source pollution;
- Provide a forum for discussion and recommended resolutions to program conflicts;
- Work with partner agencies to coordinate the prioritization of watersheds for nonpoint source activities. Prioritization criteria should include local involvement (e.g. locally led watershed committees), effective use of partnerships, and evidence of leveraged sources of funding;
- Establish and implement a process for field inspections of nonpoint source mitigation activities on public and private lands to ensure that best management practices are installed and functioning as designed to protect water quality; and
- Serve as a coordinating body for outreach and education to increase public awareness regarding nonpoint source pollution management.

### **Specific Products of the Utah Water Quality Task Force include:**

- The Annual Utah Nonpoint Source Program Report. This report is required by EPA, but is not restricted to 319 funded efforts. The report is prepared by DEQ in coordination with UDAF. The task force will assist in providing content, advice and review. The report will highlight the planning efforts, projects, and successes statewide that are possible with the broad coalition of partners encompassed in the Water Quality Task Force;
- Presentation of the Annual Utah Nonpoint Source Program Report each year to the Utah Water Quality Board, the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, and the Utah Conservation Commission.
- Organize an annual NPS Conference to share information, highlight successes, and improve networking throughout the state and region.
- Provide annual water quality awards to individuals and organizations whose actions or products have protected water quality and exemplified good stewardship of our waters.
- An institutional repository (e.g. a web site) that includes originals or links to documents, reports, minutes, etc.

## **Membership:**

The Task Force includes representation of those entities with programs that could potentially cause or mitigate nonpoint source water pollution. As new NPS program components are developed and implemented, additional entities will be invited to participate. Current membership includes representatives of:

- Local Governments
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division
- U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Utah Association of Conservation Districts
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Utah Department of Transportation
- Utah Farm Bureau, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and other NGOs
- Utah State University Cooperative Extension

The Task Force will meet quarterly, but may meet more frequently if deemed necessary. A call for agenda items will be circulated to the membership prior to each meeting. To the extent possible, meetings will focus on sharing successes, improving communication between partners so that coordinated management within Utah's watersheds can be accomplished and providing information of interest to the partner organizations represented at the Task Force meetings.

## **Subcommittees of the Water Quality Task Force**

The Task Force shall have two standing subcommittees and assure that these will remain active and effective. Other ad hoc subcommittees shall be formed as needed.

The Monitoring Subcommittee will work closely with the Utah Water Quality Monitoring Council to address monitoring needs associated with nonpoint source water quality implementation projects. The subcommittee will evaluate monitoring practices and programs conducted by different partner agencies within priority watersheds, with the goal that monitoring programs are designed and implemented to

effectively evaluate the environmental benefits of BMP implementation. The subcommittee shall also assess behavior change and adoption of management plans by cooperators. The subcommittee will assure that each funding program monitors operation and maintenance of BMPs for the life of a project. This subcommittee will also foster and facilitate citizen monitoring efforts for the collection of credible data. The subcommittee shall report back the Task Force annually and more frequently if necessary.

The Outreach Subcommittee will coordinate and assist in statewide water quality outreach efforts and will provide support for outreach efforts in priority watersheds. The subcommittee shall meet regularly to assure that outreach efforts are efficient, targeted and effective. This subcommittee will identify and highlight local efforts across the state and assure that these stories are told to the public and to agency and other partners. This subcommittee will also assist local watershed groups, by helping them define messages that are meaningful for their specific NPS issues and helping them develop and implement outreach plans.

### **Adoption and Revision of the Charter**

The Charter was adopted by the NPS Task Force on December 7th, 1993. The Charter is subject to periodic review to assure that the Task Force's activities remain focused on current and emerging water quality needs in the state. Modification of the Charter may occur by majority consent of NPS Task Force Members.. The Charter was last revised in April 2010 and these revisions were approved on \_\_\_\_\_.