

Improving Utah's Water Quality

Beaver River Watershed



Revised November 2012

MAJOR WATERBODIES

Beaver River
Puffer Lake
Minersville Reservoir
Kents Lake
LaBaron Reservoir

MAJOR CITIES

Beaver City
Greenville
Adamsville
Manderfield

MAJOR LAND USES

Agriculture

LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Sediment
Total Phosphorus
Nitrogen Loading
Erosion

LOCAL CONTACT:

Beaver Conservation
District
620 North Main Street
PO Box 640
Beaver, UT 84713
Phone: (435) 438-5092

Watershed Description:

The Beaver River watershed encompasses approximately 320,000 acres with about 306,000 acres in Beaver County and 14,000 acres in Iron County. The watershed is encircled by the Tushar Mountains to the northeast and east, Circleville Mountains to the southeast, and the Mineral Mountains to the west.

The estimated watershed population is approximately 3,500 people and is expected to experience a 2.6 percent population growth by the year 2020. There are about 170 farms in the watershed with an average area of 495 acres. Beaver City, the county seat, is the most populated town in the watershed with an estimated population of 3,000. Other communities in the watershed include Greenville, Adamsville, and Manderfield.

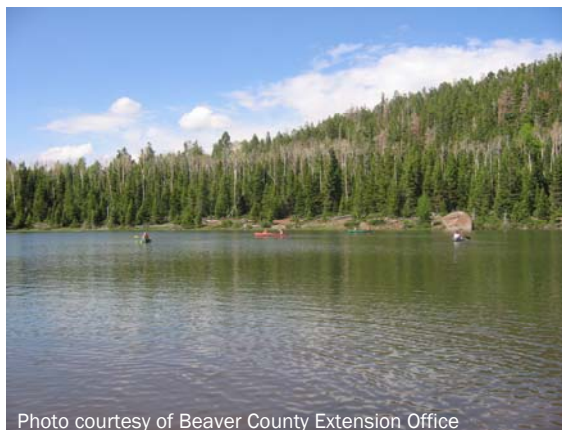
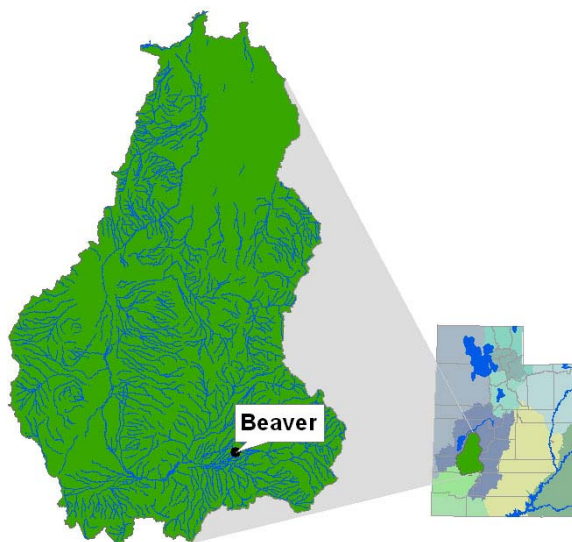


Photo courtesy of Beaver County Extension Office

Several nonpoint source water quality problems have been identified in the watershed. They include sedimentation, phosphorus and nitrogen loading, and eroding stream banks. These pollutants are causing a decrease in water quality in the Beaver River, its tributaries, and the Minersville Reservoir.



Beaver River Water Quality Improvement

Project Description:

Water quality improvement projects focusing on the Beaver River began in 1993 with the acquisition of an EPA 319 Grant. Since work began in 1993, 319 funds have helped over 23 landowners in the watershed improve water quality on their operations and have also helped leverage an additional \$6.4 million dollars from other state and federal conservation programs for water quality improvement projects. In 2001, the watershed completed the development of the Beaver River Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and Watershed Restoration Action Strategy. The CRMP identifies potential water quality limitations and establishes implementation strategies focused on improving water quality. The CRMP also provides additional leverage for water quality improvement project funding.

An initial summary of water quality results indicate that although there was a decline in the average annual total phosphorus concentrations, the pollution indicator value of 0.05 mg/L is exceeded in all samples. Results from this initial evaluation imply project implementation is having a positive effect on water quality but substantial work is required to achieve desired water quality end points.



Partners

Beaver River Soil Conservation District
Beaver River Watershed Steering Committee
Beaver County
Beaver City
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
USU Cooperative Extension Service
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Utah Association of Conservation Districts
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Utah State Trust Lands Administration
Utah Division of Parks & Recreation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Related Projects

Rangeland Restoration
Animal Waste Control Systems
Irrigation Run-Off Improvement Projects
Stream Bank and Riparian Restoration Projects
Information and Education

Funding

Total (through 2008) \$7.6 million

For funding opportunities in the Beaver River Watershed, contact the Beaver Conservation District.

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 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.