

# Improving Utah's Water Quality

## East Canyon Watershed



Revised November 2012

### MAJOR WATERBODIES

East Canyon Creek  
East Canyon Reservoir

### MAJOR CITIES

Park City  
Morgan City

### MAJOR LAND USES

Forested with livestock  
Residential  
Commercial  
Recreation

### LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Elevated Nutrients  
Low Dissolved Oxygen

### LOCAL CONTACT:

USDA Service Center  
30 Main Street  
PO Box 526  
Coalville, UT 84017-0437  
Phone: (435) 336-5853

### Watershed Description:

The East Canyon Creek Watershed is located in north central Utah, approximately 20 miles east of Salt Lake City, on the eastern slope of the Wasatch Mountains. The headwaters are located above Park City and the watershed drains 144 square miles of mountain terrain. The principal drainage channel of the upper part of the watershed is McLeod Creek, which turns into Kimball Creek and subsequently joins East Canyon Creek near Interstate 80. Flow from East Canyon Creek is impounded in the East Canyon Reservoir and finally joins the Weber River near Morgan, Utah. Over 75% of the watershed is forested with either active or inactive agriculture. Ski and golf resorts comprise 7% of land use, and residential and commercial development compose 6-10% (BioWest, 2000 and Stantec, 2003). The rapid development of the Upper East Canyon Watershed has resulted in a significant strain on the area's water resources.



# East Canyon Water Quality Improvement

## Project Description:

Beginning in spring of 2005 the Swaner Nature Preserve began implementation of a stream restoration project on East Canyon Creek. The main goals of this project are to stabilize eroding stream banks, restore riparian vegetation, and improve fish habitat over 5 years. Stream bank erosion can cause too much sediment to enter a waterway, which can affect the natural function of the stream or creek. As of January 2007, over 1100 feet of eroding stream banks have been stabilized using brush revetments. The revetments were installed by volunteers and help to hold the eroding banks in place, preventing the sediment from washing into the water. The revetments in East Canyon Creek were constructed using recycled Christmas trees from the Park City area.

Riparian vegetation is being restored by planting various trees and shrubs along the creek. Approximately 760 trees and shrubs have been planted in the project area along with 1800 willow cutting transplants. The roots from the planted vegetation will help hold the soil in place, and provide habitat for wildlife that use the area.

To improve fish habitat, a cross vane structure has been constructed in the stream channel which improves habitat by creating a scour pool. Deep pools as well as riffles and runs are important features for many types of aquatic organisms, especially fish.



## Partners

Kamas Valley Conservation District  
Morgan City  
Morgan County  
Utah Division of Water Quality  
EPA  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Utah State University Extension  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Utah Association of Conservation Districts  
Utah Watershed Coordinating Council  
Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District  
Park City Municipal Corporation  
Summit County  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Trout Unlimited  
Swaner Nature Preserve  
Mountainland Association of Governments  
Recycle Utah  
Local landowners and volunteers

## Related Projects

Water quality monitoring program for high school students  
Annual Watershed Festival  
Park City Mountain Resort Erosion Control and Gully Repair Project  
Riparian fencing projects  
Information and education outreach campaigns  
Strom drain marketing projects  
Stream restoration

**For funding opportunities in the East Canyon Watershed, contact the Kamas Valley 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.

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