

# Improving Utah's Water Quality

## Cub River Watershed



### 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:

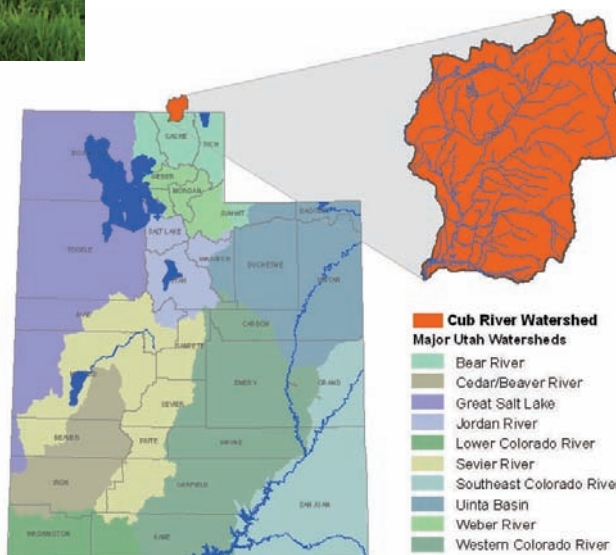
The Cub River watershed, located in southern Franklin County, Idaho, and northern Cache County, Utah, covers an area of approximately 153,000 acres (239 square miles). The main stream of the Cub River flows in a southwesterly direction from its headwaters in the Bear River Range to its confluence with 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.

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