

# Improving Utah's Water Quality

## Fremont River Watershed



### MAJOR WATERBODIES

Johnson Valley Reservoir  
Forsyth Reservoir  
Mill Meadow Reservoir  
Fish Lake  
Fremont River  
Dirty Devil River

### MAJOR CITIES

Loa  
Bicknell  
Torrey

### MAJOR LAND USES

Agriculture  
Recreation  
Rangeland

### LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Nutrients  
Sediment  
Stream bank erosion  
Salinity

### LOCAL CONTACT:

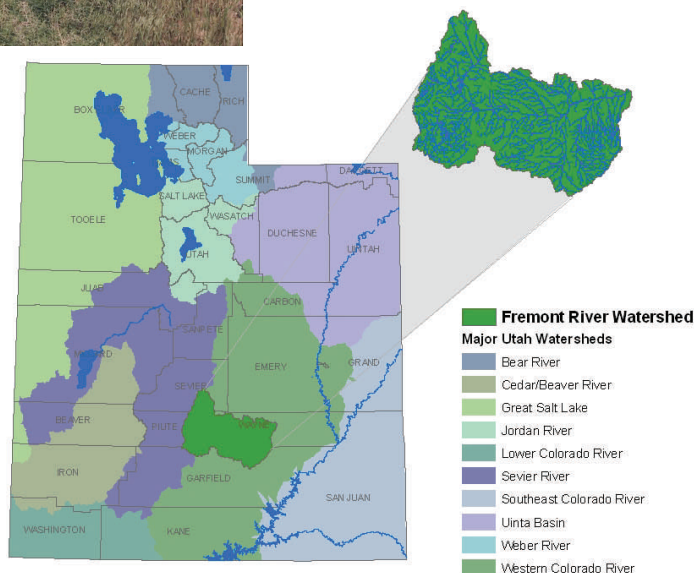
Fremont River  
Conservation District  
Watershed Coordinator  
340 North 600 East  
Richfield, UT 84701  
(435) 896-8566

### Watershed Description:

The Fremont River watershed is located in Wayne County. The watershed headwaters, lakes, and streams are located in the Fish Lake National Forest, which includes the sixth highest mountain in Utah. The watershed is composed of high mountains and valleys.

The population of Wayne County is estimated to be 3,000 and the majority of the population works in agriculture industries. The primary land uses are associated with livestock production, including grazing. Approximately 5% of the land in Wayne County is privately owned, 12% is administered by the state of Utah, and 83% is administered by either the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, or the National Park Service. The watershed contains approximately 16,000 acres of irrigated lands, and 70,000 acres of private and state rangelands. The remaining acres are federally administered public lands. The watershed contains lands that are

popular sightseeing sites due to their prehistoric ancestry. Other recreation activities include fishing, hunting, and camping.



# Fremont River Water Quality Improvement

## Project Description:

The Fremont River water quality improvement project was launched with the formation of a local steering committee to oversee the development of the "Fremont River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan." This plan was completed in March 2002. To date, 1.5 miles of stream have been restored with another 1.5 miles projected to be completed by spring 2009. These stream restoration projects focus on re-contouring stream banks, installing in-stream rock structures, and planting riparian vegetation to improve water quality. In addition to stream restoration, landowners have voluntarily installed many other conservation and best management practices such as the relocation of animal feeding operations, implementing sprinkler irrigation systems to eliminate irrigation return flows to the river, and riparian fencing. These practices help control erosion and reduce runoff of sediment and nutrients into the Fremont River.



Before



After

## Partners

Wayne County  
Fremont River Conservation District  
Local landowners  
Utah Division of Water Quality  
Utah State University Extension  
Utah Association of Conservation Districts  
Utah Dept of Ag and Food  
Fishlake National Forest Service  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Farm Service Agency  
Environmental Protection Agency

## Related Projects

Stream restoration  
Range and pasture planting  
Irrigation systems efficiency  
Aquifer classification  
Water quality monitoring programs

## Funding

Total (through 2008) \$750,000

**For funding opportunities in the Fremont River Watershed, contact the Fremont River 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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