

## WEBER RIVER WATERSHED NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

### DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

A new ordinance is going through the approval process in Davis County according to Dee Jette, Davis County Environmental Health. First proposed because of threats to drinking water wells that are often outside the jurisdiction of the owners, the ordinance is now required by Utah law.

The 2008 Utah Legislature has passed HB40 that requires all first and second class counties to have an ordinance protecting drinking water sources.

### NEW WATERSHED TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEMBERS

**Desiree Van Dyke**, new Resource Coordinator, Utah Association of Conservation Districts. Desiree's position includes support for Davis, Morgan and Weber Conservation Districts.

Desiree graduated from Utah State University in 2005 with a MS in Urban Water Conservation and a BS in Horticulture.

Desiree can be reached at 801-542-8208 or by email at [desiree.vandyke@uacd.org](mailto:desiree.vandyke@uacd.org). Her office is at 6782 S. 1300 East, Salt Lake City 84121.

**Mandy Burbidge** represents the Division of Water Resources on the TAC. She works in the Water Conservation and Education section where she compiles data for the Governor's Water Conservation Team and for water use studies. She also designs water education booklets and brochures. Desiree has a BS in Civil Engineering.

Mandy can be reached at 801-538-7271 or by email at [mandyburbidge@utah.gov](mailto:mandyburbidge@utah.gov). Her office address is P.O. Box 146201, Salt Lake City 84114-6201.

**Kyle Jackson** is the new Coordinator for the Lower Weber River. Kyle comes to Utah from New Mexico where he served as an Agricultural/4H agent. Kyle received his MS

degree from New Mexico State University in Range Science. Kyle will be providing support to local watershed groups, pursuing funding for water quality projects and working to implement projects. He can be reached at 801-829-3472 or by email at [kyle.jackson@usu.edu](mailto:kyle.jackson@usu.edu). Mailing address is USU Extension-Morgan County, P.O. Box 720, Morgan 84050.

**WATER FAIRS:** Water Fairs for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have become a regular feature of spring. This year's schedule includes:

Weber County: April 21-22, Ogden Weber ATC  
Summit County: April 24, St. Mary's Church  
Davis County: May 7-8 Davis Co. Fairgrounds

Morgan County does not have a water fair but does conduct a Farm Field Day in May. Weber, Davis and Morgan events are sponsored by the local conservation districts.

**CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service announced that the landowners in the Upper Weber River Watershed are eligible to sign up for the Conservation Security Program. The program supports stewardship of private agricultural lands and rewards producers meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management.

**FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM:** Laura Ault is the Coordinator for the Forest Legacy Program of the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. The program provides a method of protecting and managing environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses by purchasing conservation easements. Laura can be reached at 801-538-5540 or [lauraault@utah.gov](mailto:lauraault@utah.gov).

Weber River Watershed Protection Coalition

Tage Flint, Chair, Executive Committee  
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## **Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) Northern Utah Region Activities**

by Paul Burnett

**Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Listing Process** -- Most of the winter was spent compiling a database of Bonneville cutthroat trout conservation actions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decision not to list Bonneville cutthroat trout was remanded by federal courts last fall. That means the listing process for Bonneville cutthroat trout must be repeated. The USFWS is now conducting a 12 month review to assess the status of Bonneville cutthroat trout rangewide. Several populations occur within the Weber River watershed.

**Fish Surveys** -- The UDWR sampled 5 locations in the Lower Weber River between The Gateway and 31st Street in Ogden. We found strong populations of native cyprinids (minnows) and suckers. Trout and whitefish populations were generally quite low.

We also completed a Peterson mark-recapture population estimate in the Coalville reach of the Weber River between Echo and Rockport Reservoir. We determined that the population of adult (>7 inches) fish was:

- Mountain Whitefish (13,548),
- Brown Trout (9710),
- Bonneville cutthroat trout (229),
- Rainbow Trout (641),
- Utah Sucker (940),
- Bluehead Sucker (275).

The species of interest was the bluehead sucker. We have at least two populations of bluehead sucker in the Weber River. It is a state sensitive species that typically occurs in large streams with complex habitat (e.g. backwaters and deep pools). We have seen a decline in bluehead suckers since the 1980's.

Five surveys in Echo Creek and Heiners Canyon revealed a very healthy population of native fish including a significant Bonneville cutthroat trout population with several individuals exceeding one pound.

**Habitat Restoration** -- UDWR continues to partner with Swaner Nature Preserve in restoration and monitoring on East Canyon Creek. We assisted with more revetment installation and established two long-term habitat monitoring stations.

**Future Plans** -- We plan to do a watershed-wide fish population assessment this summer. We are also working with several landowners throughout the watershed to try to acquire conservation easements. The general areas of focus include Henefer and Coalville.

## **Related News on Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration**

A proposed joint aquatic ecosystem restoration (Sec 206) project on the Weber River between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has been on hold for some time. According to Scott Stoddard of the COE the Section 206 moratorium has just been lifted. This is the FIRST STEP toward getting the project back on track.

## **HYDROLOGIC STUDY OF MORGAN VALLEY** by Mike Lowe, Utah Geological Survey

The Utah Division of Water Rights has requested the Utah Geological Survey to submit a proposal for a geologic and hydrologic study of the Morgan Valley drainage basin. The study would include East Canyon Creek below East Canyon Reservoir, and the Weber River from Taggart Falls to the head of Weber Canyon. The primary goals of the study are: (1) to characterize the hydrogeology of the Morgan Valley drainage basin as it pertains to the occurrence and flow of ground water, with emphasis on delineating the thickness of the valley-fill aquifer and determining the water-yielding characteristics of fractured-rock aquifers in the study area, and (2) to develop a water budget for the drainage basin. The proposed work will require one and one-half years (18 months) of research, data collection, data analysis, and report preparation.

The work plan for the study includes :

- (1) compilation of existing geologic data,
- (2) construction of a digital 1:100,000-scale geologic map of the study area,
- (3) construction of geologic cross sections,
- (4) construction of an isopach map showing the geometry and thickness of the valley-fill aquifer,
- (5) implementation of a geochemical and isotopic sampling program of surface water, springs, and wells to better define potential flow paths for the aquifer(s) in the drainage basin,
- (6) assessment of aquifer characteristics (transmissivity and storativity) based on existing aquifer tests and specific-capacity data from drillers' logs of water wells for both valley-fill and fractured-rock aquifers,
- (7) development of a water budget (quantification of recharge and discharge components within the drainage basin),
- (8) assessment of the importance of structural compartmentalization in the hydrogeology of fractured-rock aquifers, and
- (9) preparation of the final report.

The need for the study is partly due to the increase in development the valley is experiencing. Water suppliers need to know how much water is available to support this development. It is expected that a public hearing regarding the study will be held in Morgan City in mid May. Stakeholders are encouraged to attend this meeting. For more information contact Mike Lowe.

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