

# *Improving Utah's Water Quality Middle and Lower Sevier River Watershed*



Revised November 2012

## MAJOR WATERBODIES

Sevier River  
Piute Reservoir  
Otter Creek Reservoir  
Yuba Reservoir

## MAJOR CITIES

Richfield  
Monroe  
Salina  
Delta  
Fillmore  
Scipio

## MAJOR LAND USES

Agriculture  
Public range & grazing  
Recreation

## LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Salinity  
Sediment  
Phosphorus  
Poor aquatic habitat

## LOCAL CONTACT:

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## Watershed Description:

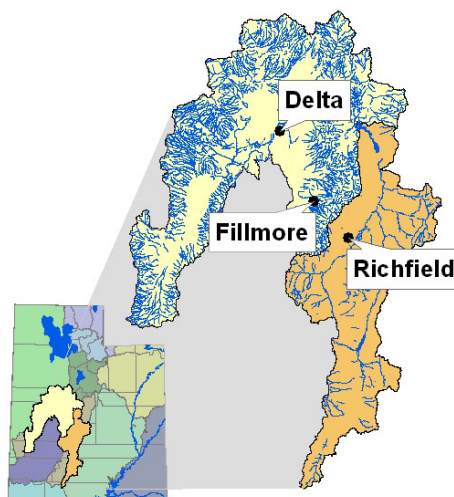
The Middle and Lower Sevier watershed includes all of the basins of the Middle and Lower Sevier River, and is located in all or parts of Piute, Sevier, Sanpete, Juab, Millard, Tooele and Beaver counties. This watershed includes drainage to the Sevier River and the Pahvant Valley.



The Sevier River originates in the mountains of Kane County in southern Utah. It follows a sinuous path of over 380 river miles ending in Sevier Lake, one of the major terminal lakes in the Great Basin. The Sevier River drains over 9,900 square miles, larger than the state of Vermont. The watershed ranges in elevation from almost

12,000 feet to less than 4,540 feet above sea level.

The Sevier River watershed was settled in the 1800s by pioneers who established an economic base built on agriculture. The communities have diversified since then, but the majority of the land is still tied to agriculture. These land uses have sustained the community, however, combined with the naturally erosive and high saline characteristics of the soil they have inadvertently resulted in nonpoint source water pollution to the Sevier River. This has led to non-support of its designated beneficial uses.



# Middle & Lower Sevier Water Quality Improvement

## Project Description:

The Sevier River Watershed project was launched in the fall of 2005 with the formation of a steering committee to help with the organization and development of the "Sevier River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan." The data was gathered and supplied to Cirrus Ecological Solutions, LC who organized and completed the Management Plan in the fall of 2010.

To date, one Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) and three river restoration projects have been completed totaling 3,500 feet of stream bank restoration. Another AFO and 4,700 feet of stream bank restoration are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2010 and spring of 2011. The stream bank restoration projects include: bank shaping, rock riprap, rock barbs, planting riparian vegetation, and fencing. In addition, the land owners along the Sevier River have installed many other conservation projects that help control erosion and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff.



## Partners

Piute, Sevier, and Millard  
Conservation Districts  
Natural Resource Conservation  
Service  
Utah State University Extension  
Utah Association of Conservation  
Districts  
Fishlake National Forest  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Utah Department of Environmental  
Quality  
USDA Farm Service  
Utah Department of Agriculture  
and Foods

## Related Projects

Streambank Restoration  
Range and Pasture Planting  
Irrigation Systems  
Water Quality Monitoring  
Many other best management  
practices

## Funding

EPA  
Local landowners  
Utah Division of Water Quality

*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.*

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