

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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