

Improving Utah's Water Quality

San Pitch River Watershed



Revised November 2012

MAJOR WATERBODIES

San Pitch River
Gunnison Reservoir
Nine Mile Reservoir

MAJOR CITIES

Manti
Ephraim
Mt. Pleasant

MAJOR LAND USES

Agriculture
Urban

LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Salinity
Temperature
Phosphorus
Bank Erosion

LOCAL CONTACT:

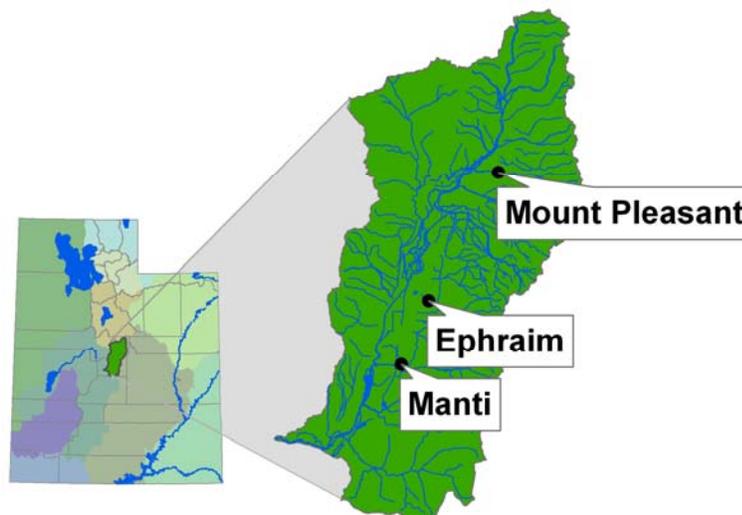
Sanpete Conservation District
Watershed Coordinator
50 S. Main
Manti, UT 84642
(435) 835-4111

Watershed Description:

The San Pitch River Watershed located in the center of the state is almost entirely within Sanpete County. The San Pitch River runs from Milburn and flows into Gunnison Reservoir where it eventually drains into the Sevier River. The watershed is home to nearly 800 farms and the principal crops are alfalfa, small grains, and corn for silage. Livestock and poultry are the mainstays of Sanpete County agriculture where turkey production ranks in the top four counties in the nation. Water quality is important to both agriculture and urban users, and was the reason the San Pitch Watershed Stewardship Group was formed in 1999. Under its leadership, the Sanpete



Conservation District and other natural resource partners including local landowners are implementing projects to improve Utah's water quality. Projects are based on the "San Pitch River Watershed Water Quality Management



San Pitch Water Quality Improvement

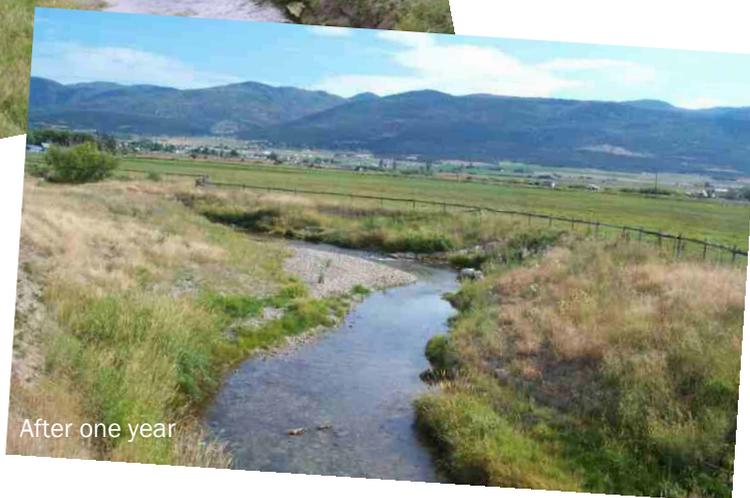
Project Description:

The San Pitch River water quality improvement project was launched in the summer of 2004 with the help of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and local landowners. To date, 2 miles of stream have been restored with 1.5 miles projected to be completed in the spring of 2008. The project is funded to restore 4,000 more feet of stream bank, which will be completed by 2009. This project focuses on restoring stream meanders, re-contouring stream banks, installing in-stream structures and planting riparian vegetation to improve water quality by filtering out pollutants, and improving wildlife habitat. Along with stream restoration, landowners have voluntarily installed conservation practices that have improved the San Pitch River and the overall health of the watershed. These have included relocating animal feeding operations, implementing sprinkler irrigation systems, grazing management, riparian fencing, and pasture planting, all which help control

erosion and reduce run-off of sediment and nutrients into the San Pitch River.



Before



After one year

Partners

Sanpete County
Sanpete Conservation District
Local landowners
Local irrigation companies
Utah Division of Water Quality
Utah Division of Water Resources
Utah State University Extension
Utah Association of Conservation Districts
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Environmental Protection Agency

Related Projects

Irrigation systems
Range and pasture planting
Soil testing and training
Farm management software
4th grade watershed education day
9th grade watershed education day
Water quality monitoring education program
Stream restoration
Aquifer classification
Source water protection plans

Funding

Total (through 2008) \$3.9 million

For funding opportunities in the San Pitch Watershed, contact the San Pete 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.