

SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM
BEAR RIVER INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OUTREACH PROJECT
FINAL REPORT

Bear River Information and Education Outreach Program-FY-07

Mitch Poulsen
Executive Director
Bear Lake Regional Commission

This project was conducted in cooperation with the State of Utah and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8.
Sub-Grant #08-0845

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bear Lake Regional Commission has sponsored the Bear River Information and Education Outreach grant for fiscal year 2007. The contract was signed in June of 2007 and was completed September 30, 2009. Funding of \$41,600 was allocated between six objectives and eight tasks. One request for a no-cost time extension was requested to fulfill stated goals and objectives. An additional request was made to cover cost overruns on a separate section 319 contract between the State of Utah and the Bear Lake Regional Commission. Most of the objectives were ongoing throughout the life of the grant and were completed. Outputs include: 1) personnel time to administer the grant and provide secretarial duties for the Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force. 2) Maintain mailing list of task force membership and provide minutes and agendas and other correspondence to the membership. 3) One major water quality sharing event. 4) Solicited opportunities to present Bear River Basin planning progress to interested agencies and the public. 6) Press releases on task force/basin planning activities. 7) Grant administration including match tracking 8) streambank stabilization. Overall, grant monies were well administered and the project was successful in providing basin wide planning information to agencies and the public alike.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bear River Watershed encompasses parts of three states (Figure 1). The total river length is approximately 500 miles. The watershed (basin) covers about 7,580 square miles, with approximately 35% of the area in Idaho, 45% in Utah and 15% in Wyoming. Mountains, high plateaus, and broad valleys provide contrasting topography which in turn influences uses, ownership, and vegetation. Rangeland, cropland, timberland, wetlands and minerals make up the majority of the list of available land based resources.

The economy of the watershed is resource oriented with agriculture being one of the principle industries. Recreation is a rapidly growing industry in the watershed.

The beneficial uses of the water resources of the river and lakes includes irrigation, power generation, fisheries, recreation, with future uses including municipal.

The watershed is divided into numerous political divisions including three states, three U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts, two regions of U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies, three National Wildlife Refuges, nine counties and numerous cities, towns, and Soil Conservation Districts. This fragmentation of the Basin by political and other divisions makes coordination of water quality programs and efforts very challenging and complicated.

In April of 1993, the Bear River Water Quality Symposium was held. It was co-hosted by the Bear Lake Regional Commission, Bear River and Western Wyoming Resource Conservation and Development areas(RC&D), Ecosystems Research Institute, with support fund from EPA Region VIII, through the State of Utah.

The Symposium was attended by over 200 people from Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. The Symposium results were concerns for private, local, state and federal interests to establish a path and direction for cooperation and coordination of water quality work on the Bear River system.

As a result a Watershed Planning and Coordination Group, known as the Bear River Water Quality Task Force, was established as the means of pursuing the direction and desires of the Symposium. This ad-hoc organization was co-chaired by representatives of the Bear River and Western Wyoming RC&D's. Over time it was determined a more technical chairmanship was needed. Presently, the water quality leads from the three states rotate the chairmanship. The Bear Lake Regional Commission has been given the role of staff support to the three state groups. The group is made up of representatives from each of the three states Environmental Quality organizations and EPA. The grass-roots representation includes the Bear River RC&D, the Western Wyoming RC&D, the Bear Lake Regional Commission and Bear Lake Watch. Other resource entities involved are water resource agencies, Bureau of Reclamation, Wildlife Resources, Rocky Mountain Power Company, and the Bear River Commission. The initial goals of the watershed group are to:

- ✓ Measurably improve the overall water quality and stream integrity of the Bear River and its tributaries, including lakes and reservoirs, to support multiple beneficial uses and development.
- ✓ Develop and implement a coordinated tri-state basin wide water quality planning approach with strong local involvement and leadership.

The water quality issues of the Bear River System including Bear Lake are associated with sediment and to a lesser degree, nutrients. These issues are a result of mainly non-point sources including hydrological modifications, agricultural practices, and natural processes.

This information and education outreach project is critical to the coordination and dissemination of information within the Bear River. As the Bear River flows from the headwaters in the Uintah Mountain of Utah to the Great Salt Lake, many political boundaries are crossed. The Bear River meanders through seven counties, two EPA regions, two Army Corp of Engineers Districts, three states water quality and fish and wildlife divisions and numerous other interest groups. Without good coordination, these political boundaries act as communication barriers between state, federal and local agencies. Information and education opportunities are necessary to keep landowners abreast of changing BMPs, and other projects that affect the way they manage their land for the good of all water users.

2.0 PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES

The goals outlined for this project are broad and far reaching.

- 1) Increase the current effectiveness of the Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force
- 2) Implement an information program that will facilitate sharing of information throughout the basin that will aid in the development and implementation of watershed based water quality management plans for the Bear River System
- 3) Conduct a fully accountable and financially sound 319 project program.

Objectives that support the goals achieved through this project

Objective 1-Provide funded personnel time from the Bear Lake Regional Commission, currently serving as secretary to the Task Force to provide for holding and organizing Task force meetings and coordination activities and follow-up

Objective 2-Maintain mailing list that includes both email and postal mail address, distribute Task Force agendas and minutes of meetings to those on the list, and also distribute information from other entities involved in water quality work in the Basin

Objective 3-Provide an annual water quality information sharing event that may include part or all of the Bear River Basin

Objective 4-Conduct a pro-active Information Outreach effort to reach stakeholders to inform them of the Task Force and it's activities and obtain information from them on water quality concerns and issues and opportunities that they are currently working on in their portion of the Bear River Basin.

Objective 5-Conduct a fully accountable and financially sound 319 project.

Objective 6-Cover additional costs on separate and distinct contract between the State of Utah and the Bear Lake Regional Commission.

2.1 PLANNED AND ACTUAL MILESTONES, PRODUCTS, AND COMPLETION DATES

The milestones for the Bear River Information and Education Outreach grant were ongoing throughout the two year contract. Meetings of the Bear River Water Quality Task Force were held on a quarterly basis through the specified contract dates. The agenda's of those meetings and minutes taken are found in Appendix A.

Other meetings attended where official representation of the task force is supported include the Bear River Commission. The Bear River Commission meets bi-annually and a report is given on the efforts of the previous meetings of the task force.

Holding a large water quality sharing event was done largely under the staff of the Bear Lake Regional Commission during a year when the State NPS conference was held in a southern part of the state to avoid conflict.

Presentations were given at ten locations in the basin to provide basin planning information. These presentations were given to attendees of the local Soil and Water Conservation District at their regular monthly meeting and county commissions in the basin. This element began in January of 2008 and was completed in July of 2009. The audience was selected by the membership of the Bear River Water Quality Task Force as critical to furthering the goals and objectives of the task force and encouraging both landowners and federal agency participation in future task force meetings. Presentations outlining basin planning for the Bear River were given at the following meeting locations.

Bear Lake County Fair
Bear Lake Regional Commission
Oneida County Commission
Uintah Co., Wy. SCD Board
Uintah County Commission
Rich Co., Ut. SCD Board
Rich County Commission
Bear Lake Co., Id. Commission
Caribou Co., Id. SCD Board
Caribou Co., Id. Commission
Lincoln Co., wy. Commission
Franklin Co., Id. SCD Board
Franklin Co., Id. Commission
Cache Co., Ut. SCD Board

The website for the Bear River Water Quality Task Force has been viewed as conflicting with the website for the Bear River Watershed Information System by agency administrators. To rectify any conflicts or appearance of unnecessary duplication, all future efforts associated with the task force will be routed through the Watershed Information System. All presentations given at task force meetings have been directed to the moderator for the outreach links on the WIS and should be published for the public to view shortly.

Three press releases were to be produced under this grant and can be seen in appendix B.

The Regional Commission held a contract with Utah DEQ to complete streambank stabilization. The project cost more than anticipated and rather than request additional funding, a request was submitted and approved by the Utah DEQ grant administrator to allocated funds from the outreach contract to cover the construction overruns on the other contract. The cost overruns were matched at the appropriate amount.

2.2 EVALUATION OF GOAL ACHIEVEMENT AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE STATE NPS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Goals of this project were achieved during the life of the grant as outputs were completed. Fulfillment of each output draws the task force closer to achieving goals. Efficiency of the Bear River Water Quality Task Force was enhanced through

cooperative relationships with the other agencies and organizations. Coordination took place with the Water Quality Committee of the Bear River Commission.

Another goal of this project was to provide opportunities for sharing of information throughout the basin which will ultimately result in the implementation of water quality management plans. The goal has been achieved through the coordinated efforts of the task force and other agencies in the basin. District conservationists have presented information on water quality improvement projects taking place in the basin at the request of task force membership. Information sharing throughout the basin has taken place at a number of levels with reasonable success.

This project helped fulfill Utah's NPS management program through coordination of water quality projects from numerous sources within the Bear River Basin and dissemination of water quality information to the public. This coordination facilitated communication between differing agencies and aided in reduced duplication of projects, as well as sampling, and encouraged residents of the basin to implement BMP's that would help the state attain water quality objectives.

2.3 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Additional coordination has been conducted between task force membership and the Bear River Watershed Information System. Feedback from reviewers of the original grant proposal suggested that coordination take place and to prevent overlapping of data of the two websites. Strong coordination has taken place and overlap of the two websites is being avoided. Also, reviewers questioned the contributions of the other two states. Wyoming has shown interest in aiding the funding of the task force through their section 319 fund. Idaho is able to contribute to the task force through in-kind donations of staff time from the regional commission

3.0 LONG TERM RESULTS IN TERMS OF BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION, STREAM/LAKE QUALITY, GROUND WATER, AND/OR WATERSHED PROTECTION CHANGES

Feedback on behavioral changes were evaluated on a personal contact basis. Those interested in changing behavior were interested in having their names added to the task force mailing list. Other notable changes were those who sought information on requirements to implement Best Management Practices.

Tasks 4 and 5 involved providing water quality information to the public. Several of the meetings associated with task 4 resulted in strong interest by individual landowners to seek cooperative funding to improve water quality through Best Management Practices. Through task 5, information was presented to local Soil Conservation Districts and other groups within the Bear River Basin on the efforts accomplishments of the task force. Several in attendance showed interest in attending quarterly meetings and requested their names added to the email list for agendas and minutes of meetings.

Staff time was also directed at helping coordinate and put together a tour of the Bear

River from top to bottom showcasing projects that had improved water delivery and water quality. The tour was held during July 2009 and started in the upper watershed and moved downstream. The vital role of the Bear River Water Quality Task Force was shared during the stop at Camp Lifton where the secretary of the task force provided an overview of the task force and the role of bringing the three states water quality interests together. Interest and support was expressed by those in attendance for the strong need of agency coordination across jurisdictional boundaries.

4.0 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) DEVELOPED AND/OR REVISED (FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS)

No BMP's were used in this Information and Education Project

5.0 MONITORING RESULTS FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Monitoring of the information and education tasks in this project were difficult to monitor although some observations were made based upon feedback. Most of those commenting on the survey indicated that they really enjoyed the pictures of water quality projects around the basin, and were encouraged to be more pro-active about implementing water quality projects themselves. There were five individuals who requested to have their names added to the task force mailing list to receive pertinent information relating to water quality in the Bear River Basin. Other observations include: increased attendance at task force meetings compared to previous years, attendance from highly variable interests, requests for assistance from different organizations to provide a forum for water quality information, sharing, and gathering. There appears to be an interest in water quality among downstream users particularly.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COORDINATION

This is an area where improvement can be mustered. Very few public announcements were made to solicit public participation as a matter of oversight. In the future, particular attention will be paid to providing public notice in the local newspapers for regular task force meetings. During presentations to local SCD's and County Commissions, efforts were directed at informing those in attendance of the accomplishments of the task force, inviting the public to become actively involved in the task force and showing the need for public input. Another area where this factor can be gauged is by the diversity of projects engaged by the local conservation districts. Many, of the rural areas are recognizing the need for stormwater improvements in the counties, while others such as the Uinta SCD aligned themselves with Boy Scout Troops to elevate awareness of storm sewers.

6.1 STATE AGENCIES

Water quality personnel from the States of Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming are a fundamental component of the success of this grant. Each state is deeply involved in setting policy, implementing projects, and developing standards to improve the water quality of the Bear River.

Leadership of the Bear River Water Quality Task Force has evolved to include more direction from the states. The water quality lead from each state DEQ will co-chair the water quality task force and play a more technical leadership role.

6.2 FEDERAL AGENCIES

Coordination and dissemination of water quality information for the Bear River Basin requires contributions from many different agencies. Federal agencies associated with the water quality task force include:

USGS
NRCS
USDA Forest Service
USDOI BLM
USDA Fish and Wildlife Service
EPA Regions 8 and 10
US Army Corp of Engineers

Regular attendance from federal agency personnel is sporadic at best. This has been noted by the task force membership and efforts will be made in the future to fill that void. Regular attendance by federal personnel continues to be challenging. However, when specifically invited to give a presentation they are more than willing to participate. Perhaps, this is a need that the task force will be able to supply on-going. Providing pressure and reminders to those not accustomed to sharing information with others seems to be an on-going need for many agency folks who focus intently on completing duties within their prescribed scope of work.

6.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OTHER GROUPS, PUBLIC AT LARGE

Significant involvement comes from a variety of groups other than state and federal agencies. Those contributing to the success of this project include:

Bear Lake Watch
Caribou County
Bear Lake County
Weber Valley Water Conservancy District
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District
Bear River Canal Company
PacifiCorp
Utah State University
Bear River Commission
Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Bear Lake Regional Commission
Friends of St. Charles and Fish Haven Creeks

6.4 OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS

Other sources of funding came from staff time through the Bear Lake Regional Commission and agency personnel and members of the public contributing time. Wyoming has suggested they have discretionary funds that can be applied for through their section 319 program. These funds will be solicited to help support and enhance task force activities during the FY-07 funding year.

7.0 ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT DID NOT WORK WELL

During the course of this grant, there were things that could be done to improve the outcomes in nearly all cases. These items are noted by the grantee and task force membership and will be a focus of future efforts. Specifically, the task force will be making greater strides in informing the public as to the regular meetings. Greater efforts will be made to encourage attendance by federal agencies in the basin and share information.

8.0 FUTURE ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

This Information and Education Outreach program will continue to seek funding through the State of Utah Section 319 fund. As new priorities are developed within the basin, future proposals for this information and education project will be altered to reflect those priorities.

Future activities this 319 will be involved include:

Coordination with Utah State University research to involve landowners in the basin to gather data.

Work to make the Watershed Information System website the repository for all water quality information in the Bear River.

Work to promote the capacity of the Watershed Information System and encourage the use of this valuable tool.

Coordinate with prospective mining units

Follow up on mapping of erosion along the Bear River

8.1 INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OUTPUTS

Materials produced by the efforts of this grant include a website. It has been determined that the website for the Bear River Watershed Information System is being underutilized. All information from the Bear River Water Quality Task Force will be housed at this location in the future. URL www.bearriverinfo.org

A summary presentation is constructed by the secretary of the task force and delivered to

many of the Soil Conservation Districts in the area. The idea behind this is to disseminate work and efforts in parts of the basin that may apply to other areas. This is often well received by board members who work during the day and are unable to attend regular task force meetings.

SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM
INFORMATION/EDUCATION/TRAINING/DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FINAL REPORT

Bear River Information and Education Outreach Project
Mitch Poulsen, Bear Lake Regional Commission

6/29/07

This project was conducted in cooperation with the State of __Utah____ and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8.

Grant #08-0845

FINAL PROJECT FORMATS SECTION 319 FINAL PROJECT REPORTS

8 INFORMATION/EDUCATION/TRAINING/DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE _Bear River Information and Education Outreach_____

PROJECT START DATE _9/1/07_____ PROJECT COMPLETION DATE __09/30/09_____

FUNDING: TOTAL BUDGET __\$69,333_____

TOTAL EPA GRANT __\$41,600_____

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

OF EPA FUNDS __\$41,600_____

TOTAL SECTION 319

MATCH ACCRUED __\$29,941_____

BUDGET REVISIONS _____

TOTAL EXPENDITURES _\$71,541_____

SUMMARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Appendix A

Minutes of the Bear River Water
Quality Task Force



**IDAHO
UTAH
WYOMING**

**Minutes
Bear River Water Quality Task Force
January 22, 2008
Preston, ID.**

Those in Attendance (placed on final page):

Lynn VanEvery called the meeting to order at 10:12

Introductions of attendees

Items added to the agenda under other business include a discussion the Martin Mast Project on Bear River and some projects in Franklin Co. Susan Anderson to take a minute on the upcoming focusing cache symposium. Mini conference on water in Logan to be presented by Bob Fotheringham.

On fish kill report-strike the last sentence and state that the agencies are working with the canal co. to fix the problem and ensure it doesn't happen in the future.

**Motion to approve minutes Dave Cottle,
Seconded by Claudia Cottle
Motion passed.**

Steve Smith-IASCD Martin Mast Project and other water quality projects in Franklin County.

Showed maps over the years that illustrated the amount of channel movement over a period of 12 years. At the site of treatment the vertical banks were 9-10 feet tall with little vegetation to support soil stabilization. Based on GIS calculations Steve estimates that over an acre of land was lost. He also estimates 28000 tons of soil have been washed downstream. On the other side of the river, about 5000 tons of soil have been lost. Eroded material and deposited material are completely different based upon observations. Almost equivalent volumes have been eroded and deposited. Project photo's illustrating the progress of the project. Rock was obtained from a quarry on Indian Creek under a permit held by the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Under another granting source additional work was completed upstream. A cooperative effort between the Bear Lake Watch and the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge successfully repaired vertical streambanks upstream.

Other water quality projects undertaken jointly with the Idaho Association of Soil and Water Conservation districts. Weston Creek Project is a winter feed area holding 75 head of livestock. Storage tanks and piping to troughs with frost free equipment to keep the troughs open in the winter.

Jenkins Hollow project focused on providing offsite water for cattle. Troughs, pipeline and spring development were all part of improving water quality.

Main Canyon Cattle Allotment was similar in nature. Included seven miles of hdpe piping and spring development. Location is in a remote area of Main Canyon.

Densmore Creek is on Idaho's 303(d) list. This project also developed a spring and installed many feet of pipe and some troughs. Encouraged the removal of 100 head of livestock to areas other than the spring.

Update on Bear River Watershed Information System-Mike Allred

Discussed continued support of the WIS and have come to agreement on the funding of the system. USU will partner with the states of Utah, Idaho and Wyoming and USU will continue to administer and update as necessary. Requested an extension of the targeted watershed until October 1, 2008. An additional extension was discussed to include a timeline for a trade. Economics are being nailed down at the present time. A new programmer has been hired to help. The map server needs work and will be upgraded to be more user friendly. Need for news articles and other publications to be forwarded to the WIS for posting.

Update on the progress of the task force website-Claudia Cottle (Bear Lake Watch)

Claudia has been working on the task force for several months and the final product was presented. A short overview was presented by Claudia to the group, and opened up the discussion for comments and suggestions as to the content from the group. Overall, the website is very well done and contains the information desired by the group. Some suggestions were provided to keep things simple.

Also was presented was discussion on the need to get the federal agencies involved in the task force. History was provided on the attendance of the original task force attendance and the reasoning behind the perceived change in attendance. It was noted that the federal personnel seldom attend the meetings anymore and how we can get them to present information that addresses water quality. It was supported that a year plan be in place where the federal agencies are contacted and give a short update on upcoming projects.

State reports

Idaho

The Environmental Coordinating Committee are open for solicitation for watershed projects. Land and Water acquisition monies are open year round. Relates to land and water acquisition for conservation of Bonneville cutthroat trout. Monies can be used as match against state and federal grants

Utah

Continued work with the Cutler Reservoir and the City of Logan. Watershed Coordinators Council has received a grant for 50K to conduct Information and Education, travel and other trainings and conferences. Could potentially be used to help the task force send someone to a conference or other training event. The next deadline is March.

Wyoming

No representation. Lynn indicated that Wyoming was being drug into the TMDL process by way of lawsuit.

Other business- Mitch Poulsen with the Bear Lake Regional Commission requested support for a streambank stabilization project on the Bear River. Support for general water quality improvements in the Bear River area with a follow up of technical details at the next meeting.

Susan Anderson presented information on the upcoming “focusing Cache” symposium to focus on climate change. This event is going on around the nation at different locations.

Other Business

Mini-water conference for northern Utah water users. Conference is held March 25th from 9:00-3:00. Held at the space dynamics lab-optical research auditorium.

Thayne Mickelson indicated that conservation field day June 18th and 19th in Tremonton at the County Fairgrounds. Good opportunity for outreach on the 18th.

Next meeting to be held in Evanston, Wyoming the 16th of april.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30

Sign-in Sheet BRW/TF 1/22/08

Name	Representing	Email
Sueann Anderson	USU Water Quality Extension	sueann.anderson@usu.edu
Mike Allred	Utah DEQ	mallred@utah.gov
JAMES JOYNER	USACE	james.m.joyner@usace.army.mil
Tom Bassista	IDWR	tom.bassista@idwr.idaho.gov
Lynn Van Every	DEQ	lynn.vanevery@deq.idaho.gov
Bds Fotheringham	Coché County	bfotheringham@cochecounty.org
Thayne Mickelson	UACD	thayne.mickelson@ut.nacdn.net
David Cottle	Bear Lake Watch	bearlakewatch@aol.com
Claudia Cottle	"	"
Steven Smith	IBCC	ssmith@agri.idaho.gov
Dan Davidson	Bear River Canal Co.	Triggerdan357@msu.com



**IDAHO
UTAH
WYOMING**

**Minutes
Bear River Water Quality Task Force
April 22, 2008
Preston, ID.**

Those in Attendance (placed on final page):

Don Newton (Wyoming DEQ) called the meeting to order at 10:12

Introductions of attendees

Items added to the agenda under other business include a discussion on Bear Lake Water Quality Monitoring.

Mike motioned to approve the notes w/changes and Seconded by Claudia

New Cache County Water Director-Bob Fotheringham

-New water director position created as a result of water development pressure downstream. Cache County Officials became alarmed at a number of water development projects taking place downstream and wanted to be involved in the process when a water right was filed or public input sought. Strong opposition in Cache Valley to for a water conservation district. The county wanted someone to protect their interest in water development.

At the present time Cache County is seeking for ways to gain authority. Discussion ensued on how power or authority is acquired through different mechanisms. Don Barnett Conveyed information on water districts in Idaho.

Upper Bear River Streambank Stabilization Project-Mitch Poulsen

Mitch provided a presentation providing greater detail into a proposal for the upper Bear River in Idaho. Questions were asked by the group about the need for the hard fix and questioned whether or no hard fixes hold up during high flow. Poulsen illustrated several examples where the hard fix maintains integrity during high flow events.

Update on Bear Lake Water Quality Monitoring.

Funding may be reduced to continue the Bear Lake water quality monitoring administered by the Bear Lake Regional Commission. Mike Allred indicated Utah has been conducting monitoring on Bear Lake for many years. Strong coordination will take place in the future to pick up additional sites so there are no holes in the existing data.

The group felt that the major players should look at what data exists and chart a course for future monitoring of the lake. Idaho and Utah have agreed that Utah would take samples. Any agreements should be in addition to what has taken place in the past. It would be valuable for the major players to address the following:

- how many sites
- how many times per year
- any additional sites

Wyoming TMDL progress-Don Newton (Wyoming DEQ) Replacing Jack Smith

Most of the state is under a court order or consent order to complete TMDL's. The original TMDL workplan was produced in 1997 and was not changed after the agreement (workplan). EPA policy suggests that within 8-13 years that water bodies should be meeting beneficial uses. Wyoming will attempt to complete 6 TMDL's this year.

Update on Grade Creek Restoration-Demont Grandy (Cokeville, Wy. NRCS)

The Cokeville, Wyoming NRCS has been working with numerous agencies to restore Bonneville cutthroat trout on Grade Creek east of Cokeville. Presently, BCT are being considered for threatened and endangered status. To start the project, they received a cooperative conservation initiative grant to institute a plan for the project. Other funding sources sought later for implementation. Discussed the objectives of the project which were to restore connectivity of Grade Creek to Smiths Fork. Restored connectivity will create an environment where cutthroats can spawn. Discussion ensued on water rights associated with the Covey Canal and Brunner Creek.

Update on Watershed Information System-Don Barnett (Bear River Commission)

The project is nearing the final report stage. The information and education outreach component is going well but modeling is running into trouble. Trading and economics are moving along well with adjustments being made to each so that they interface better.

State Report

Utah-doesn't see how it is feasible to the state to do a credit type of trade but rather the trading should be based on an allowance system. There should be an incremental cost

associated with phosphorus reduction. Significant discussion ensued on the topics of credit versus allowance and where phosphorus reductions should fit.

Idaho-Conducting the tri-state water quality monitoring run this week and every month during the spring.

Wyoming-taken care of during the introduction.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22

Sign In	BRWQTF	4/17/08 Lakeview
Name	Email	Phone
DON NEWTON	dnewto@state.wy.us	307.335.6965
DON BARNETT	dbarnett@barnettwater.com	801.292.4663
Dement Grandy	dement.grandy@wy.usda.gov	(307) 279-3256
Kerri Sabey	kerri.sabey@wy.nacdn.net	307.787.3794 x4
Mike Allred	Utah DEQ mdallred@utah.gov	801.538-6316
Susan Anderson	susan.anderson@uou.edu	435-797-2580
Bob Fotheringham	bob.fotheringham@cacheCounty.org	435-755-1854
David Cottle	bearlakewatch@aol.com	801-243-8980
MEISSA THOMPSON	melissa.thompson@deg.idaho.gov	208.236-6160
Chris Banks	cbanks@idahoag.us	208-547-4396 ext 114
Pauline Bassett	pauline.bassett@id.nacdn.net	208-547-4396
Eulalie Langford	Lone Bear Lake, Inc	208-847-1732
Claudia Cottle	Bear Lake Watch	
Annette deKnijf	Bear Lake Nat'l Wildf Refuge	208-847-1757
Thayne Mickelson	thayne.mickelson@ut.nacdn.net	435-753-6029 ext 38
Jim Bowcutt	jim.bowcutt@usu.edu	435-232-4017
Ken Short	kenshort@utah.gov	801-538-7262

Nancy Mesner - nancy.mesner@usu.edu



**IDAHO
UTAH
WYOMING**

**Minutes
Bear River Water Quality Task Force
April 9, 2009
Garden City, Ut.**

Those in Attendance (placed on final page):

Mitch Poulsen called the meeting to order at 10:12

Introductions of attendees

Items added to the agenda include: report to water quality committee meeting-Mitch Poulsen, discussion of symposium, statistics on the website-Claudia Cottle, update on Targeted Watershed Grant-Jack Barnett.

**Motion to amend the agenda-Dan Davidson
Seconded by Lynn VanEvery
Motion passed.**

Kelly Allen-Bear Lake Management Plan (UFFSL)
Kelly passed out documents related to the CMP plan on the Utah Sovereign Lands of Bear Lake. All exposed beach is what they manage. Started the process in 2007-2008 and hired consultants from BioWest. Finished public comment period in March of 2009. Identified uses that affect water quality and mitigation. Over 500,000 people visit the area during the summer. Party of 4-5 requires a strip of ground approximately 10 X 115 feet to use and enjoy the lake. This information can be used to manage the number of people on the beach. Speed limits on the beach will stay the same. Discussed invasive species specifically, phragmites and tamarisk. Discussion on the strong need for near shore monitoring.

Thomas Hoskins-Rich County NRCS

Thomas is the local representative for the NRCS. He gave a brief overview of himself and background. Then provided history of the NRCS. Major objective is to help people who help the land. They seek to improve water quality through livestock watering facilities, pest management plans, feedlot relocation, and nutrient management plans. Biggest improvement to water quality with improved efficiency is the improvement in application of chemicals/timing and distribution. Relocated seven feedlots off the river along with several range projects and off site watering.

Lyla Dettmer-Franklin SCD

Lyla started with the mission of the Franklin County SCD. Best BMP to affect water quality is no till tillage. Pictured difference in not doing no till tillage. They also use nutrient management plans in conjunction with no till tillage. Precision farming is also used for precise placement of seed and chemicals. Pictures of projects were presented that the district has been involved in. Mostly paid for by 319 monies. Spring developments and piping projects were shown. They also get involved in P&Z support to the local planning commissions in a number of areas.

Zak Covington-Bear Lake Region Planning and Bioregional issues

Zak provided background on regional planning issues in the area. He identified needs and issues for the region. Used models to identify water quality issues. Suggested a 100' buffer from all waterways.

Jack Barnett-Update on Targeted Watersheds

USU has been the primary contractor for this effort. As of September 2008 much of the work was done and much of the money was not spent. Additional funds were recontracted for additional projects. Water Quality committee will discuss potential outreach opportunities. WQ tour to be held in the upper bear River Basin. Bill Hopkin will also present info on combined grazing on Big Creek in Rich County.

Claudia Cottle-website statistics

As of February there were 2300 hits on the website

As of the first of the year there have been 5500 hits to the website. These are new and unique hits and not repeats.

State reports

Idaho

There are two things to report. The section 319 timing will change to decrease the time lag between the acceptance of a proposal and when the resources are available. The Bear River TMDL will be reopened to include several communities in the Bear River Basin to include the waste load allocation.

Utah

Not too much progress on the Cutler TMDL. Some comments received on the document. SEciton to be added to describe their phasing approach. About a year to complete. Lower Bear TMDL is happening in year or two and will include Cutler to the Bird Refuge. Sampled field drains to see the impacts of septic systems. Survey of water quality knowledge of the Bear River

Wyoming
No representation.

Other Business

Next meeting to be held in Preston, Idaho, the 14th of July.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30

Sign-in Sheet BRWQTF 1/22/08

Name	Representing	Email
Sueann Anderson	USU Water Quality Extension	sueann.anderson@uou.edu
Mike Allred	Utah DEQ	mdallred@utah.gov
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Lynn Van Every	DEQ	lynn.vanevery@deq.idaho.gov
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Thayne Mickelson	UACD	thayne.mickelson@ut.nacdn.net
David Cottle	Bear Lake Watch	bearlakewatch@aol.com
Claudia Cottle	"	"
Steven Smith	IBCC	ssmith@agri.idaho.gov
Dan Davidson	Bear River Canal Co.	Trapperdan357@msu.com

January 2009

Don Newton called the meeting to order at 10:15

Steve Ryberg-District Ranger, Uinta N.F.

Steve is the District Ranger for mountain view which covers approximately 60 river miles of the Bear River. They have experienced several significant events that affect water quality along two sections of the Bear River. One section has been selected for inclusion as a wild and scenic river. Ten other segments across the state have been identified as "wild and scenic" since 1993. Sampling conducted by the forest service shows waters are meeting standards for beneficial use. Some inholdings and some subdivisions are coming in.

The forest service is presently working on travel plans for the district. During plan development, many roads have been closed to OHV use. Replacement of culverts and road maintenance are big items that they work on to protect water quality.

The East Fork Fire burned around 14,000 acres. The remnants of the fire have had some detrimental affects on water quality. Watershed around Stillwater Creek was burned severely and as a result, there is little vegetation available to filter runoff water. Some BMP's installed such as wattles and tree planting to reduce erosion.

Other projects planned: Active livestock management , grazing allotments. Monitoirng shows that vegetation is meeting the needs of the forest service. All tributaries on the Forest Service have Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Kerri Sabey-Upper Bear River Watershed Projects

Kerri provided background on the Uinta County Conservation District. This project was the result of this stretch being placed on the 303(d) list. Upper Bear River classified as a 2AB. Protected for game fish and drinking water. Section between Sulphur Creek and Woodruff Creek impaired due to sediment. Much of the reach is channelized and degraded. Steering committee formed to address problems. The conservation district developed a watershed plan. The watershed plan was approved in late fall 2005. The plan identified a number of resource concerns. Central to the plan is monitoring. Sampling is conducted bi-annually in spring and fall. Monitoirng helps show trends and identify where projects need to be. TMDL's will be written and should be completed by 2010.

Storm drain marking project. A scout troop marked storm drains as part of an Eagle Scout project around Evanston City. The purpose of the project was to heighten public awareness of where storm drains are.

Rick Slagowski-New Trout Unlimited Chapter

After one year the membership in the new chapter is between 50 and 60 individuals. They are dedicated to protecting cold water fisheries. By restoring the Bear River to a healthy, more natural state, fish will be better able to withstand the impacts of rising temperatures. Last year the chapter placed 50,000 cutthroat eggs and were disappointed with 100% mortality.

Embrace a stream project. Two boulder barbs were completed with strategically placed boulders from the bank to the stream.

Kids fishing day. During Bear River Day they sponsor fly casting forums and provide free pepsi and hot dogs. Kids fishing day will be held on June 13, 2009 at the Evanston ice ponds.

WIS Update-Jack Barnett

Jack gave background on what the WIS entails. Discussed the WIS, outreach and expounded on water quality trading. There are a number of additional tasks to be completed and negotiations with Utah State University for continuance of the WIS

State Reports

Utah

TMDL for Cutler Reservoir out for public review, all data and files are available for download at the following location <http://waterquality.utah.gov>. Currently the Cutler Advisory Committee is running two public meetings to take input from the public on the proposed document. After completion of the public comment period responses will be made by the agency to public comment. The lower Bear River TMDL is under revision with Jim Bowcutt heading that effort.

Kelly Allen with Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands discussed the Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the sovereign lands of Bear Lake. Emphasis was placed on the need for a management plan while the level of the lake was below full pool. Several comment periods have been advertised and the public participation has been good. The plan should be finished by April 1, 2009 and be in place for the coming summer season.

Idaho

Christine Waite represented Lynn VanEvery who was not able to attend the meeting. She has been with DEQ for three years and is responsible for 404 certifications and managing the Beneficial Use Monitoring Program(BURP). The Environmental Control Committee is currently accepting applications for 2009.

Wyoming

Jennifer Zymunt has replaced Jack Smith as the TMDL Coordinator for Wyoming DEQ. Don hopes to start the Bear River TMDL this year.

Next meeting scheduled for April 9th, 2009 in Garden City at the new Garden City offices. Meeting adjourned at 1:03

BRWTF 7/15/08

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Attendees BRWQTF 10/08 14 OCT 08 - Montpelier.

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- Jennifer Parker	USFS - Logan R.D.	jenniferparker@fs.fed.us

BRWTF 1/15/09

Name	Representing	email/ address
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Kerri Sabey	Uinta City Conservation District	
Don Newton	WY DEQ	
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Appendix B

Press Releases

USU study seeks to improve Bear Lake water quality

By MITCH POULSEN

Bear Lake Regional Commission and
DAVE COTTLE
Bear Lake Watch

USU's water research lab in conjunction with the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Bear Lake Regional Commission, Bear Lake Watch and the Bear River Water Quality Task Force has received a grant to study the sediment and nutrient dynamics of waters moving through the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. For the next year, water samples collected from the refuge will be analyzed to evaluate how management decisions for the refuge impact water quality. The Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge is located 15 miles east of Paris, Idaho and directly north of Bear Lake.

Each year sediment and nutrient laden Bear River water is diverted into the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge which acts as a filter before the water is released into Bear Lake. The pur-

pose of the study is to provide scientists and managers with a better understanding of the role of the refuge in filtering sediment and nutrient laden waters of the Bear River prior to entering Bear Lake. Monitoring equipment used during this study will be left in place for use by future interdisciplinary researchers.

Monitoring will occur over the next year starting when the waters within the refuge become sufficiently navigable to place monitoring instrumentation. Monitoring equipment will be placed at strategic locations within the refuge to provide information on water chemistry. Information gathered during monitoring will be compared between locations and changes in management decisions. Physical characteristics will be monitored in conjunction to nitrogen and phosphorus to better characterize biological and physical interactions within the receiving waters of the refuge. Flow measurements will be provided by

Pacificorp using established stations.

This study is crucial to understanding the relationship of water quality and management scenarios of the Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Managers at the wildlife refuge are required to manage the refuge to maximize migratory bird nesting habitat. Silt laden waters threaten to the volume and life expectancy of the critical habitat on the refuge. Sediment laden waters also threaten aquatic vegetation that provides cover and a source of food for aquatic bugs that are essential to the migratory birds and young waterfowl.

Funding for this project is provided by Utah State Universities Water Initiative and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Results will be presented on the Watershed Information System website: www.Bearriverinfo.org and at the 2008 spring run-off conference to be held at Utah State University.

Bear River task force concerned with water quality monitoring

News
Examiner
July
16, 2008

Bear River Task Force members discussed how water quality monitoring will occur in the future as they met this spring.

Funding may be reduced to continue the Bear Lake water quality monitoring that is administered by the Bear Lake Regional Commission. Mike Allred from the task force said that Utah has been conducting monitoring on Bear Lake for many years. The group believes that strong coordination will take place in the future to pick up additional sites so that there are no holes in the existing data.

The group felt that the major players should look at what water quality data exists and change a course for future monitoring of Bear Lake. They would like an agreement of how many sites will be monitored, how many times during the year monitoring will

occur and what additional sites should be added.

Mitch Poulsen from the Bear Lake Regional Commission told the group about proposals for the upper Bear River in Idaho. The group asked questions about the need for stream bank fixes and if they hold up during high flow. Poulsen illustrated several examples where the projects have maintained integrity during high flow events.

A new position, that of Cache County Water Director was created as a result of water development pressure downstream. Cache County officials became alarmed at the number of water development projects taking place and wanted to be involved in the process when a water right is filed or public input sought. There is strong opposition in Cache Valley for water conserva-

tion district. The county in creating the new position wanted someone to protect their interest in water development issues.

Don Newton from Wyoming DEQ talked of the Wyoming TMDL process. Most of Wyoming is under a court order or consent order to complete TMDLs. EPA policy suggests that within 8 to 13 years water bodies should be meeting beneficial uses. Wyoming will attempt to complete six this year.

Don Barnett from the Bear River commission updated the group on watershed information. He said the project is nearing the final report stage. Modeling has been difficult, but the information and education outreach component is going well. Adjustments have been made in trading and economics so that they interface better.

Symposium emphasized cooperation

In a day-long seminar focused on Bear River, those attending were told over and over again the benefits of cooperation and communication.

That attitude was highlighted by Dr. Joanna Endter-Wada from Utah State University who spoke of the process of adapting to droughts. She pointed out that at the depth of the drought culminating in 2004, the cooperation of irrigation companies, PacifiCorp and Bear Lake Watch made it possible for the irrigators to have what they needed for crop irrigation, while property owners accepted their need for water even though Bear Lake levels were low. The best use of water was made possible by models that helped irri-

gation companies in Idaho and Utah assess what water would be available and how it was allocated.

Cooperation was also emphasized by Kirk Dahle from Trout Unlimited as he spoke of cooperation in getting fish screens in place, with the help of The Reserve, private land owners, and several public agencies.

March Stenberg from PacifiCorp presented information and visuals about the decommissioning of the Cove Power Plant. The plant was no longer cost effective and the company agreed to take out the structures that posed barriers for Bonneville cutthroat and make the landscape more attractive.

Another speaker, Bill Hopkin, talked of the Resource Management plan that was put into place in Rich County. Ranchers formed committees which produced practices that protected riparian areas and better utilized upland areas in a sagebrush grazing area that had both private and public lands. They were forced to take some action because of a



REPRESENTATIVES from many agencies met to learn about and teach about aspects of Bear River.

—News-Examiner photo

group which wished to eliminate grazing on public lands and were successful in keeping their grazing permits.

Jack Barnett from the Bear River Commission talked of studies done on Bear Lake and urged those present to become more familiar with what was discovered by the studies. He is attempting to get information from the studies published in easy to read form.

In another presentation, planning organizations were urged to take into account water quality and what effects take place when there are developments and disturbance of soils.

People were also made aware of invasive species such as phragmites and quagga mussels and how to best deal with them.

See River on page five

RIVER

Cont. from page one

Monitoring studies showed that the best information can be achieved by weekly sampling as compared with monthly sampling. Cody Allen from Utah State University explained a monitoring technique that is very inexpensive and can replace more expensive

methods and still give good results in connection with more expensive sampling and testing.

Scott Tolentino a fisheries biologist explained how his agency and Idaho Fish and Game introduce sport fish to Bear Lake and try to balance the desired lake trout, Bonneville Cutthroat and other endemic fish in Bear Lake.

He showed that the

smaller fish rely heavily on fish eggs during the winter spawning months, but that the larger fish rely on smaller fish for their food.

Marc Gibbs, legislator from Idaho, explained how the Bear River Basin has a lot of political background and how Idaho, Utah and Wyoming have cooperated in their efforts to manage the water in the river.

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