

Improving Utah's Water Quality

Price River Watershed



Utah State University
WATER QUALITY EXTENSION

Revised November 2012

MAJOR WATERBODIES

Price River
Scofield Reservoir

MAJOR CITIES

Price
Helper
Wellington

MAJOR LAND USES

Coal Mining
Rangeland
Agriculture

LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Salinity
Sediment
Invasive Species

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Watershed Description:

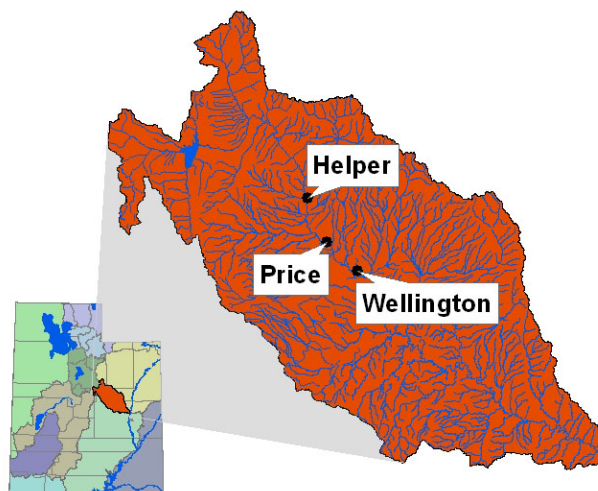
The Price River watershed covers 1,830 square miles spanning Carbon, Emery, Utah, Wasatch, Sanpete, and Duchesne counties. The majority of the water in the Price River



originates as snowmelt from the Wasatch Plateau to the west and the Book Cliffs to the east. The foothills of the Wasatch Plateau are also an important area for groundwater recharge. The tributaries in the Book Cliffs also contribute to the flows in the Price River during isolated storm events. Including the headwater tributaries at about 9,000 feet, the Price River flows for roughly 130 miles until it reaches the Green River at about 4,122 feet.

Invasive Tamarisk and Russian olive are widespread throughout the watershed. The impenetrable Tamarisk and Russian olive thickets narrow and channelize waterways reducing access to the floodplain. Without floodplains to absorb high flows, the potential for flooding events in the Price River watershed has increased. Also, the narrow, deep channels are devoid of fish habitat necessary to support native fish populations.

Water development for agriculture and livestock has further reduced stream flows creating fragmented streams and resulting in additional stream habitat loss. Also, introduced fish species in the Price River out compete and prey on native fish species.



Biologists believe that the removal of invasive plants and non-native fish species will improve water quality throughout the watershed.



Price River Water Quality Improvement

Project Description:

The Price River Enhancement Committee was formed to address the growing concern of water quality degradation and noxious weed invasion along the Price River. Recently, Russian olive and Tamarisk were removed from nearly 5 miles of stream banks on both public and private land. Native vegetation restoration efforts have occurred along more than 3 miles. Additional revegetation efforts will continue to occur as funding becomes available. Currently, additional funding sources are being sought from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of Utah, and the Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) to assist in the enhancement of the Price River Watershed.



Partners

Bureau of Land Management
Castleland Resource Conservation and Development Council
Carbon County
Environmental Protection Agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Price City
Price River Conservation District
Price-San Rafael-Muddy Creek Conservation and Development Council
Private landowners
Skyline Cooperative Weed Management Area
Utah Association of Conservation Districts
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Utah Department of Transportation
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands
Utah Division of Water Rights
Utah Division of Water Quality
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Utah State University Extension

Related Projects

Stream Restoration
Irrigation Systems

Funding

Price River revegetation efforts	\$280,500
Irrigation systems for Carbon County salinity project	\$25-30 million

For funding opportunities in the Price River Watershed, contact the Price River 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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