

Utah Watershed Program Report:

CUB RIVER

UWP Report 8

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Cache County—The Cub River Water Quality Improvement Project was launched in the summer of 1999 with a study to determine the state of the watershed.

Soon after, local steering and technical advisory committees were formed in both Utah and Idaho to evaluate water quality conditions and trends within the watershed. These committees made up of landowners, local government leaders and agency professionals have now drafted a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy to address water quality issues.

The Cub River steering committee members are the local decision makers and now assist with obtaining financial and technical support. To date \$493,530 has been allocated for water quality improvements on the Cub River with the expectation that more will be forthcoming. Since the Cub River is a major tributary to the Bear River, improvements on the Cub will have a significant effect on the Bear.



Construction was under way in December 2000.

Committee members have found landowners are eager to participate in conservation projects.

In one unique demonstration project, three landowners on both sides of the river joined together to work on one project. Lewiston Mayor Russell Hirst, the LDS Church and local businessman Casper Merrill recognized that their corner of the Cub had problems. Severe erosion had cut the river banks. Farmland was being lost and the river was becoming more degraded. They agreed to participate in a stream bank restoration project to restore the river channel, improve stream bank habitat and reduce sediment into the river.

Partners in the Cub River Water Quality Improvement Project look to a future when a cleaner Cub River will



Rock structures were engineered to stabilize the river. (top)

In 1998 streambank erosion was degrading the river and causing loss of farmland. (bottom)

enhance the quality of life for downstream recreationists and others who value the Bear River.

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- North Cache Soil Conservation District
- Utah Association of Conservation Districts
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Utah State University Extension
- Utah Department of Agriculture & Food
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah Division of Water Rights
- Bear River RC&D
- USDA-FSA

FUNDING:

EPA	\$316,830
Utah Department of Agriculture & Food	\$20,000
USDA	\$15,000
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$15,000
Landowners	\$126,700

To learn how you can participate or lend your support to Utah community watershed projects, please contact the local soil conservation district or county Extension agent.