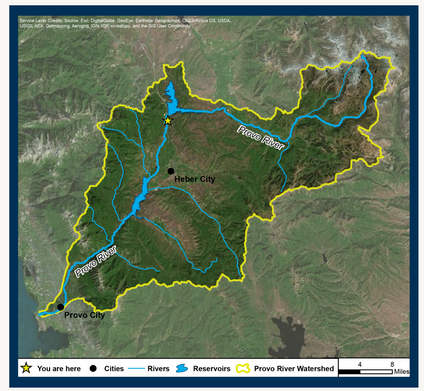
WHY MONITOR WATER QUALITY?

We need clean, healthy water for people, agriculture, recreation, and the environment. What we do on land can influence the water quality in our lakes and streams. Utah Water Watch volunteers monitor this site in partnership with water scientists. Monitoring water quality helps protect Utah's aquatic resources.



You are in the Provo River Watershed (484,505 acres). The Provo River starts high in the Uinta Mountains and passes through two reservoirs before it enters Utah Lake. The water then travels to the Jordan River and finally the Great Salt Lake. One of Utah's best water resources, the Provo River, provides water for use by over a million Utah residents for drinking, agricultural, industrial, and recreational purposes.

WATER TEMPERATURE...

starts out cold due to snow melt high in the mountains. Rivers naturally warm as they move downstream. Trees along the river provide shade to help keep the water cool.

All trout species and aquatic insects need cold freshwater to live. The Provo River water temperature should not exceed 68°F (20°C).

DISSOLVED OXYGEN...

is the concentration of oxygen molecules dissolved in the water (not the air bubbles). Fish and aquatic insects use their gills to absorb this form of oxygen underwater.

Cold water can hold more dissolved oxygen than warm water. Levels lower than 5 parts per million (mg/L) are stressful to cold water species, like this juvenile mayfly.

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS...

are dissolved salts and minerals in the water that drains from the land. These vary by soils, rocks, and amount of runoff from the watershed. High levels of some dissolved minerals and salts create "hard" water.

We use most of our water in Utah for agriculture. Water that is too salty cannot be used to grow food.

UtahStateUniversity
WATER QUALITY EXTENSION
extension.usu.edu/waterquality

EPSCoR iUTAH
iutahepscor.org

UTAH WATER WATCH
extension.usu.edu/utahwaterwatch

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
waterquality.utah.gov

UTAH RECLAMATION MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
mitigationcommission.gov

For more information and graphs of these data, scan the QR code or visit ***extension.usu.edu/utahwaterwatch/htm/provo-river-sign***