

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 Logan River Watershed (27,052 acres). The Logan River starts in Idaho and goes from 9,000 ft peaks in the Bear River Mountains to 4,415 ft where it enters into Cutler Marsh. The water then travels to the Bear River and finally the Great Salt Lake. The Logan River provides water for recreation, cold water fisheries, wildlife, and agriculture.



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.



Native trout, like the Bonneville Cutthroat and aquatic insects, need cold freshwater to live. The Logan 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.

