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.

**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.

**DICSSOLVED 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.

**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.

**TEMPERATURE...**

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).

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.

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

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