

National Water Quality Initiative Fact Sheet

Utah: Overview

Through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams. NRCS will help producers implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers will receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips and manure management systems.

Utah Priority Watersheds

The following three watersheds were selected in Utah. (see maps on back)

1. Pullum Hallow-Bear River
2. Cutler Reservoir-Bear River
3. Lower Chalk Creek

The two watersheds along the Bear River in Cache County will focus on reduction of nutrient loading, especially phosphorus, coming from animal feeding operations and fertilizer application on surrounding farmland. The best management practices to be applied will also help reduce surface water concentrations of sediment, bacteria, pesticides and other pollutants. The current Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) are focused on reducing phosphorus levels in the Bear River.

The Lower Chalk Creek watershed project, located near Coalville in Summit County, will seek to improve Bonneville Cutthroat trout habitat by removing barriers to fish movement. The conservation practices will also improve irrigation efficiency, improve irrigation water management, and implement proper fertilizer use and pesticide applications; all aimed at improving water quality along Chalk Creek.



Aerial view of the Bear River in the Pullum Hollow project area, just below the Idaho/Utah border in Cache Valley.

Conservation Funding and Practices

NRCS conservation professionals will provide technical assistance and planning tools to determine which conservation actions will provide the best results to improve water quality on your land. Nutrient management systems, erosion control, conservation tillage, pest management, and buffers systems are just some of the practices being offered as part of the National

The National Water Quality Initiative will work in selected watersheds to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners improve water quality and aquatic habitats in impaired streams.

Water Quality Initiative. To help install these conservation practices, financial assistance to share in the cost of these conservation practices is available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Partnerships

NRCS identified priority watersheds through the help of local partnerships and state water quality agencies. Partners sometimes offer financial assistance in addition to NRCS programs. NRCS will continue to coordinate with local and state agencies, conservation districts, nongovernmental organizations and others to implement this initiative. This strategic approach will leverage funds and provide streamlined assistance to help individual agricultural producers take needed actions to reduce the flow of sediment, nutrients and other runoff into impaired waterways.

Producer Benefits

Water quality conservation practices benefit agricultural producers by lowering input costs and enhancing the productivity of working lands. Conservation investments are good for all Americans because well-managed farms limit pollution from runoff, produce food and fiber, sustain rural economies, and provide food security

to the Nation. All across the country—farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are voluntarily taking action and putting conservation on the ground to improve water quality on millions of acres!

Public Benefits

NRCS is proud to be involved in a nationwide effort with landowners and communities to improve and protect our water resources. The landowners and farmers participating in the initiative will receive conservation payments to work on the land in a sustainable way which provides cleaner water. In addition to the financial assistance, the land will remain productive into the future. Communities benefit by having clean waterways, safer drinking water and healthy habitat for fish and wildlife.

How to Apply

Almost every county in the Nation has a *USDA Service Center*. To get started, make an appointment at your local office. You will need to establish eligibility and farm records for your land. NRCS will help you complete an application while explaining which conservation practices are available in your watershed. Remember to check with your local NRCS office to see if you are located in a selected watershed. All applications for funding consideration, during fiscal year 2012, must be received by June 15, 2012.

For more Information

USDA - NRCS, Utah

125 S. State St., Room 4010

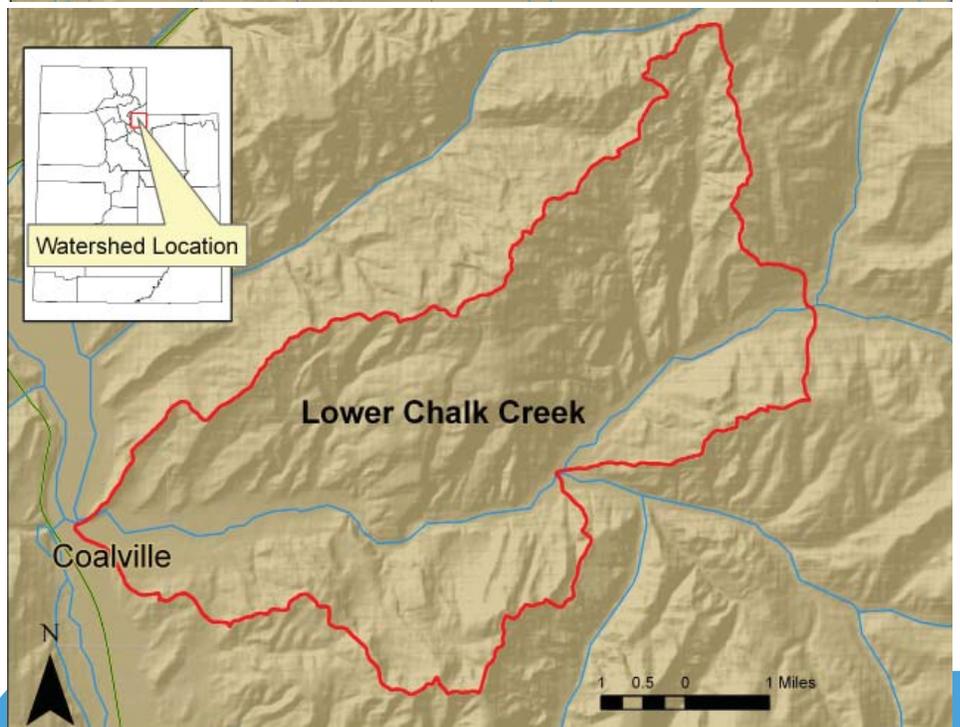
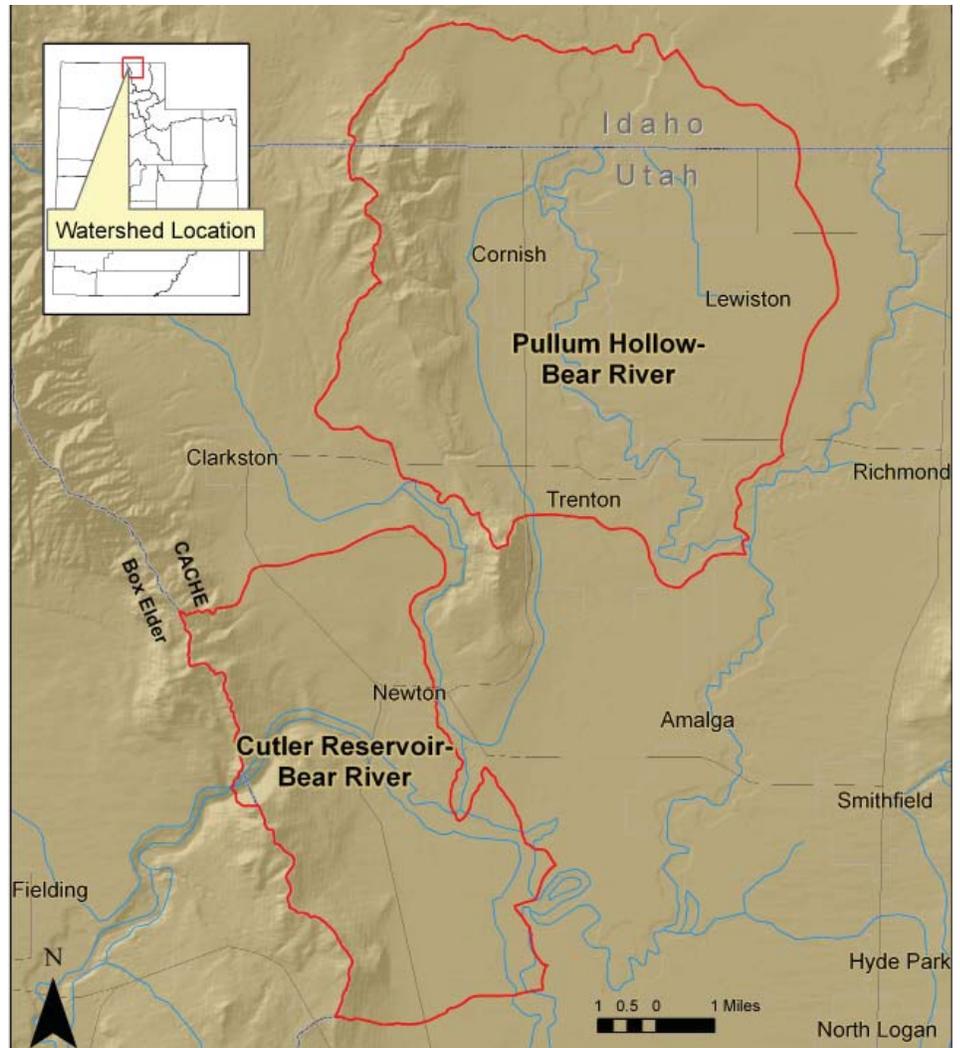
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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Refer to the above maps of the three Utah watersheds to see if you are located in an approved project area.

maps by
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