

**Utah Water Quality Task Force Meeting  
Minutes**

October 7th, 2015 9:00am-12:00pm  
Utah Division of Water Quality  
195 N. 1950 W.  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Attendance

Name	Representing
Jim Bowcutt	DEQ/DWQ
Alan Clark	DNR
Eric Gaddis	DEQ/DWQ
Sonja Wallace	SITLA
Melissa Copfer	DEQ/DDW
Carl Adams	DEQ/DWQ
Rhonda Miller	USU Extension
Marian Rice	Salt Lake County
Diane Menuz	UGS
Nancy Mesner	USU
Jesse Stewart	Salt Lake City
Ellen Baily	USU Extension
Scott Daly	DEQ/DWQ
Bill Zanotti	UDFFSL
Jay Olsen	UDAF
Craig Walker	UDWR
Mark Quilter	UDAF
Gary Kleeman	EPA
Kristy Davis	UACD

**Erica Gaddis (UDAF)**- Welcome and Introductions

**Nancy Mesner (USU Extension)**-NPS Information and Education Effort

- Utah State University Water Quality Extension has been working closely with the Utah Division of Water Quality over the past several months to develop a website that can serve as central repository for all agencies in the state that are involved in the reduction of NPS pollution. Hopefully this website can be beneficial to all of the members of the Water Quality Task Force.
- The link to the website is [www.utahcleanwater.org](http://www.utahcleanwater.org)
- Various people will serve as the administrators to this website and will be able to make updates as recommended or necessary.

- The website is currently a work in progress, and USU and DWQ would like to receive feedback from the Task Force on how the website can be improved upon.
- The website is located on a cloud based server that has virtually unlimited storage. It costs around \$100 per month to have it hosted on this server. This will allow them to upload multiple videos and success stories to the site.
- The new Water Quality Task Force Charter needs to be added to the website, and partners need to be updated.
- Could this website possibly link to the EPA's "My Water" App?
- All comments from the Task Force regarding needed changes to the website and success story videos should be submitted to Nancy Mesner by October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Success stories for this website are not limited to EPA or DEQ success stories. We should upload all water quality successes that have resulted from the work of all the participating agencies of the Water Quality Task Force.
- Other things that should be included on the website include: how funding is being leveraged to implement various projects. More monitoring guidance for NPS projects, and additional success stories.
- 6 watersheds are currently having success story videos developed for them: Strawberry River, Spring Creek (Cache Valley), East Canyon Creek, Main Creek, San Pitch River, and the Jordan River. There is also a video being developed for the volunteer monitoring program.

**Carl Adams (DEQ/DWQ)**- Utah Surface Water Quality Priorities (See attached presentation)

- The Division of Water Quality is currently trying to prioritize the areas where water quality restoration and protection activities should take place. This includes where TMDLs should be developed, as well as where implementation work should take place.
- The EPA has given more flexibility to the States on how these priorities should be developed.
- To help assist with the development of these priorities the Division of Water Quality sent out a survey to partners and the general public inquiring what beneficial uses and waterbodies were the most important in the State of Utah. This survey was taken by 427 total participants and was sent out on April 22 2015.

- The results of this survey, or any survey may be dependent of the audience that was targeted.
- For the results of the survey see the attached presentation.

**Jim Harris (DEQ/DWQ)- Utah Integrated Report (See attached presentation)**

- DEQ is currently awaiting the approval letter for the 2014 Integrated Report.
- The probabilistic survey was too random for EPA and DEQ will now focus on monitoring specific impaired waterbodies. DEQ does not have to monitor every waterbody in the state.
- In 2014 there was a more comprehensive assessment of data so tools were developed to facilitate its assessment along with improved QA/QC. More designated beneficial uses and parameters were assessed based on data from other sources including DOGM data as well as data from other agencies and groups, requiring a stricter definition of what is considered credible data.
- Utah does not have a sediment standard. It did in the past, but it proved to be very difficult to assess based on the variety of waterbody types and settings here in Utah and was subsequently removed.
- It is anticipated that nutrient listings will increase once standards have been developed.

**Other Items of Business**

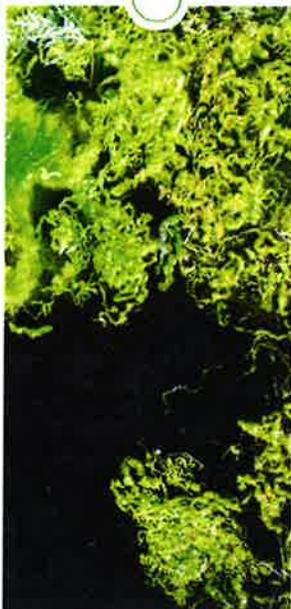
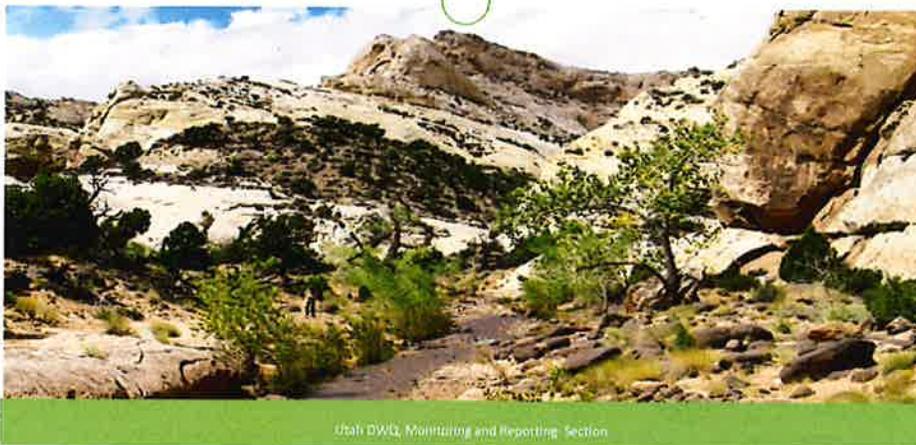
- Topics for future meetings should include:
  - Available pots of money that can be used to implement water quality projects.
  - The status of nutrient standards.
  - How best to integrate NPS implementation projects without developing TMDLs, e.g. “straight to implementation”
  - Watershed Restoration Initiative program update
  - NRCS’ Strategic Proposal program
- The overall topic of the next meeting will be how our agencies can ensure our programs work together to accomplish a common goal. We will have all of the partners that are currently using their funding to address water quality projects give a short summary of how their program works, application deadlines, and priority areas. We will then have an open discussion of where we will be focusing our efforts in the future, and how best to coordinate on common areas.

- The next meeting will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January in conjunction with the Utah Watershed Coordination Council meeting. The meeting will be held from 10:00-1:00 and Lunch will be provided.
- The 2016 National Water Quality Monitoring Conference will be held in Utah at the end of August. DWQ will be looking for help from their partners to plan this meeting, probably the I&E subcommittee of the Task Force.
- The NPS MOU is now complete, and the Division of Water Quality is currently looking into the legal process of having this document finalized. It should be mailed out to the partner agencies by the end of the calendar year.

## Utah's Integrated Report

JIM HARRIS

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

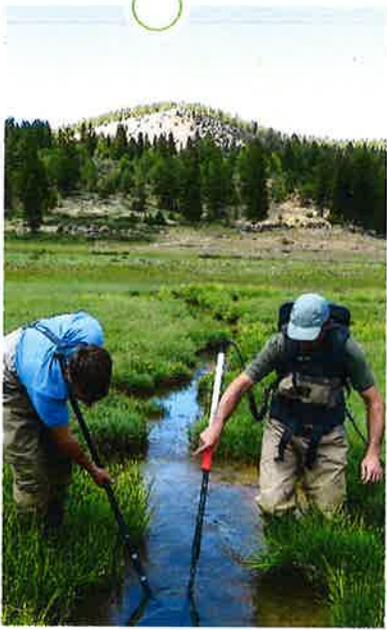


### CLEAN WATER ACT REQUIREMENTS

- **Water Quality Standards**
  - Utah Administrative Code R317.2
- **Integrated Reporting**
  - 305(b) and 303(d) reports
- **Total Maximum Daily Loads**
  - Watershed Planning and Protection
- **Water Pollution Controls**
  - Permitting and Compliance
  - NPS Program (319)

Utah's WQ standards can be found at  
[waterquality.utah.gov](http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r317/r317-002.htm) or

<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r317/r317-002.htm>



### COMPONENTS OF WQ STANDARDS

- Designated Uses
  - Drinking Water
  - Recreation
  - Aquatic Life
  - Agriculture
- Waterbody Descriptions
- Numeric Criteria

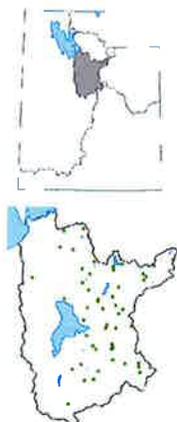
### UTAH'S STATE WATERS

		
<b>Perennial Rivers / Streams</b>	<b>Lakes / Reservoirs / Ponds (2,085 Total)</b>	<b>Freshwater Wetlands</b>
14,250 miles	461,717 acres	510,359 acres

**HOW CAN WE ASSESS ALL WATERS OF THE STATE?**

## MULTI-SPATIAL SCALE ASSESSMENT

### Probabilistic Survey



50 Random Sites  
(Jordan River Watershed)

### Targeted Survey



248 Sites\*  
(DWQ + Cooperators)

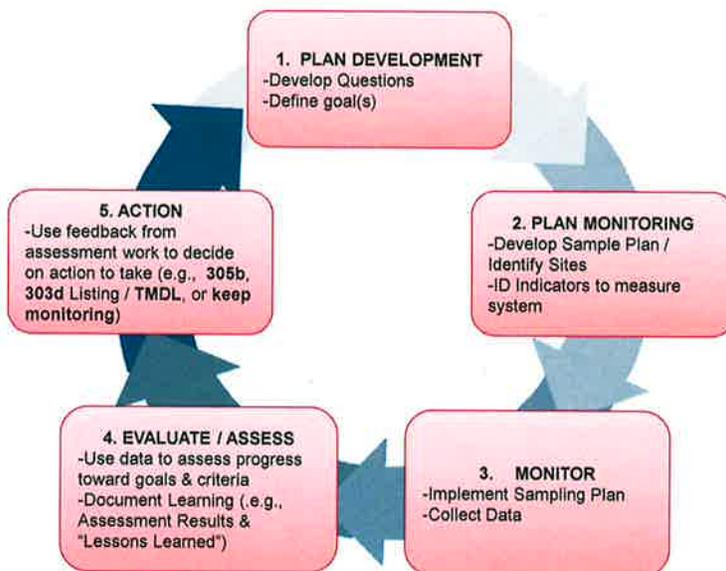
\*Not all sites are depicted in map

### Programmatic Survey



Site Specific  
(Based on DWQ Program Needs)

## DWQ'S APPROACH: AN ADAPTIVE DESIGN

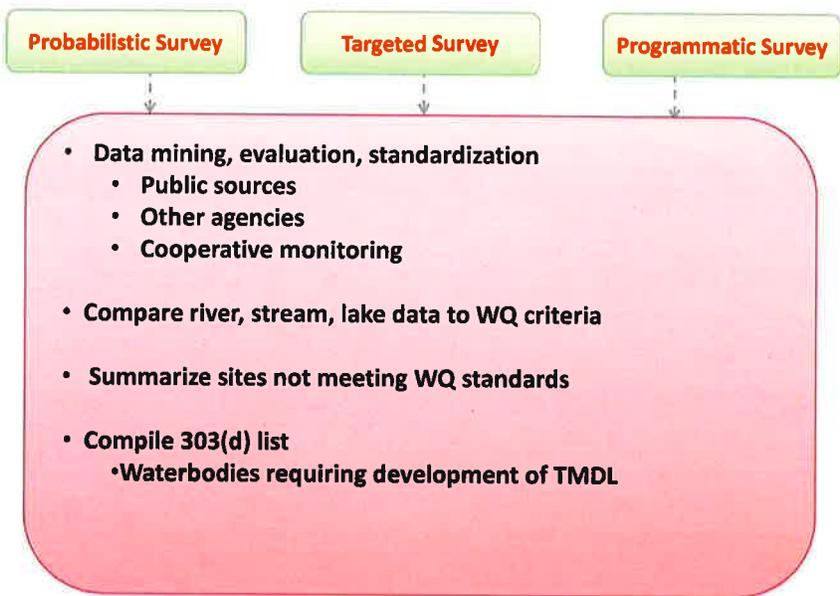


## ROTATING BASIN SCHEDULE: 6-YR. STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT



Watershed Management Unit (WMU)	Probabilistic Survey	Targeted & Programmatic Survey
Uinta Basin	2008	2010
Jordan -- Utah Lake	2009	(2009 ) & 2010
Colorado	2010	2012
Sevier - Cedar - Beaver - West Desert - Great Salt Lake	2011	2013
Bear River	2012	2014
Weber River	2013	2015

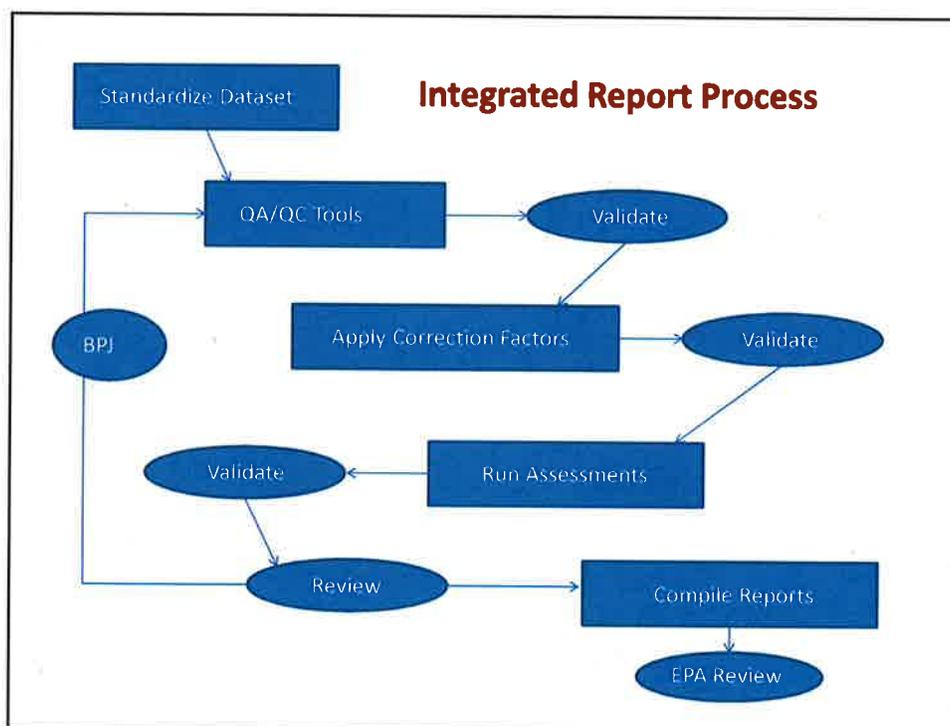
## 303(D) LISTING PROCESS

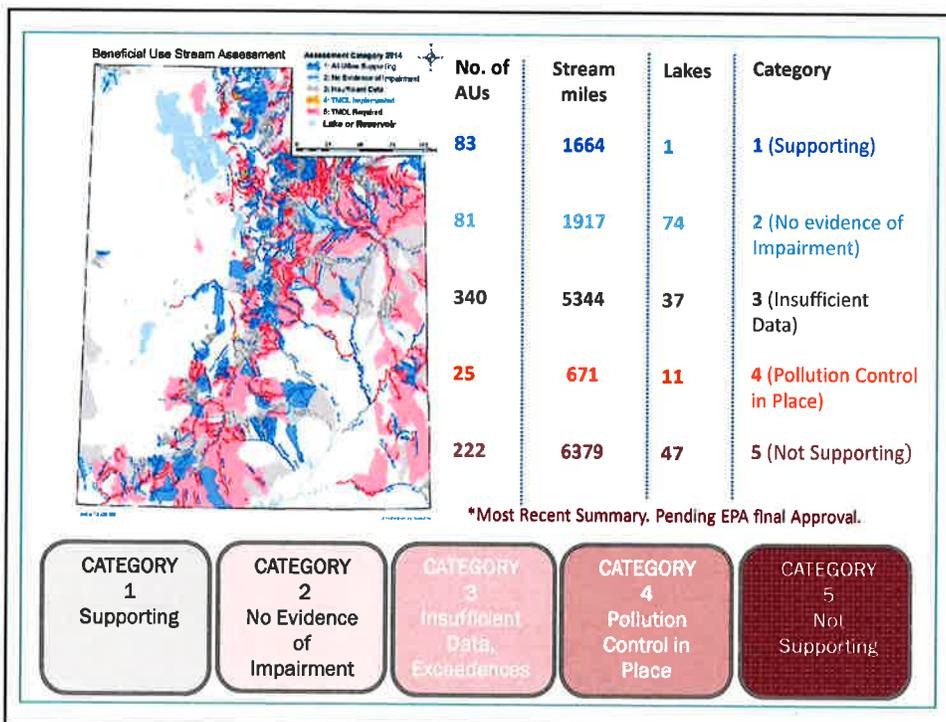
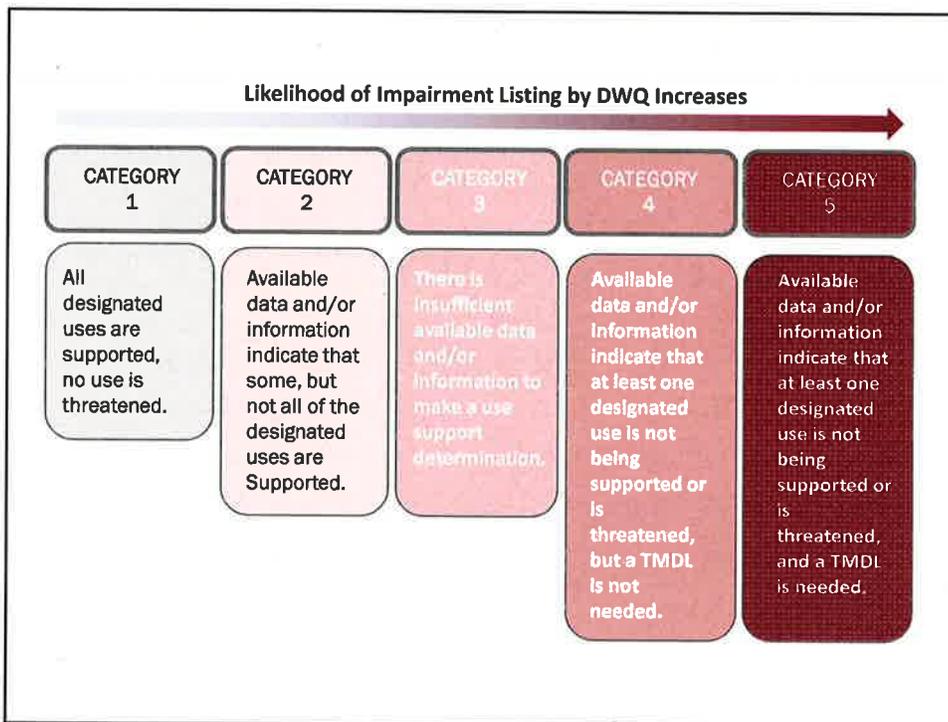


## New in 2014 Integrated Report

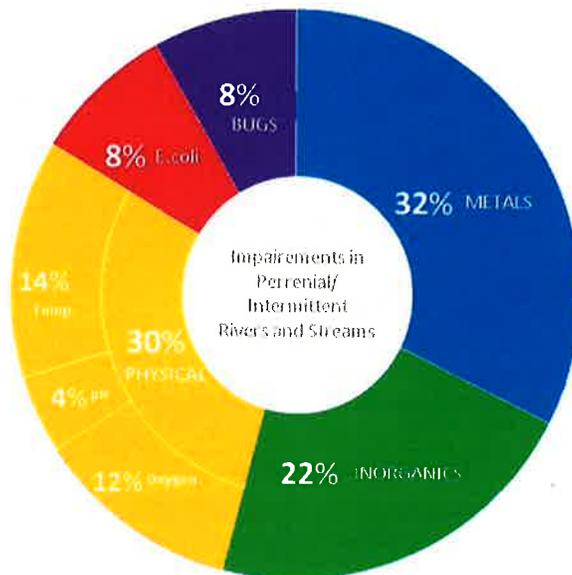


- More comprehensive assessment of available data
- Developed tools to facilitate assessment
- Improved QA/QC process
- Assessed more uses and parameters
- Integrated DOGM and publically submitted data
- Defined credible data criteria and call for data process





### Percent of Impairments by Parameter 2003 - 2012

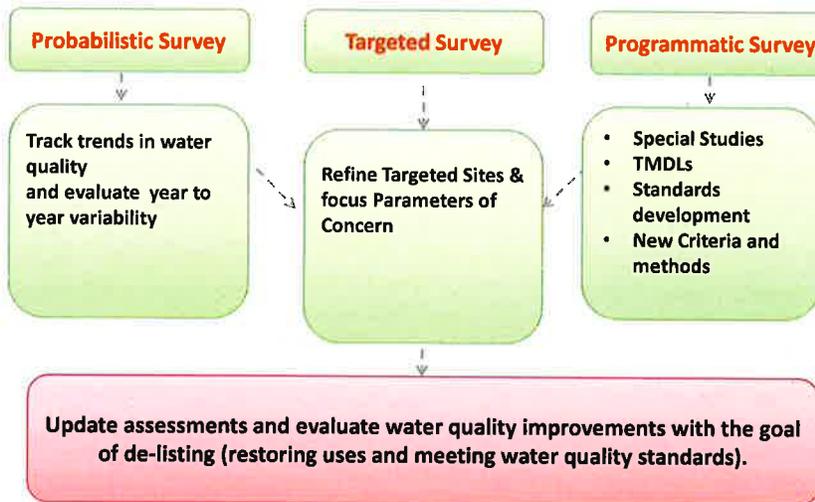


### Success Stories

- 33 Assessment Units De-listed during 2014 Cycle
  - Errors in original assessment
  - Changes in assessment methodology
  - No longer considered threatened
  - Changes to WQ standards
  - **Implementation and restoration**

AU ID	AU Name	Parameter
UT16010203-008	Spring Creek-Hyrum	Total Dissolved Solids
UT16010101-006	Bear River-4	Dissolved Oxygen
UT15010008-014	North Creek	Total Dissolved Solids
UT14030005-010	Onion Creek Lower	Total Dissolved Solids
UT16020203-009	Main Creek-1	Temperature
UT14070003-003	UM Creek Lower	Dissolved Oxygen

## NEXT STEPS: ONGOING MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT



## 2016 IR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND TIMELINE

- Revised Methodology
- 6 year period of record
- Integrate USGS Data
- Assessment of organic compounds
- Issue Public Draft prior to February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Will be providing updates on webpage with status



**THANK YOU**

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[jamesharris@utah.gov](mailto:jamesharris@utah.gov)

801-536-4360

**QUESTIONS ?**

# Utah's Surface Water Quality Priorities

**427**

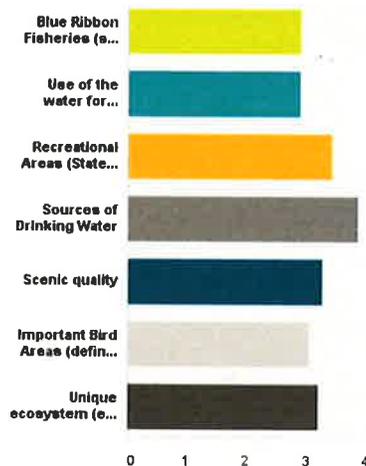
Total Responses

Date Created: Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Complete Responses: 427

### Q1: How important are the following to you?

Answered: 427 Skipped: 0



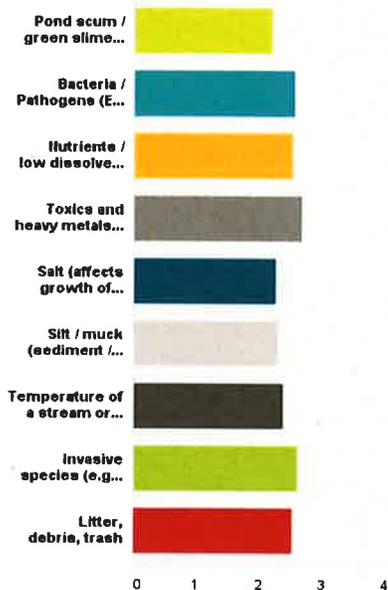
### Q1: How important are the following to you?

Answered: 427 Skipped: 0

	Very Important	Important	Less Important	Not important	No opinion	Total	Weighted Average
Blue Ribbon Fisheries (see <a href="http://wildlife.utah.gov/hotspots/blueribbon.php">http://wildlife.utah.gov/hotspots/blueribbon.php</a> )	27.86% 117	37.86% 159	22.62% 95	7.14% 30	4.52% 19	420	2.91
Use of the water for industry and/or agriculture	26.02% 108	41.93% 174	24.34% 101	6.99% 29	0.72% 3	415	2.88
Recreational Areas (State Parks, National Parks, Trails, etc.)	52.26% 220	39.43% 166	6.89% 29	1.43% 6	0.00% 0	421	3.43
Sources of Drinking Water	88.03% 375	9.86% 42	1.88% 8	0.00% 0	0.23% 1	426	3.86
Scenic quality	41.98% 178	43.63% 185	12.74% 54	1.42% 6	0.24% 1	424	3.26
Important Bird Areas (defined by National Audobon Society)	37.12% 157	35.46% 150	21.51% 91	5.67% 24	0.24% 1	423	3.04
Unique ecosystem (e.g. Great Salt Lake)	43.74% 185	35.93% 152	16.31% 69	3.78% 16	0.24% 1	423	3.20

### Q2: How concerned are you about the following types of water quality issues?

Answered: 427 Skipped: 0



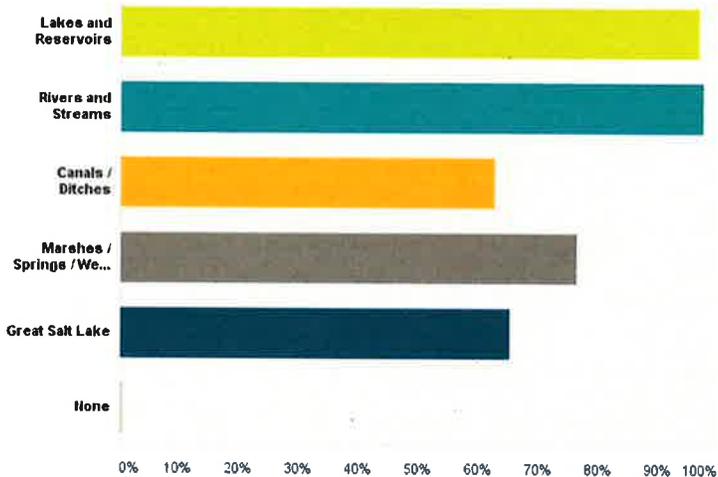
### Q2: How concerned are you about the following types of water quality issues?

Answered: 427 Skipped: 0

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Don't know	Total	Weighted Average
Pond scum / green slime (Excessive Algae Growth)	31.60% 134	52.83% 224	12.74% 54	2.83% 12	424	2.19
Bacteria / Pathogens (E. coli, Giardia)	58.69% 250	34.98% 149	5.40% 23	0.94% 4	426	2.54
Nutrients / low dissolved oxygen (affects fish and other organisms)	55.16% 235	39.91% 170	3.52% 15	1.41% 6	426	2.52
Toxics and heavy metals (e.g. Mercury, Selenium)	69.25% 295	27.23% 116	3.05% 13	0.47% 2	426	2.67
Salt (affects growth of irrigated plants such as grass, alfalfa, vegetables, etc.)	35.78% 151	52.37% 221	10.90% 46	0.95% 4	422	2.25
Silt / muck (sediment / stream bank erosion)	38.97% 166	49.30% 210	10.33% 44	1.41% 6	426	2.29
Temperature of a stream or lake (affects aquatic life)	46.69% 198	43.29% 184	8.71% 37	1.41% 6	425	2.38
Invasive species (e.g. quagga mussel)	65.80% 279	29.48% 125	4.01% 17	0.71% 3	424	2.62
Litter, debris, trash	58.73% 249	33.96% 144	7.08% 30	0.24% 1	424	2.52

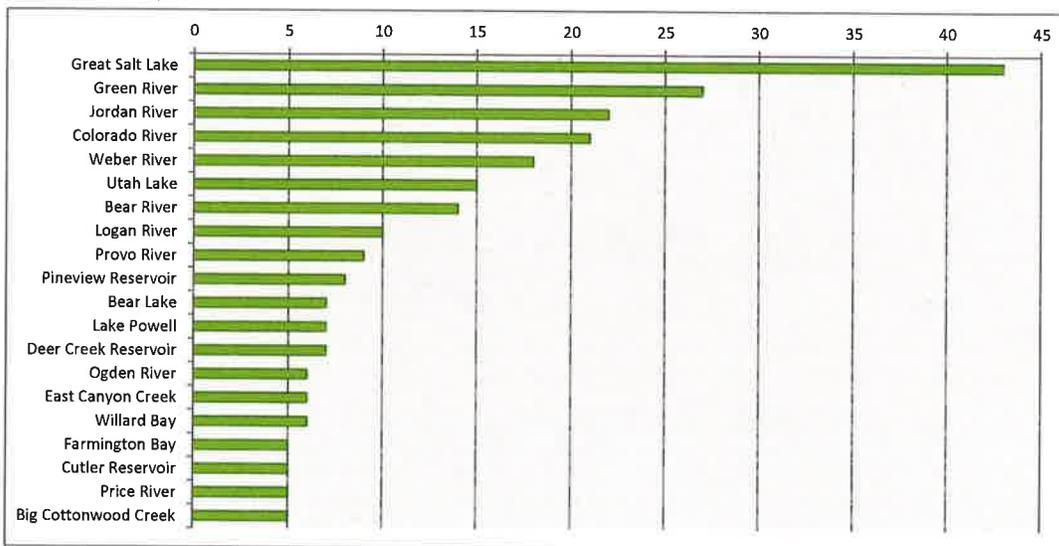
**Q3: Which of the following have you visited and/or used within the last 5 years? Please check all that apply.**

Answered: 425 Skipped: 2



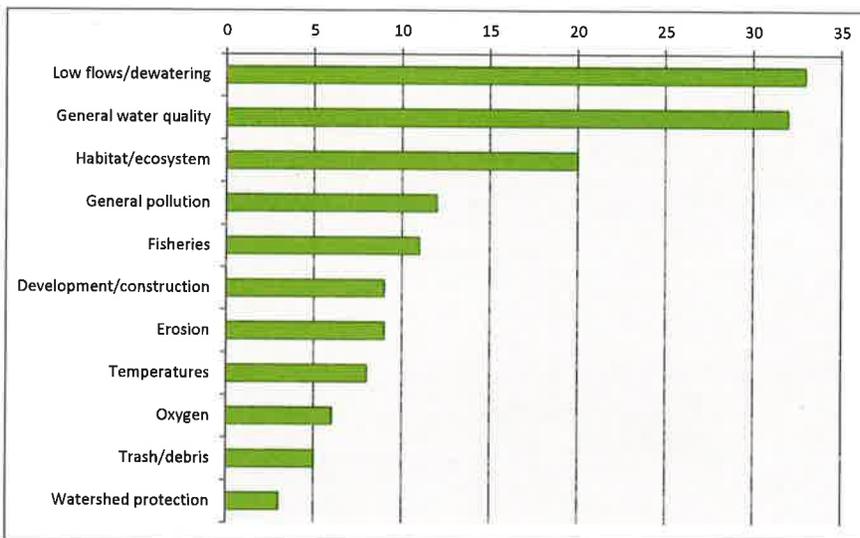
**Q4: Are there specific streams, lakes, or reservoirs that deserve special consideration?**

Answered: 231 Skipped: 196



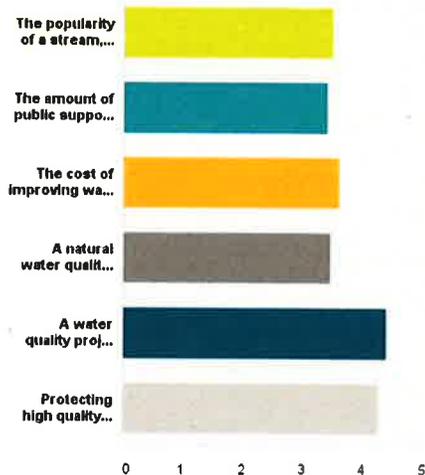
**Q4: What are your concerns about the waterbody?**

182 responses



**Q5: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:**

Answered: 426 Skipped: 1



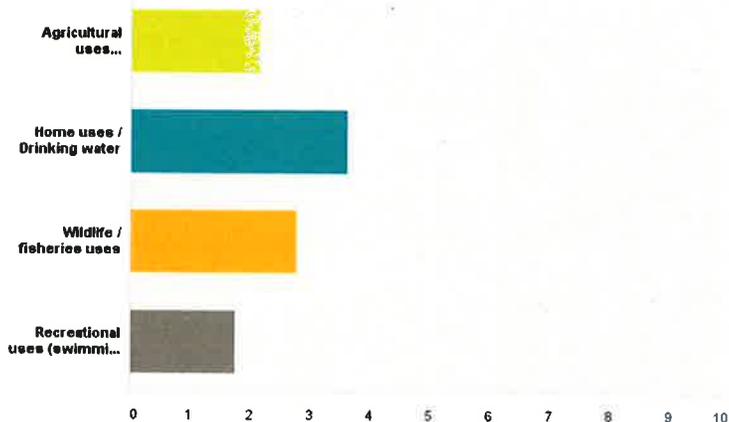
**Q5: Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:**

Answered: 426 Skipped: 1

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Weighted Average
The popularity of a stream, lake, reservoir, etc. should be considered in determining the State's priority for improvement and protection.	17.37% 74	39.44% 168	23.71% 101	16.20% 69	3.29% 14	426	3.51
The amount of public support should be considered in prioritizing improvement efforts.	0.98% 38	43.03% 182	30.02% 127	15.13% 64	2.84% 12	423	3.40
The cost of improving water quality should be considered in prioritizing improvement efforts.	19.28% 81	46.90% 197	15.00% 63	13.81% 58	5.00% 21	420	3.62
A natural water quality issue should be ranked lower in priority than an issue caused by humans.	16.98% 72	40.09% 170	20.52% 87	16.51% 70	5.90% 25	424	3.46
A water quality project that provides additional benefits to wildlife and watersheds should be considered in prioritizing improvement efforts.	51.89% 220	38.92% 165	7.08% 30	1.89% 8	0.24% 1	424	4.40
Protecting high quality streams, lakes, and reservoirs should receive the same priority as improving those with problems.	48.82% 206	38.83% 163	6.84% 29	4.88% 21	0.95% 4	422	4.29

**Q6: Please rank the following uses in order of importance for protection and improvement.**

Answered: 424 Skipped: 3



**Q6: Please rank the following uses in order of importance for protection and improvement.**

Answered: 424 Skipped: 3

	<b>Most Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Less Important</b>	<b>Least Important</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Weighted Average</b>
Agricultural uses (irrigation and livestock watering)	<b>6.10%</b> 23	<b>33.95%</b> 128	<b>27.32%</b> 103	<b>32.63%</b> 123	377	2.14
Home uses / Drinking water	<b>71.47%</b> 278	<b>20.57%</b> 80	<b>6.17%</b> 24	<b>1.80%</b> 7	389	3.62
Wildlife / fisheries uses	<b>27.14%</b> 108	<b>31.91%</b> 127	<b>32.91%</b> 131	<b>8.04%</b> 32	398	2.78
Recreational uses (swimming, boating, wading)	<b>2.42%</b> 10	<b>18.60%</b> 77	<b>31.88%</b> 132	<b>47.10%</b> 195	414	1.76

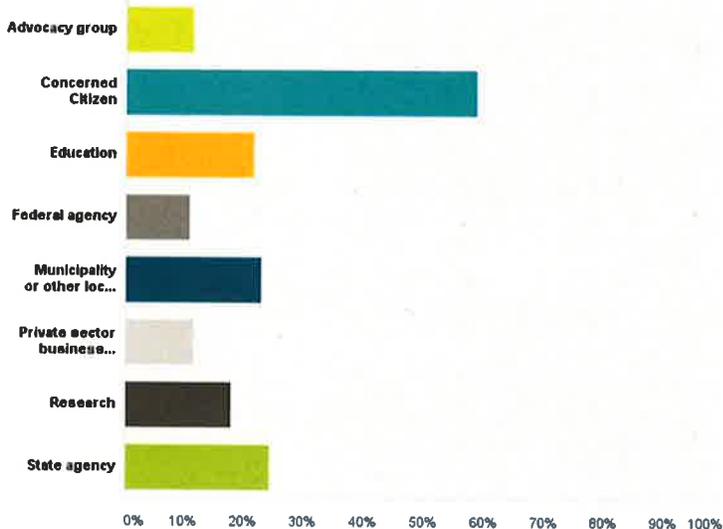
**Q7: Are there other issues that the State should consider regarding priorities?**

107 Responses

Conservation / Water Use  
 Endangered species  
 Climate change  
 Protection of headwaters  
 Grazing impacts

**Q8: Which group(s) do you associate yourself with?**

Answered: 417 Skipped: 10



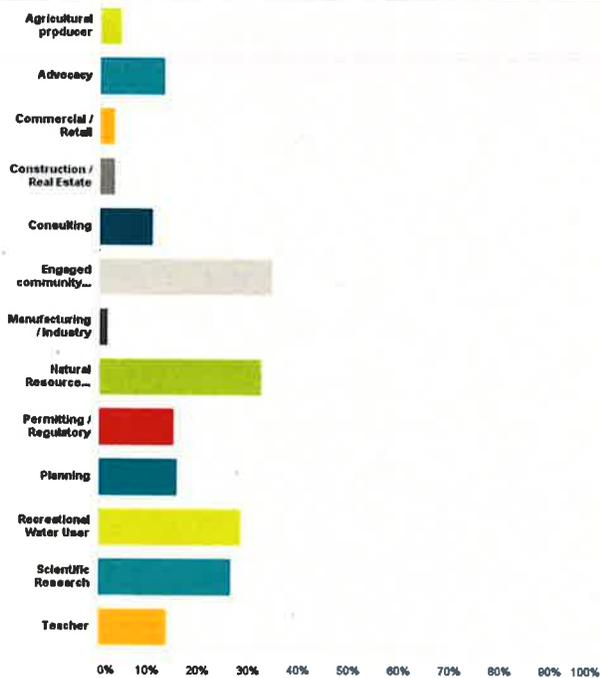
**Q8: Which group(s) do you associate yourself with?**

Answered: 417 Skipped: 10

Answer Choices	Response	Count
Advocacy group	11.27%	47
Concerned Citizen	58.75%	245
Education	21.58%	90
Federal agency	10.55%	44
Municipality or other local government	22.78%	95
Private sector business interest	11.51%	48
Research	17.75%	74
State agency	24.22%	101
<b>Total Respondents: 417</b>		

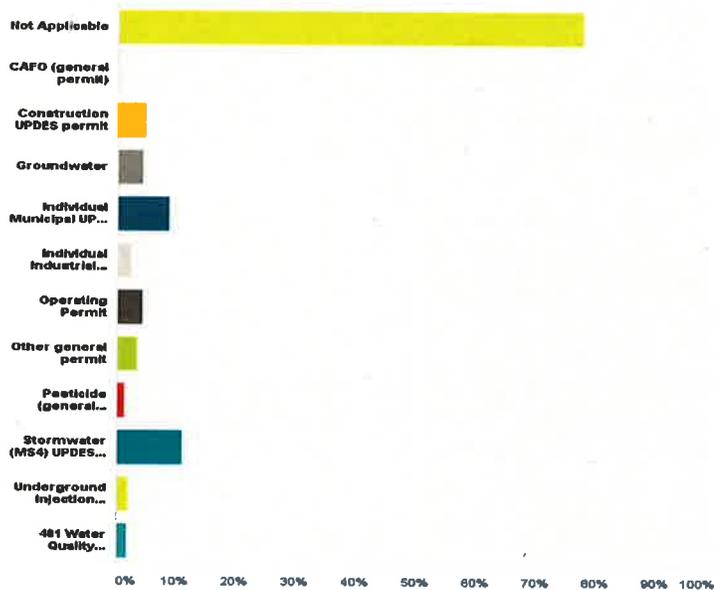
### Q9: What's your role with that group?

Answered: 377 Skipped: 50



### Q10: If your group has a water quality permit please indicate which. Mark "Not Applicable" if this doesn't apply to you.

Answered: 378 Skipped: 49



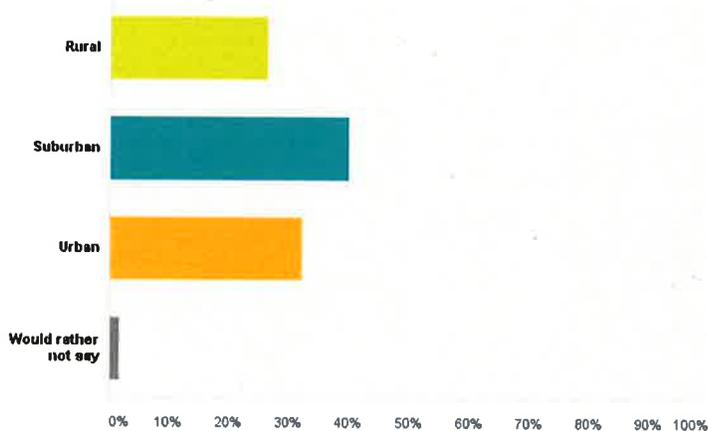
**Q10: If your group has a water quality permit please indicate which. Mark "Not Applicable" if this doesn't apply to you.**

Answered: 378 Skipped: 49

Answer Choices	Response	Count
Not Applicable	77.78%	294
CAFO (general permit)	0.00%	0
Construction UPDES permit	4.50%	17
Groundwater	4.23%	16
Individual Municipal UPDES permit	8.47%	32
Individual Industrial UPDES permit	2.38%	9
Operating Permit	4.23%	16
Other general permit	3.44%	13
Pesticide (general permit)	1.32%	5
Stormwater (MS4) UPDES permit	10.85%	41
Underground Injection Control	1.85%	7
401 Water Quality Certification	1.59%	6
<b>Total Respondents: 378</b>		

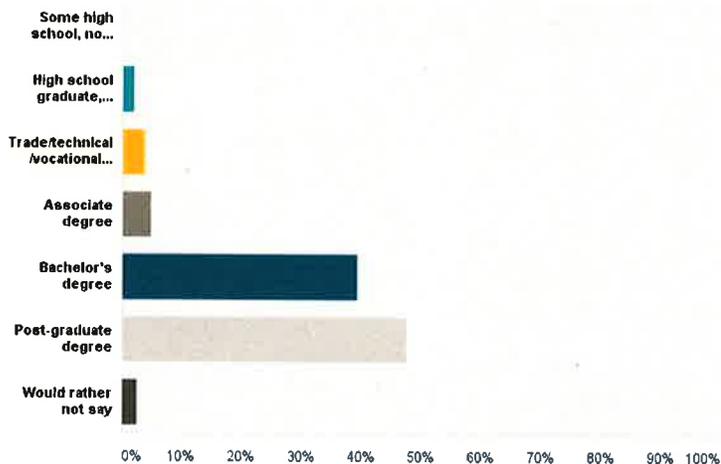
**Q11: Which of the following best describes the area you live in?**

Answered: 423 Skipped: 4



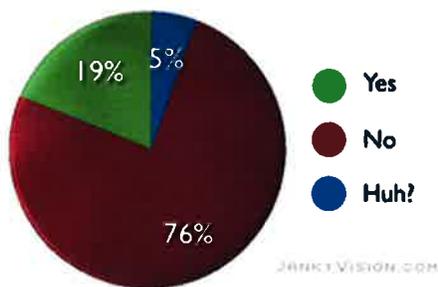
### Q13: What is the highest level of school you've completed?

Answered: 423 Skipped: 4



### Discussion

#### Do you trust public opinion?



**Discussion**

