



MEETING MINUTES

Water Quality Task Force

October 5th, 2017
1:00-3:00 PM
195 North 1950 West,
Red Rocks Conference Room

PRESENT:

Jim Bowcutt	DEQ/DWQ
Sonja Wallace	SITLA
Carl Adams	DEQ/DWQ
Craig Miller	Division of Water Resources
Ellen Bailey	USU
Jay Olsen	UDAF
Gary Kleeman	EPA
Don Wiley	UDWR
Rhonda Miller	USU Extension
Sterling Brown	Farm Bureau
Scott Paxman	Weber Basin Water
Bill Zannotti	UDFFSL
Melissa Noble	UDDW
Michelle Deras	Weber Basin Water
Bracken Davis	UDAF

I. DISCUSSION

Ellen Bailey (Utah State University Extension) - Statewide Water Quality Information and Education Campaign (see presentation)

- ***Legislators and other governmental entities have very little information regarding what is happening in the water quality arena, and we need to get their attention.***
- ***The Clean Water Partnership Website may be a good fit for the I&E campaign.***
- ***We need to include the 5 large water districts, the Division of Water Resources, and UDOT in the campaign.***
- ***Some topics that could be addressed in the campaign include: Water softeners, Drinking water, and spills.***
- ***WE need to target the audience. Not all tag lines are relevant to all audiences.***

Don Wiley (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources) - UDWR fishery Migratory Study (See presentation)

- ***Many of the instream water structures throughout the state are beyond their design life, and need to be refurbished. When doing this they should consider making changes to the structures that allow passage of aquatic organisms such as fish.***
- ***Agricultural producers don't have a standard procedure when doing structure replacements. They need some kind of guidance. Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the newer fish passage structures if they are installed? Will that be the responsibility of the producer?***
- ***DWR would like to develop a centralized database where information from all state agencies can be stored and accessed.***
- ***November 16th they will determine where additional migratory studies will take place around the state. These studies will also look at big game, and the barriers that may be present in their migratory routes.***
- ***It would be beneficial to involve school kids in these studies, so that they can understand how animals migrate.***

Jim Bowcutt Utah Division of Water Quality) Update of Utah's NPS Management Plan

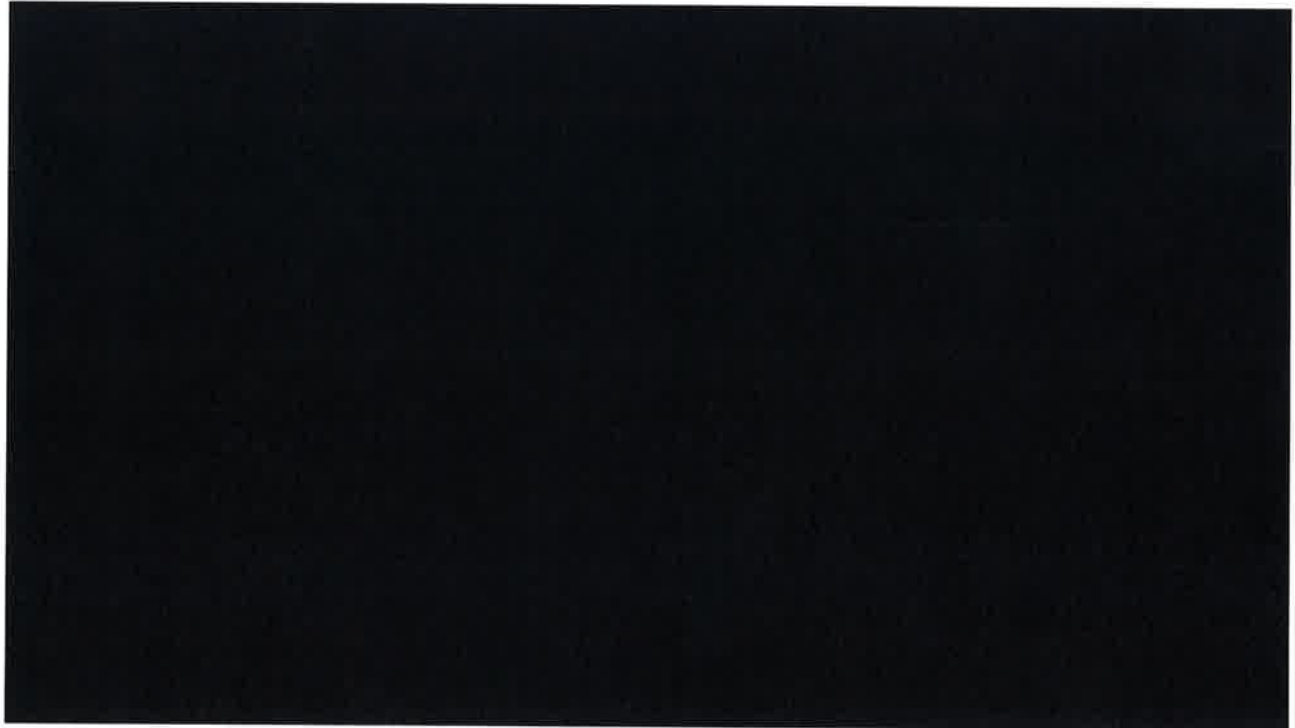
- ***The Division of Water Quality will be updating the Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan over the next several months.***
- ***This plan was last approved by EPA in May of 2013, and needs to be updated every 5 years.***
- ***Jim Bowcutt will be contacting each member of the Task Force to assist with updating their respective section of the Management plan, as well as the appendices, that are relevant to them, and their agencies.***
- ***Hopefully a draft of the plan will be completed by the end of the calendar year. Once a draft of the document has been approved internally, and by the Task Force, it will need to be reviewed and approved by the AG's office, the Governor's office, and EPA.***
- ***The plan does not need to be completely overhauled, it just needs to be updated. EPA does not expect too many changes to take place. Mostly the milestones and goals that are used to document program effectiveness.***

II. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Need to get Water Rights out to the Task Force Meetings.
- The next meeting will be held January 9th at 9:30 at the Division of Water Quality.

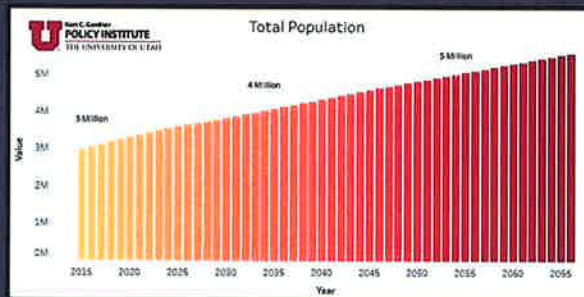
Utah Migration Initiative

Don Wiley
Aquatic Habitat and Migration Initiative Coordinator
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



Census: Utah is nation's fastest-growing state

- Increase by 84% by 2065, growing from about 3 million to 5.5 million
 - Demand for water will increase significantly
 - Quantity and quality must be considered simultaneously and jointly to ensure local leaders meet the future water needs of their communities while preserving the aesthetic and ecological integrity of the environment

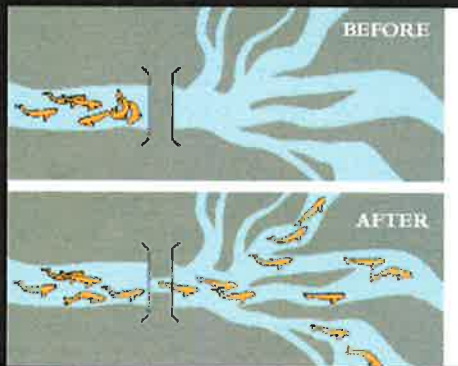


- ▶ Increasing water demands
 - Stakeholder Collaboration



Connectivity

- One of the most significant impacts from increased demand on natural resources is the loss of natural river connectivity



Aquatic Migration Initiative

Using new technologies to make data driven decisions regarding the long-term viability of Utah's aquatic species.



Topics

1. Understanding Aquatic Species Movement



2. Data Integration - Advancing Data Collection, Sharing, and Interpretation



Topics

1. Understanding Aquatic Species Movement



2. Collaboration – Working together to ensure long-term viability of aquatic resources



1. Understanding Aquatic Species Movement

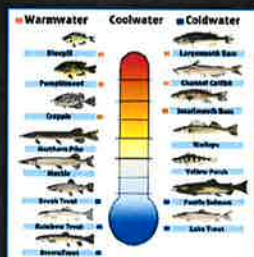
Water Quality



Water Quantity



Temperature

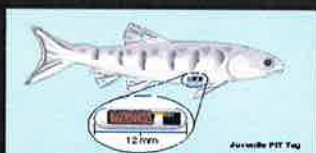
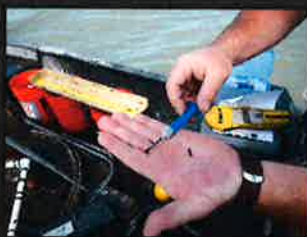


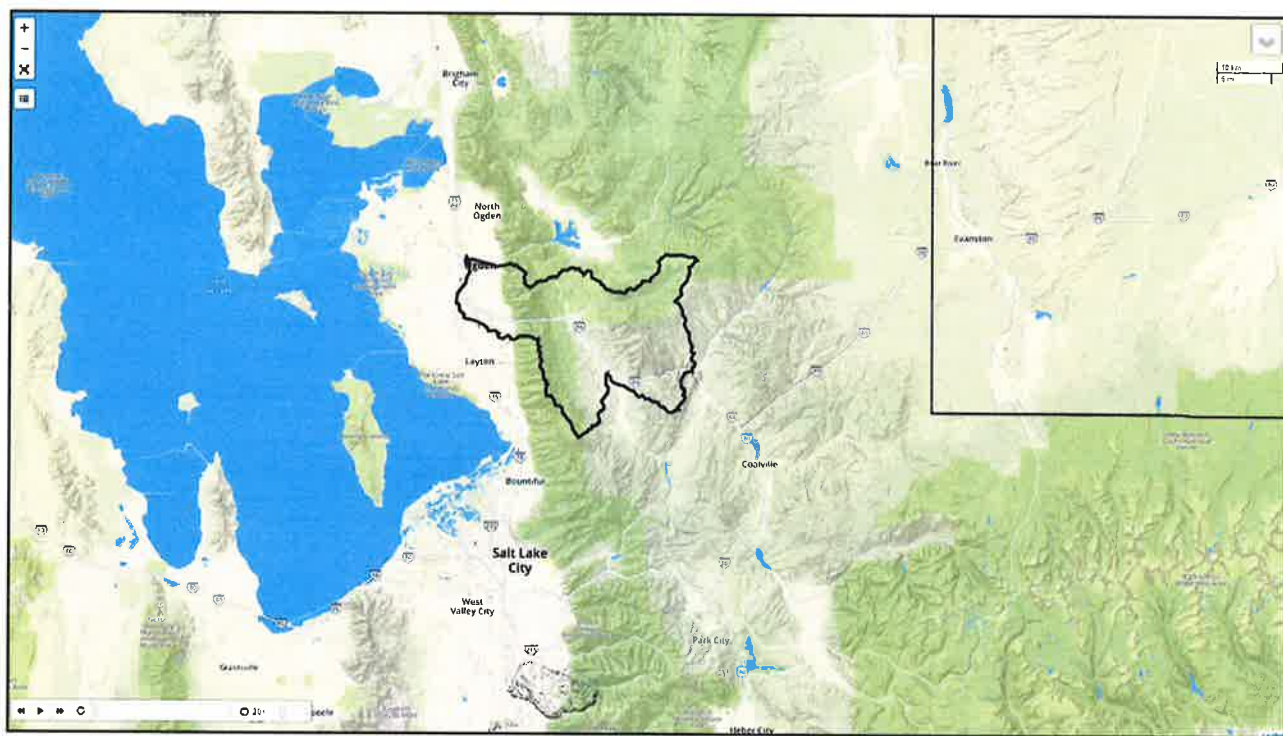
Physical Barriers



Aquatic Species Movement - Weber River

Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags







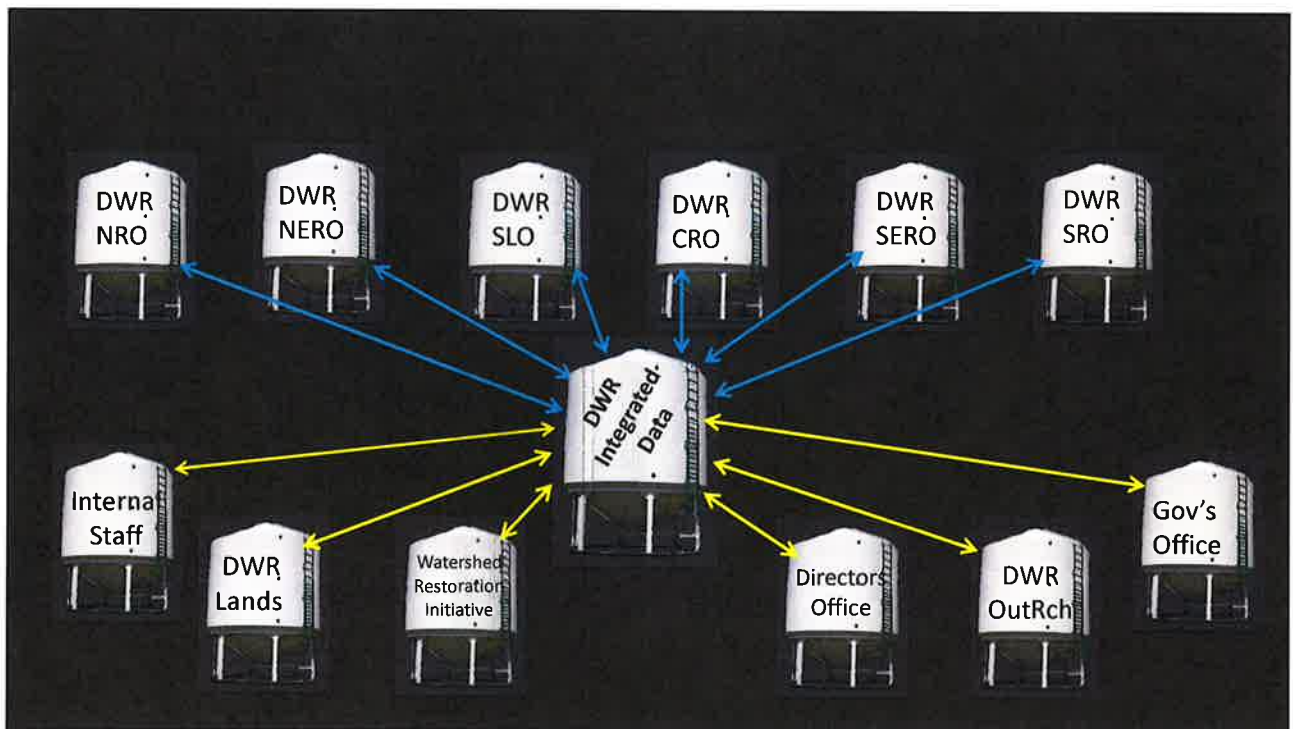
Weber River – Migration/Movements

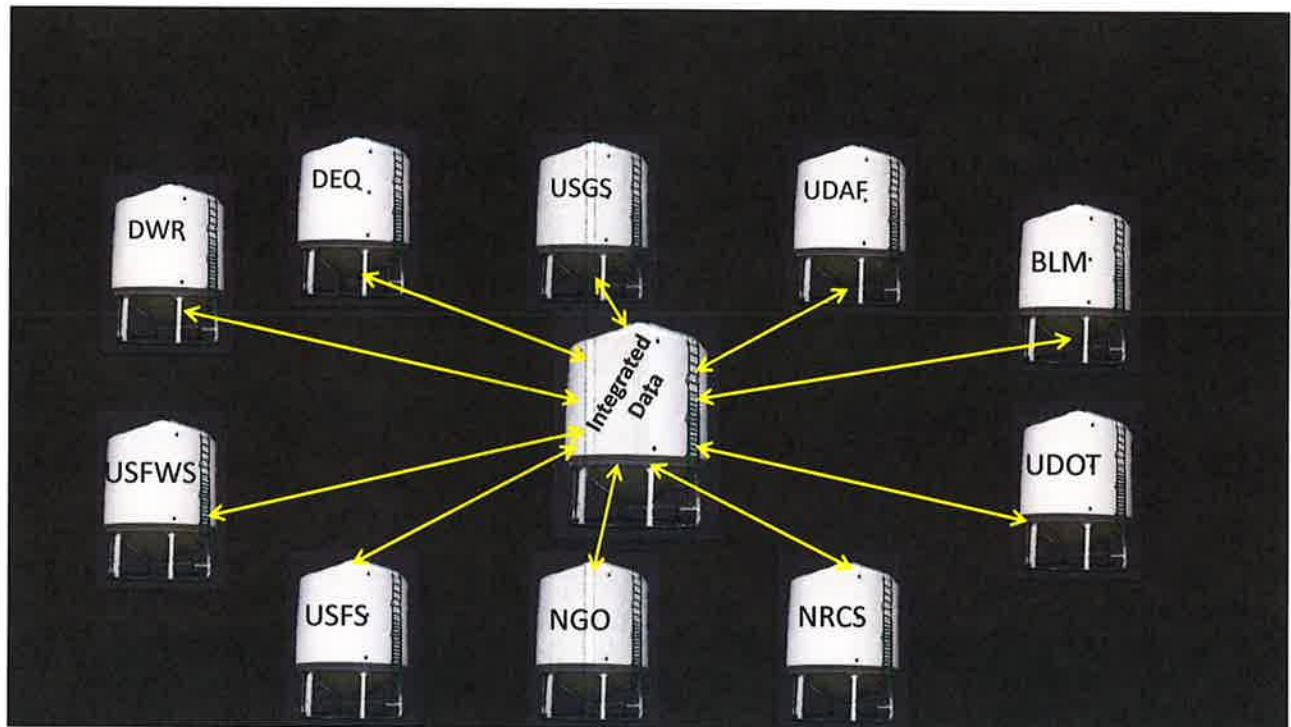
- Facilitate success with water users, PacifiCorp, UDOT and others to modify or replace structures to allow fish passage while maintaining or improving efficiency to the water user
- There is a story to be told by understanding the movement of wildlife that will lead to better management



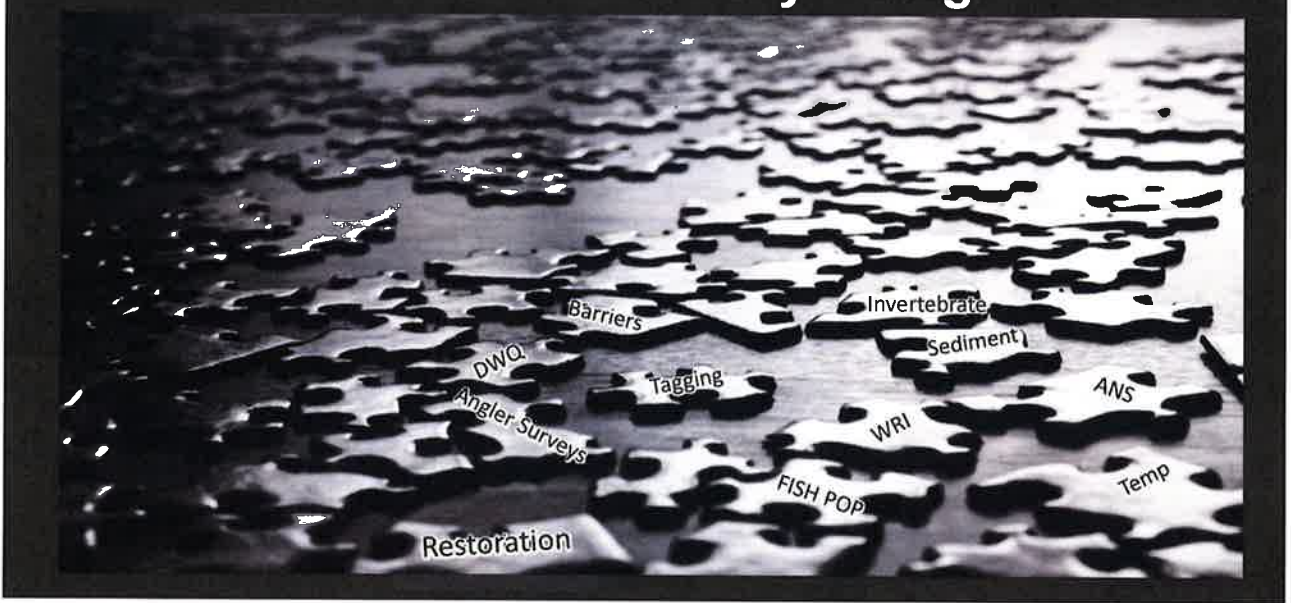
1. Update Wildlife Agency's Species Movement

2. Data Integration - Advancing Data Collection, Sharing and Interpretation

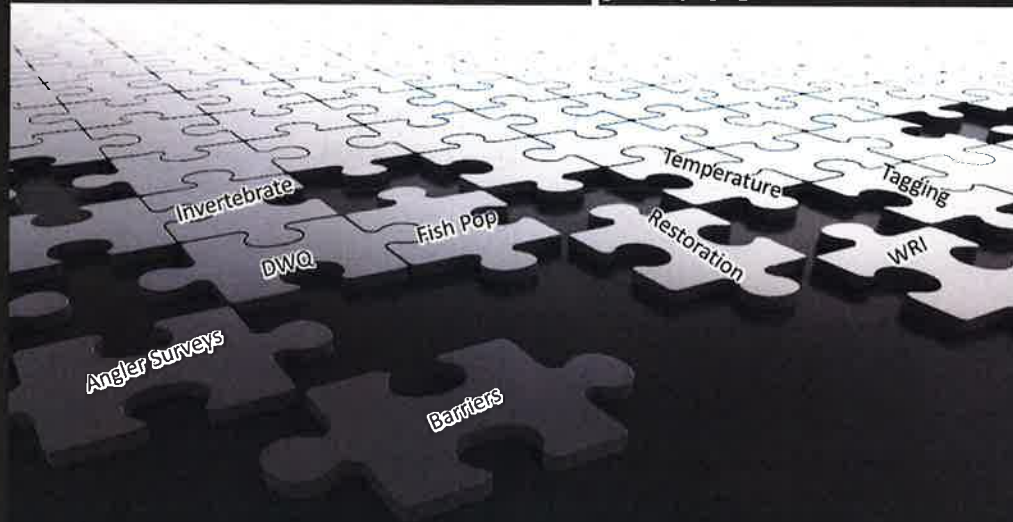




So how does the UMI fit with what are we already doing?

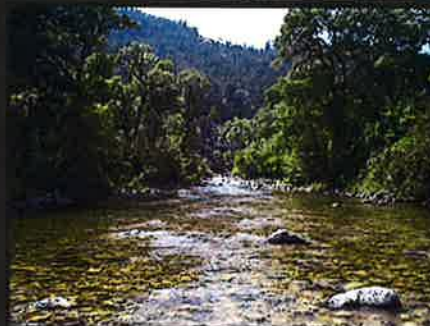


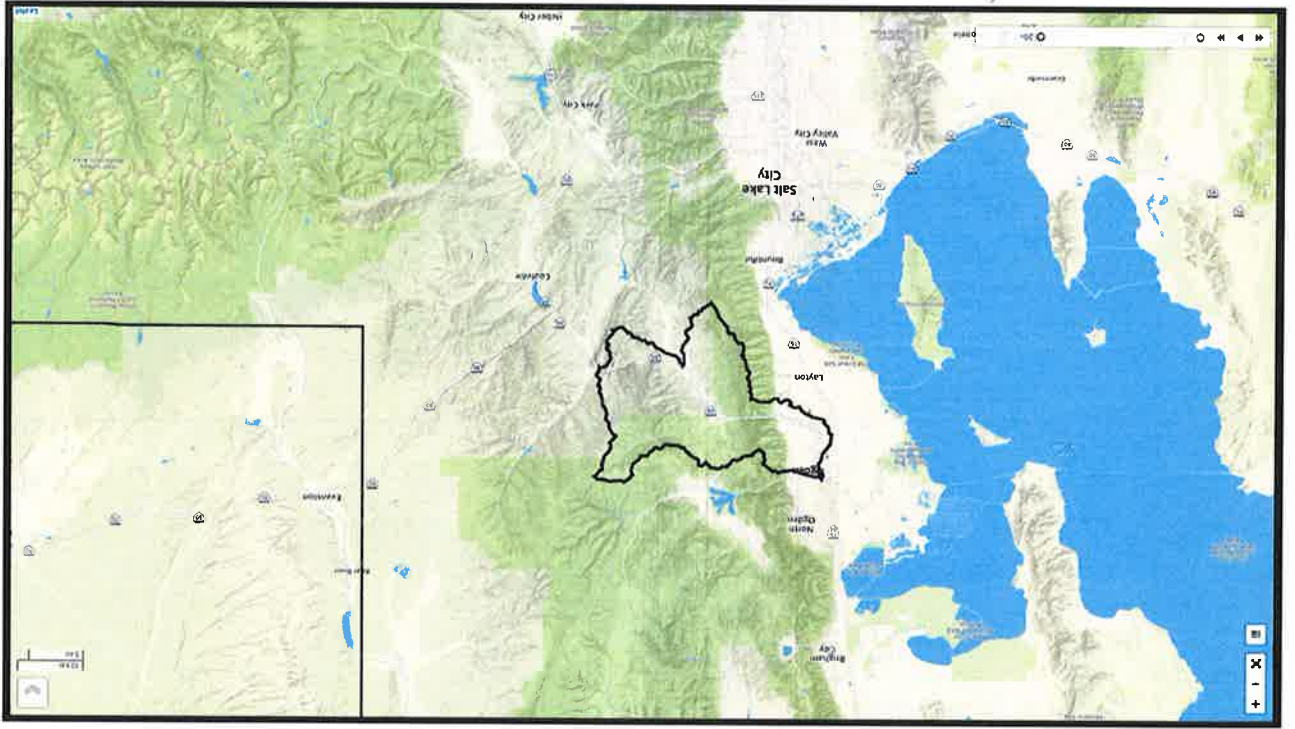
UMI will help us connect the pieces.



What Does Success Look Like?

- New technologies (i.e., GIS, data management, analysis) have advanced and with collaborative efforts in monitoring:
 1. Tell a better story with our data...
 2. Data integration – providing a unified view of the data through collaborative collection and interpretation of information
 3. Stronger Credibility – continued support for aquatic programs
 4. Better Decisions - informing, planning and implementation of management actions to improve water quality for all forms of life
 5. Collaborative decision making will enable local leaders to meet the future water needs of their communities while preserving the aesthetic and ecological integrity of the environment





Oct 5 2017 WQTF meeting

At last WQTF meeting....

- Is there a need? yes
- Is there interest among the partners on this committee? yes

Subcommittee met on Aug 29 to address remaining questions:

- What is the desired outcome(s)?
- What messages or approaches are important to different partners?
- Possible resources?
- Types of contributions from different partners?

Summary of committee meeting:

Identified Desired General Outcomes of Campaign

- *Ultimately, our goal is cleaner water and protection of the many beneficial uses provided by clean water.*
- Increased awareness of NPS issues and solutions
 - We're all part of the problem and therefore we're all part of the solution.
- Reinforce long term, persistent changes in attitudes and behaviors...
 - A focus on the future
 - Provide opportunities for citizens to learn more and to take action.
- Inform Utah citizens about what we HAVE done
 - Celebrate and highlight successes of water quality achievements
- Partner with other programs and efforts around the state to provide a cost effective, broad based campaign
 - Existing materials and programs
 - Funding for additional activities, materials, etc?

Comments?

Campaign should appeal to core values shared by Utahns

- Sustainability: Future Use and adaptability to a burgeoning population.
- Family Values
- Equal opportunities across generations (i.e. same amount of access)
- Personal Property
- Sense of community and broad worldview
- Access to natural resources – open space, fishing/recreation, etc.-
- Strong work ethic
- Independence
- Cooperation
- Conservation
- **Others?**

Suggested taglines – an umbrella statement that would link ALL aspects of the campaign -

Thoughts? Feedback?

- Utah's Water: Keep It Clean
- Utah's looking downstream"
- Keep it clean. Look Downstream"
- Water is Life: Quality Matters
- It's Our Utah. It's Our Water

Moving forward, we need to identify and address barriers for adoption of desired behaviors

- Cost-
 - Large collective cost in the case of Wastewater Treatment
 - Individual cost for producers looking at up to 60% cost share.
- Convenience
 - People are very busy and have many other demands for their time
- Lack of awareness of impacts of NPS pollution
- Poor understanding of outcomes of actions
- Others??

Campaign should appeal to individual and community benefits of protecting / improving water quality

- Makes individuals feel good
- Keeps water related activities available for future generations
- Allows individuals to be a part of something "bigger than themselves"
- More???

We would like each partner in the campaign to identify their target audiences and specific water quality related outcomes they would like to achieve

Eg. Utah Dept of Wildlife

Cleaner water → healthier fish populations → increased fishing licenses.

- Messages could include family values / memories of fishing

Who else needs to be involved?

- Governor's endorsement of campaign
- Other Endorsements
- Bring in the PR people from our various programs
- Missing partners?
- Linkage with other campaigns?
 - We all live downstream?
 - Slow the flow?

A few initial ideas on types of activities / outreach materials

- Localized initiatives (i.e. rural vs. urban) that fall under the broader umbrella
- Initiatives, messages targeting different audiences (rural, urban, outdoor recreationists, gardeners, kids, etc)
- YouTube video with 5 second blips that say something along the lines of: "I care about clean water because of....", or "I protect my water because....", or "I protect my water by doing....."
- We'll be **working on many more ...but all feedback / input is welcome.**