WEBER RIVER BASIN

Building a Sustainable Future Through Engagement, Collaboration, & Prioritization

SUBMITTED BY

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Executive Summary

Date: September 1, 2024
Applicant Name: Weber River Partnership
City, County, State: Morgan, Morgan County, Utah
Project Dates: October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2028

The Weber River provides important drinking water, irrigation, recreation, and wildlife habitat resources to the Weber River Basin in northern Utah. It is an important agricultural and municipal water source for communities along the Wasatch Front, and its major storage and distribution facilities are managed under the Bureau of Reclamation's Weber and Provo River projects. The Weber River is one of three major rivers flowing into the Great Salt Lake, and its water is critical to sustaining the lake's health and survival. The Basin is a mixture of private lands, U.S. Forest Service lands, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcels. Rapid growth and ongoing drought in the Weber River Basin have increased water demand, putting water sustainability, water quality, riparian habitat, and climate resilience at risk. Stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and information-sharing are crucial to improving water quality, ensuring sustainable water supplies, and overcoming climate challenges. The Weber River Partnership (WRP), a nonprofit group committed to protecting the Weber River Basin, is well-equipped to tackle these challenges. WRP has proven its ability to engage stakeholders, build diverse partnerships, and facilitate collaboration. WRP will use CWMP funding to 1) hire a coordinator to increase the organization's operational and outreach capacity and facilitate basin-wide collaboration among all stakeholders, 2) develop and implement a five-year outreach plan that improves stakeholder collaboration, 3) build an online GIS mapping tool to consolidate data collected by partners, crowdsource stakeholder knowledge, and evaluate watershed and project priorities, and 4) develop a coordinated monitoring plan to fill data gaps for existing and future watershed restoration plans.

Project Location

The Weber River Basin (HUC6 160201) is located in northern Utah and covers approximately 1.5 million acres in Davis, Summit, Morgan, and Weber counties. Major communities include Ogden, Layton, Morgan, Coalville, and Park City. The river begins in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Four major tributaries — the Ogden River, Lost Creek, Chalk Creek, and East Canyon Creek — join the river before it empties into the Great Salt Lake. The Weber Basin contains many important Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs such as East Canyon, Pineview,

Echo, Rockport, Wanship, Lost Creek, Causey, and Smith and Morehouse. These reservoirs regulate the flow of the Weber River and provide critical water storage.

The Weber River is vital to the basin's agriculture, recreation, economy, ecology, and quality of life. The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD) delivers approximately 230,000 acre-feet of Weber Basin water for irrigation and provides drinking water to over 700,000 residents, or about 21% of Utah's population. Over the past twenty years, urban growth, increased water demand, long-term drought, and agricultural practices have resulted in water quality/quantity issues and habitat degradation. Weber Basin stakeholders are addressing these challenges through restoration efforts such as the Ogden River Restoration Project and the recently approved Weber River Ecological Resiliency Project (EWRP 2022) but much more needs to be done to address the significant water quality/quantity challenges in the basin.

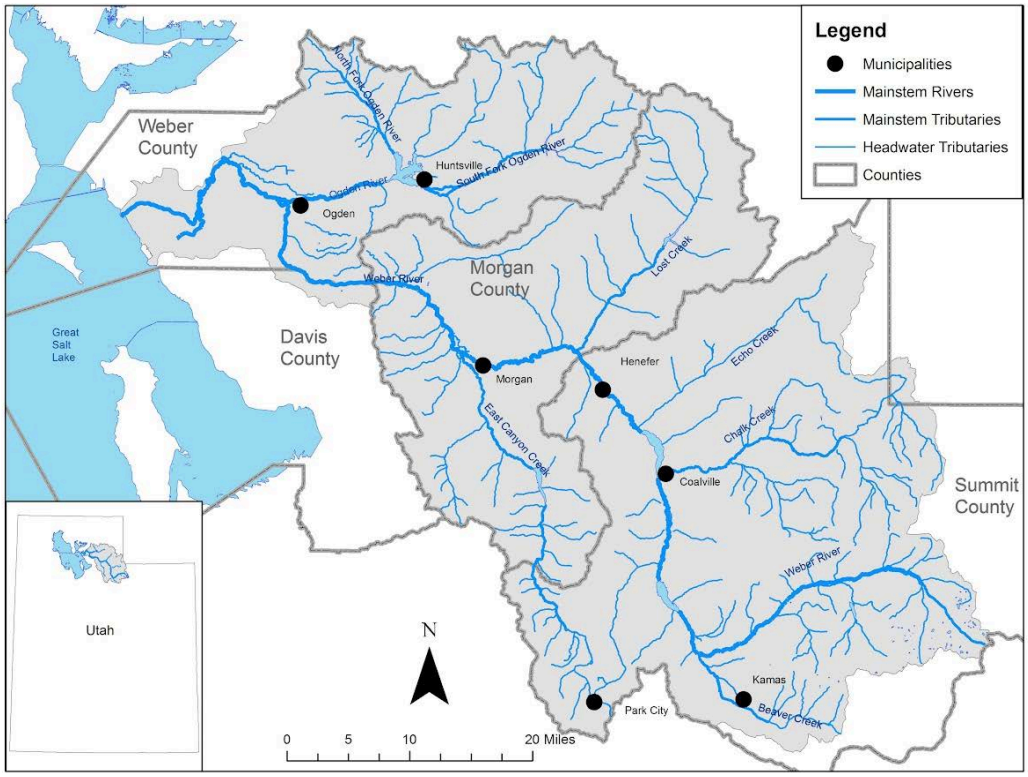

Figure 1. Weber River Basin.

Applicant Category

The Weber River Partnership (WRP) is applying as an existing watershed group. It became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2022 after operating as an informal stakeholder group nine years prior. WRP is a collaborative organization that fosters stakeholder collaboration and education and supports watershed planning to protect water quality and ecological health in the

Weber River Basin. It also promotes sustainable water use, watershed restoration projects, and community benefits. Its board and membership include local landowners, canal companies, the agricultural community, recreation outfitters, the Utah Division of Water Quality, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Trout Unlimited, Sageland Collaborative, Audubon Society, Summit Land Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ogden City (which is identified as a disadvantaged community by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool), Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, and the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation.

WRP was founded in 2013 to address water quality/quantity challenges and native fish conservation in the Weber River Basin. Its long-term vision is "growth through inclusion, long-term sustainability, and…real and lasting improvements to the water supply and ecological health of (its) river systems." The Weber River Partnership's 2014 Weber River Watershed Plan created this collective vision, acknowledging that "(t)he biggest challenge…we face is (balancing)…critical services such as…a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply while restoring and protecting the ecological values of our watersheds… progress can and will be achieved through cooperation, combined with genuine respect and appreciation for each other's values, even when those values are at times in opposition"

In 2014, WRP launched an annual "Confluence" symposium to foster stakeholder collaboration through education, networking, and communication. The name "Confluence" was chosen to reflect how rivers with different characteristics merge as they flow downstream to become one waterway. Similarly, the symposium brings together basin residents who care about agriculture, water quality, habitat protection, sustainable water use, fish, wildlife, and watershed restoration to identify and implement common goals.

The Weber River Partnership (WRP) gained 501(c)(3) status in 2022. Its mission is to be a resource for stakeholders who care about the Weber River watershed and to support holistic efforts to protect watershed health, water supplies, fisheries, and recreational resources. After gaining nonprofit status, the WRP began a series of meetings with stakeholders to exchange ideas, voice concerns, and foster collaboration on planning and project development. Over the past three years, the Partnership has received federal and state nonpoint source funding for the Ogden River Watershed Plan, the Ogden Valley Watershed Action Group, and the Echo Creek Watershed Plan, held three watershed symposia, tabled at various local events, and expanded its website. Near-future projects include community meetings at the Ogden Nature Center and floodplain restoration workshops for headwater, rural, and urban waterways.

Eligibility of Applicant

The Weber River Partnership (WRP) is a registered 501(c)(3), grassroots, non-regulatory organization that operates in Utah and represents a diverse group of stakeholders (see Applicant category above). WRP works to improve stakeholder communication and foster holistic efforts to protect the Weber River Basin's health, water supplies, fisheries, and recreational resources. The organization strives to be a resource for communication and education among stakeholders who care about the river and its watersheds. WRP members have voting privileges and must work, live, or own property in the watershed. Members elect board representatives for a three-year term. The Board includes a five-member Executive Committee, with the remaining board members considered at-large. The bylaws describe the duties of a paid coordinator when funds become available.

Project Description

The complex challenges within the Weber River Basin require a basin-wide management strategy to improve water supply sustainability, water quality, and habitat conditions. The Weber River Partnership is uniquely poised to connect the basin's diverse stakeholders to develop this strategy.

The immediate goals of this CWMP funding request are to:

1. Hire a coordinator to increase the organization's operational and outreach capacity and facilitate basin-wide collaboration among diverse stakeholders.
2. Develop and implement a five-year outreach plan that improves stakeholder collaboration and project effectiveness.
3. Build an online GIS mapping tool to consolidate data, crowdsource stakeholder knowledge, and identify watershed priorities.
4. Develop a coordinated monitoring plan to fill data gaps in existing and future watershed restoration plans.

Task A: Watershed Group Development

For 12 years, WRP has brought stakeholders together to address watershed concerns, leverage resources, and plan for the future. Strong engagement, collaboration, and planning are crucial to protecting watershed health in the Weber River Basin amid shrinking water supplies, rapid growth, and land use changes. WRP's all-volunteer board has achieved much but needs more resources to meet restoration goals and sustain basin-wide initiatives.

Hire a coordinator to increase the organization's operational and outreach capacity and facilitate basin-wide collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

WRP engages stakeholders through monthly meetings, the January Confluence symposium, and watershed plan development. Since 2022, WRP has increased collaboration, developed three watershed plans, hosted three symposia, and secured watershed restoration funding. Despite these successes, ongoing concerns about land use, water sustainability, and watershed health demand continuous community involvement. Addressing these challenges requires more capacity than the volunteer board can provide. A full-time coordinator will lead stakeholder engagement, organize events, develop plans, oversee online GIS mapping, and advance WRP's goals. CWMP funding will enable a coordinator to:

- Increase volunteer engagement through a five-year outreach plan.
- Increase partnerships and collaborations with local entities, state and federal agencies, nonprofits, and other groups.
- Create a strategic action plan linking organizational goals to specific, measurable outcomes.
- Implement targeted outreach to underserved and underrepresented communities, including indigenous groups, local farmers, urban populations, and youth organizations.
- Oversee planning and prioritization efforts and maximize stakeholder involvement.

Develop and implement a five-year outreach plan that improves stakeholder collaboration and project effectiveness.

The 2021 Utah State Water Plan stresses the importance of collaboration and public involvement in watershed management. WRP intends to develop a five-year outreach plan that expands and diversifies engagement by breaking down stakeholder silos in the Weber River Basin. An example plan is provided below.

- Year 1: Establish a foundation for outreach activities through stakeholder mapping, communication plans, basin-wide activities, workshops, and the Confluence Symposium.
- Year 2: Boost stakeholder engagement through regular communications, collaborative projects, and community events.
- Year 3: Expand the stakeholder base by reaching underrepresented groups through targeted outreach, inclusive events, and diverse leadership on the WRP board.
- Year 4: Strengthen capacity and sustainability through funding, partnerships, and long-term stakeholder engagement.
- Year 5: Sustain and scale efforts through lasting partnerships, ongoing engagement, expanded outreach, and continuous improvement.

This plan will solidify watershed efforts, enhance relationships, raise community awareness, and mobilize grassroots initiatives to protect water resources.

Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning

Build an online GIS mapping tool to consolidate data, crowdsource stakeholder knowledge, and identify project priorities.

WRP and the new coordinator will develop a basin-scale GIS mapping tool with contractor support. This tool will integrate stakeholder input with technical data on hydrogeomorphology, land cover, soil erosion, climate change, water supply, and socioeconomic pressures in the Weber River Basin. It will include an online data input option for stakeholders to share concerns, project ideas, and proposed monitoring locations. The interactive map will feature a dashboard for toggling between data layers to aid in the identification of planning initiatives and restoration projects. A prioritization matrix will be developed to evaluate and rank watershed priorities. WRP will meet with stakeholders to identify watershed goals, select criteria, and assign a weight to each criterion. Stakeholders will analyze, rank, and review potential projects with the decision matrix and use the weighted scores to develop a watershed action plan.

WRP will monitor restoration progress in the watershed and work with stakeholders to update the prioritization matrix if new information becomes available or conditions change. WRP will integrate these data with ongoing basin efforts like the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan (GSLBIP), Weber Basin Water Conservancy District water distribution planning, and local municipal planning and water quality/quantity management. This GIS tool would be transferable so other stakeholder groups can use it in their watersheds.

Develop a coordinated monitoring plan to fill data gaps in existing and future watershed restoration plans.

WRP supports increased watershed planning but is concerned that inconsistent data collection in key areas has led to incomplete data and analyses. The new coordinator will work with stakeholders to identify data gaps and develop a comprehensive monitoring plan to address them.

Over the past three years, WRP has worked with partners to develop nine-element watershed plans for the Ogden River, Lower Weber River, and Echo Creek, with three additional plans in the early stages of development (Kamas Valley, Morgan Valley, and East Canyon Creek). All these planning efforts were hampered by insufficient monitoring data The Lower Weber River Watershed Plan, for example, identified major data gaps in urban areas draining into the Great Salt Lake. The Ogden River Watershed Plan showed that growth in Ogden Valley has outpaced the understanding of its impact on water quality and sustainable water use. East Canyon Creek suffers from low summer flows that damage its aquatic and riparian habitats, making expanded streamflow monitoring crucial. Ski resort expansion and development near headwater streams in

Morgan and Ogden Valley impact downstream water quality, but these impacts will only be better understood with improved monitoring data.

A coordinated monitoring plan will address water quality issues in the Weber River Basin by gathering data on key areas like water quality, erosion, sediment transport, riparian habitat, streamflow, groundwater, hyporheic exchange, stormwater, and invasive species. This plan will help WRP fill data gaps in specific sub-watersheds by partnering with agencies like the Utah Geologic Survey, Utah Division of Water Resources, and local stormwater coalitions to identify pollutant sources typically overlooked in watershed planning.

The planning effort will enhance understanding of the basin's health and the interaction between its sub-basins by focusing on critical areas often excluded from standard water quality assessments such as urban stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution on private lands. The new coordinator will build new relationships with local stormwater coalitions, landowners, ski resorts, health departments, and local communities to improve collaboration and communication. Sharing these data will also support WRP's five-year outreach plan by increasing public awareness and involvement in water quality issues and encouraging the adoption of best management practices to protect and restore riparian conditions.

Evaluation Criteria

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A—Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

E.1.1.1. Sub-criterion No. A1. Watershed Group Diversity

The Weber River supports many uses, including recreation, agriculture, hydropower, and municipal water supplies, with diverse stakeholder needs and concerns. Since its formation, WRP has worked to bring these groups together to learn from each other, discuss issues, and find solutions for problems in the watershed.

Table 1. Stakeholders in the Weber River Basin.

Stakeholder Group	Description
Agriculture	The Weber River and its tributaries provide water for agricultural producers in the watershed. Irrigation/ditch companies manage the water through a broad network of canals. Key players include the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), NRCS, Summit, Davis, Weber, and Morgan Conservation Districts, local irrigation

	companies (e.g., Dinsdale Ditch Company, Davis and Weber Canal, etc.), and local landowners.
Water quality	The Utah Division of Water Quality (UDWQ) protects water quality for a wide range of uses, including drinking water, aquatic life, recreation, agriculture, and the Great Salt Lake through point source permits and voluntary reductions in nonpoint sources of pollution through education, partner engagement, and project funding.
Fish and Wildlife	Game and nongame wildlife depend on water quality in the watershed for habitat, food sources, and cover. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wasatch Audubon Society, Great Salt Lake Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, Trout Unlimited, Swaner Nature Preserve, Ogden Nature Center, and local hunting, angling, and waterfowl groups.
Water resources	The Utah Division of Water Resources (UDWRe) is a leader in the sustainable allocation and conservation of scarce water resources in the Weber Basin. The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD) supplies drinking, irrigation, and secondary water from its Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs in the Ogden and Weber River drainages, distribution systems, and treatment plants. The Weber River Water Users Association provides supplemental irrigation water to 190,000 acres of land east of the Great Salt Lake. These entities play key roles in water availability and management in the watershed.
Riparian resources	Healthy riparian areas are critical to water quality, habitat resources, and flood protection in semi-arid watersheds like the Weber Basin. State agencies and nonprofit organizations, including UDWQ, UDWR, Sageland Collaborative, Swaner Nature Preserve, Summit Land Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited, collaborate on restoration projects within the riparian corridor to protect water quality, enhance habitat, and safeguard communities from flood risks.
Local government	City and county councils, planning commissions, and stormwater managers in communities both large (Ogden metro area population ~700,000) and small (Huntsville population ~600) care about clean water and wise water management. Local governments include Ogden City, Ogden Valley, Summit, Davis, Morgan, and Weber counties and

	their communities.
Interested citizens	Individuals concerned about water quality and quantity become effective advocates for water resource protection once they are engaged and involved.
Recreation	The Weber River Basin offers numerous recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, river sports, bird watching, hiking, boating, swimming, and skiing. Additionally, much of the 2002 Winter Olympics were held in the Basin and will be again in 2034. Recreators can become effective advocates for the protection of these opportunities.
Academia	The University of Utah, Weber State University, and Utah State University conduct research, collect data, involve students and the community, provide technical assistance, collaborate on projects, and secure funding for work in the watershed.
Indigenous communities	The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation once used nearby land for hunting, fishing, and seed/root gathering and likely passed through the watershed during their seasonal travels.

Description of Existing Participants

Most entities and organizations mentioned above already participate in the watershed group. The WRP Board includes the Audubon Society, interested individuals, UDWQ, UDWR, Destination Sports, Dinsdale Ditch Company, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Trout Unlimited, and Sageland Collaborative. Members include Ogden City, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Ogden Nature Center, Swaner Nature Preserve, UDAF, landowners, Summit County, Utah State University Extension Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). WRP's annual Confluence Symposium brings together residents, landowners, agency staff, local government officials, conservation districts, academia, students, and legislators for presentations, discussions, and networking. WRP also engaged with local communities, stormwater coalitions, and landowners in developing watershed plans in 2014 and 2023, increasing its profile and building new relationships. See attached letters of support for detailed information on stakeholder involvement/partnerships with WRP.

Plans to Increase Stakeholder Diversity and Participation

WRP represents diverse watershed stakeholders and recognizes that expanding membership is key to sustainability and comprehensive solutions. However, WRP's limited capacity with an all-volunteer board has hindered outreach and recruitment efforts. Strong stakeholder

participation in watershed plan development shows the enthusiasm that a coordinator can turn into sustained membership growth.

CWMP funding will provide WRP with the capacity to expand outreach and recruit new members as described below:

- Collaborate with the Weber River Watershed Council - Partner with the state-legislated watershed council to reach new constituencies. The council structure doesn't include funding or the capacity to plan and implement projects, but WRP can work with the council to target concerns its members raise.
- Engage citizens through workshops - Host workshops on topics like floodplain restoration, stormwater management, and watershed restoration tools. Goals include increased engagement at the annual Confluence watershed symposium by 20–25%.
- Partner with Utah State University (USU) Extension - Connect with agricultural partners, 4-H programs, and new audiences through USU Extension offices in Summit, Davis, Morgan, and Weber counties.
- Organize community events and promote citizen science - Work with organizations like the Ogden Nature Center, Swaner Nature Preserve, Sageland Collaborative, and USU WaterWatch to increase citizen participation through events, speaker series, training, and restoration projects.
- Hold bi-monthly stakeholder meetings - Facilitate information-sharing and project coordination with local, state, and federal agencies in the watershed.

Existing Watershed Group Structure

Stakeholders who live, work, or own property in the Weber River Basin and support the mission of the Weber River Partnership are eligible for membership. The Board is elected at the annual members meeting, with nominations from the Board or any member. The election process is set by the Executive Committee and announced by the Board Chair. Each active member, whether an individual or organization, has one vote. The Board Executive Committee includes the Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Board members must serve as at-large members for at least a year before joining the Executive Committee. Standing committees include the Partner Coordination, Confluence Symposium, and Education and Outreach Committees.

Decisions are made through discussion and voting, with a quorum required. WRP wants to involve more members to foster a more inclusive consensus process and encourage constructive discussions. Initial board members came from the founders' group, but the nonprofit seeks to bring in new members with fresh ideas. Key participants like UDWQ, UDWR, and Trout Unlimited will remain active and involved when their board terms conclude.

E.1.1.2. Sub-criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope

The WRP was created to tackle challenges at the basin scale (160201). The 2014 watershed plan divided the large basin into six distinct ecological systems based on hydrology, geology, and existing stakeholder groups. Figure 2 delineates these systems, and Table 2 lists stakeholders in each. Some systems lack broad representation, making them key targets for outreach and coordination

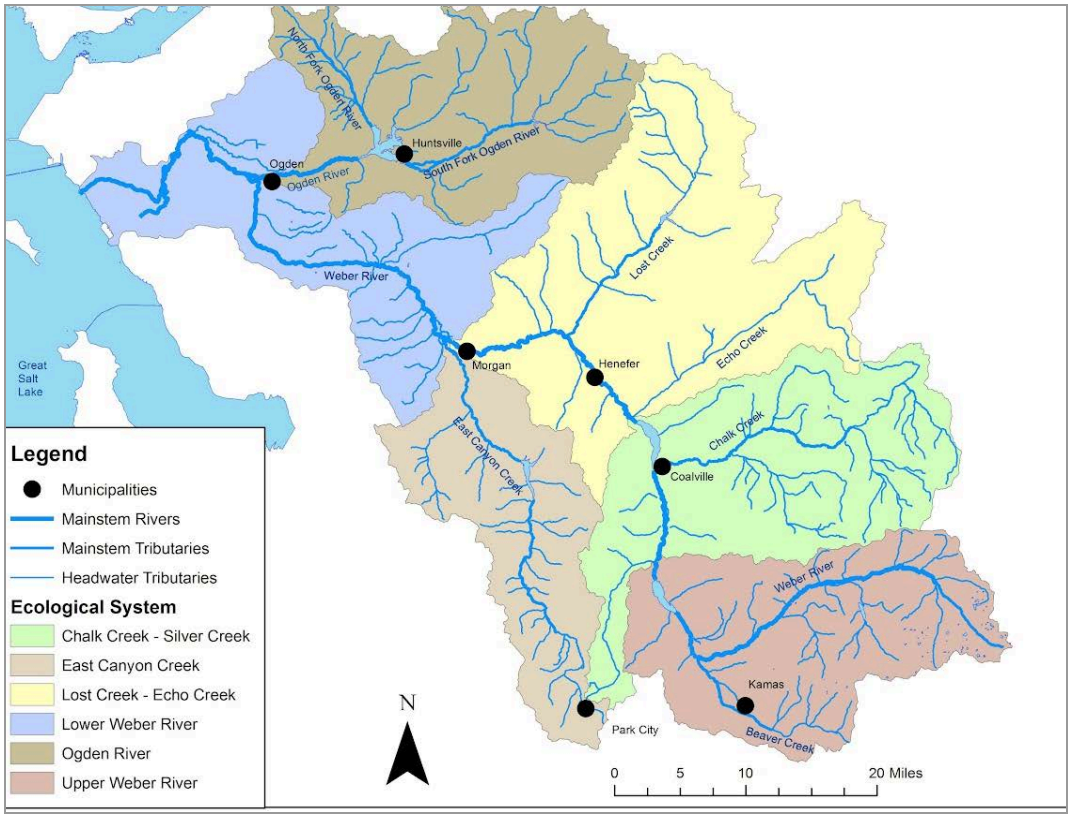

Figure 2. Weber River Basin ecological systems.

Table 2. Stakeholder groups that are active in each ecological system. Groups active in all ecological systems include the Weber River Watershed Council, UDWR, UDWQ, UDEQ, TU, UDWRe, UDAF, NRCS, Sageland Collaborative, Watershed Restoration Initiative, World Resources Institute, WBWCD, USFWS, USU Extension, Summit Land Conservancy, Utah State University (USU) and the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation.

Ecological System	Stakeholders
Chalk Creek- Silver Creek	East Canyon Creek Committee, Silver Creek Stakeholder Group, Summit County, Park City, Summit Conservation District, Sageland Collaborative, Swaner Nature Center, Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District (SBWRD), Summit County Health Department,

	canal companies, irrigation districts
East Canyon Creek	East Canyon Creek Committee, Summit County, Park City, Summit Conservation District, Swaner Nature Center, SBWRD, BOR, Utah State Parks, Summit County Health Department, ski resorts, hunting and angling groups, canal companies, irrigation districts, landowners
Lost Creek - Echo Creek	Summit County, Summit Conservation District, Morgan County, Morgan Conservation District, Utah State Parks, Summit County Health Department, Weber-Morgan Health Department, Utah Department of Transportation, (UDOT), hunting and angling groups, canal companies, irrigation districts, landowners
Lower Weber River	Davis County, Davis Conservation District, Davis County Health Department, Davis County Stormwater Coalition, Weber County, Weber Conservation District, Ogden Nature Center, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, municipalities, canal companies, irrigation districts, hunting, angling, and waterfowl groups, landowners
Ogden River	Weber County, Weber Conservation District, Weber-Morgan Health Department, Ogden Valley Watershed Action Group, Ogden Nature Center, Ogden City, USFS, Golden Spike Stormwater Coalition, canal companies, irrigation districts, landowners
Upper Weber River	Summit County, Kamas, Kamas Conservation District, USFS, Utah State Parks, Summit County Health Department, ski resorts, hunting and angling groups, canal companies, irrigation districts, landowners,

The partnership believes a CWMP project at the basin scale (160201 HUC6) is most effective due to the strong connection between the upper and lower Weber River Basins. For example, water storage primarily occurs in the Upper Weber Basin (16020101), while diversion points are in the Lower Weber Basin (16020102). Water transfers between sub-basins and adjoining headwaters further emphasize the need for a coordinated, basin-wide approach. Recent studies, such as the Weber River Basin Climate Vulnerability Study and the Agricultural Water Use in the Salt Lake Basin, take a landscape-scale approach. A broader scale is justified because:

- The basin faces major water quality and quantity issues.
- Recent watershed planning revealed data gaps and urgent needs due to growth, limited water supplies, and climate change.
- Watersheds and subwatersheds in the Basin are hydrologically connected, but stakeholders are siloed.

- Recent plans focused on specific areas, but a basin-wide perspective would look at the bigger picture and help prioritize management actions.

Collaborating on project prioritization can bring stakeholders across the basin together in new ways. WRP believes CWMP funding offers a unique opportunity to strengthen these partnerships and address complex, basin-wide water quality and quantity problems.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B— Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs

E.1.2.1. Sub-criterion No. B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

The Weber River Basin faces water quality/quantity challenges from rapid growth, increasing demands on limited water resources, rising temperatures, reduced snowmelt/unpredictable precipitation patterns, nonpoint source pollution from historical and current land uses, and low streamflows.

Water quality

Water quality issues are intensifying in the Weber River Basin. The 2024 Utah Integrated Report (IR) identified 123 impairments in the Weber River Basin, a 28% increase from the 2022 IR. The number of impaired assessment units (AUs) also rose during the same reporting period, from 42 to 53, a 26% increase. Over half (52.88%) of all AUs in the basin are either listed as not supporting or have a total maximum daily load (TMDL) report, and studies continue to find new reasons for concern. For example, an August 2024 synoptic monitoring report by UDWQ found significant impacts associated with excess nutrients along the Weber River's middle reach, and water quality issues like these are growing basin-wide.

TMDLs in East Canyon Creek, Echo Creek, Chalk Creek, Silver Creek, East Canyon Reservoir, Echo Reservoir, Rockport Reservoirs, and Pineview Reservoir address water quality impairments for nutrients, sediment, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, cadmium, and zinc; additional impaired parameters include temperature, *E. coli,* pH, nutrients/eutrophication, harmful algal blooms (HABs), benthic macroinvertebrates, total phosphorus, copper, aluminum, lead, and arsenic. The Richardson Flat tailings site near Park City, Utah, contaminated Silver Creek, one of four major tributaries to the Weber River. The site includes ~seven million tons of impounded tailings, drainage from a second tailings impoundment in Park City, and a six-mile-long reach of Silver Creek with upland, riparian, and instream tailings. EPA plans to release its recommendations for site remediation before the end of the year.

A combination of factors has led to these impairments. Increased water demands reduce streamflow, which raises stream temperatures, reduces dissolved oxygen, and harms aquatic life.

Riparian habitat degradation from grazing and invasive species causes erosion, leading to excess nutrients in waterways that fuel harmful algal blooms in the basin's reservoirs each summer. Population growth converts agricultural land to residential use, delivering additional urban stormwater runoff and failing septic discharges into the Weber River and its tributaries. TMDLs and watershed plans have identified projects and best management practices to address these impairments; however, without active stakeholder involvement, these recommendations are seldom implemented at the AU scale, much less the landscape scale required to address the underlying problems.

Aquatic and riparian habitat

Water withdrawals, habitat alteration, invasive species, straightened stream channels, eroding streambanks, land-use changes, and drought have degraded riparian conditions throughout the watershed, increasing erosion and sedimentation, reducing filtration, elevating water temperatures, increasing nutrient pollution, and accelerating flooding potential, all of which have put aquatic species and their habitats at risk. Data analyses for the Ogden River, Lower Weber, and Echo Creek watershed plans and stakeholder input support these characterizations of basin conditions.

The Weber River Styles Comparison found that most geomorphic and riparian impairments in the Weber River Basin come from water withdrawals and human land use in valley bottoms. Over half of the perennial streams in the basin are in moderate to poor condition, with 29% having low recovery potential. The worst conditions are in the urban areas around Ogden City, Layton, and the heavily developed portions of Summit County around Park City.

Channel confinement, straightening, and relocation have increased stream velocities in the mid to lower watershed, and changes to the runoff regime have caused vertical channel incision and reduced floodplain inundation. Bank armoring, grazing, land-use changes, and reduced floodplain connectivity have degraded riparian conditions. Despite its modest size, the Weber River is Utah's third-most popular river fishery and supports unique native fish species such as the Bonneville cutthroat trout and the bluehead sucker. UDWR and TU have completed numerous fish restoration projects, but the threats to these species from development and dewatering can overwhelm their efforts. Other aquatic and riparian species are also struggling. Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Weber River Basin requiring conservation and habitat protection to keep from being added to the Endangered Species List include the widelip pondsnail, white-faced ibis, snowy plover, western pearlshell, northern leopard frog, and pilose crayfish. The Weber River also provides water to critical wetlands along the Great Salt Lake, including the Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area (WMA), Harold S. Crane WMA, Farmington Bay WMA, and the Great Salt Lake Shoreland Preserve.

These conditions will worsen, threaten species' survival, and degrade aquatic and riparian habitats without broad cooperation to tackle these issues.

Rapid growth and land-use changes

The population of the Weber River Basin increased by 85% between 1990 and 2020 and is expected to double by 2060. Data on irrigated acres from the National Agricultural Statistics Service show that over 24,000 acres of irrigated cropland in the Weber River Basin were removed from crop production from 1982 to 2017, likely due to population growth and land-use changes (Figure 3 below). Estimates comparing average irrigated acres during a time of moderate development and a time of high development showed a difference of -38% in Davis County, -17% in Summit County, and -13% in the watershed during the period of high development. Agricultural withdrawals in the Weber River Basin in 2015 were far less than in 1985, an estimated decrease of 320,000 acre-feet (-60%) (Figure 4). The 2009 Weber River Basin Plan projected agricultural water use to decrease to about 161,000 acre-feet by 2060 as agricultural land was converted to urban uses; however, a 2023 report from USU showed that the basin's consumptive use from these withdrawals had already fallen to 148,200 acre-feet by 2015. While almost 61% of the basin's water is diverted for agriculture, it doesn't all remain there: trans-basin agreements direct this water to other areas for agricultural use.

The influence of non-agricultural users on overall consumptive water use is growing as communities become more urbanized. Farmland in the Lower Weber watershed has shrunk dramatically in recent years, and the expansion of non-agricultural land use will likely occur in the few remaining open spaces in northwestern Davis County, western Weber County, Ogden Valley, the northern Wasatch Mountains, and eastern Summit County. The planned development of 9,000 acres of critical Great Salt Lake wetlands for the Weber County Inland Port will expand infrastructure into previously undisturbed areas.

These changes can have negative consequences on water quality and habitat. Agricultural land conversion and ski resort expansion can increase sediment and stormwater runoff, and a growing population will increase pressure on existing sewage systems and septic fields. Development in and around critical Great Salt Lake wetlands will reduce and degrade habitat for the 10–12 million migratory birds that use the lake for food and nesting. Communities, farmers, wildlife enthusiasts, anglers, and residents have expressed concerns about these changes, but haven't necessarily known how to get involved or who to collaborate with to identify solutions.

Water supply and sustainability

Utah is the second driest state in the country. The population is projected to double to about six million in 2065, putting further pressure on already limited water resources. The 2021 Utah State Water Plan shows that 61% of the available water in the Weber River Basin is diverted for agricultural use in the basin and adjoining areas. About 73% of agricultural water doesn't return

to the system due to evapotranspiration. Urban growth also diverts and depletes water in the system: Utah's Regional M&I Water Conservation Goals report recommended a 30% reduction in gallons per capita day (gpcd) in the Weber River Basin to meet the growing municipal water demand.

The Weber River provides irrigation water to 190,000 acres of agricultural land in the Weber Basin and adjoining areas through trans-basin aqueducts. The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District provides drinking water to over 700,000 Utah residents in five counties. The river also delivers 15% of the water entering the Great Salt Lake, and state and local plans to address low lake levels will direct even more of this water to the lake. While the past two years have been a reprieve from a multi-year drought, long-term drought still threatens the basin's water supply. In 2022, the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District had to enact tough restrictions to keep enough drinking water in its system. The District has instituted measures to manage water use - secondary and irrigation water metering, support for waterwise landscaping, and improved drought response - but balancing water needs in the face of rising temperatures, population growth, changing precipitation patterns, and competing uses remains a challenge.

Climate change

The Weber River Basin has experienced prolonged drought over the past few decades. Water rights with priority dates 1875 and newer were cut during the summer months every year from 2018 through 2022, which indicates that water rights after 1875 are overallocated compared to contemporary water availability. In fact, in 2022, Weber River water rights with priority dates as old as 1861 were cut for the first time in the documented record. Increased temperatures (Figure 5) and the number of dry days (Figure 6) projected by the NOAA Climate Explorer for the Weber River Basin project that these patterns will continue into 2050. During most of the last two decades, the Weber River Basin has been rated as "abnormally dry" to "exceptional drought" by the U.S. Drought Monitor (Figure 7). The amount of Weber River water that reaches the Great Salt Lake will continue to decline without significant intervention (Figure 8). Scenarios in the 2021 Weber River Basin Climate Vulnerability Assessment project a decrease in future Weber River streamflow, with peak monthly streamflow projected to occur one month earlier than the historical streamflow record. The assessment also projected increases in potential evapotranspiration and water use, decreases in annual snowfall, and increases in extreme precipitation by the end of the century.

E.1.2.2. Sub-criterion No. B2. Project Benefits

Water quality

Collaboration, communication, and education are important ways to address water quality issues in the Weber River Basin and get landscape-scale improvement projects on the ground. The new WRP coordinator will engage stakeholders across the basin and develop a five-year outreach

plan that ensures strong, long-term connections and relationships. The coordinator will work with partners to identify and develop joint projects that require broad cooperation to be effective, such as streambank restoration across large reaches, pollution reduction initiatives in urban settings, and educational programs.

The online GIS mapping tool will identify areas with water quality impairments and degraded habitat, geolocate partners interested in these areas, prioritize watershed projects that restore impaired waters, and support integrated planning across various sectors. Partners will improve their chances of successful project funding through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

A comprehensive monitoring plan will fill data gaps, improve understanding of sources and pollutant loading at a local and watershed scale, and support project prioritization through the online mapping tool. Many of the identified data gaps occur in a) urban areas with ephemeral streams not subject to DWQ water quality monitoring and b) private lands in headwater tributaries. This plan will support and supplement other local-scale monitoring efforts, such as the World Resources Institute Upper Weber Monitoring Plan and DWQ's recent Weber River synoptic survey, by bringing together stakeholders who haven't traditionally worked together. These new relationships will create new opportunities for project coordination and improved information-sharing.

WRP has seen firsthand how this kind of coordination improves water quality. Project and planning collaboration between the Summit Conservation District, landowners, UDWQ, and nonprofit organizations significantly reduced sediment and nutrient loading in Chalk Creek while demonstrating the benefits of low-tech process-based restoration techniques like beaver dam analogs to local landowners. WRP brought Echo Creek stakeholders together in August 2023 to address sediment impairments; by January 2024, three nonpoint source pollution projects in Echo Creek had received almost $500,000 in nonpoint source and watershed restoration funding from multiple sources. In 2024, WRP applied for and received education and outreach funding to help Ogden Valley residents concerned about the impacts of water pollution on the Ogden River and Pineview Reservoir from fast-paced growth and development in and around their small communities. The Weber River Partnership hopes to build on these successes to improve water quality in the basin through a participatory, holistic watershed approach.

Aquatic and riparian habitat

The proposed project benefits are similar to those for water quality. Bringing partners together to work on large-scale projects to restore floodplain and aquatic connectivity, natural stream function, and native vegetation will lead to healthier habitats and create economies of scale not found when working individually. Landowners, local governments, and state agencies own or oversee management practices on most of the riparian areas in the Weber River Basin, so their participation is key to the success of habitat restoration efforts. WRP and its members have

collaborated successfully with stakeholders on watershed planning and project implementation, and a coordinator with an outreach plan will expand its ability to foster stakeholder collaboration on large-scale riparian habitat restoration projects. WRP and the Silver Creek Stakeholder Group have seen the potential of an online GIS mapping tool for identifying potential projects for National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) restoration funds and want to use it for basin-wide project planning. A comprehensive monitoring plan that includes measures of habitat health and restoration potential, such as Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment (RSRA) or Utah Comprehensive Assessment of Stream Ecosystems (UCASE) protocols, will identify areas with degraded habitat, supplement water quality sampling results, and support a more strategic approach to watershed restoration. WRP partners already collaborate on habitat monitoring, but an integrated monitoring plan will expand these collaborative efforts and make them more effective, efficient, and targeted.

Rapid growth and land use changes

The coordinator, supported by the five-year outreach plan, will connect city, county, and legislative officials with agency experts and citizens to discuss growth- and planning-related water quality/quantity concerns. WRP will raise awareness of public engagement opportunities through social media, local events, and workshops. The group will publicize city and county meetings, hearings, and community forums through its website, email blasts, and social media accounts. An online GIS tool will provide a centralized database that will make collecting and sharing water quality data easie for all parties. An interactive map will display water quality data across the Weber River Basin, and overlays of data sets (land use, population density, residential development, etc.) will help stakeholders and officials understand how different factors affect water quality. The tool will facilitate collaboration between local government, agencies, and the public by providing a common platform for data and communication and a means to gather public feedback on proposed projects. The tool will also be used to model different scenarios and predict the impact of various policies or projects on water quality/quantity. Data collected through the comprehensive monitoring plan will update stakeholders on water quality conditions.

Water supply and sustainability

The Weber River Basin faces many complex water-related issues, and numerous efforts are underway to address them. Stakeholders such as the state legislature, resource agencies, water conservancy district, watershed council, nonprofits, municipalities, landowners, and members of the public are eager to work together to find solutions but information silos hinder the communication and collaboration needed for a watershed-based approach to problem-solving. WRP, with the support of a paid coordinator, can facilitate regular basin-wide communication and coordinate efforts to improve water quality/quantity through data collection, information sharing, planning, project prioritization, and funding at a landscape scale. The coordinator can

help bridge the divide between water quality/habitat restoration and water use/water sustainability projects and initiatives.

In addition to the measures described above, WRP can help facilitate the following sustainability initiatives:

- Community water forums: Experts present on water issues and stakeholders discuss local concerns and solutions.
- Collaborative water plans: local and regional planners work with stakeholders to integrate water sustainability goals into broader land use and development plans.
- Water use tracking: Water users and distributors establish metrics to track the progress of sustainability efforts, report regularly on progress watershed-wide to partners, and identify areas for improvement.
- USGS streamflow gages: Local governments and state agencies use the online GIS mapping tool to identify areas with limited flow data and pool resources to install additional gages to collect water quality and quantity data. These efforts will support and implement the recently completed data gap analysis for the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan.

Climate change

See E.1.4.1 Climate Change below for project benefits.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Readiness to Proceed

The WRP is ready to proceed upon receipt of the grant award.

Table 3. Tasks, milestones, timeline, and costs.

Tasks and Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Primary Responsibility	Project Costs
A1. Hire a Coordinator				**$6,568**
A1.1 Develop a job description and post job for hiring. Conduct interviews. Finalize hire.	October 2025	December 2025	WRP Board	In-kind contribution
A2. Develop and implement a five-year outreach plan.				**$232,236.95**

A2.1 Gather input from stakeholders at the January Symposium about the outreach plan.	January 8, 2026	January 8, 2026	Coordinator, WRP Board	319 grant funds, personnel, fringe, travel, supplies, Confluence, in-kind, indirect,
A2.2 Assess the current situation and define plan objectives. Conduct stakeholder analysis. Develop outreach strategies and estimate costs to execute. Develop a strategic action plan and implement initial activities.	February 2026	September 2026	Coordinator	
A2.3 Execute outreach activities, evaluate effectiveness, and adjust strategies as needed. Expand outreach efforts and enhance collaboration. Update plan as needed.	October 2026	September 2027	Coordinator	
A2.4 Solidify relationships and refine strategies. Begin planning for the next five-year cycle. Evaluate plan and assess success. Celebrate achievements.	October 2027	September 2028	Coordinator	
B1. Build an online GIS mapping tool				**$79,957.75**
B1.1 Develop an RFP for a contractor to build a GIS online platform. Put the RFP out for bid and select a contractor.	May 2026	July 2026	Coordinator	Personnel, fringe, ArcGIS license, contractual, in-kind, indirect
B1.2 Collect initial data and process them for integration	June 2026	September 2026	Coordinator	

into the platform.				
B1.3 Ensure public access, test the platform, and launch. Survey users for feedback on the functionality and features of the platform.	October 2026	December 2026	Coordinator	
B1.4 Hold stakeholder meetings to discuss mapped results and identify priority areas for watershed planning and project implementation.	January 2027	May 2027	Coordinator	
B1.5 Conduct ongoing outreach to stakeholders to identify additional datasets.	May 2027	September 2027	Coordinator	
B1.6 Continue to hold stakeholder meetings to reassess priorities, discuss project success, and make adjustments. Update the functionality of the platform as needed	October 2027	September 2028	Coordinator	
B2. Develop a Coordinated Monitoring Plan				**$112,429.30**
B2.1 Complete a comprehensive review of existing monitoring plans and activities.	November 2026	December 2026	Coordinator	Personnel, fringe, NPS grant, in-kind, indirect
B2.2 Draft the monitoring plan in coordination with stakeholders.	January 2027	March 2027	Coordinator	
B2.3 Present monitoring plan to stakeholders for	April 2027	May 2027	Coordinator	

feedback. Finalize plan.				
B2.4 Evaluate effectiveness at least annually.	June 2027	September 2028	Coordinator	
Total Estimated Project Costs				**$431,192**

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D —Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities

E.1.4.1. Climate Change

Utah's long-term drought, increased wildfire activity, and record-breaking temperatures are clear signs of climate change. A basin-wide, collaborative approach to the problems associated with climate change would support ongoing work toward solutions by leveraging resources, coordinating watershed and water use planning, and expanding citizen engagement.

The WRP coordinator will build on current efforts in the Weber River Basin to address climate change by identifying stakeholders, improving outreach to rural and disadvantaged communities, fostering partnerships (inter-agency collaboration, public-private partnerships, etc.), and developing effective avenues of communication. The coordinator will also facilitate the development of a shared stakeholder vision, goals, and objectives to address the impacts of climate change in the basin. The five-year outreach plan will include opportunities to develop this shared vision and strategies for implementing goals and objectives.

A 2020 report from UDWRe, *Climate Change, Water Resources, and Potential Adaptation Strategies in Utah (2020)*, recommends information-sharing and stakeholder engagement as a short-term climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy, with water management flexibility as a long-term goal. WRP's coordinator will support these strategies through outreach activities that share knowledge, review challenges, and develop response measures, and will work with producers to locate funding resources to implement best agricultural practices that reduce nonpoint source pollution and increase water use efficiency.

The online GIS mapping tool will include diversions and land use that will aid in the identification of critical water sources/water use in the basin. Public access to GIS maps and data will facilitate feedback from stakeholders to refine models and adaptive strategies. Maps will provide a platform for collaboration among agencies, local government, and water managers. The tool will also support public awareness campaigns on the impacts of climate change on water quality/quantity in local communities.

Targeted monitoring will support the implementation of adaptive management practices when conditions change. These data will also inform watershed restoration plans and identify areas where greater collaboration supports watershed health and efficient water use. The mapping tool will use these data to visualize trends across the Weber River Basin, support climate analysis and decision-making, and identify focus areas for further scrutiny.

E.1.4.2. Benefits to Disadvantaged, Underserved, and Tribal Communities

The Weber and Ogden Rivers flow through the Ogden-Clearfield metropolitan area, which includes multiple underserved communities (Figure 9). According to the CEJST, these communities meet more than one burden threshold and an associated socioeconomic threshold. Identified thresholds include climate change, legacy pollution, water and wastewater, health, workforce development, housing, and transportation The screening tool ranks these burdens using percentiles that show how much each census tract experiences a burden compared to other tracts. In the Lower Weber watershed, the expected population loss rate is in the 99th percentile, low income is in the 72nd percentile, housing costs are in the 94th percentile, and lack of green space is in the 93rd percentile.

Nearly 60% of Utah's population that lives in disadvantaged census tracts (259,498 of 433,653 residents) live in areas that are affected by the Weber River system, water in the Great Salt Lake, or trans-basin water that originates in the Weber River Basin (Figure 10). Disadvantaged communities can be disproportionately impacted by local government and agency decision-making, and their residents may not know how to get involved or provide input.

WRP will use CWMP funding to expand its outreach to these communities so their concerns are considered and addressed (Year 3 of the proposed outreach plan, Task A, above). The Weber River Partnership will sponsor programs that educate and empower disadvantaged communities to increase their involvement and understanding. WRP partners like USU Extension can lead community workshops on urban agriculture and green infrastructure, and the Ogden Nature Center can bring its community programs to disadvantaged neighborhoods. Stormwater coalitions or nonprofits can meet with community groups to discuss stormwater runoff, and local officials can ask for input on the effectiveness of flood management. The online GIS mapping tool will identify urban hotspots so local governments and agencies can allocate resources to communities that might otherwise be overlooked during watershed planning. These resources, in turn, can provide economic growth opportunities through job creation for watershed restoration projects and improved visitation to recreational uses of the urban river. Comprehensive monitoring will include sampling urban runoff and in canals, pollution sources that aren't usually included in the typical monitoring suite for water quality assessments. These steps will improve watershed health in these disadvantaged urban communities and enhance public health, economic prospects, and overall quality of life.

Budget Proposal

Table 4. Summary of non-federal and federal funding sources.

Funding Sources	**Amount**
Non-federal entities	
Utah State Nonpoint Source Grant	$25,000
Weber River Partnership Symposium	$7,500
Monthly board meetings *	$4,262
Event tabling *	$4,794
Symposium planning and volunteering *	$11,100
Coordinator support and oversight*	$31,968
Coordinator hiring*	$6,568
Non-federal subtotal	$91,192
Federal entities	
EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant	$40,000
Federal subtotal	$40,000
Requested Reclamation Funding	**$300,000**

Table 5. Total project cost table.

Source	**Amount**
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested federal funding	$300,000
Costs to be paid by the applicant	$72,500
Third-party contributions	$58,692

Total Project Cost	**$431,192**

Table 6. Budget summary table.

Budget Category	Total Cost	Federal Estimated Amount	Non-federal Estimated Amount
Personnel	$181,792	(includes a $40,000 federal 319 grant in addition to the CWMP grant request of $300,000)	(includes state nonpoint source grant, costs paid by WRP, and third-party contributions)
Fringe benefits	$37,050		
Travel	$4,020		
Supplies	$2,664		
Contractual	$5,000		
Other direct costs	$180,201		
Total direct costs	$410,727		
Indirect charges	$20,465 *indirect charges are <10%		
Total Costs	**$431,192**	**$340,000**	**$91,192**
Cost Share Percentage		**79%**	**21%**

Budget Narrative

Personnel - Salary and Wages

The Weber River Partnership Coordinator will develop, coordinate, oversee, and execute the following tasks identified in this grant application:

- Develop a five-year outreach plan.
- Build an online GIS data platform
- Develop a comprehensive monitoring plan.

The coordinator's salary will be funded 100% by the grant with the understanding that the Board and members will secure funding for the position beyond the three-year grant period from other federal/state sources and donations.

The salary for this position will be as follows:

- Year 1
    - 2,080 hours/year
    - $28.00/hour
    - $58,240 annual salary
- Year 2
    - 2,080 hours/year
    - $29.12/hour (+4% COLA)
    - $60,570 annual salary
- Year 3
    - 2,080 hours/year
    - $30.28/hour (+4% COLA)
    - $62,982 annual salary

Fringe Benefits

The Weber River Partnership will allocate $450/paycheck in year one, $475/paycheck in year two, and $500/paycheck in year three, for a total of $37,050 for fringe benefits. This rate is less than 35% of the estimated employee compensation.

The estimated salary+ fringe benefits allocated for each task over the three years can be found below:

- Develop a five-year outreach plan: $98,478.90
- Build an online GIS data platform: $54,710.50
- Develop a comprehensive monitoring plan: $65,652.60

Total salary + fringe benefits = $218,842

Travel

The budget includes $4,020 to travel to stakeholder meetings in the watershed. Stakeholder outreach is a key aspect of the position, and in-person meetings are an important component of that outreach. WRP assumes the coordinator will attend an average of 25 stakeholder group meetings each year, with each averaging 80 miles roundtrip and paid at the federal rate of 0.67/mi (6,000 miles x $0.67/mi = $4,020).

Supplies

An ArcGIS Online Creator account will allow the coordinator to manage the online GIS platform. Office supplies and printed materials make up the remaining allocation. The following is a breakdown of items included in this preliminary budget. The coordinator will be expected to provide a laptop/printer/WiFi connection or collaborate with partnership agencies or nonprofits for their use.

- Event flyers (40 flyers/event @ $0.15 per flyer = $6.00 per event) x 12 events over three years = $72.00
- Tri-fold brochures ($0.46/unit x 200 = $92)
- ArcGIS Online account license $2,100 (3 years)
- Miscellaneous office supplies - $400.00

Total = $2,464

Contractual

The Weber River Partnership is allocating $5,000 for a consultant to build an online GIS platform, recognizing that additional funding may be required. WRP assumes $50/hour for 100 hours to design the user interface, develop backend infrastructure, implement GIS functions and features, test the platform, deploy, and troubleshoot after launch.

Other Direct Costs

Confluence

WRP hosts an annual Symposium (Confluence) each January. Confluence is the Partnership's premier event, bringing together ~ 150 stakeholders for presentations, discussions, tabling, and networking. Rental space at the Eccles Conference Center for a one-day event including lunch and snacks is $15,700 in year one, $16,328 in year two (+4% for inflation), and 16,981 (+4% for inflation) in year three. Additional direct expenses for the event are estimated at $2,500/year, to be paid by the partnership from ticket sales, sponsorships, and donations.

In-kind

The project budget includes in-kind services from Weber River Partnership Board members. The Board meets monthly to plan for Confluence, identify outreach opportunities, and manage projects. Board members also table during two to three events per year, volunteer during the Symposium, and support the coordinator's work on all three proposed projects. The average compensation for board members was derived from their positions with state agencies and nonprofit organizations.

- Monthly board meetings: $4,262. Average agency/nonprofit compensation for board members (12 hours x $37/hour + 20% fringe = $533/member) multiplied by an average of eight members participating in each virtual meeting.
- Event tabling: $4,794 (18 hours x $37/hour + 20% fringe =$799/member) multiplied by two board members at three events.
- Symposium planning and volunteering at Confluence: $11,100. (25 hours x $37/hour + 20% fringe = $1,110/member) multiplied by 10 board members
- Coordinator support and oversight: $31,968. (Average of 10 hours/month for board officers (120 hours) x $37/hour + 20% fringe = $ 5,328/Executive Committee member) multiplied by two officers, multiplied by three years.
- Coordinator hiring process (one-time expense): $6,568. (10 hours x $37/hour + 20% fringe = $1,642/member) multiplied by four board members (Executive Committee)

In-kind contribution total: $58,692

State and federal grants

WRP received $40,000 from a federal Section 319 nonpoint source grant for education and outreach in Ogden Valley, Utah. The Partnership has successfully applied for state nonpoint source grants and intends to apply for $25,000 in funding for monitoring equipment to help implement the monitoring plan after completion. Note: CWMP grant funding will not be used for on-the-ground monitoring activities.

Indirect Costs

The Weber River Partnership does not have a current federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement so indirect costs were calculated using the 10% de minimis rate against MTDC minus the total grant request to equal $20,465 over three years.

Acronyms

CEJST Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

IR Integrated Report

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

SBWRD Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District

RSRA Rapid Stream-Riparian Assessment

TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load

TU Trout Unlimited

UCASE Utah Comprehensive Assessment of Stream Ecosystems

UDAF Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

UDEQ Utah Department of Environmental Quality

UDWQ Utah Division of Water Quality

UDWR Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

UDWRe Utah Division of Water Resources

USU Utah State University

WBWCD Weber Basin Water Conservancy District

WRI Watershed Reclamation Initiative

WRI World Resources Institute

WRP Weber River Partnership

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Figures

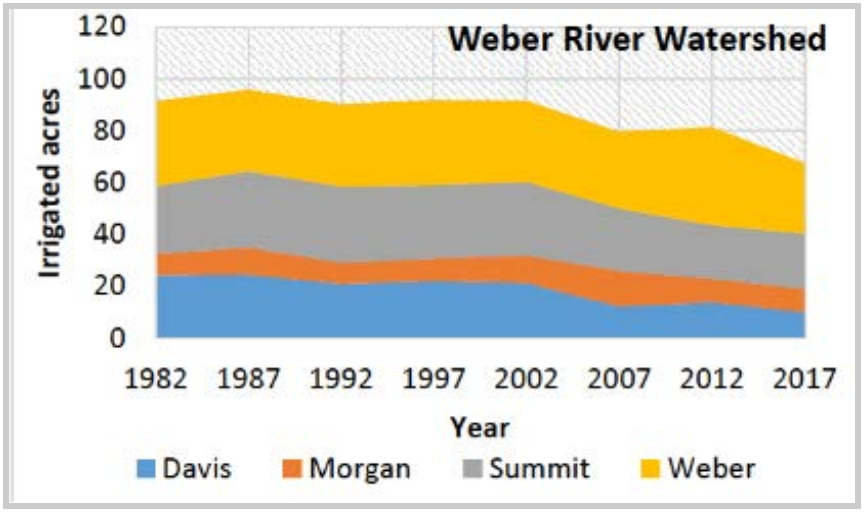

Figure 3. Decline in irrigated acres in the Weber River Basin between 1982 and 2017.

Weber River	Utah counties	1985	2015	Difference
	Davis	112	45	-60%
	Morgan	118	39	-67%
	Summit	104	49	-53%
	Weber	204	85	-58%
	Watershed[1]	538	218	-60%
	Difference in agricultural withdrawals			-320

Figure 4. Decline in agricultural withdrawals in the Weber River Basin between 1985 and 2015.

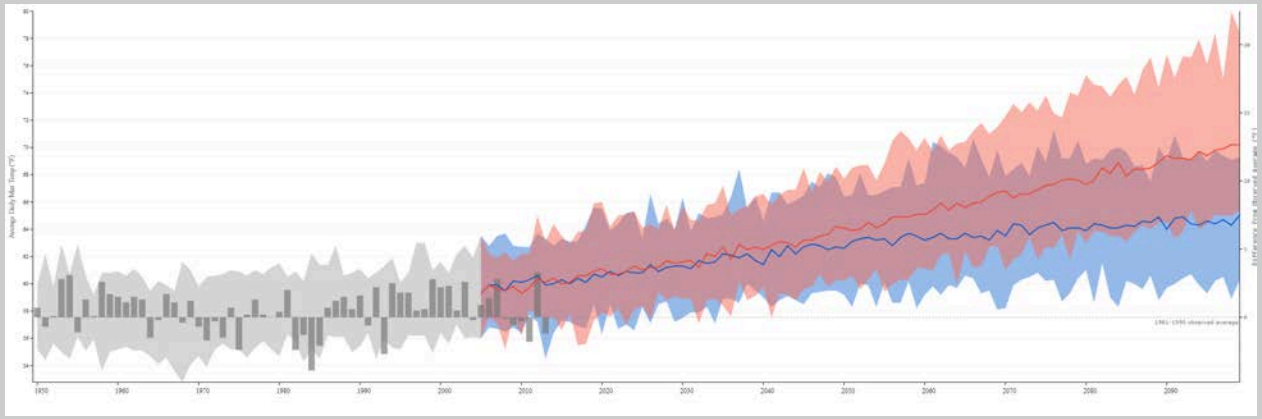

Figure 5. Historical-maximum temperature (shown in grayscale) and projected-maximum temperature (high-emissions scenario shown in red and low-emissions scenario shown in blue) for Weber County in the Weber River Basin. Data and figures from NOAA Climate Explorer (NOAA, 2024).

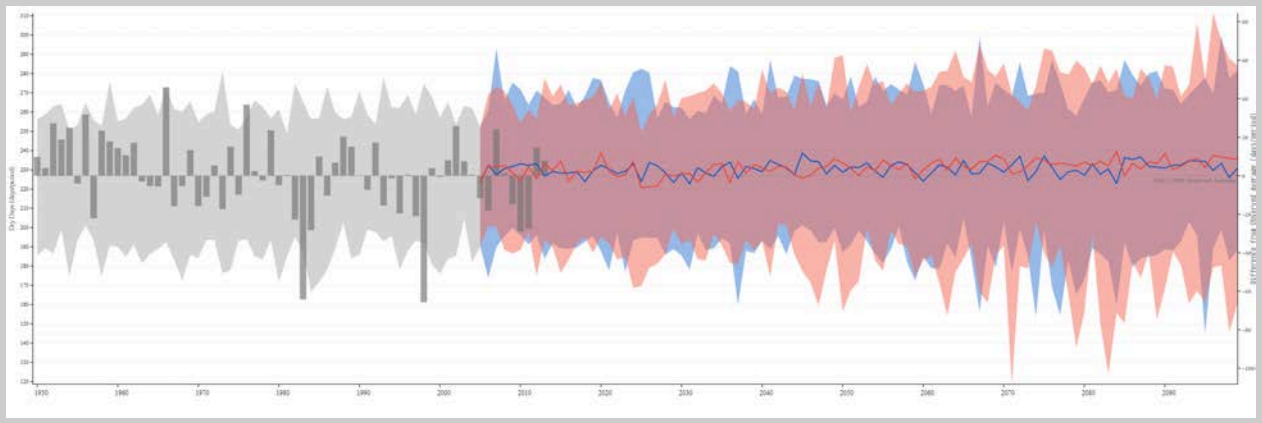

Figure 6. Historical number of dry days (shown in grayscale) and projected number of dry days (high-emissions scenario shown in red and low-emissions scenario shown in blue) for Weber County in the Weber River Basin. Data and figures from NOAA Climate Explorer (NOAA, 2024).

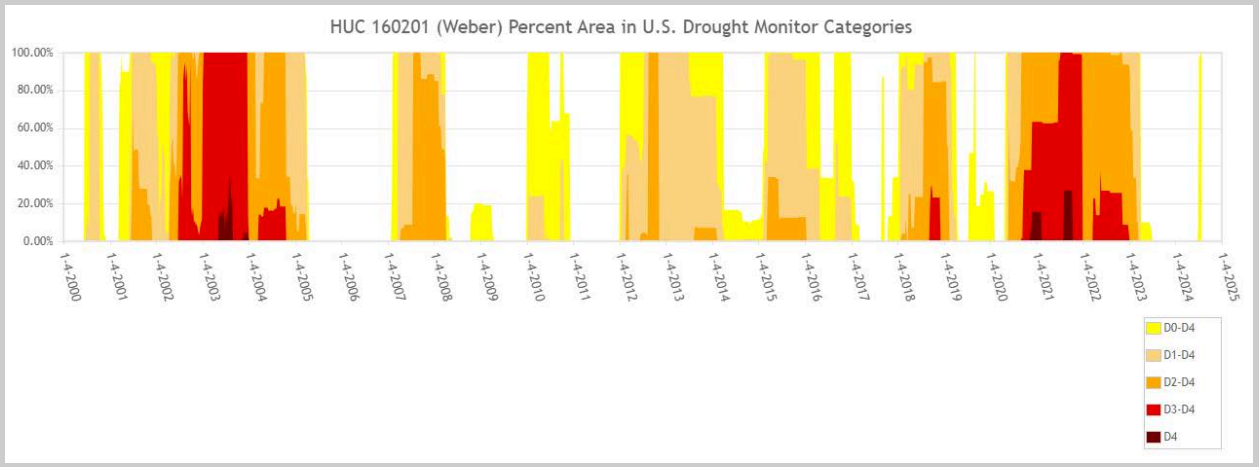

Figure 7. Time series of drought in the Weber River Basin (Hydrologic Unit Code — 160201) exported from the U.S. drought monitor (National Drought Mitigation Center, 2024).

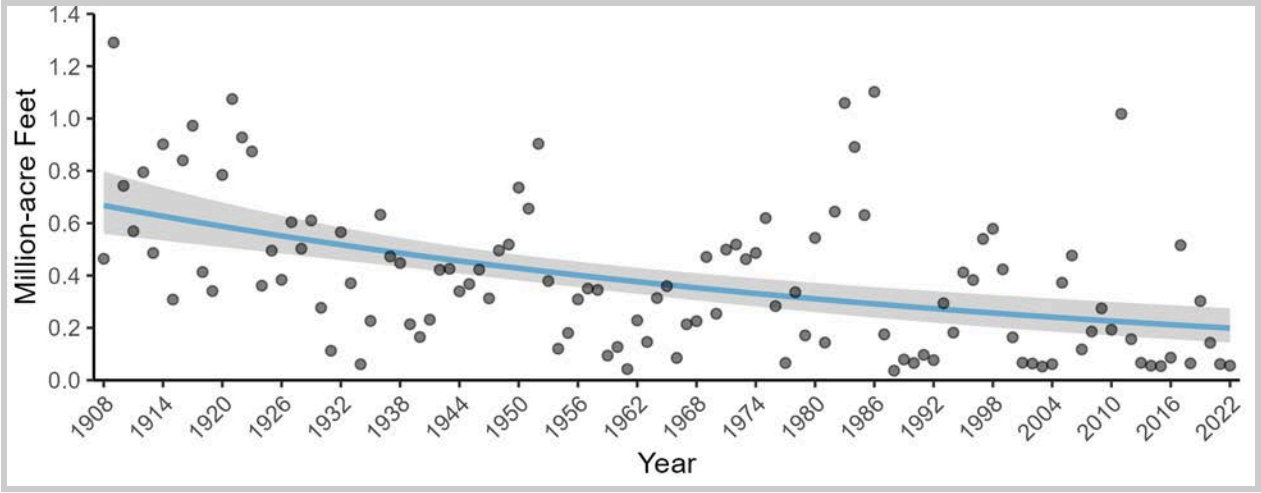

Figure 8. Million-acre feet by year that reach the most downstream stream gage on the Weber River — the USGS Stream Gage at Plain City. The blue line represents the modeled volume of water using a generalized linear model with a log-link function and the shaded area represents a 95% confidence interval.

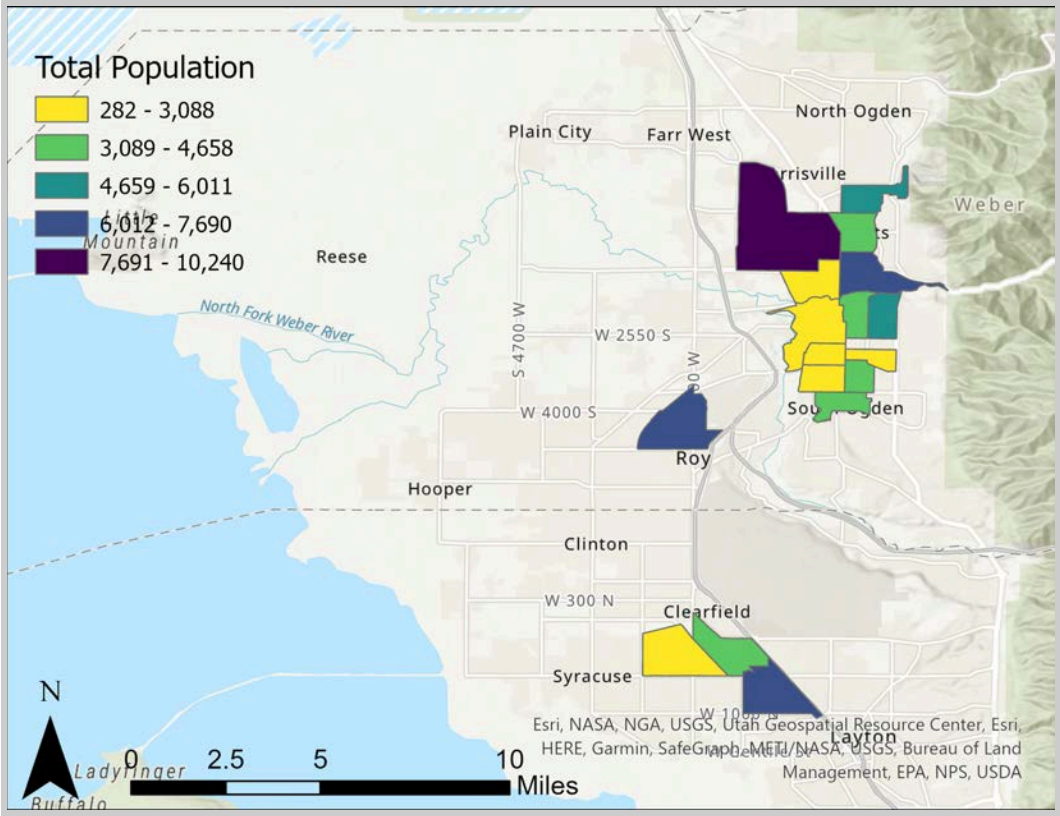

Figure 9. Disadvantaged census tracts within the Weber River Basin headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/

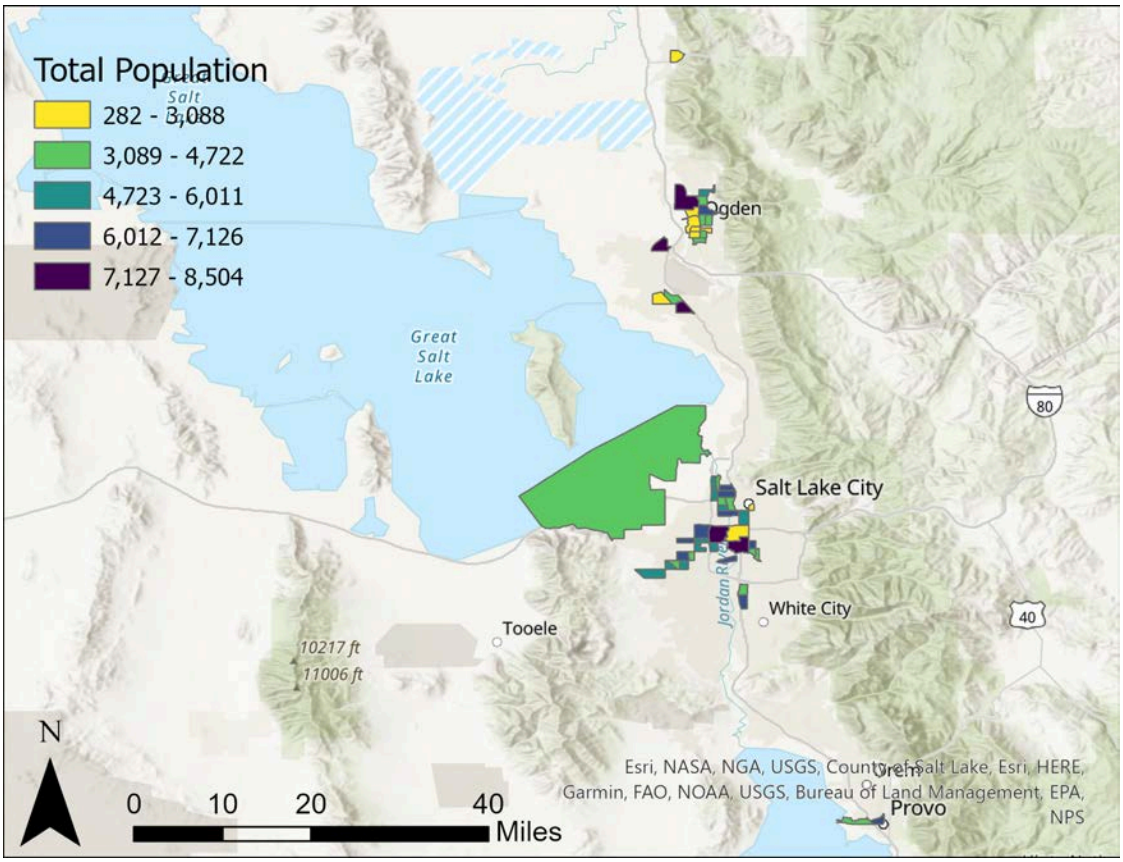

Figure 10. Disadvantaged census tracts (Council on Environmental Quality, 2022) that are affected by the Weber River Basin. Several census tracts outside of the Weber River Basin are affected by the basin due to trans-basin aqueducts and the Great Salt Lake. For example, the Ogden-Brigham Canal transports water north to areas along the Wasatch Front as far as Brigham City, UT, the Weber-Provo Canal supplements water in the Provo and Jordan rivers, the Davis Aqueduct transports water south to areas along the Wasatch Front as far as Bountiful, UT. Additionally, dust from the Great Salt Lake, which fluctuates with lake level, is deposited in all of the shown census tracts (Carling et al., 2020).

Other Recommended Application Materials

Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

This project will not affect environmental and cultural resources as it does not include construction, measurement, monitoring, or any ground-disturbing work. There will be no impact on species listed or proposed to be listed as a federal threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat in the project area as there is no on-the-ground component.

Required Permits or Approvals

Permits and approvals are not required for the work proposed here.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

This proposal does not overlap or duplicate effort with any other project or proposal. Future proposals may be made for additional federal, state, or private funding sources to provide matching funds.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

The applicant has no conflict of interest to disclose.

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

The Weber River Partnership has not and is not expected to expend $750,000 or more in Federal award funds during a fiscal year. Therefore, the Weber River Partnership is not required to submit a Single Audit report, and there is not a Single Audit report available.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

I, Tanner Cox, serving as the Weber River Partnership's Authorized Official, certify that I have not made, and will not make, any payment prohibited by CFR Part 18.

Letters of Support and Official Resolution

SWANER PRESERVE
AND ECOCENTER
UtahStateUniversity

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

August 23, 2024

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Mr. Josh German & USBR WaterSMART Grant Committee,

I am writing to share enthusiastic support for the **Weber River Partnership's (WRP's) application for the WaterSMART grant**, on behalf of Utah State University's Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter. Our organization is a long-time collaborator, and the WaterSMART grant would enable WRP to significantly enhance their stakeholder engagement, water resiliency efforts, and long-term watershed restoration planning in Utah's Weber River Basin, making enormous positive impacts in the communities we serve.

For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River Basin, a crucial watershed in the basin of the environmentally-threatened Great Salt Lake. All of us here at the Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter see that WRP is in a unique position in the basin to bring together diverse stakeholders, level up education and outreach, and lay the groundwork for watershed restoration projects through WaterSMART funding.

As a stakeholder in land management and environmental education in the Weber River watershed, WRP has provided novel educational opportunities and new sources of collaboration and connection between our organization and others. Hiring a coordinator will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment and engagement and facilitate the collaboration necessary to select and implement effective projects in the Weber River mainstem and tributaries. An online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance data-sharing among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the development of a coordinated monitoring plan will improve understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focus areas.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter is excited about these next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and addressing existing and future challenges in the Weber and Great Salt Lake watersheds. We strongly support the WRP in their ask for this funding and believe it would make a lasting impact on our region. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lewis Kogan, Executive Director
Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter
Utah State University Extension
(801) 865-3644 – *direct*
Lewis.Kogan@usu.edu

COUNTY MANAGER

SHAYNE SCOTT

August 27, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

Summit County enthusiastically extends our support of the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant opportunity with a focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout Utah's Weber River Watershed. The West faces multifaceted water challenges, and Utah is situated within this perfect storm of challenge and opportunity. The Weber River watershed drains into Great Salt Lake (GSL), a terminal saline lake of global significance for both humanity and wildlife.

For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River watershed from the headwaters to the terminus into GSL. Summit County believes the objectives of the WaterSMART grant framework are well aligned with the next phase of goals of the WRP, an already existing 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. WRP is poised to "level up" education, outreach, and boots on the riparian restoration ground projects through WaterSMART funding.

As a county government stakeholder engaged in cross-boundary collaboration and watershed protection with WRP, we look forward to the continued financial support this grant will provide to advance our shared conservation mission and restoration goals.

This WaterSMART award will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment, engagement, collaboration, and facilitate opportunities for more durable projects throughout the diverse tributaries and main stem of the Weber River, as well as hire a Watershed Coordinator to implement this plan. The award will also fund a public online knowledge sharing dashboard and the development of a watershed monitoring plan.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, Summit County is excited about the next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and proactively planning for future challenges in the Weber and GSL watershed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shayne Scott
Summit County Manager

60 North Main P.O. Box 128 Coalville, UT 84017
Office (435) 336-3110 Mobile (435) 477-2873 sscott@summitcountyutah.gov

FRIENDS of GREAT SALT LAKE

150 South 600 East, Suite 5D • Salt Lake City, UT 84102 • (801) 583-5593 • www.fogsl.org

August 20, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake is pleased to support the Weber River Partnership's (WRP's) application for the WaterSMART grant to support stakeholder engagement, water resiliency, and long-term watershed restoration planning in Utah's Weber River Basin.

For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River Basin, from the headwaters to the terminus into Great Salt Lake. FRIENDS believes WRP is in a unique position in the basin to bring together diverse stakeholders, level up education and outreach, and lay the groundwork for watershed restoration projects through WaterSMART funding.

As a nonprofit conservation organization working to preserve and protect the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem, we are excited about this funding opportunity to develop and implement tools that will strengthen ways in which restoration projects can be actualized and contribute to ecological benefits within the Great Salt Lake Watershed. FRIENDS is familiar with the benefits of WaterSMART funding support with Utah stakeholders on the development of the Utah Water Banking Act, and the continuing development of the Great Salt Lake Basin Integrated Plan. Clearly, this opportunity for the Weber River Partnership is timely and exciting.

Hiring a coordinator will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment and engagement and facilitate the collaboration necessary to select and implement effective projects in the Weber River mainstem and tributaries. An online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance data-sharing among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the development of a coordinated monitoring plan will improve understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focus areas.

We hope you will consider funding this grant opportunity for the Weber River Partnership. As a member of this dynamic partnership, FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake is excited about these next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and addressing existing and future challenges in the Weber and Great Salt Lake watersheds.

Thank you.

In saline,

Lynn de Freitas

Lynn de Freitas
Executive Director
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake

State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY
Division Director

August 15, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject – **WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership (WRP)**

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant opportunity with a focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout Utah's Weber River Watershed. The DWR, WRP, and numerous other partners have demonstrated a long history of collaborative partnership, initiating many projects towards wildlife habitat restoration and water quality.

The Weber River and its tributaries are critically important for green sucker, Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT), mountain whitefish, and northern leopard frog. Many of these aquatic species are of conservation importance in Utah's Wildlife Action Plan, and the BCT is managed under conservation agreements to avoid federal listing.

WRP's educational outreach events throughout the Weber River watershed, such as the Confluence Symposium, are consistent with objectives in DWR's Strategic Plan, such as: *Increase our coordination with partners, including local, state, and federal agencies; non-governmental organizations; universities and others;* a key outcome of the proposed grant is to increase partnerships among agencies and private landowners. The efforts of WRP as proposed in the WaterSMART grant promote DWR's Resource Goal to *Increase, decrease or maintain wildlife populations as needed to meet objectives in our management plans,* by maintaining existing wildlife habitat and increasing quality of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for the WRP's WaterSMART grant application. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Early, DWR Impact Analysis Biologist, in our Ogden office at mearly@utah.gov or 801-386-4885.

Sincerely,

Michael Canning
Michael Canning (Aug 15, 2024 13:32 MDT)

Michael F. Canning
Deputy Director

MFC/me

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
2369 W Orton Circle, #50
West Valley City, Utah 84119

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/R6/

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Grant Administrator:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Utah Ecological Services Field Office (UTESFO) is writing you to support the Weber River Partnership's (WRP's) application for a WaterSMART grant to support stakeholder engagement, water resiliency, and long-term watershed restoration planning in Utah's Weber River Basin. For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River Basin, from the headwaters to the terminus with the Great Salt Lake. We believe WRP is uniquely positioned in the basin to unite diverse stakeholders, increase education and outreach, and lay the groundwork for watershed restoration projects through WaterSMART funding.

The UTESFO has been working for over ten years as a primary trustee on the Richardson Flats Mining District Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) located in the upper reaches of Silver Creek, a tributary to the Weber River. The WRP has been a primary stakeholder in the NRDA process and has facilitated many activities supporting the NRDA negotiations. Adding a watershed coordinator would be a pivotal position to support the NRDA efforts further and advance clean-up and restoration within Silver Creek and the greater Weber River watershed.

Hiring a coordinator will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment and engagement and facilitate the collaboration necessary to select and implement effective projects in the Weber River mainstem and tributaries. An online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance data-sharing among diverse stakeholders. Developing a coordinated monitoring plan will also improve understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focus areas.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, the UTESFO is excited about the next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and addressing existing and future challenges in the Weber and

Great Salt Lake watersheds. The UTESFO looks forward to continuing to partner with the WRP and is excited about the possibility of the WRP building capacity for regional restoration efforts.

Sincerely,

GEORGE WEEKLEY Digitally signed by GEORGE WEEKLEY
Date: 2024.08.29 13:35:39 -06'00'

Utah Field Supervisor

August 22, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

The Summit Conservation District supports the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant to build capacity, increase collaboration, engage stakeholders, and facilitate long-term planning in the Weber River Basin.

The mission of Conservation Districts is to invest in the future through soil and water conservation today. Supporting this grant, and The Partnership, is a fantastic way to further our mission. We assisted the WRP in holding a landowner meeting/dinner for those in the Echo Creek watershed to support the creation of the Echo Creek Watershed Plan by WRP in 2023. Additionally, we have seen how The Partnership developed the 2014 Weber River Watershed Plan, initiated the annual Confluence symposium the following year, and spearheaded development of the Ogden River Watershed Plan in 2023. Its leadership in plan development led to federal 319/state nonpoint source funding totaling ~$450,000 to implement projects identified in these plans.

WRP's extraordinary success with planning, project funding, outreach, and stakeholder collaboration/engagement - all with a volunteer board of people dedicated to restoring and protecting the Weber River Basin – is commendable. The addition of a full-time coordinator will allow WRP to tackle the many challenges of the Weber Basin – drought, growth, climate change, wildfires, and threats to water quality and water supply – more effectively. What makes WRP unique is its ability to work with diverse partners to identify common goals and work towards common-sense solutions.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. The Partnership is an effective agent of change in the Weber River Basin, and this funding will help it (and us) meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,

Colby Pace, Summit Conservation District Chair

SAGELAND
COLLABORATIVE

SCIENCE IN SERVICE OF WILDLIFE AND WILDLANDS

August 26, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

My name is Rose Smith, and I serve as a Stream Ecologist leading Sageland Collaborative's Riverscape Restoration program. I am writing to express our organization's support for the Weber River Partnership's (WRP's) application for the WaterSMART grant to support stakeholder engagement, water resiliency, and long-term watershed restoration planning in Utah's Weber River Basin.

For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River Basin, from the headwaters to the terminus into Great Salt Lake. Our organization believes WRP is in a unique position in the basin to bring together diverse stakeholders, level up education and outreach, and lay the groundwork for watershed restoration projects through WaterSMART funding. WRP's annual 'Weber River Confluence' conference for stakeholders has been instrumental in catalyzing connections between organizations like Sageland Collaborative, agricultural producers, and other stakeholders to develop projects and get good work done.

Hiring a coordinator will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment and engagement and facilitate the collaboration necessary to select and implement effective projects in the Weber River mainstem and tributaries. An online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance data-sharing among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the development of a coordinated monitoring plan will improve understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focus areas.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, our organization is excited about these next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and addressing existing and future challenges in the Weber and Great Salt Lake watersheds.

Sincerely,

Rose M Smith

Rose Smith, Ph.D.
Stream Ecologist

824 South 400 West, Suite B119 ▪ Salt Lake City, Utah 84101 ▪ 801.328.3550 ▪ sagelandcollaborative.org

Tanner L. Cox
Wasatch Area Senior Project Manager

August 20, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

Trout Unlimited (TU) is writing in support of the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant with a focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout Utah's Weber River Basin. Over the past few years, the WRP has greatly improved collaboration opportunities for stakeholders working in the basin, a major facet of TU's work. However, there is more work to do, and the WRP's ability to continue fostering improvements is limited by their lack of staff and scarce funding.

The Weber River Basin and its contributions to the Great Salt Lake are critical for fish and wildlife habitat, agricultural and municipal water supplies, recreational opportunities, and local economies. However, the Weber River Basin has major challenges related to watershed health including long-term drought, climate change, overallocated water supplies, rapid population growth, elevated stream temperatures, elevated suspended sediment loading, and high nutrient loads. For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River watershed and worked tirelessly to enhance conservation efforts. With their recent transition to a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the WRP has garnered the opportunity to further enhance and develop education, outreach, and conservation efforts. Furthermore, the goals of the WRP are well aligned with the WaterSMART program.

Hiring a watershed coordinator will enable the WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment, engagement, and collaboration. Furthermore, the coordinator will provide the WRP with the capacity needed to effectively coordinate efforts to fill data gaps and help prioritize conservation projects. In short, the WRP's proposal will improve the Weber River Basin and the greater Great Salt Lake Basin. We highly recommend this proposal and ask that you strongly consider funding it.

Best Regards,

Tanner L. Cox

2549 Washington Blvd.
Suite 761
Ogden, Utah 84401
www.ogdencity.com

August 22, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

Ogden City Engineering (OCE) is extending our support of the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant opportunity with a focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout Utah's Weber River Watershed. The Weber River watershed drains into Great Salt Lake (GSL), a terminal saline lake of global significance for both humanity and wildlife.

For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River watershed from the headwaters to the terminus into GSL. OCE believes the objectives of the WaterSMART grant framework are well aligned with the next phase of goals of the WRP, an already existing 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. WRP is poised to "level up" education, outreach, and boots on the riparian restoration ground projects through WaterSMART funding.

OCE often pursues grants to construct river restoration projects on the Ogden and Weber Rivers, so we are excited about WRP working to strengthen partnerships, collaborate data, and to plan and prioritize projects that will improve water quality and protect water resources. OCE works with WRP in sharing and presenting challenges and accomplishments of our river restoration projects with other stakeholders. We discuss with WRP the needs of the rivers within Ogden to assure future projects align with the overall goals of WRP. We fully support the development and implementation of the five-year outreach plan that will help achieve a healthier watershed.

Hiring an Executive Director will enable WRP to develop a five year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment, engagement, collaboration, and facilitate opportunities for more durable projects throughout the diverse tributaries and main stem of the Weber River. The ability to build an online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance the sharing of information among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the development of a coordinated monitoring plan will facilitate an organized understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focal areas.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, OCE is excited about the next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and proactively planning for future challenges in the Weber and GSL watershed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

T-J-N-I

Taylor Nielsen, P.E.
Assistant Executive Director/City Engineer

State of Utah
SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Kimberly D. Shelley
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
John K. Mackey, P.E.
Director

August 19, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: WaterSMART Cooperative Management Watershed Program Grant
Utah's Weber River Partnership Application

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

As an Assistant Director of Utah's Division of Water Quality (Division), I am writing to express the Division's support to the Weber River Partnership (WRP) for their application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Management Watershed Program Grant. The Division strives to protect, maintain, and enhance the quality of Utah's waters and WRP's proposed project would support the Division's endeavors. If WRP is awarded funds they'll be able to continue to develop their watershed group by building capacity; increasing collaboration; increasing stakeholder engagement; and facilitating long-term planning in the Weber River Basin.

The WRP was founded eleven (11) years ago and the Division's Nonpoint Source Coordinator was a founding member; and the Division's Weber Basin Coordinator has worked closely with the WRP since it was founded. The WRP developed the Weber River Watershed Plan in 2014; initiated the annual Confluence Symposium in 2015; and led the development of the Echo Creek and Ogden River Watershed Plans in 2023. WRP's leadership in Watershed Plan development led to Federal 319 and State Nonpoint Source funding totaling approximately $450,000 to be awarded for implementation of projects identified in the Watershed Plans. The work led by WRP identified above aligns closely with the Division's goals to protect, maintain, and enhance the quality of Utah's Waters.

WRP's extraordinary success with planning; project funding; outreach; and stakeholder collaboration and engagement have occurred through an all-volunteer board of individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Weber River Basin. The Division supports WRP's proposed project, including hiring a full-time coordinator. The Division believes hiring a full-time coordinator will enable WRP to further expand their ability to lead important initiatives and improve their ability to facilitate basin-wide collaboration with diverse partners to identify common goals and work towards common-sense solutions. The hiring of a full-time coordinator will support the other projects outlined in their proposal including the development of a 5-year outreach plan; development of online GIS mapping tools to support project prioritization; and the development of a coordinated monitoring plan to fill data gaps in existing and future watershed plans.

The Weber River Basin faces many challenges including drought; growth; climate change; wildfires; and threats to water quality and water supply. The WRP's ability to collaborate with diverse partners provides an opportunity to address multiple challenges together and ultimately leads to important protections and restoration of Utah's Waters. Please consider WRP's WaterSMART Cooperative Management Watershed Program application. The WRP is an effective leader of change in the Weber River Basin, and this funding would support WRP in their endeavors to address the challenges facing their watershed and provide needed support for leading collaborative solutions to those challenges.

Sincerely,

Leanna Littler-Woolf

Leanna Littler-Woolf
Assistant Director, Division of Water Quality

August 9, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: WaterSMART Grant Application by Weber River Partnership in Utah

Dear Bureau of Reclamation Representatives:

I am a local Morgan, Utah resident, concerned citizen, Weber River watershed stakeholder, and vested participant in various watershed planning and stewardship efforts for the Weber River and its diverse tributaries. I am one of Utah's Weber River Watershed Council members and a founding member of the non-profit Weber River Partnership 501(c)3 non-profit organization, having participated for over 10 years. I am on the board of my local neighborhood culinary spring water system and our neighborhood irrigation company that diverts water from the Weber River. I run a local river rafting, kayaking, and flyfishing outfit called Destination Sports, operating on the Weber River, creating local jobs and sales tax revenue for the surrounding communities. I am also a member of the Morgan County Tourism Tax Advisory Board, helping to keep attention at the county level on the amazing resource that the Weber River is to our county and state.

I enthusiastically support Weber River Partnership's application for the WaterSMART grant with a focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout the Weber River Watershed.

The Weber River watershed begins in the Uinta Mountains and drains into the globally important Great Salt Lake. About 25% of the water that enters the Great Salt Lake comes from the Weber River and its tributaries. The Weber River is home to many plants and animals, including some rare and native species such as the Bonneville cutthroat trout, bluehead sucker, and stephanomeria occultata or Hidden Wirelettuce. The Weber River is also home and resting place to many migrating birds, including eagles, pelicans, herons, owls, cranes, hawks, and so many more.

The Weber River and its tributaries have long been used for irrigation and support many people across 7 counties, on rural, urban, and agricultural land, including the most populated tri-cities area of the Wasatch Front in and around Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Provo.

Weber River Partnership, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to collaborative conservation, is well established and is already working to increase education, outreach, and riparian restoration projects. WaterSMART funding will greatly and quickly help us to achieve and further these objectives.

Weber River Partnership's next big step is to hire an Executive Director who will enable us to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment, engagement, and collaboration. This person will facilitate opportunities for more robust projects and encompass the diverse stakeholders and nature throughout the Weber River Watershed. They will build an online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge and greatly improve the ability to share information among diverse stakeholders. The new Executive Director will also develop a coordinated monitoring plan, and organize and understand data gaps to focus future watershed restoration efforts.

Everyone involved in this partnership is excited about the next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and proactively planning for future challenges in the Weber River watershed. The situation is ripe to make great strides in a short amount of time, once we can secure the necessary funding.

To support these efforts on a smaller scale, my business, Destination Sports has donated $6,576.06 over the past 3 years for education and outreach. The Partnership also has a variety of other donating partners that have made financial and in-kind contributions to past education and outreach efforts, including Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Summit County Soil Conservation, Campbell Scientific, Inc., Trout Unlimited, State of Utah Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Summit Land Conservancy, and private citizens. I am providing this information to demonstrate that Weber River Partnership is trusted and respected by a diverse group of government, non-government, corporate, and private entities, and citizens in the local area.

Please consider funding this grant opportunity for Weber River Partnership so we can take these next big steps now!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindest regards,

Dawna J. Zukirmi

Dawna Zukirmi
dawna@destinationsports.com
801-391-6820 (cell)

Destination Sports, LLC
Weber River Watershed Council
Weber River Partnership
South Robinson Springs
North Morgan Irrigation Company
Morgan County Tourism Tax Advisory Board

State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Agriculture and Food

CRAIG W. BUTTARS
Commissioner

KELLY PEHRSON
Deputy Commissioner

JAMES D. BOWCUTT
Director, Division of Conservation

August 19, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) would like to extend our support of the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant opportunity with a focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout Utah's Weber River Watershed. The West faces multifaceted water challenges, and Utah is situated within this perfect storm of challenge and opportunity. The Weber River watershed drains into Great Salt Lake (GSL), a terminal saline lake of global significance for both humanity and wildlife.

For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River watershed from the headwaters to the terminus into GSL. UDAF believes the objectives of the WaterSMART grant framework are well aligned with the next phase of goals of the WRP, an already existing 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. WRP is poised to "level up" education, outreach, and boots on the ground projects through WaterSMART funding.

The employees of Zone 2 (Weber, Davis, Morgan and Summit counties) have been active members of the WRP for many years. The watershed coordinator and resource coordinator have historically helped with planning for WRP's annual Symposium and the WRP helped UDAF put on a stakeholder meeting for a local watershed plan. We are supportive of the WRP's goal to expand their role in the watershed.

Hiring an Executive Director will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment, engagement, collaboration, and facilitate opportunities for more durable projects throughout the diverse tributaries and main stem of the Weber River. The ability to build an online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance the sharing of information among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the development of a coordinated monitoring plan will facilitate an organized understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focal areas.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, UDAF is excited about the next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and proactively planning for future challenges in the Weber and GSL watershed.

Sincerely,

William Parker Wayment Resource Coordinator Zone 2

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

10 G Street, NE Suite 800 Washington, DC 20002 (PH) +1 (202) 729-7600 (FAX) +1 (202) 729-7610 www.WRI.org

August 28, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

The World Resources Institute (WRI) proudly supports the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant to support stakeholder engagement, water resiliency, and long-term watershed restoration planning in Utah's Weber River Basin.

For over a decade, WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River Basin, from the headwaters to the terminus of the Great Salt Lake. WRI believes that WRP is uniquely positioned in the basin to unite diverse stakeholders, enhance education and outreach, and facilitate the enabling conditions for watershed restoration projects through WaterSMART funding.

WRI is a global environmental nonprofit with expertise in conservation finance. For the last four years, it has partnered with the WRP to unlock funding and finance for watershed restoration projects in the Weber River Watershed. Due to the growing threat of catastrophic wildfire throughout the watershed, projects must be planned holistically. This grant will increase the capacity for partners to collaborate and plan cross-boundary projects that effectively address challenges going forward.

Although the WRP has been critical to building relationships between land managers, community groups, utilities, and other stakeholders, additional capacity is required to address the increasing threats across the watershed more comprehensively. WaterSMART resources will allow for the hiring of a coordinator to lead the development of a stakeholder-driven five-year plan, an online GIS mapping tool, and a coordinated monitoring plan to simplify and enhance project planning, coordination, and communication between implementation partners, both new and existing.

We strongly encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to support WRP's grant applications to increase capacity, enhance community outreach efforts, and address existing and future challenges in the Weber and Great Salt Lake watersheds.

Sincerely,

Todd Gartner
Director, US Lands Program and Cities4Forests Initiative
World Resources Institute

August 19, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

The East Canyon Watershed Committee (ECWC) supports the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant to build capacity, increase collaboration, engage stakeholders, and facilitate long-term planning in the Weber River Basin.

ECWC is a sister organization to WRP, promoting the same values but in a sub-watershed of the Weber. Many members of the ECWC are also members of WRP. The Partnership developed the 2014 Weber River Watershed Plan in 2014, initiated the annual Confluence symposium the following year, and spearheaded development of the Echo Creek and Ogden River Watershed Plans in 2023. Its leadership in plan development led to federal 319/state nonpoint source funding totaling ~$450,000 to implement projects identified in these plans.

ECWC has seen WRP's extraordinary success with planning, project funding, outreach, and stakeholder collaboration/engagement - all with a volunteer board of people dedicated to restoring and protecting the Weber River Basin. This work provides a much-needed template for other smaller watershed groups not only in Utah, but across the U.S. If the ECWC were to expand, advice from those at WRP would be the first that we seek. The addition of a full-time coordinator will allow WRP to tackle the many challenges of the Weber Basin – drought, growth, climate change, wildfires, and threats to water quality and water supply – more effectively. What makes WRP unique is its ability to work with diverse partners to identify common goals and work towards common-sense solutions.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. The Partnership is an effective agent of change in the Weber River Basin, and this funding will help it (and us) meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,

Emily Bishop-Valles

East Canyon Watershed Committee Chair

Dennis A. Alex
Chairman

Bradley J. Parry
Vice Chairman

NORTHWESTERN BAND OF THE SHOSHONE NATION
2575 COMMERCE WAY
OGDEN, UTAH 84401

August 12, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation (Tribe) is a federally recognized Tribe committed to developing, managing, and protecting tribal water and related resources. The Tribe supports the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant with a focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout Utah's Weber River Basin. The West faces multifaceted water challenges, and Utah is situated within this perfect storm of challenge and opportunity. The Weber River Basin drains into Great Salt Lake (GSL), a terminal saline lake of global significance for both humanity and wildlife.

For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River watershed from the headwaters to the terminus into GSL. The Tribe believes the objectives of the WaterSMART grant framework are well aligned with the next phase of goals of the WRP, an existing 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. WRP is poised to "level up" education, outreach, and "boots on the riparian-restoration ground projects" through WaterSMART funding. The WRP has been very conscious of working with the Tribe inside of our aboriginal territory and have included a member of the Tribe on its board.

Hiring a coordinator will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment, engagement, collaboration, and facilitate opportunities for more durable projects throughout the diverse tributaries and main stem of the Weber River. The ability to build an online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance the sharing of information among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the development of a coordinated monitoring plan will facilitate an organized understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focal areas.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, The Tribe is excited about the next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and proactively planning for future challenges in the Weber and GSL watershed.

Sincerely,

Brad Parry – Vice Chairman
The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

Dinsdale Water Company, Inc.
531 17th Street
Ogden, UT 84404

dinsdalegm@gmail.com
801.540.6107

August 13, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Dinsdale Water Company (DWCI), I am writing to express our support of the Weber River Partnership's (WRP) application for the WaterSMART grant. Hiring a dedicated coordinator and implementing GIS for critical data collection are imperative during this water critical time. The WRP's focus on stakeholder engagement and long-term planning throughout Utah's Weber River Watershed is in alignment with, and impactful to the strategic planning and operations of the irrigation community. The opportunity to assist with solutions for our water source is an unprecedented opportunity. Addressing the concerns with the Great Salt Lake (GSL) levels and continuing viability informs irrigators of our operational impact on the ecosystem and wildlife around us and further on in the watershed.

For over a decade, the WRP has engaged the water community with a demonstrated commitment to collaborative conservation of our watershed. DWCI has determined lending our support to the conservation of the GSL is imperative. Seeing firsthand the results of the WRPs outreach, education, inclusion, and hands on efforts to restore the riparian ways of our communities, we believe the objectives of the WaterSMART grant framework are well aligned with and would move the goals of the WRP forward to protect valuable resources. Being a direct stakeholder in the watershed, our board is excited to see and participate in the work of the WRP. We appreciate our voices being heard and considered in solutions.

DWCI supports creating a position for a coordinator. As a stakeholder and serving with the WRP, we see the hours of work as a volunteer group are limited to fully address such critical issues. The funding for this position will enable the WRP to increase these valuable efforts and develop a strategic plan to increase stakeholder recruitment, engagement and collaboration. These efforts will facilitate meaningful and critical projects throughout not only the tributaries, but the main course of the Weber River. Acquiring the tools and data to build an online GIS application will bring inclusion of WRP's stakeholders, the informed voices of the community and other data sources into a consolidated platform to be shared and utilized for gap analysis. Building an informed and targeted watershed restoration plan, with real needs in impactful areas depends on accurate local data.

Thank you for your time and consideration to fund this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this thoughtful partnership, the education it has brought to our company and the framework in the way we approach our business and engage with improvements to the water shed is viable. DWCI is excited to work with the WRP during the next phases of data collection for analysis, community outreach, and proactively planning for future challenges in the Weber and GSL watershed with your support.

With best regards,

Stacey Kunz
Managing Director,
Dinsdale Water Company, Inc.

August 21, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: WaterSMART Grant Application - Utah's Weber River Partnership

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Weber River Partnership's application for the WaterSMART grant to support stakeholder engagement, water resiliency, and long-term watershed restoration planning in Utah's Weber River Basin. As a ecologist and conservation manager with the Ogden Nature Center, I have witness firsthand the commitment and dedication of the Weber River Partnership to the preservation and enhancement of water quality in the Northern Utah community.

The Weber River Watershed is a vital resource for our community, providing not only drinking water for Ogden City but also serving as a crucial habitat for diverse flora and fauna as well as many recreational opportunities. For over a decade, the WRP has demonstrated a commitment to collaborative conservation in the Weber River Basin, from the headwaters to the terminus into Great Salt Lake, making them an ideal candidate for this grant. Several of the wetlands within the Ogden Nature Center are impacted by effects upstream. The health of the watershed is important to maintaining a refugia for wildlife on our property that otherwise are impacted by every present development.

The Nature Center believes WRP is in a unique position in the basin to bring together diverse stakeholders, level up education and outreach, and lay the groundwork for watershed restoration projects through WaterSMART funding. Hiring a coordinator will enable WRP to develop a five-year plan to increase stakeholder recruitment and engagement and facilitate the collaboration necessary to select and implement effective projects in the Weber River mainstem and tributaries. An online GIS mapping tool to crowdsource stakeholder knowledge will consolidate information onto a single platform and enhance data-sharing among diverse stakeholders. Additionally, the development of a coordinated monitoring plan will improve understanding of data gaps and future watershed restoration needs and focus areas.

Please strongly consider funding this grant opportunity for the WRP. As a member of this dynamic partnership, the Ogden Nature Center is excited about these next phases of capacity building, community outreach efforts, and addressing existing and future challenges in the Weber and Great Salt Lake watersheds. Our priority is to unite people with nature and often our best line of defense is through education about important watershed stewardship. The WRP practices this daily and is an important resource in Northern Utah. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah M Kapel

Sarah Kapel

Weber River Partnership Official Board Resolution

During a regular vote of the Weber River Partnership (WRP) Board of Directors on August 13, 2024, the following resolution for the Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant application, NOFO R23AS00362, was proposed and approved by the Board of Directors as follows:

1. The Weber River Partnership (WRP) Board of Directors fully supports the funding application entitled “Weber River Basin: Building a Sustainable Future Through Engagement, Collaboration, & Prioritization” to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program.
2. Tanner Cox, WRP Treasurer, is authorized to submit this application via www.grants.gov on behalf of the WRP.
3. The WRP Board will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet all established deadlines for entering into a grant/cooperative agreement and to complete proposed activities.

I certify this official resolution is true and accurate.

Signed and dated:

Adam Wickline

August 27, 2024

Adam Wickline
WRP Board Chair