

Nonpoint Source Pollution

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act states that, “The Governor of each state shall prepare and submit for approval a management program, which such State proposes to implement, for controlling pollution added from nonpoint sources to the navigable waters within the State and improving the quality of such waters”. In 1989 the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) initiated the Utah Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution program to be in compliance with the directives given in Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

To help implement the NPS Pollution Management Plan, EPA awards a section 319 grant to DWQ. Since 1989 The State of Utah has received over \$25.5 million in Section 319 funding and implemented 225 NPS related projects around the state. In addition, in 2008 the Water Quality Board agreed to appropriate \$1 million annually to address NPS pollution.

In 2001 several partners came together and began working to restore the Strawberry River Drainage. Strawberry River restoration efforts include stabilizing 13 miles of streambank with approximately 33,630 feet of erosion fabric and 452 structures, creating 22 oxbow pond habitats, and improving channel sinuosity. Invasive woody species were removed and native vegetation was planted in the floodplain. Grazing pressure was decreased by installing 3 miles of enclosure fencing to prevent unrestricted cattle access in the headwaters.

Since restoration efforts began, phosphorus concentrations in the Strawberry River have declined significantly, with an annual average “phosphate load” reduced from about 16,200 lbs/year to 1,445 lbs/year. This is important in reducing algae growth, and increased dissolved oxygen in the reservoir.



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