



Prepared by:  
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Weber River Partnership Member

# Weber River Partnership

## Willard Bay Settlement Proposal

**UTAH DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY**

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**Willard Bay Project Proposal Form**

**NOTE: Proposal must be no longer than 6 pages. Supplemental documents such as letters of support, information to demonstrate previous project implementation and other relative supportive documents may be submitted in addition to this form.**

Applicant Name: The Weber River Partnership

Co-Applicant Name(s) (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: The Weber River Partnership Capacity and Symposium

Agency or Business Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual  Non-Profit  Govt. Agency  Academic  Commercial  Other

***Estimated Project Costs***

Objective	Labor	Materials	Equipment	Admin *	Misc	Estimated Funding Request	Estimated Match**	Total Project
Watershed Symposium (2015)	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$21,000	\$2,000	<b>\$21,000</b>
Watershed Symposium (2016)	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$18,000	\$2,000	<b>\$18,000</b>
Watershed Symposium (2017)	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$18,000	\$2,000	<b>\$18,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$57,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>

\* Grant Administration fees are not proposed

\*\* Match funding to come from in kind, cash, and EPA 319 and State NPS funds

## ***Purpose and Need***

Currently no single organization represents and coordinates efforts amongst the various groups, stakeholders, agencies, and communities that make decisions that improve or degrade the water bodies within the whole Weber River watershed. Groups such as the Weber River Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have worked in the past to organize conservation actions throughout the watershed, but a lack of funding resulted in a loosely organized group without the formal structure and presence necessary to be fully recognized beyond its own membership.

Several members of the Weber TAC have recognized the need for watershed leaders to establish a more formal, and organized group that operate at a meaningful (i.e. Weber River watershed) scale to coordinate the often disparate efforts of stakeholders and speak for the entire Weber Watershed when watershed scale issues and coordination opportunities arise. Over the past year and a half, members of the Weber TAC have been working to develop such a group. This group has become known as the Weber River Partnership.

The initial step for this partnership was the creation of a holistic document that outlines values inherent throughout the watershed and the challenges threatening the health of these values. The final draft of this document, The Weber River Watershed Plan, was released in March of 2014. The values identified in the plan include:

- Collective Quality of Life
- Water Quantity
- Water Quality,
- Agriculture,
- Recreational Fishing,
- Water Based Recreation, and
- Community and Economic Development.

The Watershed Plan identifies key indicators by which the success of the partnership will be measured, these include: Water Supply and Conservation, Management and Conservation of important fish species, the health of the 6 distinct “Ecological Systems” that store, deliver, and provide the habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. The Weber River Watershed Plan also provides several strategies and actions to address the identified watershed scale challenges. These broad strategies are:

- 1) Communications,
- 2) Policy Initiatives,
- 3) Land and Water Use
- 4) Habitat Restoration with associated actions.

In order to support the strategies and actions identified in the plan, steps must be taken now to expand the reach and ability of the Weber River Partnership to act as a long

term partner in conservation. The Weber River Partnership is poised to initiate high priority strategies that will be the beginning of the Weber River Partnership achieving the broader vision of restoration in the watershed: “To ensure the long-term sustainability of the natural environment, economy, and lifestyles that make the Weber River watershed a unique and desirable place to live, work, and play.” The strategies proposed for initial implementation and which require immediate funding deal begin to address strategy 1, communications.

### **A Way to Communicate: A Watershed Symposium**

The Weber River Partnership seeks to strengthen collaboration amongst the local, state, and federal agencies, non-profits, and stakeholders. Improving collaboration in the watershed allows restoration funds, expertise, and efforts to be efficiently focused toward priority areas and conservation targets identified in the Weber River Watershed Plan. The goal is to transition the current “shotgun” approach that too often yields dispersed, small scale projects with effects that often go unnoticed to a more surgical, efficient, and focused approach that affects larger areas and addresses more holistic concerns.

In order to accomplish this type of holistic restoration approach, stakeholders must operate in a more coordinated manner and have agreed-upon strategies.

The Weber River Partnership has identified the need for an annual two day watershed symposium focused on the Weber River Watershed. This symposium would allow for watershed partners to review the work occurring in the watershed from the previous year, review and share relevant data, and discuss research conducted over the course of the previous year. Most importantly would be the opportunity for participants to discuss and agree upon annual goals so that projects could grow in scale, incorporate multiple stakeholders, as well as address more concerns.

This watershed symposium would allow for stakeholders to take these goals and create an annual work plan. This work plan would transition the broad strategies and goals identified in the Weber Watershed Plan into coordinated actions that make real, measurable progress toward accomplishing these strategies and goals. This work planning session would also allow for the original Weber River Plan to be revised each year as the challenges the watershed faces change. The will allow the plan to truly be a “living document” growing and adjusting to meet the needs of the watershed and the Weber River Partnership.

The Jordan River Watershed Symposium is an example of a very successful symposium that the Weber River Partnership has looked to for inspiration. To help boost participation and allow for participation to increase with each year, the event would be held at a conference center or other large venue. To further invite participation, attendance would be free and a light lunch and snacks would be provided to participants.

Currently interest in holding a symposium is growing; however, a principle lead sponsor

is critical for additional groups and agencies to agree to participate and provide matching funds. The Weber River Partnership is requesting funding to hold the above described symposium for 3 years.

In order for the Weber River Partnership to continue to advance in both participation and effectiveness additional time must be devoted to its development. The Weber River Partnership was voluntarily created on the shoulders of watershed professionals who are passionate about envisioning and realizing a better future for the Weber River watershed and all the citizens that live in and rely upon its resources. The time provided by volunteers can be magnified if it is harnessed and utilized by a staff person who dedicates time each week to the partnership.

This proposed part time staff person would be responsible for organizing the above-described watershed symposium and coordinating communication on behalf of the partnership. This communication would include developing content for the proposed website and other media that would effectively educate the watershed on what the Weber River Partnership is doing and how it is making a positive difference for the citizens of the watershed. This person would play a critical role in expanding the partnership through inviting additional stakeholders input and participation. This staff person would also be responsible for writing additional funding proposals in order diversify the financial portfolio of the partnership as well assure the sustainability of the group and further the mission of the partnership.

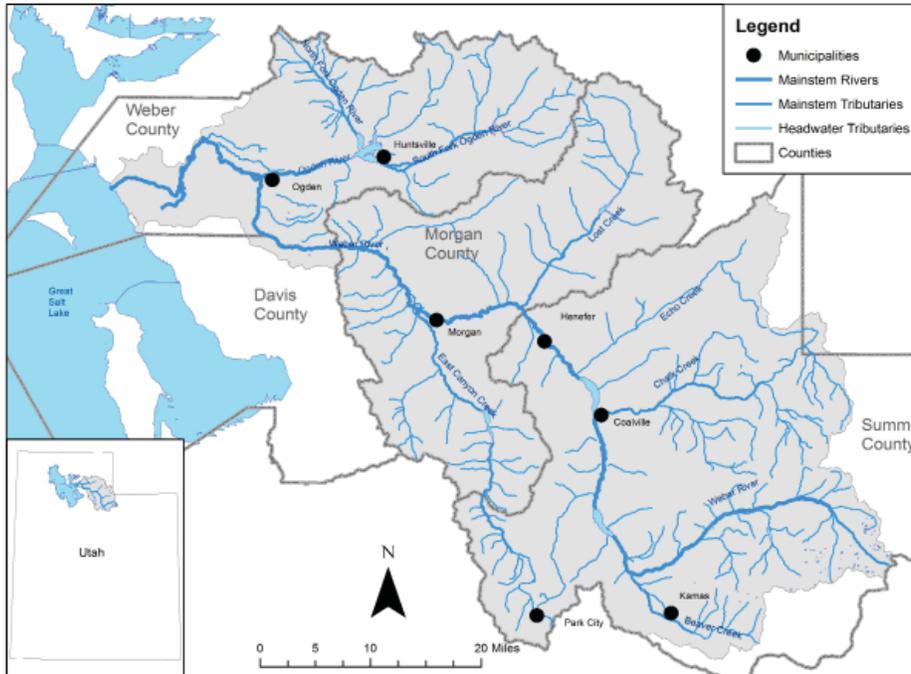
The requested funds would be used to pay an hourly wage for a part time staff person dedicated to organizing the proposed symposium and working to expanding the Weber River Partnership and managing the operations of the partnership. This part time position would be a minimum of five hours a week but could expand if additional funding was acquired from other sources. This position would be initially proposed for 3 years to assure the success of the symposium.

### ***Proposed Timeline:***

Fall 2014-Early Spring 2015 – Watershed Symposium planning and advertisement  
 Late Spring 2015 – 1st Annual Weber River Watershed Symposium Held  
 Summer 2015-Early Spring 2016 – Watershed Symposium planning and advertisement  
 Late Spring 2016 – 2nd Annual Weber River Watershed Symposium  
 Summer 2016-Early Spring 2017 – Watershed Symposium planning and advertisement  
 Late Spring 2017 – 3rd Annual Weber River Watershed Symposium  
 Summer 2017- Fall 2017 - Preparation of final report

### ***Project Location***

The Weber Partnership encompasses stakeholders, agencies, and partners throughout the entire Weber River Watershed.



### ***How the Proposed Project will Enhance the Willard Bay***

The quantity and quality of the water that enters the Willard Bay ecosystem is a product of actions that occur within the Weber River watershed. Thus, we believe that a group that operates on an entire watershed scale to enhance and restore the quality of the natural habitats, water quality and quantity, and economic services that make the Weber River Watershed so special inherently benefit the end point in the watershed, the Willard Bay.

### ***Connectivity to other Natural Areas***

The Weber River Partnership encompasses the entire watershed, thus connectivity to other natural areas occurs on a watershed scale. This large scale allows the partnership to coordinate efforts across the entire watershed and connect large natural areas.

### ***Additional Social Benefits***

The potential benefits of the Weber River Partnership expanding and meeting the vision and goals outlined in the current Weber River Watershed Plan extend throughout the entire Weber Watershed. As such, the citizens that live, recreate, and rely upon the health of the ecosystems and waters of the Weber Watershed benefit from more efficient, focused, and

