

# Improving Utah's Water Quality

## Rees Creek Watershed



Revised November 2012

### MAJOR WATERBODIES

Rees Creek

### NEAREST CITIES

Coalville

### MAJOR LAND USES

Agriculture

Petroleum and Natural Gas  
Development

Recreation

### LOCAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Sediment

Bank Erosion

### LOCAL CONTACT:

USDA Service Center

30 Main Street

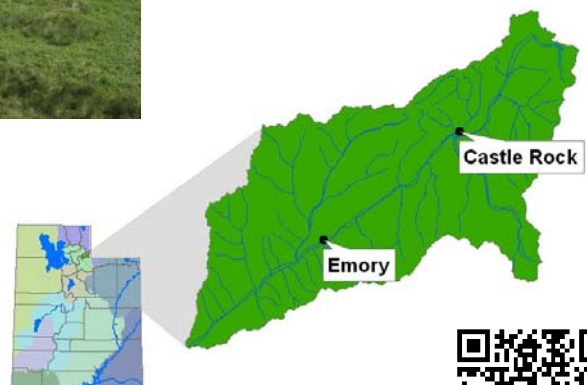
PO Box 526

Coalville, UT 84017-0437

Phone: (435) 336-5853

### Watershed Description:

The Rees Creek sub-watershed lies near the top of the Echo Creek watershed, and southeast of the main stem of Echo Creek, encompassing 10,584 acres of land. Rees Creek flows northwest and joins Echo Creek just north of the I-80 Castle Rock exit. Ensign Ranches Corporation has managed all land within this watershed in private ownership since 1994. Agriculture, mainly livestock grazing, has been the primary land use in the Rees Creek watershed. Current agricultural use includes a summer cattle operation. Recently overall range conditions have improved because of a change in management. Lower meadow areas were once cultivated for hay, but have reverted to pasture due to the inability to distribute water from Rees Creek because of the loss of irrigation diversion structures. Petroleum and natural gas extraction from this area has been ongoing for over 20 years. Numerous oil and gas well sites, and pumping stations exist in the upper portions of the watershed. In addition commercial hunting of big game species has become a significant source of revenue in recent years.



# Rees Creek Water Quality Improvement

## Project Description:

The Rees Creek Phase I and II projects have been implemented in an effort to reduce sediment loading in the Echo Creek Watershed, restore the hydrologic function of meadows in the Rees Creek Watershed, and improve woody vegetation along Rees Creek. Phase I of the project, implemented in 2004, consisted of constructing seven sediment detention basins and approximately 8000 feet of new stream channel connecting the basins. Water quality data collected above and below the project site has shown decreases in Total Suspended Solids (TSS) ranging from 86-98%. Phase II of the project, implemented in 2007, consisted of the construction of four sediment detention structures. These structures have been designed to reduce stream flow velocities, catch sediments, and restore wet meadows in the lower watershed. Similar pollutant load reductions to those seen in Phase I of the Rees Creek Project are expected from the implementation of Phase II.



## Partners

Ensign Ranches/Castle Rock Land and Livestock  
Summit Conservation District  
Utah Association of Conservation Districts  
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
Utah Department of Environmental Quality/Division of Water Quality  
Weber Basin Water Conservancy District  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Funding

Total (through 2008)                      \$211,500

**For funding opportunities in the Rees Creek Watershed, contact the Summit Conservation District.**

*To learn how you can participate or lend your support to Utah community water quality projects, please contact your local conservation district or county agent.*

Produced by USU Water Quality Extension, Utah Watershed Coordinating Council, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and Utah Division of Water Quality.

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