



**BEAR  
RIVER BASIN  
WATER QUALITY  
TASK FORCE**

**IDAHO  
UTAH  
WYOMING**

horizon



**Bear River Watershed  
Information and Education Outreach  
Project**

by:  
**Bear Lake Regional Commission  
Fish Haven, Idaho**

**October 1998**

**S. J. & Jessie E. Quinney  
Natural Resources  
Research Library**

Section 319 Nonpoint Source Control Program  
Information & Education Project Final Report

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This project was conducted in cooperation with:  
The United States Environmental Protection Agency , Region VIII  
Grant #95-3265

## **Acknowledgment**

**Thanks goes out to all members of the Bear River Water Quality Task Force for their vision and involvement in this project. A special thanks to Judy Holbrook, Elizabeth Evans, Barbara Hoffman, Carol Davids Moore, and Reed Gardner for great help on the day to day effort used to make this project a success.**

# Executive Summary

## Bear River Watershed Information and Education Outreach Project

Grant #95-3265

Grant Source: Section 319 Funds through the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake City ,UT

Grant Initiation : July 1996

Grant Completion : September 30, 1998

### Funding:

Total Budget	\$55,000.00
Total EPA Grant	\$30,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$58,979.00
Total Expenditures of EPA Funds	\$30,000.00
Revisions	-0-
Total Section 319 Match Accrued	\$28,979.00

### Major Accomplishments:

- Developed and maintained Mailing List
- Produced, with the assistance of the Bureau of Reclamation a video on Bear River's water quality
- Distributed nearly 100 copies of video and showed it several times
- Developed & distributed fact sheets and maps on Bear River issues
- Held two major training courses for interested parties
  - Total Maximum Daily Load(TMDL) and Public Information Forum
  - Watershed Academy Course 105 "Watershed Management Tools Primer"
- Conducted the Bear River Basin Public Forum 1997
- Placed displays in three County Fairs and Utah State Fair with assistance of Soil Conservation Districts and USGS
- Co-hosted Bear Lake Technical Data Exchange 1998
- Placed stories of Bear River Basin in existing newsletters of organizations and state agencies
- Conducted jointly with Idaho Basin Advisory Group - three public forums
- Placed a few articles in newspapers
- Collected and housed a repository of documents on Bear River - created a document list

document list

- Conducted regular coordination and provided assistance to the Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force on monthly bases
- Produced, in conjunction with EPA's Community Based Environmental Protection, a Bear River Watershed brochure
- Assisted in providing information to Bear River RC&D in the creation of a web page on the Internet
- Coordinated with and provided information on other water projects in the Basin

## INTRODUCTION

The Bear River Basin is unique in many ways. In order to better understand the problems and issues of coordination, information dissemination and education, a brief description of the basins physical characteristics is presented. The Bear River Basin encompasses part of three states, the river begins and ends in Utah. The river begins about 60 air miles east of Salt Lake City in the Uinta mountain, and flows through parts of southwestern

Wyoming and southeastern Idaho before returning to Utah and emptying into the Great Salt Lake. An important feature along the rivers course is Bear Lake which straddles the Idaho/Utah border. The total river length is approximately 500 miles. The Basin covers about 7,583 square miles with approximately 35% of the area in Idaho, 45% in Utah and 15% in Wyoming. Mountains, high plateaus, and broad valleys provide contracting topography which in turn influences uses, ownership, and vegetation. Rangeland, cropland, timberland, wetlands and minerals make up the majority of the list of available land based resources.

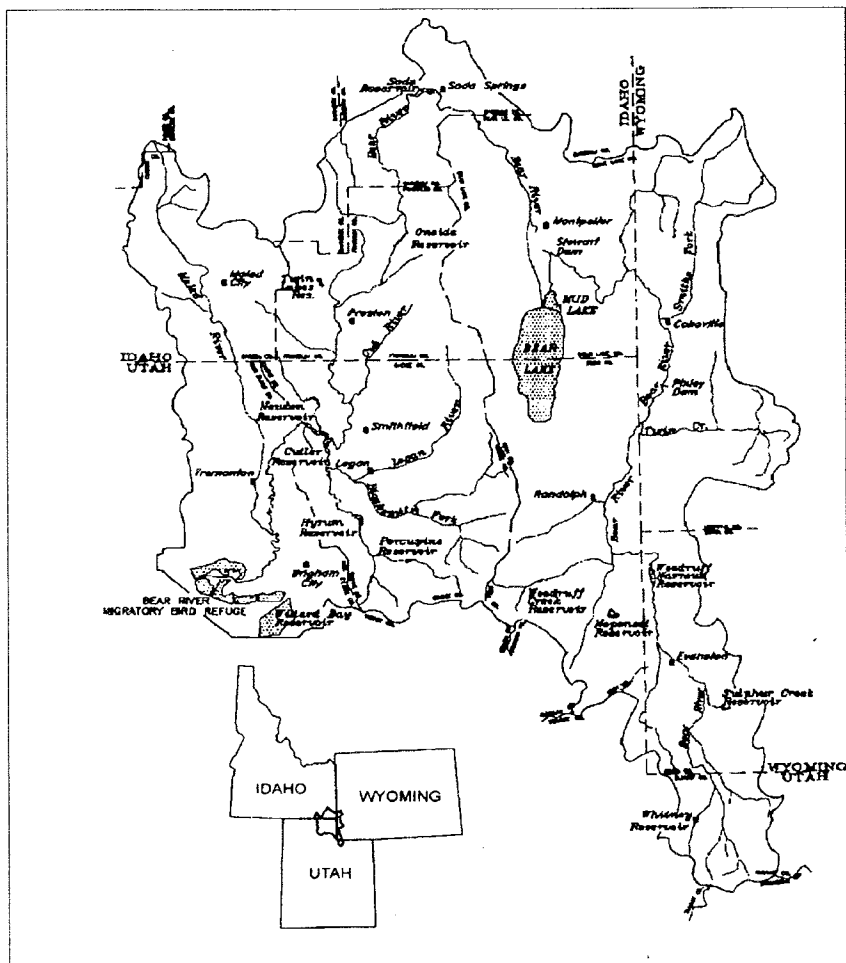
The watershed is divided into numerous political divisions including three states, three U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts, two regions of U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies, three National Wildlife Refuges, nine

counties and numerous cities, towns, and Soil Conservation Districts.

The economy of the watershed is resource oriented with agriculture being one of the principle industries. Recreation is a rapidly growing industry in the watershed.

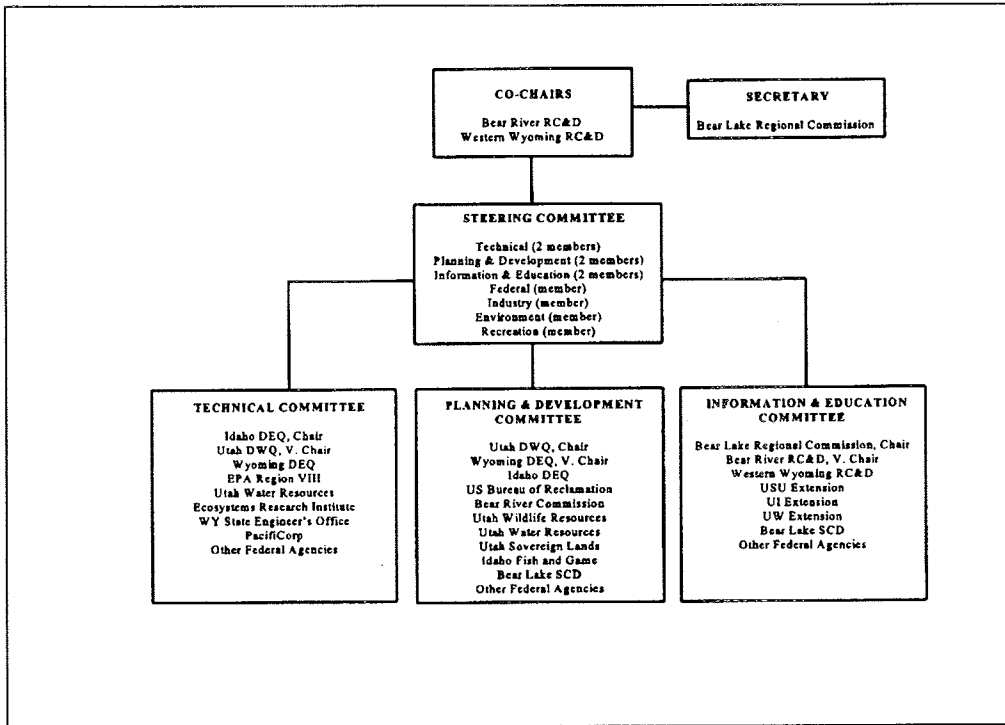
The beneficial uses of the water resources of the river and lakes includes irrigation, power generation, fisheries, recreation, with future uses including municipal.

In 1993, the Bear Lake Regional Commission, the Bear River RC&D and the Western Wyoming RC&D organized a Bear River Water Quality Symposium to bring together all the



interested governmental agencies and citizens in the Bear River watershed. The Symposium participants, including the Regional Commission and the Bear River and Western Wyoming RC&Ds, formed the Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force (Task Force) to address water quality issues in the watershed.

The Task Force focuses on water quality issues. The Task Force adopted the following mission statement and goals and objectives:



### **Mission Statement**

***To establish a path and direction for Cooperation and Coordination of water quality work across all jurisdictions for the Bear River Basin***

## **GOALS**

1. Measurably improve the overall water quality and stream integrity of the Bear River and its tributaries, including lakes and reservoirs, to support multiple beneficial uses and development.
2. Develop and implement a coordinated tri-state basin wide water quality planning approach with strong local involvement and leadership.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify all major stakeholders in water quality issues in the basin and develop: 1) a means to solicit their involvement, and 2) a method to keep them informed of activities in the basin.
2. Initiate and facilitate local public involvement in water quality issues in the basin to identify the primary water quality related issues.
3. Establish a broad-based local involvement and leadership role in the planning process, through public involvement activities and information dissemination, based in the offices of the Bear River and Western Wyoming's RC&Ds.
4. Establish and coordinate a data gathering system and assessment, including historical, current and future data needs, and water quality standards in the basin.

This Information and Education project funded by Utah and EPA to the Bear Lake Regional Commission was designed to begin addressing the 'Mission Statement', goals and objectives of the Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force.



## **PROJECT GOALS, Objectives and Activities**

### **Goal**

Implement an Information & Education Program that will facilitate local public involvement in the development and implementation of a watershed based water quality management plan for the Bear River System.

The following objectives were identified as a means of reaching the above cited goal.

#### **Objective 1. Identify all major stakeholders involved in water quality issues of the Bear River Basin**

Activities undertaken to meet this objective included the development and maintenance of mailing list, for use in meeting announcements, minutes of Task Force meeting, and invitations to public forums.

#### **Objective 2. Develop a logo that will help the public and cooperating entities identify the Bear River Basin water quality planning effort**

Activities for this objective was the design of a logo for use on printed material outputs of this project, such as letter, facts sheets, etc.

A second activity proposed to be done, but after further evaluation was dropped, was the preparation and distribution of promotional items using the logo to hand out at public meetings, forums, etc. The funds were used to develop a reference library of Bear River water quality documents.

#### **Objective 3. Develop a video and support materials as tools to use to solicit input and in the Bear River Watershed planning effort**

Activities - produce a video and distribute copies of it and show it at every opportunity. Develop a 'fact sheet' to accompany the video along with an input response piece.

#### **Objective 4. Conduct a pro-active I&E program using a mix of approaches to reach target audiences in the Basin**

Activities included poster displays, public forums, articles in newsletters, and newspapers.

#### **Objective 5. Conduct the I&E project under the direction of the Bear River Water Quality Task Force and coordinate activities with other area I&E efforts**

Activities - Piggy back on presentations and meetings of Task Force members. Meet with the Task Force and its information & education sub-committee regularly. Coordinate with other I&E efforts of Soil Conservation Districts.

**Objective 6. Conduct a fully accountable and financial sound project**

Activities - project reporting, fiscal controls and bookkeeping, conduct annual audit of financial records.

**PLANNED OUTPUTS AND ACTUAL PRODUCTS**

**Objective 1. Planned Outputs: Mailing List**

The actual outputs for this objective included three mailing lists (Appendix 1)

- Those who wanted to attend the Bear River Water Quality Task Force
- Those who wanted minutes and information about the Task Force actions
- Those to whom notification of public information forums was sent

**Objective 2. Planned Outputs: Logo and Letterhead**

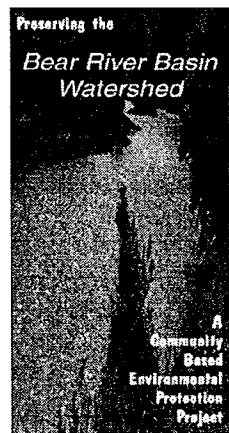
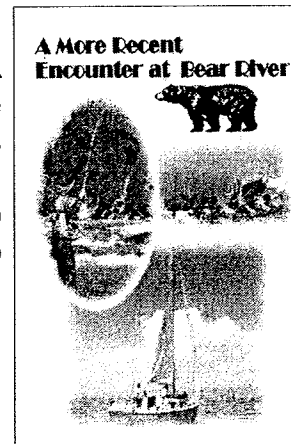


The actual outputs include both the logo and letterhead. The logo was used in a brochure, the video and other products.

**Objective 3. Planned Output: 8-10 Minute Video & Handout Support Materials**

The actual output was a 14 minute video titled "A More Recent Encounter at Bear River". The video was a joint project with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation. This video has been previously submitted to EPA. Nearly one hundred copies of the video have been distributed to schools, libraries, County Extension offices, Conservation Districts,

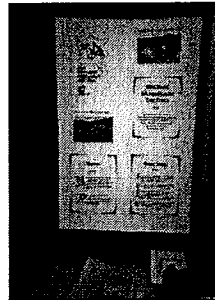
Bear River Commission, political leaders, service organizations, environmental groups and state and federal agencies.



Several support materials were developed for the Information & Education effort. They are shown in Appendix 2. The center piece of the material is a brochure entitled "Preserving The Bear River Basin Watershed". This product is a result of piggy back on to the Community Based Environmental Protection project. Six thousand of this brochure were printed with over 3900 currently distributed.

**Objective 4. Planned Outputs: Poster displays, public forums, articles in newsletters and newspapers**

**Poster Displays:** Three poster displays 20"x32" included two photos of Bear River, Task Force Mission Statement, Goals, Objectives and Logo. These posters were used at county fairs and other public meeting opportunities.



**Public Forums:** One major public forum was held and seven informational meetings. Five of the seven information meetings were co-sponsored by the Idaho Basin Advisory Group. The seven informational meetings were:

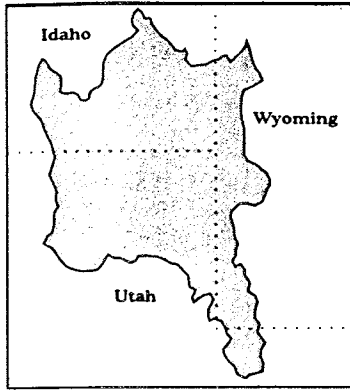
■	Evanston, WY	Jun. 1996	8 attended
■	Bailey Creek, ID	Oct. 1996	20 attended
■	Montpelier, ID	Dec. 1996	25 attended
■	Preston, ID	Feb. 1997	14 attended
■	Malad, ID	Mar. 1997	18 attended
■	Grace, ID	Apr. 1997	19 attended
■	Logan, UT	Jan. 1998	19 attended



The major public forum was held on March 25-27, 1997 in Cache County, Utah, in Wellsville Canyon with 126 in attendance. .

Appendix 3 includes all the materials from this forum, the key output of the forum was the discussion group results presented in Figure 1 and available on the Internet at the Bear River RC&D's website [www.bearriverrcd.org](http://www.bearriverrcd.org).

Figure 1



# 1997 Bear River Water Quality Forum

## Discussion Group Results

During the evening of March 26, 1997, 80 participants from the Bear River Water Quality Forum were placed into 10 discussion groups to provide input on four questions designed to provide guidance to the Bear River Water Quality Task Force. Common answers from each group were listed and presented to the forum attendees. A discussion and input opportunity was held the next morning, followed by attendees voting on the top three items for each question. The results of this prioritization are presented below:

### Question #1. How can the Bear River Basin Water Quality Task Force Facilitate broad-based participation?

Education	24.6%
Show implementation	23.4%
Better use of media	21.1%
Lower the cost of programs	9.4%
Encourage youth involvement	8.8%
Task Force Newsletter	5.8%
Internet access	4.1%
Expand mailing lists	2.9%

### Question #2. What are the major issues or concerns you have regarding the Bear River system?

Nutrient Loading and Sediments	17.2%
Water Rights	16.1%
Riparian Condition	14.4%
What is Natural and What Isn't	13.9%
Water Storage	11.7%
Lack of Information and Education	9.4%
On going data Gathering	8.3%
Wasatch Front demands	5.6%
Flow Fluctuation	3.3%

### Question #3. How can the Task Force foster public participation in the prioritization and targeting of implementation areas?

Show success w/demonstration projects	23.9%
Involve stakeholders in the total process	22.8%
Education and Public information	17.8%
Lobby for Financial incentives	13.9%
Uniform Tri-State criteria and standards	10.0%
Increase media coverage	8.3%
Work with local Criteria	1.7%
Personal invitation	1.7%

### On-Line?

Visit us on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.bearriverrcd.org/wqtaskforce/forum/index.html>

for a detailed listing of these ideas by individual group!

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## **Presentations to Target Audiences**

The following is a list of groups or meetings that presentations on the Bear River were done, either by the Bear Lake Regional Commission staff or other members of the Task Force during the project period.

- Bear Lake County Beef School, Idaho
- Bear River Commission
- Bear River Basin Advisory Group, Idaho
- Bear River RC&D Board - Utah & Idaho
- Western Wyoming RC&D Board
- Bear River Divide CRM Steering Committee - Wyoming
- Smiths Fork CRM Steering Committee - Wyoming
- Bear Lake Soil Conservation Dist. - Idaho
- Lincoln County Soil Conservation Dist. - Wyoming
- Bear Lake Regional Commission
- Love Bear Lake, Inc.
- Idaho Water Users Association
- PacifiCorp FERC - Relicensing - Advisory Groups
- Bear River Water Quality Committee
- Bear Lake Preservation Committee
- Various City Councils, County Commissions
- Thomas Fork Advisory Group
- Four County Fairs - booth with SCD's
- Utah State Fair - booth with USGS
- Paris Elementary School Field Trip

In total over 30 outreach opportunities were capitalized on because of this grant. Ninety five response cards were received back from these outreach contacts. The following is a survey of the results:

### **Why is Bear River Important to you? (Multiple answers allowed)**

**58% said Agricultural /Users**

**47% said Fishing**

**36% said Hunting**

**42% said Water Sports (Boating, Canoeing, etc)**

**39% said Sight Seeing/ Bird Watching**

**38% said Ground Water**

**47% said Electric Power Generation**

**What are the biggest problems facing the Bear River?** This was an open ended question. A category grouping process was done, here are the problem areas mentioned:

- Sediment, siltation, stream bank erosion
- Fertilizer and pesticide use both residential and agricultural
- Bear River impacts on Bear Lake
- Population growth and land use changes

- Flow modification
- Carp
- Better public understanding of River system
- Agricultural impacts
- Conflicts of different user groups
- To many environmental and agency controls
- Need to provide for multiple use
- Abandon mining operations

**What can be done to Improve the Bear River?** This again was an open ended question.

A category grouping process was done, here are the results:

- Broaden the base to share in solutions
- Education
- Incentives for voluntary programs
- Build a dam
- Buffer strips along the river
- Reduce Carp population
- Streambank treatments
- Keep strong local involvement
- Dairy waste management
- Population growth management
- Cooperation
- Remove litter and junk from river
- Funding for water quality improvement projects
- Use common sense solutions
- Weevil control
- Regulate system flows

### **Newsletter**

This project was originally designed to produce and mail a newsletter twice a year. This task was evaluated and changed. Efforts were made to put articles in existing newsletters. This occurred about four times: Appendix 4 has copies of articles in the newsletters. Also, through efforts of the Bear River RC&D a web site with Bear River Task Force information is up and running. The address is [www.bearriverrcd.org](http://www.bearriverrcd.org).

### **Feature Articles**

Four feature articles and placement in a resource book, and article placement in two agency publications cover success stories of 319 projects, were the results of this effort are shown in Appendix 4.

Articles were published in the following newspapers:

- Herald Journal -Logan, Utah
- News Examiner - Montpelier, Idaho
- Intermountain Farm & Ranch - with circulation in Eastern Idaho, Western Wyoming, Northern Utah and Southwestern Montana
- The Watershed SourceBook- University of Colorado has a detailed entry on the

### Bear River Basin

- Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts published a booklet titled "Highlights of Wyoming's Water Quality Projects". This publication had a story on Bridger Creek within the Bear River Basin.
- EPA publication titled "Section 319 Success Stories Volume II" had a story on Thomas Fork as a subwatershed of the Bear River.

Although these stories were not written directly by this I&E project, all of the background information and details were supplied as a part of this project.

### **Objective 5. Planned Outputs: Two presentations to targeted audiences per quarter.**

The presentations listed under Objective 4 were also a result of this Objective. However two major training courses were offer through assistance from this grant. First was a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Workshop in Logan Utah on January 15, 1998. There were



fifty in attendance. The Second training was co-sponsored by EPA and the Watershed Academy. It was titled Watersheds 105 Watershed Management Tools Primer - with Special Focus on the Bear River Basin.

In addition, the Task Force directed that a reference collection on documents relating to the Bear River and it's water quality be established and made available to the public.

This output of a reference collection is an addition to this project and funds

originally scheduled for buying promotional items under Objective 2 and funds from this Objective 5 were used to set up this reference collection. Appendix 5 includes the current list of documents collected and available for use by the public.

The Task Force also directed that the minutes of their meetings be sent out to those interested. This was done using the first two mailing lists discussed in Objective One and funded in part by this project. This amounted to mailing of minutes to interested parties at least once a quarter.

The Information & Education efforts as a result of the grant were reported regularly to the Task Force, which gave direction to the work.

### **Objective 6. Planned Outputs: Progress Reports, Final Report, and Proper Financial Records and Audits.**

The progress of this project was reported to Utah Division of Water Quality as requested. The project was audited by a CPA on an annual basis as part of the Bear Lake Regional Commission annual independent audit. This final report is the concluding output of this grant.

## **Evaluation of Goals & Objective Achievement**

The results of the discussion groups which was the planned major output of the Bear River Water Quality Forum and the results of the response cards and public meeting identified water quality issues and potential solutions that the stakeholders are concerned about and want pursued. See Figure 1 and results presented in Objective 4 of the report.

All of the objectives were met, with the exception of eliminating the promotional items in Objective 2 and not developing a newsletter, but having articles in existing newsletters under Objective 4. The addition of a reference collection of documents on the Bear River was an addition to this project.

## **Coordination**

As mentioned before, regular coordination of this project was done through the Bear River Water Quality Task Force, whose membership includes EPA, state water quality agency representations from Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. The Resource Conservation and Development areas of Bear River and Western Wyoming. The Task Force also had representation from university extension service from Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

The results of this coordination included:

- Video production being assisted by Bureau of Reclamation through their states technical assistance program.
- Task Force's web site through the Bear River RC&D.
- Bear River Basin Watershed Brochure was a co-op project with EPA's Community Base Environmental Project.
- The coordination of this project with the recently awarded Regional Geographical Initiative Grant from EPA to the Bear River RC&D to expand the Bear River RC&D web site to make available more information on the Bear River.



**Project Budget / Expenditures**

The record keeping of this project was done by expense category and not by individual tasks. The following is a summary of expenditures by category and total budget results.

**Contract Expenditures:  
Time Period: May 15, 1995-June 30, 1998**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
Personnel	\$13,507	\$18,004	\$31,511
Benefits	3,803	5,142	8,945
Travel	1,419	3,140	4,559
Sub-Contracts/Video	7,828	70	7,898
Supplies	460	530	990
Printing	763	173	936
Overhead	<u>2,220</u>	<u>1,920</u>	<u>4,140</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>\$30,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$28,979</u></b>	<b><u>\$58,979</u></b>

<u>Project Budget</u>		<u>Project Expenditures</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Grant	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$-0-
Match	\$25,000	\$28,979	\$3,979

## **Future Activity Recommendations**

- Task Force should hold an Annual Bear River Water Quality Forum for Interested Stakeholders
- Continue showing of the video developed by this grant to groups or individuals interested in the Bear River
- The Task Force should develop annual work plans with an Information & Education element
- Complete and expand the web site with updated information on the Bear River. Have Utah DEQ provide a link to the Bear River site.
- Secure funding for full-time Basin Coordinator
- Continue to collect input from interested people
- Publicize future “on the ground” projects in the Bear River Basin.