

County Resources – Water

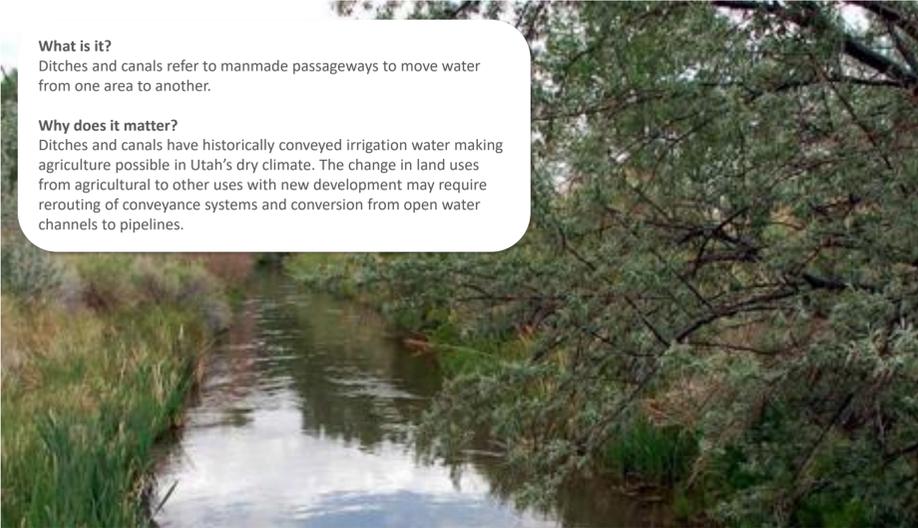
Ditches and Canals

What is it?

Ditches and canals refer to manmade passageways to move water from one area to another.

Why does it matter?

Ditches and canals have historically conveyed irrigation water making agriculture possible in Utah's dry climate. The change in land uses from agricultural to other uses with new development may require rerouting of conveyance systems and conversion from open water channels to pipelines.



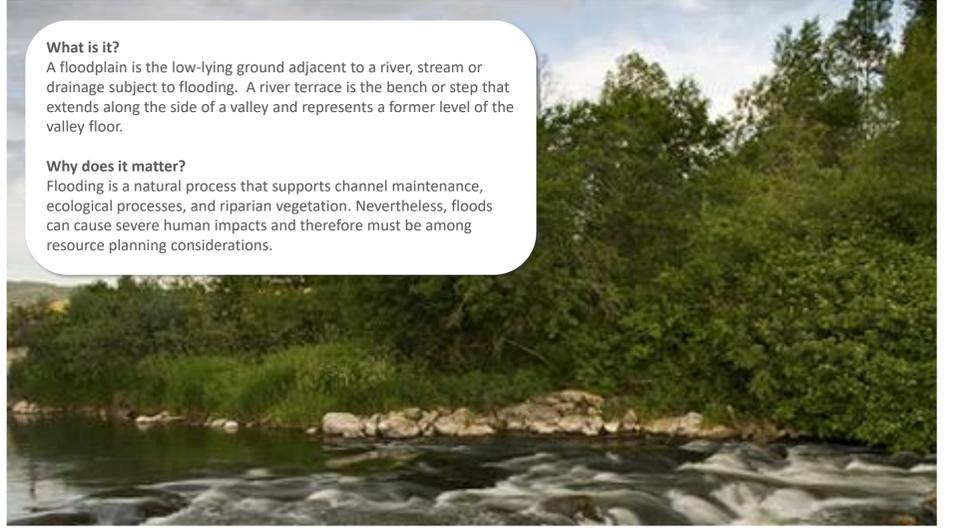
Flood Plains and River Terraces

What is it?

A floodplain is the low-lying ground adjacent to a river, stream or drainage subject to flooding. A river terrace is the bench or step that extends along the side of a valley and represents a former level of the valley floor.

Why does it matter?

Flooding is a natural process that supports channel maintenance, ecological processes, and riparian vegetation. Nevertheless, floods can cause severe human impacts and therefore must be among resource planning considerations.



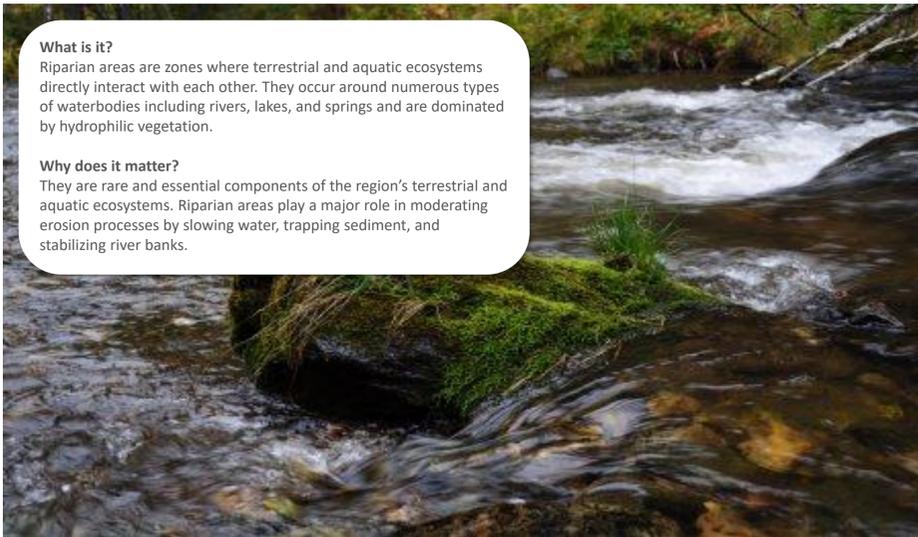
Riparian Areas

What is it?

Riparian areas are zones where terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems directly interact with each other. They occur around numerous types of waterbodies including rivers, lakes, and springs and are dominated by hydrophilic vegetation.

Why does it matter?

They are rare and essential components of the region's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Riparian areas play a major role in moderating erosion processes by slowing water, trapping sediment, and stabilizing river banks.



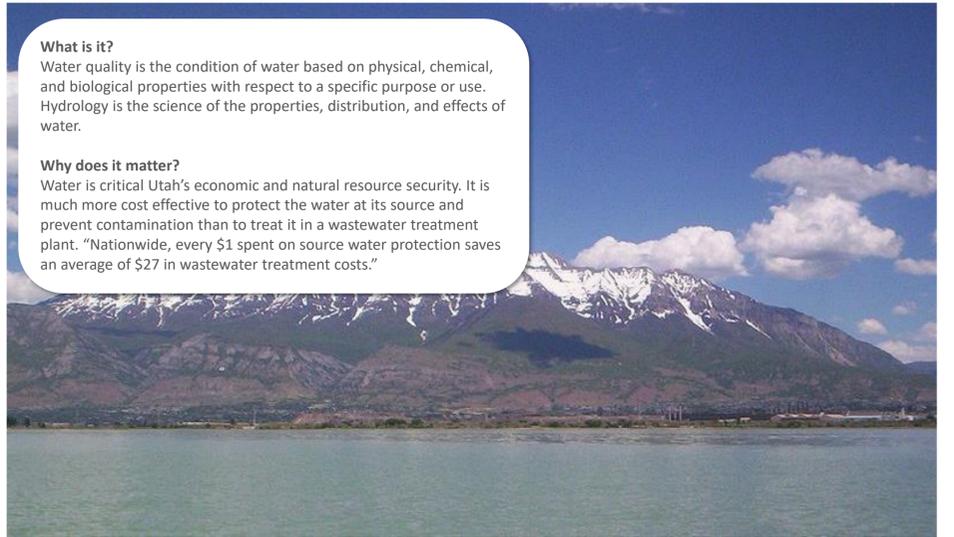
Water Quality and Hydrology

What is it?

Water quality is the condition of water based on physical, chemical, and biological properties with respect to a specific purpose or use. Hydrology is the science of the properties, distribution, and effects of water.

Why does it matter?

Water is critical Utah's economic and natural resource security. It is much more cost effective to protect the water at its source and prevent contamination than to treat it in a wastewater treatment plant. "Nationwide, every \$1 spent on source water protection saves an average of \$27 in wastewater treatment costs."



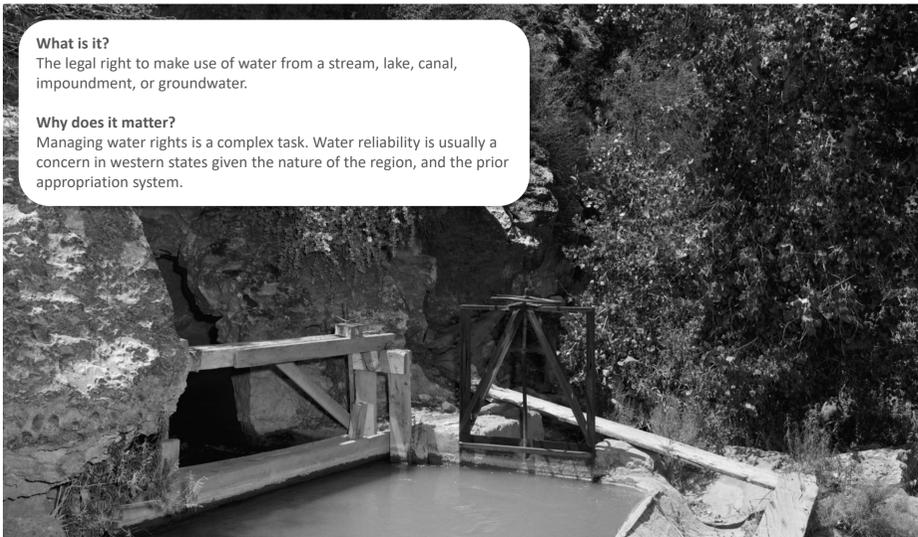
Water Rights

What is it?

The legal right to make use of water from a stream, lake, canal, impoundment, or groundwater.

Why does it matter?

Managing water rights is a complex task. Water reliability is usually a concern in western states given the nature of the region, and the prior appropriation system.



Wetlands

What is it?

Lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living therein or on.

Why does it matter?

Wetlands provide numerous benefits to society and are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rainforests and coral reefs. Wetlands have the ability to improve water quality by acting as filters. In addition, wetlands can lessen the effects of flooding by storing stormwater and releasing it slowly with the potential to help replenish aquifers.



Wild and Scenic Rivers

What is it?

An administrative designation created under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 applied to preserve certain free-flowing rivers that "possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values".

Why does it matter?

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

