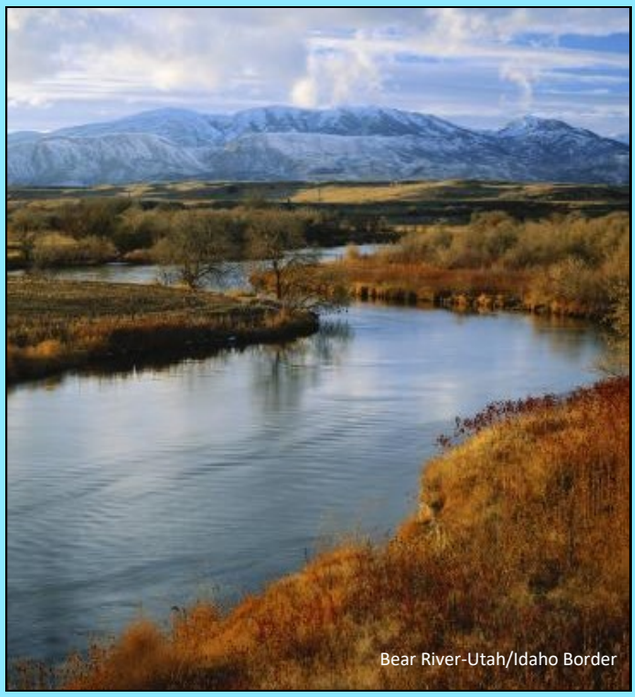
Rivers and Streams

Rivers and streams move water across the landscape, from the mountains to the Great Salt Lake. Major rivers in the Great Salt Lake watershed are the Bear, Weber, Jordan, Provo, and Spanish Fork.


Bear River-Utah/Idaho Border

Common Caddisfly
(*Order: Trichoptera*)
These insects protect themselves by spinning a silk case and are a relative of butterflies.

Free-Living Caddisfly
(*Order: Tricoptera*)
These caddisflies have two claws at the end of their tails to hold onto the bottom of the river.

Cranefly
(*Order: Diptra*)
The larva of this insect looks like a caterpillar; while adults look like oversized mosquitos.

Common Mayfly
(*Order: Ephemeroptra*)
Mayflies spend most of their lives as nymphs but die within a day of emerging as an adult.

Blood Midge
(*Order: Diptera*)
This midge is bright red because it has high levels of hemoglobin, the thing that gives blood its color.

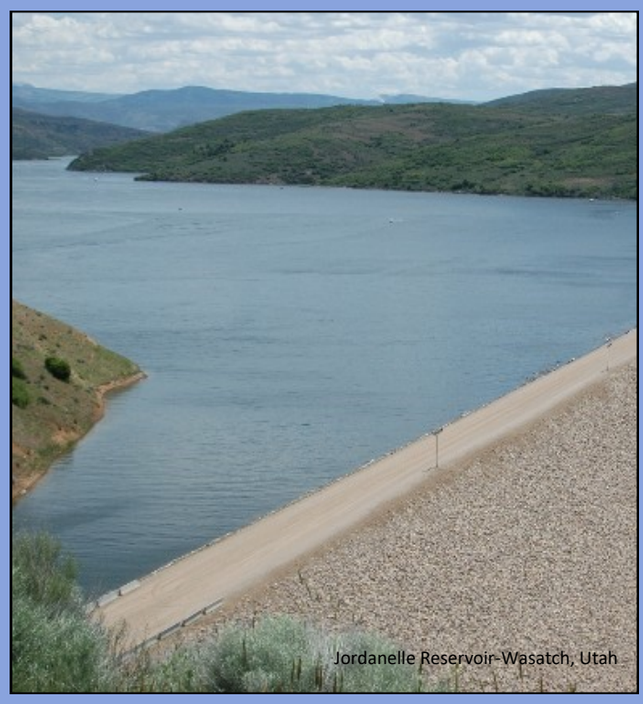
Planaria
(*Order: Triciadida*)
These flat worms may look like leaches but don't worry, they only eat algae.

Giant Stonefly
(*Order: Plecoptera*)
Growing up to 2.5 inches, this is one of the largest stoneflies in the world!

Riffle Beetle
(*Order: Coleoptera*)
These beetles are strong swimmers and like to live in the fastest part of a river.

Lakes and Reservoirs

Lakes and reservoirs help to store water so ecosystems in the Great Salt Lake system have it year round. Major lakes and reservoirs in the watershed are Bear Lake, Willard Bay Reservoir, Pineview Reservoir, Jordanelle Reservoir and Utah Lake.



Jordanelle Reservoir-Wasatch, Utah

Aquatic Snail
(*Order: Eupulmonata*)
These mollusk grow a shell to protect them from predators and eat plants and algae.

Phantom Midge
(*Order: Diptera*)
The midge larva is nearly transparent which helps it avoid predators.

Cyclops
(*Order: Copepod*)
This quick swimming zooplankton got its name because it has one big eye.

Planaria
(*Order: Triciadida*)
These flat worms may look like leaches but don't worry, they only eat algae.

Common Leech
(*Order: Arhynchobdellida*)
While leeches have a reputation for being blood suckers, most just eat macroinvertebrates.

Scuds
(*Order: Amphipoda*)
Sometimes referred to as freshwater shrimp, these crustaceans are important mesograzers.

Mosquito
(*Order: Diptera*)
Mosquito larva have a 'snorkel' on their tail that lets them breath air while eating underwater.

Water Flea
(*Order: Cladocera*)
Also known as daphnia, these zooplankton use their large pair of antennas to swim.

The Great Salt Lake

The Great Salt Lake is the largest salt water lake in the Western Hemisphere. Its salinity ranges between 5 and 27 percent, which helps it support a population of single-celled archaea that can make the lake's water look pink.


The Great Salt Lake- Utah

Alkali Fly
(*Order: Diptera*)
Only 1% of flies living on the Great Salt Lake belong to this species.

Biting Fly
(*Order: Diptera*)
These small black flies love to live in wet environments such as wetlands and shorelines.

Biting Midge
(*Order: Diptera*)
While the larva of this midge is the bottom of the food chain, the adults can drink blood.

Brine Fly
(*Order: Diptera*)
This fly does not bite and has a special organ that allows it to remove excess salt from its body.

Brine Shrimp
(*Order: Anostaca*)
These little crustaceans are adapted to living in water with very high salinity (up to 25%).

Mosquito
(*Order: Diptera*)
Mosquito larva have a 'snorkel' on their tail that lets them breath air while eating underwater.

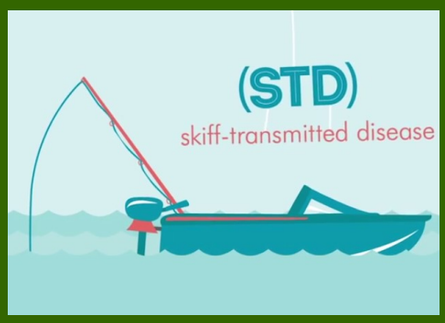
No-See-Ums
(*Order: Diptera*)
These tiny midges are so small they are difficult to see with the naked eye.

Water Boatmen
(*Order: Hemiptera*)
The strong legs of this insect help them swim and make them skilled underwater predators.

Protecting The Bottom Of The Food Chain

Macroinvertebrates may be small, but these species of charismatic microfauna are an important food source for many of the fish, birds, and mammals in the Great Salt Lake watershed. Because these creatures live in water, they are very sensitive to changes in their environment. We all need to work together to help protect the watershed.

I pledge to protect the bottom of the food chain by...



Conserving Water

Utah is a desert, which means that we need to use water wisely. Reduce the water you use by **fixing leaks**, **turning off taps**, and **water-wise landscaping**.

For more info check out: localscapes.com

Preventing Litter

Actions on land can impact creatures in the water. Keep aquatic ecosystems clean by **picking up after pets**, **recycling trash**, and **not pouring waste down storm drains**.

For more info check out: streamsidescience.usu.edu

Cleaning Gear

Invasive Species can catch a ride on boats, fishing gear, and water toys. Protect our watersheds by **draining**, **washing**, and **drying** your gear before entering the water.

For more info check out: stdofthesea.utah.gov