

MLSNF Watersheds

Safe Drinking Water Act

Passed in 1974, the Safe Drinking Water Act was designed to protect public health by regulating the country's public drinking water supply.

Originally, the Act focused on treatment at the tap, setting national health-based standards to protect against both naturally-occurring and human-produced contaminants.

In 1996, the Act was amended to include a vital piece of the protection puzzle—protection of the source.

Thanks to these amendments, every state must conduct an assessment of its sources of drinking waters (rivers, lakes, aquifers, reservoirs, springs, groundwater) to identify significant potential sources of contamination and determine how susceptible the sources are to those threats.

For more information,
www.epa.gov

The Manti-La Sal National Forest (North Zone and South Zone) contributes water to three major rivers: the Upper Colorado River, the Servier River and the Jordan River, tributary to the Great Salt Lake. The Forest receives about 2,640,000 acre-feet of precipitation of which about 731,000 acre-feet are yielded as stream flow.

The health of the vegetation of the Manti La Sal Forest is extremely important in the protection of the watershed. Over 4,000 uses have been identified in the Forest such as use at administrative sites, recreation sites and for fisheries. Water flows off the Forest through an estimated 13,600 miles of channels. About 680 miles of stream channels are recognized as perennial streams and as fisheries. Water from the Forest supplies all or a portion of the water used by 23 local communities. Approximately 39% of the Forest provides municipal water.



Sole Source Aquifers Designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In August 2001, the **Castle Valley Aquifer System** was designated as a Sole Source Aquifer by the U.S. EPA. The Castle Valley Aquifer System extends from the Town of Castle Valley southeast to the La Sal Mountains and northwest to the Colorado River and encompasses approximately 24,000 acres (and includes the immediate adjacent recharge area). According to EPA, "The Castle Valley Aquifer System supplies water of varying quality...and is used as a drinking water source with softening."

In January 2002, the **Glen Canyon Aquifer System** at Moab was designated as a Sole Source Aquifer by the U.S. EPA. The Glen Canyon Aquifer System is irregularly shaped, with maximum dimensions of about 22 miles from SE to NW and approximately 9 miles from SW to NE, encompassing about 76,000 acres. "Although the Glen Canyon Aquifer System underlies much of SE Utah, in the Moab area the aquifer is of very high quality, able to be used as a drinking water supply with minimal treatment required by the State of Utah."



RED ROCK FORESTS