



THE CONSERVANCY

— VICTORY RANCH —

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The Upper Provo River

Did You Know...

Before settlers arrived, the Ute Indians named the river Timpanoquint, which means "water running over rocks." However, the name was changed to Provo by early settlers, and the mountain to the north was given the original name, which is now known as Mount Timpanogos.

The Upper Provo River runs freely (not dammed or diverted) from its source at Wall Lake in the Uinta Mountains, through VR, to the Jordanelle reservoir, making it a freestone river. This type of river is created by natural processes such as rain and snowmelt and is typically fed by tributaries and springs. Over time, the in-stream rocks erode and break down into smooth stones, gravel, and sand, which is why they are called "freestone." The bottom of the river is always in motion, which can alter the structure of its banks. Freestone rivers are the most variable of river types in terms of flow and turbidity, as they are affected by snowmelt, rain, and tributaries, which can cause rapid rises and changes in color.

The Middle Provo River is the section between the Jordanelle and Deer Creek reservoirs while the lower Provo section is found below Deer Creek. The section of river below a dam is called tailwater.

As snow melts in the Uinta Mountains, the Upper Provo River's water levels can quickly fluctuate, posing risks to anglers and impacting the river's ecosystem. Strong currents and difficult access may occur, while changes in water temperature and oxygen levels can harm fish health and migration patterns, potentially damaging the river's ecosystem.

Another impact of the snowmelt is the sediment and debris carried into the river, which can negatively impact the water quality and habitat of fish. To ensure the safety of all those who use the river, it's important to be aware of the potential dangers and to take the necessary precautions. This can include staying informed about river conditions and following recommended safety guidelines.

According to the Utah Division of Water Resources, the Provo River is expected to peak in terms of flow and water level during the month of May, with the exact timing depending on the amount of snowmelt and other weather conditions. Anglers should plan accordingly and check the latest river conditions before heading out. Despite the potential challenges, higher water flows can also improve fishing conditions and create better habitat for fish, making it an exciting time for fishing!

Contact Member Services to book a guided fishing outing with one of our professional outfitters.

For more info on current river conditions:

[Central Utah Water Conservancy Stream Data](#)

[USGS Daily Water Flow at Hailstone](#)