

The Virgin River Program is a **cooperative partnership** between local, state, federal, and private entities. The goals of the Program include efforts to **protect native species** and their habitat while accommodating recreational and consumptive needs required for the growing **human population** in the Virgin River Basin.

RIVER



WILDLIFE



PEOPLE



The Virgin River, lifeblood of southwestern Utah, shapes the dramatic scenery of the area and makes it possible for people and wildlife to survive. The river travels for over 150 miles from its headwaters above Zion National Park to Lake Mead.

The Virgin River is a desert stream characterized by extreme flow fluctuations ranging from a warm trickle in the heat of summer to a cold, raging torrent during spring runoff and flash floods.

Despite flowing through an arid region, the Virgin River is home to a diverse array of plants and animals. This exceptional environment supports hundreds of wildlife species, including six native fish and the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Many species that rely on the river are endangered or otherwise imperiled. The Virgin River Program was established to enhance, recover, protect, and preserve native species while providing water for human needs.

The economic and intrinsic value of the Virgin River has attracted a steady stream of people from the first indigenous inhabitants and early pioneers to the current day community. People are drawn to the spectacular scenery and abundant resources of the Virgin River.

Today, the river sustains one of the fastest growing communities in the nation. The river provides drinking water, irrigation for farming and ranching, outdoor recreation opportunities, and an exceptional quality of life.



Woundfin

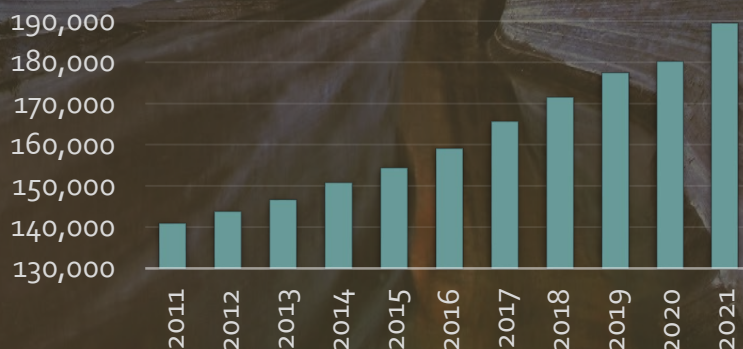


Speckled Dace



Flannelmouth Sucker

Washington County Population



The Virgin River Program pioneered **cooperative conservation** efforts that allow both **humans** and **wildlife** to thrive in one of the fastest growing communities in the U.S.

VIRGIN RIVER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

Enhancing & protecting floodplain & wildlife habitat

Enhancing water development abilities to sustain human needs

Stocking & monitoring native fish populations

Enhancing native fish populations by providing water releases & controlling non-native fish

Providing local outreach programs for schools & communities

Assisting with watershed & floodplain planning throughout the basin



Desert Sucker

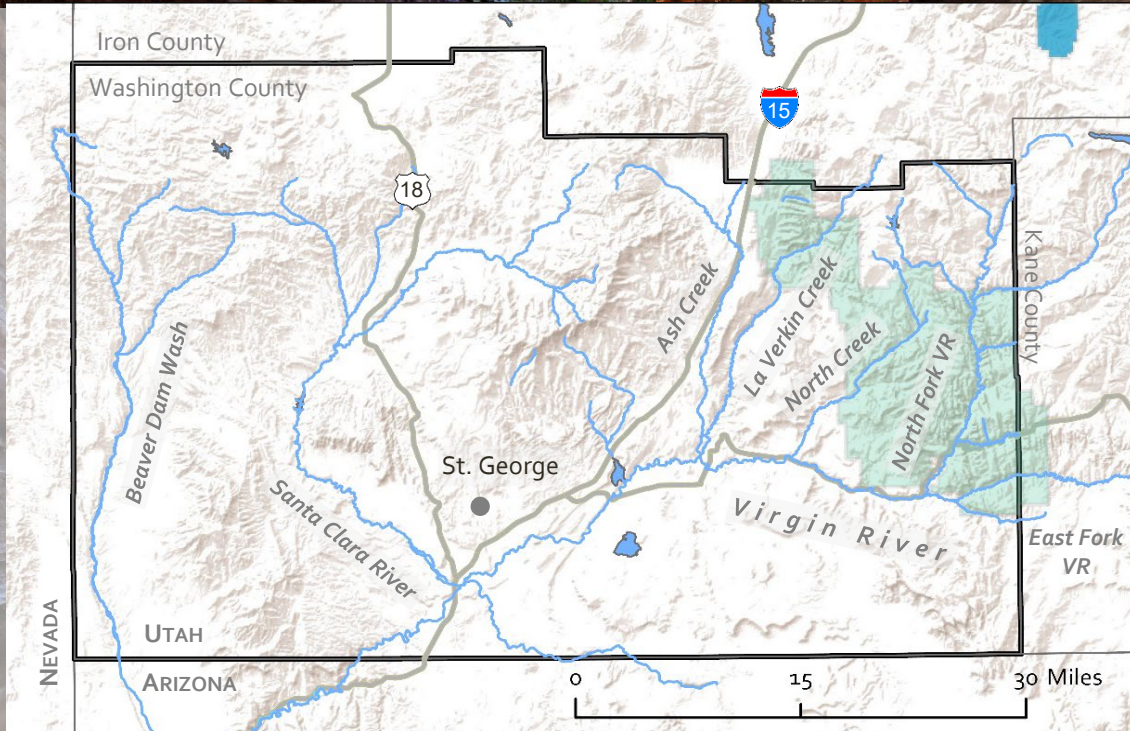


Virgin Spinedace



Virgin River Chub

A key function of the Virgin River Program is to reconcile and **avoid potential conflicts** between water development and wildlife conservation. The Program simplifies regulatory processes for water users and landowners while ensuring that future generations can enjoy Utah's natural heritage.



>65

river miles restored for native fish by removing invasive species

>20

linear miles of riparian woodland restored, enhanced, & protected.

~1,500

acre-feet of water returned to the river annually to support native fish

For more information, please contact:

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