



Stockton Water Supply

Stockton has a type of perennial water source, where groundwater is the primary source of water for the stream flow. Runoff from precipitation is a supplemental source of water for the stream flow during the spring of each year. The drinking water from springs up Soldier Canyon has been the primary source of water since the town was founded in 1863.

In the 1950s, the Utah Circuit Court made a ruling with advice from the Utah Division of Water Rights to allocate to Stockton Town 210 gallons per minute (gpm) from April 1st to October 31st of each year and 490 gpm from Nov 1st to March 31st. The remaining water flow was to go to the Soldier Canyon Irrigation Company for agriculture use.

In 1983 Northern Utah experienced some severe flooding from the runoff caused by the rapid snow melt in the mountains. This flooding from the runoff demolished the collection system for the Town of Stockton. In 1985 the State of Utah advised Stockton to install a sand filtration treatment plant to treat the Stockton drinking water.

Up until the 1990s there was over 500 gpm coming from the Soldier Canyon springs. In 2003 a video documentary was taken and there was approximately 500 gpm coming down the canyon then. At the eastern end of Soldier Canyon there are two canyons with flowing springs that provide water for the town and irrigation company. The southern canyon is named Right Hand Fork Canyon and the northern canyon is named Left Hand Fork canyon. In 2003 there were five active springs flowing from Right-Hand Fork Canyon with two springs that had quit flowing and were dried up. Also, in 2003 there were 12 active springs flowing from Left-Hand Fork Canyon with some springs that had quit flowing and were dried up. In 2008 Stockton received a bond to drill an emergency well to supplement the water supply.

A survey of the canyon water flow was taken on September 2, 2022, by David Carberry, Former Soldier Canyon Irrigation Company president, Skye Sieber, a manager for the Utah Division of Drinking Water, and Nando Meli, Stockton Mayor. In the 2022 survey there was only one active spring at the bottom of Right-Hand Fork Canyon that had enough flow to contribute to the water supply (see photo #1). There were also two springs near the bottom but dried up as soon as they entered into the creek bed. The remaining springs had quit flowing and were dried up.

Also, in 2003 the springs near the top of Left-Hand Fork Canyon had quit flowing (see Photo #2) with about five active springs with enough flow (see photo #3) to contribute to the water supply.

Stockton is required to have two sources of water for the residents of Stockton. One of our water sources, the Soldier Canyon Springs, does not have enough flow to supply the town with enough water for the Stockton residents. In 2021 there was 220 gpm coming down to the treatment plant. In April of 2022 there was 160 gpm flowing into the treatment plant, and by November of 2022 there was only 130 gpm flowing into the treatment plant. Stockton has been required this last year to place restrictions on water use and place a moratorium on new residential development.

The water supply for Stockton Town has decreased almost every year for the last 20+ years and if it continues, Stockton may not have enough water for its current residents and may have to take drastic actions to cease future residential development. That is why Stockton is asking the Utah Legislature to Grant Stockton the \$2.4 million required for a new well to supply Stockton with its water supply needs.

Mayor Nando Meli
Stockton Town Mayor