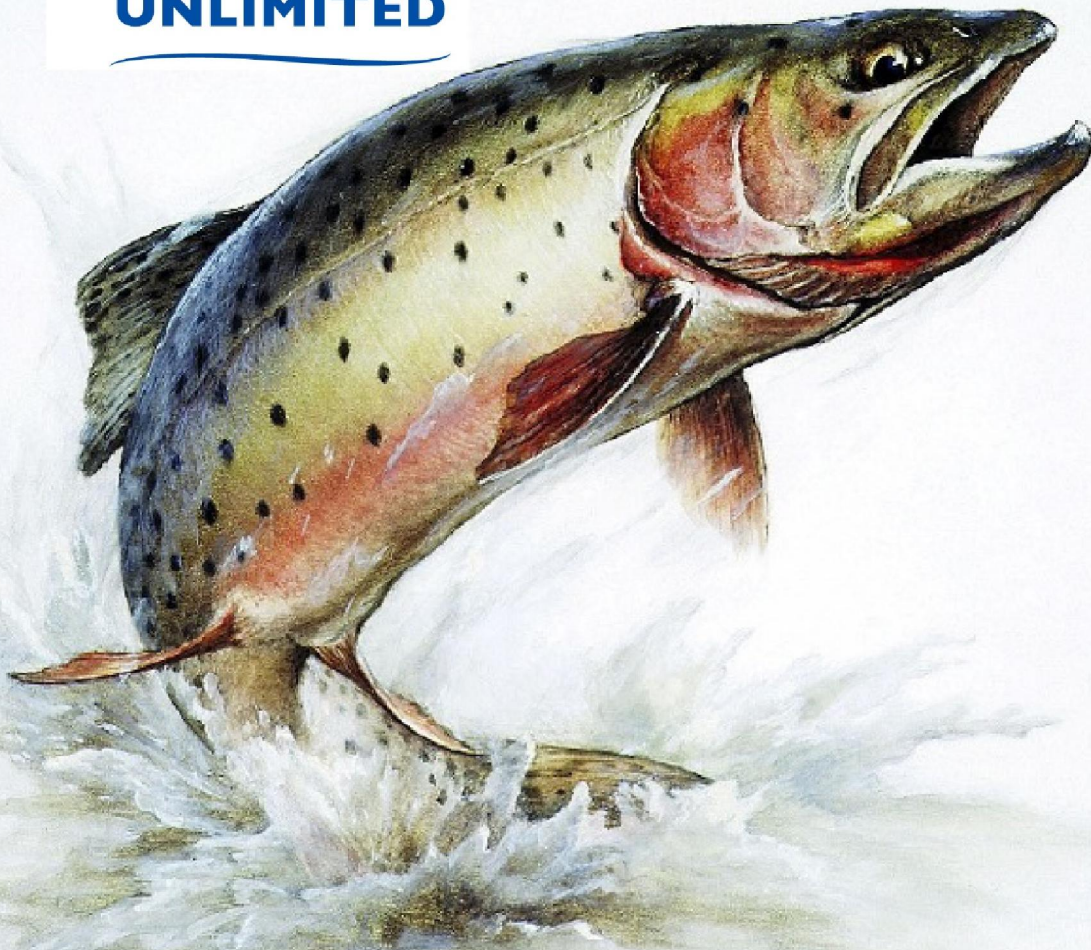


UTAH



**TROUT
UNLIMITED**

**PROTECT
RECONNECT
RESTORE
SUSTAIN**



Compiled by Wes Johnson, Utah State Council of Trout Unlimited

TROUT UNLIMITED

Trout Unlimited is a national conservation group founded in 1959 dedicated to Protecting, Reconnecting, Restoring, and Sustaining our coldwater resources to benefit the anglers who value healthy streams and excellent angling opportunities. TU is supported by member donations, with 90% of the funds raised by TU going directly into conservation programs.

UTAH TROUT UNLIMITED

Utah Trout Unlimited has eight chapters located in northern and southern Utah. In addition to the chapters, there is a State Council comprised of members from each Chapter. Lastly, TU national has a staff of biologists in Utah working on conservation programs. To learn about the individual chapters, you can find them on Facebook or their websites.

If you are not a member of TU, we hope this document shows you why you should join TU. If you are interested in joining TU, here is a link to a webpage that will give you a 50% discount on your first year's [TU membership](http://www.tu.org/intro) -- www.tu.org/intro.

As of March 2023, there were over 2000+ members statewide, which represents less than 0.01% of the 462,000+ fishing/combination licenses sold in the State. If you are not a member of TU, we hope this document shows you why you should join TU. If you are interested in joining TU, here is a link to a webpage that will give you a 50% discount on your first year's [TU membership](http://www.tu.org/intro) -- www.tu.org/intro.

THE UTAH COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

The purpose of the Council shall be to increase the effectiveness of Trout Unlimited in the State of Utah and to foster sound trout management in the State and region by the following means:

- Fostering the concept of wild trout fishing as a sport and a heritage to be protected for future generations;
- Promoting trout and salmon waters as a resource and especially with the preservation and enhancement of the quality and quantity of such water;
- Promoting the concept of quality trout fishing and encouraging the adoption of fishing regulations that will provide for such fishing.
- Serving as a line of communication with government agencies and speaking as a unified voice for Trout Unlimited on State and regional fisheries management matters;
- The adequate inventory of trout and salmon waters as a resource and its classification in a manner conducive to the development of effective biological and sociological management programs;
- Establishing liaison among member chapters;
- Coordinating projects and programs of member chapters;
- Interpreting and providing guidance to chapters in carrying out the policies and objectives of Trout Unlimited;
- Building state and regional Trout Unlimited membership;
- Providing another vehicle for communication between chapters and the national organization via members elected from the Council to the National and Regional Boards of Trout Unlimited from members residing within the State;
- Raising funds by solicitation and conducting fundraising activities provided, however, that all funds so raised shall be used exclusively for the purpose of the Council;
- Provide review and give comments to chapter fisheries management programs or projects in the Council area.

Over the years, the Utah Council has addressed many issues facing our cold-water fisheries. These include: Whirling Disease, Aquaculture, establishing a balanced Fish Health Policy Board, In-Stream Flows, Oil and

Gas Exploration, Roadless Areas, Grazing, Protecting Access to Public Lands, Stream Restoration, FERC Relicensing, Native Fish Recovery.

Trout Unlimited and all of our chapters are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entities and your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

STONEFLY SOCIETY TU CHAPTER 48



The Stonefly Society is the oldest TU chapter in Utah and one of the oldest in the United States. We are a Utah Trout Unlimited Chapter for Salt Lake County and the surrounding area. We welcome everyone who cares about fishing and the conservation of Utah's fisheries. Currently, there are close to 900 active TU members associated with the Stonefly Society

Trout Camp for Teens

Each year the Stonefly Society and the Utah Council of Trout Unlimited host a three-day, all inclusive fly fishing camp for mature teens between the ages of 12 - 17. The camp is held at Sportsman's Paradise, aka White's Ranch, in Paradise, UT, and is limited to a total of fourteen boys and girls. White's Ranch is a private fly fishing facility with miles of private streams and ponds that are loaded with trout. Registrations are conducted online and are accepted on a "first come, first served" basis. No prior fly fishing experience is necessary. All of the required equipment, including rods, reels, line, leaders, tippet, accessories and flies are provided. The camp is a "sleep away" camp with segregated sleeping accommodations for boys and girls, and with all meals, snacks and hydration provided. In addition to fly fishing, campers learn entomology and basic fly tying skills. The program is supervised by skilled TU volunteers, all of whom must complete a police background check and receive training in working with young people. Campers return from the camp with a lot more skill, experience, knowledge and friendships, but, most importantly, they catch a lot of fish and have tons of fun. In 2023, the camp will be held on June 20-22, 2023. To register, and for further information contact David Leta at 801-560-5382 or David.leta@gmail.com.



"Second Cast" gear donation project

Stonefly Society, in cooperation with all of the other Utah TU Chapters, has launched the "Second Cast" gear donation project to find fishing gear and raise money so that teens and other young fly fishers will have the gear they need to learn the sport. The TU chapters are asking members who have useable fly fishing and fly tying gear that they no longer need or use to donate this gear so that deserving kids who participate in our youth training programs, including our annual Trout Camp for Teens, can use it. There is a special need for the basics: rods, reels (with line) and accessories (nippers, forceps, tippet, vests, etc.). The Stonefly Society is a 501(c)(3) tax

Mill Creek cutthroat restoration project complete

After a century of absence, indigenous Bonneville cutthroat trout once again swim in Mill Creek in Salt Lake City. Removal of a small dam and restoration of the creek channel through the dam site was the consummation of a four-year collaborative project. The success of the ambitious project was recently celebrated with the third, and final, stocking of native Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Utah Trout Unlimited collaborated with the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, PacifiCorp, private landowners, Boy Scouts of America and others on removal of non-native trout, culvert replacement, dam removal, stream restoration, and reintroduction of Bonneville cutthroat trout. TU's Stonefly Society chapter used an Embrace-A-Stream grant and many volunteer hours to create a conservation model within a five-minute drive from Salt Lake Valley and its 1.5 million people.

In addition to providing funds for replacing culverts to allow fish passage, TU assisted in the cleanup and disposal of non-native fish after rotenone treatments for three consecutive years. While fingerlings cutthroat were being stocked in

November 2016, previously stocked cutthroat trout had grown to catchable size in the upper sections of the creek, where anglers have been catching the native cutts as part of the new Utah Cutthroat Slam, also a Trout Unlimited joint venture. Proceeds from the Utah Cutthroat Slam were used for the Mill Creek dam removal.

Mill Creek Canyon is a short, 9-mile canyon that enters the Salt Lake Valley near a shopping mall. The creek continues through Salt Lake City's neighborhoods and parks. Because of its proximity to the city's residents, Mill Creek Canyon is heavily used for hiking, biking, picnicking, and other recreation, including fishing.

The Mill Creek restoration is significant because native Bonneville cutthroat trout were extirpated nearly a century ago when non-native trout were planted in Mill Creek and the river was altered by the construction of lumber mills. The indigenous trout are named for ice-age Lake Bonneville, which inundated the mouth of Mill Creek Canyon 15,000 years ago. In addition to native cutthroat reintroduction, native mountain suckers and long-nose dace were also reintroduced to the lower section of the creek.

You can find us on Facebook or our website <https://stoneflysociety.tu.org>



CACHE ANGLERS TU CHAPTER 665



Cache Anglers are a group of Anglers dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the fishing tradition of Cache Valley and around the world. Cache Anglers is the Northern Utah chapter of Trout Unlimited. We currently have about 175 active TU members in our Chapter.

Even if you are not a TU member, we welcome you to come and participate in any of our activities. Don't be shy. Dive in and have some fun while you learn more about your sport and give something back to boot. We look forward to getting to know you. For more information on our regularly scheduled events and activities, check out our website <http://cacheanglers.com> and you can find us on Facebook.

Logan River Task Force: Cache Anglers have been very involved in the development of management strategies relating to the Logan River. In 2016 they participated in the Logan River Task Force that was created to protect and improve the Logan River. For more details, please visit:



https://www.loganutah.org/Logan%20River%20CAP%20Summary%20Report_May2016.pdf

Cache Anglers have been very involved in restoration of valuable spawning tributaries to the Logan River. These tributaries include the Right-Hand Fork of the Logan, Temple Fork, and Spawn Creek. They have built fencing exclosures to keep livestock out of sensitive riparian areas.

Cache Anglers have worked with DWR and Utah State University in conducting population studies on the Logan River and its tributaries. Also, they have helped collect milt and roe from cutthroats to raise them in the Logan Hatchery. Here they would escape the initial impacts of whirling disease and then be returned to the tributaries.



Cache Anglers have been instrumental in trying to return the once massive hatch of stoneflies in the Logan back to the hatches decades ago. They have done this by trapping stonefly nymphs in the Blacksmith Fork and releasing them into the Logan River. The demise of the salmon fly in the Logan River is a mystery, although some theorize that it may be due to



environmental issues such as road salt along HWY-89, spraying foliage along the roads/river interface, and septic systems from summer homes along upper portions of the Logan River. All of these may have impacts on the return of these magnificent insects. Salmon flies can reach two inches in length. They are an important food source for coldwater fish species like trout and salmon and their presence is an indicator of good water quality and stream health.

The volunteers gather at the mouth of the Blacksmith Fork Canyon. There they will collect the salmon flies using nets and screens and then transport them to the Logan River where they will be released. The insects were once abundant in the Logan River, but haven't been found there since 1966. However, they are still very common in the Blacksmith Fork River – the Logan Rivers largest tributary stream.

The Trout Unlimited volunteers have been working in conjunction with Utah State University to transport the insect back into the Logan River and then to track the success of its reintroduction. With the consent of the US Forest Service and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the project called for two relocations each year.

HIGH COUNTRY FLY FISHERS TU CHAPTER 599



Welcome to High Country Fly Fishers. We are a TU chapter located in Summit and Wasatch Counties in Utah. We usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's in Park City. Old friends and non-members are always welcome, so drop by for good conversation, interesting programs, and fish tales. Currently, we have over 200 active members. For more information on any of our projects: www.hcff.net

Provo River Temperature Monitoring Project

In 2022 HCFF collected data from set monitors along the entire Middle Provo river and identified temperature increases driven by continued or future drought conditions that may be stressful or harmful to the trout fishery. The dataset will provide information to fishermen on temporal and spatial temperature trends that affect the hatching of macroinvertebrates, and analyses with related datasets on discharge and water temperatures at the dam will be used to gain a better understanding of dam operations in the fishery. The project will introduce high school students to fishing, the river, project planning, and data collection and analysis procedures. The web-based document will provide comprehensive information on the river and its fishery for local and visiting anglers. Check out our website for more information use the QR code for quick access.



Willow Starts for Provo River Delta Project

HCFF partnered with other local fly fishing clubs to cut more than 2000 willow starts that were planted in the Provo Delta Restoration area above Utah Lake. In two separate outings, HCFF volunteers contributed nearly 100 hours working with Paula Trater on this effort.

Strawberry River Willow Planting

In 2019, HCFF was awarded a TU Embrace A Stream (EAS) grant to plant willows on the East Fork of the Strawberry River. To supplement the TU grant, HCFF raised additional funds from our members and got an Orvis Matching Grant to achieve a total of \$5000.

The HCFF willow planting on May 7th & 8th, 2021 was the final phase of a much larger DWR project to improve the streambed in the East Fork of the Strawberry River. The EAS committee worked with Alan Ward of UDWR to coordinate the schedule and to purchase 1100 one-gallon container willow plants.



During 2020, UDWR and the US Forest Service worked with Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) funds to mitigate US Highway 40 construction activities. The efforts focused on the east channel of the Strawberry River north of US Highway 40, near Dock Flats Road. UDWR's short-term goal was to aggrade the channel and reconnect it to the floodplain, limit bank erosion, and stabilize the banks with vegetation.

Alan Ward directed the installation of 27 beaver dam analogs, made from wood posts and willow cuttings, along a 2,600 LF section of the Strawberry River. The beaver dam analogs trap sediment, build up the channel, and seal off the stream bed so it can hold water on the surface year-round. At 12 locations (1,100 LF in total), coconut fiber fabric was installed in streambank laybacks to establish a gradual slope to existing vertical raw banks to connect the riverbed to the floodplain.

Once the major portion of the DWR project was completed, HCFF gathered volunteers from High Country Fly Fishers, Utah TU Council, Stone Fly Society, Bonneville Fly Fishers, UDWR and UDWR Dedicated Hunters, and US Forest Service, Spring Creek Landscaping, Harmon's Grocers, teachers, students, family members, and friends to plant the willows in the Strawberry River streambed. The goal is to apply these measures to the entirety of the Strawberry River north of US Hwy 40 so that it will hold water at the surface throughout the year to allow the fingerling Bonneville Cutthroat trout to reach the Reservoir. We'll be planting again in the coming years as more funds for willow purchases are raised.

Catch and Release Tool

A member of HCFF developed a simple tool in 2020 to release fish without netting or touching them. His prototype was distributed to other members to use that summer. After successful testing, HCFF made 250 of these tools as a 2021 Conservation Project and gave them away to fishermen and women. A video showing the use of the tool is on the HCFF website. Some members reported catching 30 to 40 fish in a single day and never touching one.



Catch and Release Tool

Garbage Cleanups In & Around Utah Rivers and Reservoirs

HCFF celebrated Earth Day 2021 by partnering with Fish For Garbage to provide 200+ brown bag breakfasts to volunteers who picked up 12,000 pounds of garbage from the Lower Provo River. HCFF also leads our own trash cleanups around the area by urging all fishers who attend our monthly Fish Days to spend the last 30 minutes of each outing collecting trash. 2021 Fish Day cleanup areas included Mill Hollow Reservoir, Strawberry Reservoir, and Current Creek.

Electro-Shocking on the Lower Provo

HCFF joined other organizations around the area to support Mike Slater/DWR in a week-long electro-shock fish counting exercise on the Lower Provo. Fish biologists use the information gathered to better understand

the health of the waterway. What an eye-opener to actually see just how many fish are in a given stretch of the Provo River.

Fishing and Social Events

HCFF conducted six multiday fishing and camping trips in Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. Eight one-day outings explored different trout waters within an hour from Park City. HCFF members also taught fly fishing and fly tying classes to those just starting in the sport. Educational efforts included Trout-in-the-Classroom aquariums in six schools and supporting a Youth Fly Fishing Camp. HCFF members also joined Paula Trater/Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission to cut willow starts from the Middle Provo to plan in the Provo River Delta Restoration Project Area. A summer Steak Fry and a Christmas Party rounded out the year's activities.



Breakfast is Served



Electro-Shock on the Lower Provo



Gathering Willow Starts

WEBER BASIN ANGLERS

TU CHAPTER 681



Hello anglers, do you want to learn new fishing strategies, network with fisher-friends, tie flies, or volunteer your time? If so, we'd love for you to join us. We're located in the still untamed Ogden, Utah area and our chapter goals work towards conserving, protecting, and restoring our local Utah trout waters. Chapter meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month and you can find all the details on our Facebook page: Weber Basin Anglers Trout Unlimited. We currently have over 360 active TU members in our Chapter.

Strawberry Creek

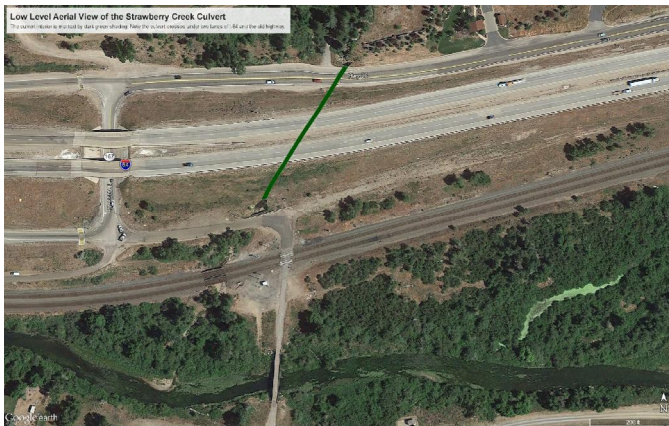
About 100 feet east of the Mountain Green exit off I-84 there is a 385-foot long culver that was built under the freeway so Strawberry Creek could connect with the Weber River. This concrete culvert had for decades presented a barrier to Bonneville cutthroats trying to migrate up stream to historical spawning grounds. TU along with DWR designed 40 ten-foot structures to provide fish passage under the freeway. Once installed the fish counters indicated that many fish were returning to their native spawning areas.



Upper End



Lower End



Path of Fish Ladder



Success

Weber River and Utah's Bonneville Cutthroat Trout

The Weber River from Morgan downstream through the canyon and into the Wasatch Front has a population of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout that are fighting to survive. One of the major problems for these trout trying to get upstream to spawn is the power facility in Weber Canyon. The only fish that make it past this plant are those that find the pass when the forebay gates are open in late winter through early Spring. After which the gates are closed.

With the FERC relicensing coming due for this facility, TU is working closely with PacifiCorp to improve passage for these Utah sensitive species fish. The diversion dam at the I-84 eastbound rest area in Weber Canyon is the main problem. Here water is piped to the power plant lower in the canyon. Although this dewatered much of the river in the canyon, there remains just enough for fish to move upstream. Once in place a new fish ladder will provide passage to the historical small headwater streams that are historical spawning areas.

Many of these spawning streams have barriers that restrict upstream movement of spawning trout. As these barriers are redesigned and rebuilt, further passage to upstream spawning areas will occur. The rebuilding of these barriers will prevent many Bonnevilles from ending up in irrigation ditches where they may end up in fields or dewatered streams. Those Bonnevilles that have spawned and make it back to the Weber will spread out along many areas of the Weber as far downstream as to where the Ogden River joins the Weber. Many of these fish will exceed 20-inches in length.

Wildfires in September 2017 decimated hundreds of acres of riparian and upland vegetation along the Weber River and destroyed six homes. The fire destroyed the buck and rail fence that surrounded the Fisherman's

Point Angler Access parking lot. DWR had the material, but not the staff, to rebuild the fence. Weber Basin Anglers said they would rebuild it if DWR delivered the material.

It was on a cold December day that TU volunteers and others went to work. After ten hours of work over the weekend, the 12-foot poles were transformed into a new fence around the parking lot. The fence provides protection to the upland and riparian habitats from motorized vehicles and functions as a public access point to the Weber River Trail system for anglers and other recreational users of the Weber.



HIGH DESERT ANGLERS TU CHAPTER 620



High Desert Anglers is the Uintah Basin area grassroots chapter of Trout Unlimited dedicated to Conserving, Protecting and Restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We currently have over 50 active TU members in our Chapter.

Throughout the winter months, our Chapter held its monthly meetings (which are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month) at Sportsman's Warehouse in Vernal. These were a great success, and this year our Chapter purchased some video equipment that allowed us to project each fly that was being tied onto a screen so all the tiers had a clear view of each step as it was performed.

In February we rented the indoor Recreation gymnasium in Vernal and held a casting and fly tying clinic. The DWR helped out and had a preregistration through their outreach program. Again, participation was excellent and we were able to give away several fly rods as gifts. The Chapter was able to purchase several teaching aids to help with the casting instruction, and they will be available to use for many years to come.

May brought us out to Big Brush Creek which is 12 miles north of Vernal, for our annual cleanup of a body of water in our region. Big Brush Creek will be the focus of our Chapter for the next few years as we have plans along with Uintah County, the BLM, the DWR, and private interests for some extensive stream bank restoration, a 1.7-mile parallel trail along the Creek with 2 bridges and numerous fishermen access points along the trail for this 1.7-mile Creek. Jordan Nielson and Paul Burnett, TU biologists in Utah, along with help from a local engineering firm in Vernal helped procure a WRI Grant from the State that will allow us to get our

NEPA permit completed, which makes available other grant opportunities to complete this project. This is an ambitious multiyear project that we hope will become a nice urban fishery available to the fishermen of Vernal and the State of Utah!

The end of May also got us out to a field trip to a private pond in Vernal to observe several classrooms releasing the trout that they raised through the Trout in the Classroom program that our Chapter has helped fund for many years. We have over a dozen setups in the Uintah Basin and we feel this program is one of the best ways we have to reach out to youth. The children have a great time throughout the year raising their trout and their excitement during the release of their fish is fun to observe!



May also allowed us to return to Calder's Reservoir to evaluate the status of our windmill and solar aerator projects from the past 2 years. The solar aerators have been a huge success with the windmills being a work in progress. We have had a lot of issues with the windmills (not the least of which have been muskrats chewing through air lines-who knew?). By incorporating some components of our solar system into the windmill system (mainly larger air hoses and replacing the windmills aerators with diffusers used in the solar system) we finally believe we may have resolved the problems we have had with our windmills. This will be a fall project for the Chapter.

August normally begins with a Green River clean up that is held by the Green River Outfitters and Guides Association (GROGA) and one we participate in.

August also brings us to our most important Event of the year, our Annual Green River Single Fly Fundraiser. This is a large undertaking but one that is very rewarding and the results allow us to proceed with many projects that High Desert Anglers pursues on behalf of Trout Unlimited each year. A huge thanks to the Chapters throughout the State that are big supporters of this Event!

The fall will see us up at Calder's to refit our windmills and when the DWR finishes the Community Ponds that are currently under construction we plan to utilize them for an outdoor casting clinic that will be one that will mirror our clinic we hold indoors in late winter. These ponds will be a great asset to the Uintah Basin and will be available I believe in 2019 or 2020.

That's all for now and Tight Lines and thanks to all that devote so much to Trout Unlimited!

ALPINE ANGLERS OF UTAH COUNTY

TU CHAPTER 932



Alpine Anglers serves Utah and the surrounding area. We have been involved in numerous conservation projects associated with the Provo River and its drainage, Strawberry Reservoir and its tributaries, and those waters flowing from the mountains east of Utah Valley. We currently hold our meetings at the famed Sundance Resort. Currently, we have over 150 active TU members in our Chapter.

American Fork River

On August 20, 2016, an angler casting for trout on Utah's popular American Fork River noticed something was terribly wrong: a thick, toxic sludge was flowing down the river, killing the trout. Hours before and seven miles upstream, a dam-repair contractor made a fatal mistake. Fatal for the trout. The angler immediately reported the unfolding disaster to the leaders of his Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Utah County Alpine Anglers, who started making phone calls.

Despite river-protection procedures approved during permitting, the North Utah County Water Conservancy District (NUCWCD) and its contractor Whitaker Construction disregarded environmental-protection requirements and discharged a century-and-a half of mining-waste sediment from the reservoir as they drained it for repairs. NUCWCD has since been fined to reimburse Utah's Division of Water Quality for its frenetic water-quality testing and sediment sampling. Additionally, a legal settlement included punitive damages to fund restoration projects. Part of the punishment was justified by NUCWCD's failure to report the "spill" until days after the angling public started noticing the 5,200 dead fish.

After the disaster, I bided my time before finally visiting the river to assess its cleaned-up-and-partially-restored condition in November 2017. I found no obvious signs of the disaster, and the river appeared to have recovered. I was pleasantly surprised to catch many rainbow trout below Tibble Fork Dam. These were all 11-inch cookie-cutter rainbows that had been stocked in the summer of 2017 after most of the toxins had dissipated. However, stocking the American Fork with 9-to-10-inch rainbows is not a new approach in the seven-mile stretch below Tibble Fork Reservoir. The number and size of stocked trout were nearly the same in 2017 as it was every year prior to the toxic spill. American Fork below the dam has always been a put-and-take fishery that the DWR has historically stocked annually with six-thousand trout during July and August. Wild trout in the river take a back seat to the stocked rainbows, but when I waded the river, I spooked spawning brown trout from their redds, and I talked to a fellow angler who had caught a brook trout. Wild fish are moving back into the damaged section from small tributaries and from lower in the river system.

American Fork River above Tibble Fork Reservoir was not impacted by the dam reconstruction or the resulting toxin release, and I found it loaded with wild brown trout for its entire length. Although it too has ecological challenges, the fishery there is in good condition. The original sources of the mining sediments that were released during the dam work are the many abandoned mines in American Fork's headwaters. Long-abandoned mine shafts have filled with groundwater and seep water laden with heavy metals, which tint the reservoir a beautiful turquoise. Eleven years ago, Trout Unlimited (TU) collaborated to clean up old mine

tailings to improve water quality. Tailings were moved away from the river and were encapsulated in huge berms of soil to sequester the heavy metals. Currently, Snowbird Ski Resort is planning to expand its ski operations in the drainage and has resumed talks with TU, the conservation organization *Preserve and Protect American Fork Canyon*, and other organizations about cleaning up mine tailings. But conservation organizations are reticent to disturb abandoned mine tailings without passage of "good Samaritan" legislation (to deflect liability) that has languished in congress for a decade.

The upper sections of the American Fork River are accessible from a bumpy dirt road that follows the river up the canyon. In one steep section of the river, the Jeep road switchbacks away from the river for a mile or so, then rejoins the river and crosses it at Dutchman Flat. Between the switchbacks and Dutchman Flat, the road is far uphill from the river and the canyon wall is too steep to descend, necessitating that anglers enter the river below the switchbacks to hike and wade upriver in order to access this least-fished section.

While scouting for trout in Dutchman Flat, I watched two brown trout jump up an 18-inch waterfall and hold among the rocks in the shallow water above. I drifted a copper john among the cobbles, and I watched in anticipation as one of the trout darted from behind a rock to snatch it. Brown trout dominate the wild-trout water above the reservoir; however, catching a brook trout in any section is possible, although not probable.

Springs dot the river bank, and the river structure abounds with deep runs and pockets. The deepest holes in the river are plunge pools below log jams, and the largest trout seem to hang out in their depths. Fly patterns are not as important as good presentations with "confidence" flies. Getting good drifts with a brace of nymphs is difficult in plunge pools, but persistence and experimentation pay off with hookups.

By my assessment, the American Fork River above Tibble Fork Reservoir fishes as good as ever, and the few miles below the dam seem to have recovered quickly. Fishing is again excellent on all stretches of the American Fork River. A fee of \$6 is charged to enter the canyon, which is part of the Uinta National Forest.

GREAT BASIN CHAPTER

TU CHAPTER 705

This Chapter was founded by longtime TU conservationist Don Duff*. Although located in Baker, Nevada, Don and his group have been very active in the protection and restoration of Bonneville cutthroat trout in and around the Great Basin National Park. We currently have nearly 60 active TU members from both Utah and Nevada.

One of the geographic areas the Great Basin chapter has been active in are those streams found in the Pilot Mountains of western Utah. Many of these streams originate on the Goshute Reservation and flow into the Great Basin deserts to disappear into what once was Lake Bonneville.

It was here that a 'lost' population of Bonneville cutthroat trout were first identified. This 'find' led to the exploration of many streams' headwaters and the discovery of populations of Bonneville's that had been thought to be non-existent.

The chapters success in restoring aquatic and riparian habitats in and around Great Basin National Park has expanded the current and potential range of Bonneville cutthroats.

The Great Basin chapter was one of many ecologically conscious groups that fought against the proposed Snake Valley water development, a 300-mile, 7-ft diameter pipeline that would pump and move ground water to Las Vegas, NV. They demonstrated the disastrous impacts that taking millions of gallons underground water would devastate agricultural interests in the region and suck water away from already arid streams.

In recent years the Great Basin chapter has worked with the national park staff and other groups to transport Bonneville cutthroat in to pristine high mountain lakes of the park.

**Don Duff is a former fisheries biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management. Don's military career included aerial photography interpretation. He was the first individual to spot the missile deployments taking place by the USSR in Cuba.*



TU CHAPTER 187

Covering the Beaver, Cedar City, St George and southwestern Utah area. We normally hold our meetings at the Sportsman's Warehouse in St. George. You can find us on Facebook @colorcountryanglerssu or our website <http://colorcountryanglers.com>. Currently there we have about TU 150 members in our Chapter.

The Southern Region sport fish crew has a lot of great projects scheduled for the upcoming field season and we'd like to invite you to participate whenever and wherever you like. Many of the projects are gill net surveys, but there are a few other things that might interest you. Due to weather, snowpack, etc., dates are tentative and can be changed at the last minute. As the date for the project approaches, they will contact you with more details on time, meeting place, etc. Keep in mind, we never turn down volunteers but, if we get a lot of people signing up for one project, we'll end up splitting into multiple crews and you may have to take a turn on the boat.

Future projects working with DWR include: Gill net surveying at Minersville Reservoir, Otter Creek Reservoir, Forsyth Reservoir, Mill Meadow Reservoir, Pine Lake, Tropic Reservoir, Panguitch Lake, Kolob Reservoir, Navajo Lake, Fish Lake forage fish netting and Kokanee netting, Boulder Mountain, Dougherty Basin Colorado River cutthroat trap and spawning, Manning Meadow Bonneville cutthroat trap and spawning, Bonneville cutthroat trout monitoring (electrofishing) East Fork Sevier River

Pinto Creek restoration work:



Before



After

Brook trout study in the Boulder Mountains



Baker Reservoir



Mike Hadley, DWR, setting up project

A few members of CCA along with members of Southern Utah Anglers helped to catch brook trout for a project study that will restore Colorado cutthroat to the Boulder Mountain lakes. We were instructed to catch and return the live brook trout to a fish trap set up by the UDWR at the lakes. We enjoyed catching **a lot** of trout over the few days we helped out. A beautiful place for sure.

Mike shared the results of the brook trout survey: We were able to collect blood samples from 34 brook trout in each lake, as well as another 8 from the Barker Res inlet stream. All of the fish in Barker Res (including the inlet) were sterile (triploid). Of the 34 fish from Joe Lay, 7 were found to be fertile (diploid), while the rest were triploid. What this means for our cutthroat restoration project going forward is still to be determined, but we appreciate your help in gathering the information we need to make those decisions.



Baker Reservoir brook trout

UTAH WOMEN IN FLY FISHING

These are just two of many groups for women who fly fish and live in Utah.



Utah Women Flyfishers holds meetings from September through May at Western Rivers Flyfishers in Salt Lake City. Meetings are geared towards technical aspects of fly fishing such as knot tying, hatch info, casting lessons, fly tying,



setting up a rod/reel, lines/leaders/tippet info, and so on. On the water meetings include reading water and entomology and catching a Utah native cutthroat! Heidi Lewis, Utah Trout Unlimited Women's Initiative Chair, helps to coordinate this group. Close to home outings are often planned through the year so stay connected! Feel free to post with a fishing question or to connect with someone else on the river. All skill levels welcome. You can find us on Facebook (Utah-Women-Flyfishers) or e-mail us at utahwomenflyfishers@gmail.com.



Since 2014, the **Wasatch Women's Fly Fishing Club** has been on a mission to help get women on the water with confidence while building new connections and friendships. Throughout the entire year, WWFFC holds events on and off the water for anglers of all skill levels. From early April until late October, the club hosts fishing outings, volunteer opportunities, entomology classes, casting clinics, camping trips and

much more! During the colder months, from November through March, the club focuses on fly tying at each meeting while also planning events for the upcoming year. Through donations and outreach, WWFFC also has a program called Community Outreach Tackle and Gear that helps outfit members who are struggling with low income and cannot afford their own equipment. With support from its members, WWFFC is on track in expanding the Community Outreach Tackle and Gear program to more young girls and women in low-income communities throughout the State. Find them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WWFFC> or shoot them an email at wwffclub@gmail.com



United Women on The Fly is a great resource if you are traveling outside of Utah and want to connect with women anglers. <https://unitedwomenonthefly.com> or Facebook/unitedwomenonthefly.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE WATER!

UTAH CUTTHROAT SLAM

<https://www.utahcutthroatslam.org/>

The original concept of the **Utah Cutthroat Slam** was presented by Trout Unlimited to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as a way to have an angling adventure and support our native trout legacy. For just \$20, you can register to embark on the challenge. 95% of the money raised will be used to help fund native cutthroat trout conservation projects across the State. Over \$70,000 has been raised for Cutthroat projects. Utah Trout Unlimited has spent \$18,000 on numerous projects, Utah State University has spent \$4,300, the U.S. Forest Service has spent \$1,500, and DWR has invested \$32,300 in CuttSlam projects.



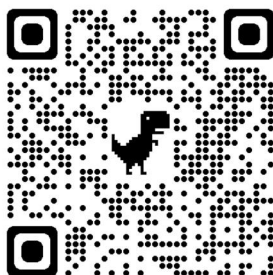
Cutthroat trout are beautiful, live in pristine environments and are the only trout native to Utah and much of the Rocky Mountain region. Help Trout Unlimited and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources protect this natural treasure. There are four species of Cutthroat trout in Utah; the Bear River, the Yellowstone, the Bonneville and the Colorado River cutthroats.

Each angler that completes the Utah Cutthroat Slam will receive a certificate of completion, a Cutthroat Slam medallion, bragging rights and official recognition on the official Utah Cutthroat Slam site, along with the appreciation of Trout Unlimited, the Utah Division of Natural Resources and anglers across the State for supporting efforts to protect our native cutthroat trout.



Can you catch and release each of the four Utah cutthroat trout subspecies in their native waters?

Over 1,000 anglers have completed the Cutthroat Slam! How about you?



Trout in the Classroom



Several Utah Chapters of Trout Unlimited are partnering with 64 Utah elementary and high schools, as well as with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), to provide guidance, technical assistance and instruction to Utah students about raising trout from eggs. This is a hands-on, in-classroom learning experience where students raise trout from fertilized eggs and release them into DWR-approved streams, community ponds or lakes.

Beginning in December, teachers set up 55-gallon cold water aquariums in their respective classrooms. Then, in early January, the DWR provides about 100 – 200 fertilized trout eggs to each classroom. The eggs are delivered to the classrooms by TU volunteers who also assist the teachers with setting up the equipment, troubleshooting any mechanical issues and providing the students with basic information about fish husbandry, environmental biology, entomology and fish habitat. Students are active participants in the project as they help teachers maintain suitable water quality and temperature, feed the fish, watch them grow and assist with releasing the fish when they grow to about 2-3 inches in size. During the 2022-23 school year, over 10,000 fish eggs were delivered to Utah classrooms, and in the same year, the program impacted over 4,200 students.



Most classrooms have a success rate of about 60 – 100 surviving fish, which is fantastic. As you might expect, this kind of success does not come without a lot of hard work at keeping the tanks clean and the water at the correct temperature and chemical balance. Proper feeding also is a necessity. TU volunteers play an important role in this process.

All of this effort is well worth it. In most schools, the fish are a topic of interest and pride for the entire school. Students from other classes, as well as other teachers, occasionally "check in" on the fish to see how they were doing. This creates a general sense of common purpose and community in the school, as well as building team spirit and comradery. The teachers report amazing levels of interest and responsiveness from the students. Not only did the students learn important lessons in biology and fish husbandry, but they developed a love and excitement for fishing. These students are the future of TU and of conservation efforts to preserve the resource that we all enjoy.

Going forward, the program's biggest challenge is obtaining funding to acquire the necessary equipment to add more classrooms. Presently, teacher demand exceeds supply. Each aquarium setup costs approximately \$1,500, and some schools cannot afford this expense, although it is a one-time purchase that can last for many years if the equipment is properly maintained. Efforts are underway to find individual and corporate sponsors

for the program. As the program continues to be successful, the ultimate goal is to use the classrooms as mini-hatcheries to help increase the stock of available fish in Utah waterways.

Here is a list of how many TIC projects each TU chapter helps manage (2022 – 2023 school year):

Alpine Anglers – 8
High Country Fly Fishers – 6
Stonefly Society – 27

Cache Anglers – 14
High Desert – 15
Weber Basin Anglers – 8



For more information on any of these activities, you can contact Wes Johnson at utahtu@gmail.com

If you would like to donate to TU programs, send an email to Treasurer@TUUtah.org and someone will call you.

Trout Unlimited and all of its chapters are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entities, and your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.