



TROUT  **UNLIMITED**

**PUTTING BOOTS ON THE GROUND FOR
COLDWATER CONSERVATION IN**

UTAH

SUSTAINING WATERS OF THE WEST

From the high plains to the mountains, Utah boasts some of the most beautiful and varied landscapes in the West. Four native cutthroat trout species—Bonneville, Colorado River, Yellowstone, and Bear River—call Utah rivers their home, with those same waters offering unmatched fishing for other species of wild trout.

In Utah, Trout Unlimited (TU) has nine conservation staff working across the state with our partners to mitigate the increasing demands on some of the West's most valuable waterways. The goal: resilient rivers that will continue to give us cold, clean water and great fishing for years to come.

In collaboration with landowners, water rights holders, local Tribes, and state and federal agencies, TU advances conservation projects that benefit rivers, wild fish, and communities. Two drought-stricken watersheds play an outsized role in water decisions in Utah: the Great Salt Lake to the north and the Colorado River Basin to the south. Unsustainable water use coupled with drought have led to a decades-long decline in the Great Salt Lake's volume and critical water supply issues in the Colorado River Basin.

But TU offers optimism in the face of these daunting challenges. We work with the state and federal agencies, partner organizations, landowners, and corporate allies to restore rivers and watersheds, balance water use, and promote our fisheries in the face of changing climate and drier hydrology. We offer hope and solutions.

Our Utah team is active on the ground across the state, reconnecting rivers and streams to help clear the way for Utah's native cutthroat trout. We are restoring stream function by implementing proven natural solutions, helping wild fisheries, and storing water for when it's needed most.

With our partners, TU is repairing side channels and floodplains to improve water quality, provide habitat, and ensure free passage for critical fish species. Our work extends beyond the rivers and into regional economies, where we work with local contractors and communities to implement sustainable projects. Our team is working to put millions of dollars to work to protect, reconnect, restore, and sustain our rivers and their fisheries.

Your commitment and partnership keep boots on the ground in Utah. We are grateful for your dedication to building a better future for the rivers and streams where we live, fish, and recreate.

With gratitude,



Jordan Nielson
Utah State Director

The Green River, where TU is working to mitigate the increasing demands on the watershed.

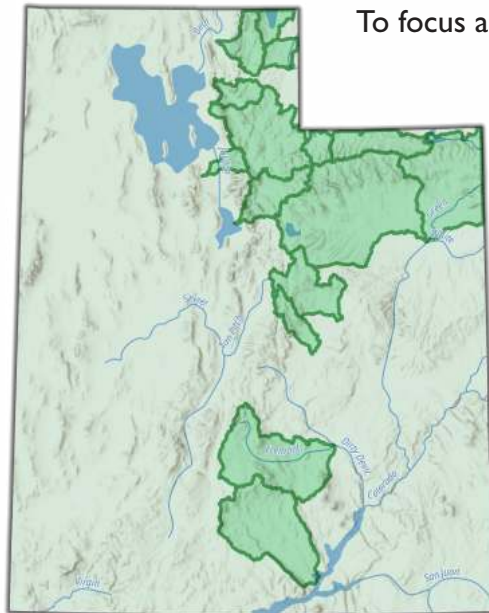
OUR IMPACT ON UTAH WATERSHEDS

\$9.7M FUNDING DEPLOYED

To propel critical projects across Utah

12 PRIORITY WATERS

Where TU works to make the greatest impact



To focus and expand our efforts on the most important habitat, TU identified **PRIORITY WATERS**.

These are the places of greatest opportunity, where we have the strongest potential to protect, reconnect, and restore vital fisheries.

We get results at every scale—from local to national—by leveraging our grassroots credibility, nonpartisan pragmatism, and local presence with science, conservation, and advocacy programs that are unrivaled in the conservation world.

Your support goes to work immediately in these unique waters, setting this bold vision in motion for Utah rivers and streams.

PRIORITY WATERS

**WEBER RIVER | BEAR RIVER | PRICE RIVER | PROVO RIVER
DUCHESNE RIVER | FREMONT RIVER | GREEN RIVER
HUNTINGTON CREEK | OGDEN RIVER | MILL CREEK
LOGAN RIVER AND BLACKSMITH FORK | BEAR LAKE**

LEARN MORE AT [PRIORITYWATERS.TU.ORG](https://prioritywaters.tu.org)

WASTACH RANGE

OUR IMPACT IN THE RANGE

500 BEAVER DAM ANALOGS BUILT

In 2024, restoring over five miles of stream

13 MILES OF HABITAT

Reconnected throughout the Weber Basin

20 CFS KEPT INSTREAM

In a critical stretch of trout habitat of the Lower Provo River.

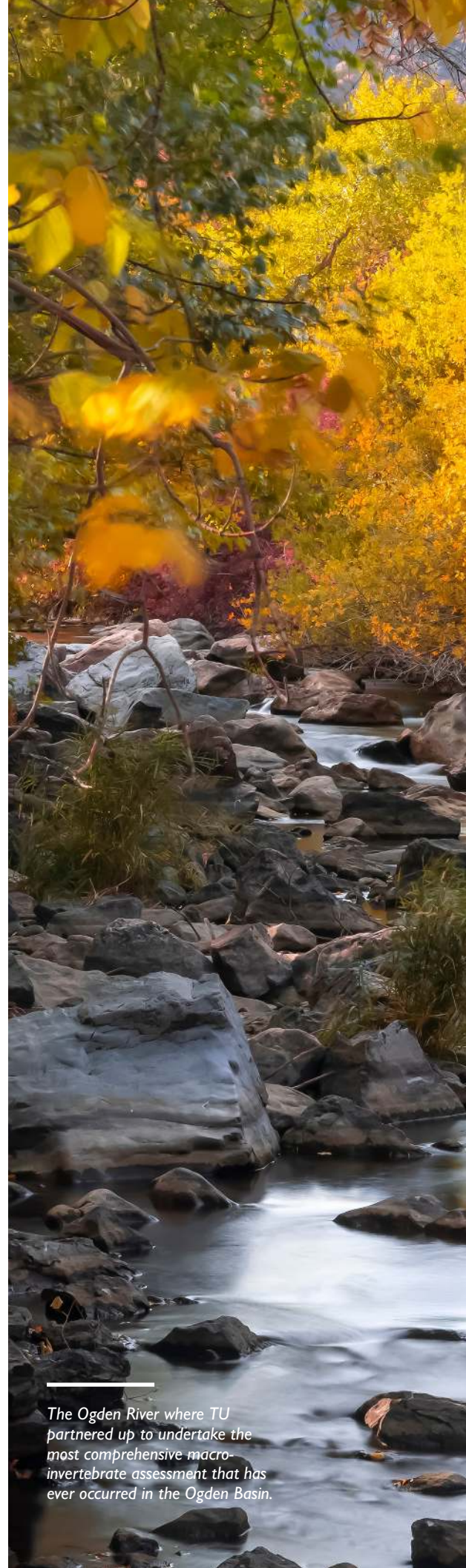
6 FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS

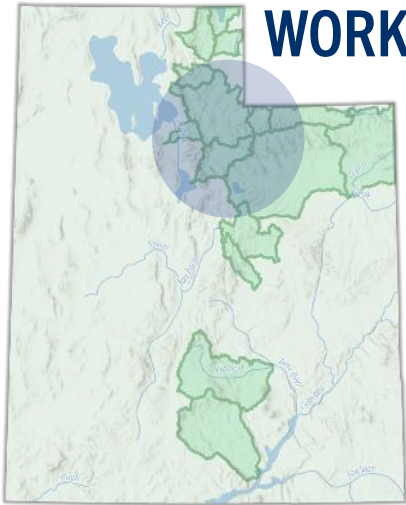
Removed or slated for removal

“We all have a role to play in protecting and restoring our shared waters.”

—Tanner Cox, Senior Project Manager, Wasatch Area

The Ogden River where TU partnered up to undertake the most comprehensive macro-invertebrate assessment that has ever occurred in the Ogden Basin.





WORKING TOGETHER ON THE WASATCH RANGE

Conservation efforts across the Wasatch region focus on habitat restoration, water quality improvement, and support for native species. Key initiatives include reconnecting side channels and floodplains, increasing water flows during critical periods, and enhancing fish passage and habitats for native trout and species of concern like the green sucker. Collaborative projects with state agencies and organizations aim to address low flows, protect wildlife, and sustain biodiversity in these critical waterways.

OGDEN RIVER

Running southwest from Huntsville, this blue-ribbon fishery flows through Ogden and is home to native Bonneville cutthroat trout. A shallow river, it is often surrounded by dense vegetation and a healthy moose population. The South Fork of the Ogden is one of the few streams in the state with a salmonfly hatch.

THE WORK AHEAD

The Ogden River Basin is experiencing rapid growth and land use changes. In 2024, TU partnered with the Salmonfly Project to undertake the most comprehensive macro-invertebrate assessment that has ever occurred in the Ogden Basin. The data collected will help to evaluate the health of the overall watershed, determine what areas are in the most need of restoration and conservation, and provide baseline data for future assessments.

WEBER RIVER

The headwaters of the Weber River begin in the northeastern Uinta Mountains, stretching 125 miles before making it to the Great Salt Lake. TU's many projects and relationships with water rights holders along the watershed are having an impact on this critical tributary to the lake.

THE WORK AHEAD

Throughout the Weber River Basin, we are reconnecting habitat to improve water quality, modulate floodwaters, and enhance fish habitat. Additionally, we are working to ensure free passage for native fish species like our state fish, the Bonneville cutthroat trout. Our work to reconnect streams in the Weber Basin allows fish to locate and use life-stage appropriate habitats that improve survivability, growth, and recruitment of young fish.

PROVO RIVER

The Provo River offers more than 15 miles of angling access, prolific hatches, stunning views of Mount Timpanogos, and rich populations of brown and rainbow trout. On the Provo, we worked with state agencies and conservation partners to keep more water in the river and address low flows that threaten wild trout populations during the hottest months of the year.

THE WORK AHEAD

The Provo River continues to have some of the best accessible trout habitat in the state. Our work on the Provo will continue to address threats posed by summer low flows as we establish water management agreements with major water users to reduce diversions during this time. We continue to monitor and maintain an instream flow agreement from Murdock Diversion to Timpanogos Diversion to protect and enhance the wild brown trout population. In the Upper Provo, we work alongside landowners, water users and engineers to ensure the river can flow freely, remain connected to its floodplain, and provide the habitat and volume necessary for a thriving fishery, while meeting long-held water rights.

MILL CREEK

Named after its historic industrial use as a power source for lumber, flour, and sugar mills, Mill Creek today is drawn upon for agricultural uses and is a popular recreational destination in its own right. Nestled in the mountains east of Salt Lake City, the creek harbors Bonneville cutthroat trout.

THE WORK AHEAD

TU will continue to work with state and federal agencies to secure the future of the Bonneville cutthroat in this stream through maintaining management barriers and habitat. We will continue to advocate for angler access throughout the canyon to ensure this cutthroat haven continues to be a point of pride for Salt Lake residents.

BEAR RIVER BASIN

OUR IMPACT IN THE BASIN

539 STRUCTURES INSTALLED

In two years, aiming to improve over 15.5 miles of stream habitat in two years

55 MILES OF BEAR RIVER

Reconnected with 11 diversion dams rebuilt over the past decade

49 STREAM MILES

Restored to cutthroat trout since 2013

10 STREAM MILES

Of North Eden Creek to be reconnected to Bear Lake in 2025

“Our work in the Bear River Basin will safeguard these waters for decades to come.”

—Jim Derito, Bear River

Program Director

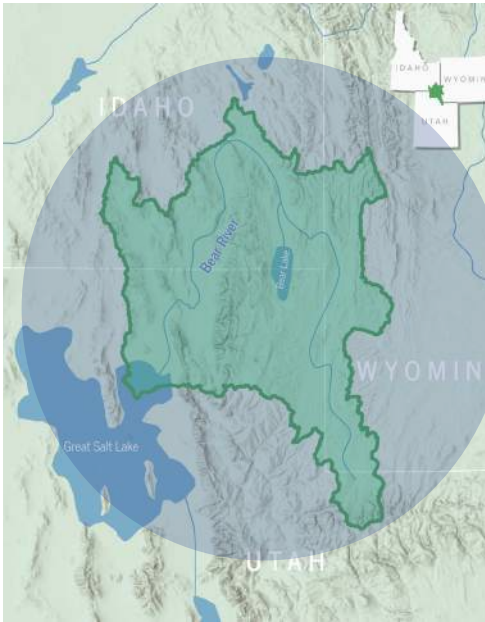


Top: Bear Lake cutthroat trout.

Bottom: Electro fishing in the Bear River Basin.

RESTORING AND RECONNECTING THE BEAR RIVER WATERSHED

The Bear River watershed, spanning Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming, meanders through picturesque mountains, valleys, agricultural lands, private property, and federal and state public lands. TU has been working on habitat restoration and reconnection efforts in the watershed for over two decades.



The entire watershed covers approximately 7,500 square miles and provides clean, cold water for communities, farmers and ranchers, Bear River cutthroat trout, and other native aquatic species and wildlife. Fragmentation, loss, and degradation of available habitat in addition to increased development, over-utilization of water and changes in our climate threaten the Bear River Watershed and its native cutthroat trout. TU has worked with local landowners, federal and state agencies, and various partners to reconnect hundreds of miles of tributary streams through dam removal and diversion structure improvements for native trout.

In addition to reconnection, we are focusing on habitat and fish restoration. Through our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), we have added trees and wood structures to tens of miles of headwater streams in the Uinta Mountains, increasing both the quantity and quality of fish habitat. On Paris Creek in Idaho, we have begun working with PacifiCorp on the decommissioning of a hydropower plant to restore flows and fish passage to four stream miles in 2025. We've also collaborated with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) on the restoration of cutthroat trout in 49 miles of tributary streams, where non-native trout were removed. These restored streams support the resiliency of the species.

BEAR LAKE

Bear Lake straddles the state lines of Utah and Idaho. Native cutthroat trout in the lake migrate to spawn in tributary streams, which have historically been blocked for upstream fish passage by road crossings and irrigation diversions. After replacing road crossing structures, screening irrigation diversions, installing fish ladders, and improving habitat, we've seen a significant increase in the wild cutthroat trout population in Bear Lake. As a result, both states have now authorized the harvest of wild cutthroat trout in the lake for the first time in decades.

THE WORK AHEAD

TU staff have worked over the past several years to set the stage for opening upstream access to 10 miles of North Eden Creek in 2025 by replacing a problematic culvert. This will allow spawning cutthroat trout to move into the creek from Bear Lake for the first time in approximately 80 years. Following this phase of the project, we are working to upgrade an irrigation system to improve flows in the lower 1.5 miles of the creek.

BEAR RIVER

Running over 500 miles across three states, the Bear River is the largest tributary to the Great Salt Lake and the longest river in North America that does not flow to the sea. The river is relied upon for energy production, agriculture, and outdoor recreation. Our projects aim to balance these competing demands while improving fish passage and restoring habitat for the river's native trout.

THE WORK AHEAD

On the mainstem Bear River near Evanston, Wyoming, we have worked with numerous partners to rebuild 11 mainstem irrigation diversions to reconnect over 22 river miles. This allows migratory cutthroat trout to move throughout the river to find the habitat they need when they need it.

LOGAN RIVER AND BLACKSMITH FORK

The Logan River offers extensive public access, abundant insect hatches, and an exceptional fly fishing experience for brown, rainbow, and native cutthroat trout. As a tributary to the Logan River, the Blacksmith Fork offers a similar experience but is most known for its abundant Stonefly hatch in the late spring to early summer. Together, these rivers provide over 50 miles of quality fishing opportunity including areas of designated Blue Ribbon fishing.

THE WORK AHEAD

We are collaborating with Utah State University to identify fish passage barriers in Logan River tributaries, improving access to spawning habitat for native cutthroat trout. In the Blacksmith Fork, we're reconnecting over 20 miles by rebuilding an irrigation diversion to enhance fish migration. In the headwaters of the Blacksmith Fork, we are partnering with the USFS to plan riparian protection, re-vegetation, and process-based restoration to restore ecological function and perennial flow in Saddle Creek.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

OUR IMPACT IN THE BASIN

50.5 MILES OF RIVERS

And streams improved across the Colorado River Basin

26 ACRES OF WETLANDS

Restored and protected through TU projects

13,000 ACRE FEET

Of water conserved through the System Conservation Pilot Program

25 STREAM MILES

Reconnected in the Price River through the city of Helper

1 CRITICAL POPULATION

Of Colorado River cutthroat restored in Sheep Creek and Oweep Basins



The Green River, where TU works with partners to improve habitat and restore fish passage.



REVIVING THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

For far too long, the Colorado River has been overused and overworked. The system's largest reservoirs are chronically short of water, and the basin faces threats to its environmental, economic, and cultural values. With so much at stake for the future of the Colorado River, many are trying to understand how we got to this point and what we can do to help restore our water supplies.

Between nihilistic headlines and doomsday predictions, TU offers a dose of optimism. We're optimistic because we serve as trusted local experts in the communities where we reside and we know how to stabilize and improve this singular river. With dozens of staff working in partnership throughout the system, we lead policy and implementation in a unified manner.

Your investments in TU bolster our work across the Colorado River Basin, allowing our team to set ourselves apart with rigor and expertise, working on restoration projects that improve rivers and watersheds and the fish, wildlife, and communities that depend on them.

GREEN RIVER

On the Green River, TU projects improve irrigation infrastructure, restore rivers for better fish passage, and install beaver dam analogs. In partnership with the BLM, TU is digging into the Green River Basin Resilience Project to construct 25 beaver dam analogs in the Green River basin. As one of the largest tributaries of the Colorado River with their confluence just downstream of the City of Moab, its flow is critical to meeting the needs of the states of Wyoming and Utah as well as downstream interests to provide water security. TU staff continue to work with partners and programs to ensure we maintain Blue Ribbon fisheries in the Green River.

THE WORK AHEAD

TU has a unique partnership to work with the State of Utah through the Utah Division of Water Quality and UDWR to improve water quality and assist the state with restoration of Colorado River cutthroat trout populations. We have worked for five years in this capacity and will continue to work with them going forward. Planning for thousands of square miles of watershed restoration are underway with our partners at the state as well as with the USFS, Bureau of Land Management, and Ute Tribe. To engage future generations of river stewards, TU is extending its Adopt-a-Trout program to the Henrys Fork River, a tributary to the Green River.

HUNTINGTON CREEK

Huntington Creek rises on the Wasatch Plateau in the Manti-La Sal National Forest, flowing for nearly 50 miles through high elevation meadows, mountain forests, farmland, and Utah's famous San Rafael Swell Desert before converging with Cottonwood Creek and Ferron Creek to form the San Rafael River. Huntington Creek supports one of the state's best wild trout fisheries for over 20 miles of its course, but also the towns of Huntington and Cleveland, agricultural suppliers in the valley, PacifiCorp's Huntington Power Plant, and herds of elk, deer, and other wildlife. Huntington Creek is an excellent example of a diverse, multi-use river that supports industrial, agricultural, recreational, and environmental benefits.

THE WORK AHEAD

The Huntington Creek drainage burned in the 2012 Seeley Fire, a wildfire sparked by lightning, that consumed 45,000 acres of the Mani-La Sal National Forest. Following the fire, heavy monsoonal rains caused severe flooding, erosion, and habitat destruction reducing trout populations to a fraction of their previous numbers. TU continues to work on projects that increase trout habitat, protect native trout headwaters, and stabilize the drainage from future flooding and degradation. We are committed to working with local, state, and federal partners including the UDWR, local water users, county officials, and the USFS to improve water quality, natural resource sustainability, and the overall durability of the drainage. There is much work to be done in Huntington Creek as we work to realize this great water's potential.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

“Cold, clean water is critical to sustaining healthy fish and communities across the Colorado River Basin.”

—Tommy DeHart , Southeast Utah Project Manager



Restoration in action on the Price River, where TU helped reconnect 25 miles of the watershed.



REVIVING THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

DUCHESNE RIVER

The mainstem Duchesne River, along with its West and North forks, provides more than 80 miles of water known for its native populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

After flooding impacted the Duchesne River, cutting into a 300-foot section of riverbank and contributing over 60 tons of sediment into the river, TU stepped up to support a bank stabilization project in partnership with Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative. The project improved habitat, reduced erosion, and promoted sustainability on the river.

THE WORK AHEAD

We have identified a long list of projects necessary to create river conditions suitable to the long-term support of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the Duchesne watershed and are working with private, state, federal, and Tribal interests on large restoration projects that improve watershed health.

Alongside dedicated conservationists like you, we will continue to use our influence to address issues associated with climate change.

Flexible support is essential in developing common sense solutions and new tools as we identify collaborative ways to work with water users and help overcome water challenges.

FREMONT/ESCALANTE

The Fremont River is a 95-mile-long river in southeastern Utah that flows from the Johnson Valley Reservoir through Capitol Reef National Park to the Muddy Creek near Hanksville, where the two rivers combine to form the Dirty Devil River, a tributary of the Colorado River.

THE WORK AHEAD

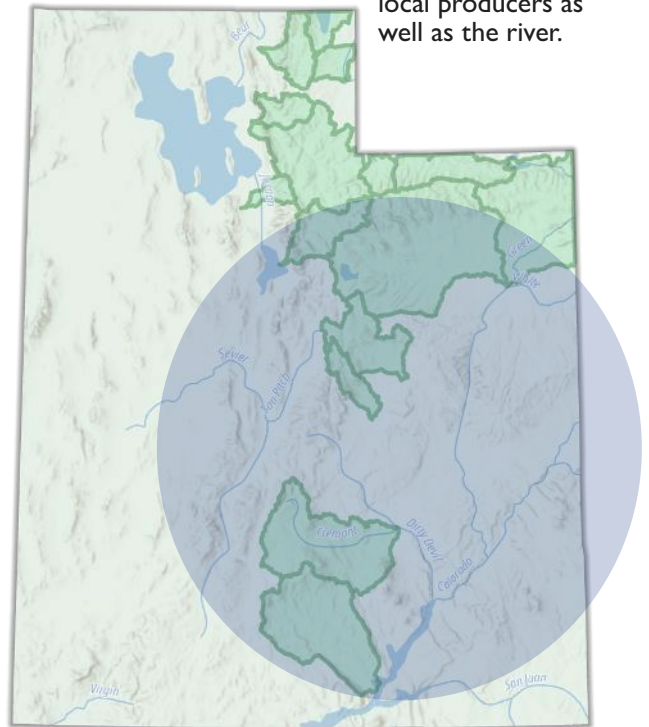
As we build staff support, we can propel restoration efforts to meet surging demand in Southern Utah. With your support, we can address the large-scale projects that await us in the Fremont and Escalante River watersheds.

PRICE RIVER

Dammed for more than a century, the Price River now flows free for 25 miles for fish, anglers, and river floaters. This is thanks to key federal funding and a decade of work by local, state and federal partners, and TU, culminating in the removal of Gigliotti Dam and the \$3.5 million Helper Revitalization Project. The work is boosting the city's outdoor recreation economy and opening up healthy habitat for priority species such as the Colorado cutthroat trout and bluehead sucker.

THE WORK AHEAD

Five diversion dams stand in the way of fish moving freely in the Price River, which uniquely supports important native trout species in its headwaters, state conservation species in the middle reaches, and Colorado River threatened and endangered species in the lower reaches. We have been a longtime partner with the agricultural community to restore flows to the river and will continue to advocate for ag programs that benefit the local producers as well as the river.



TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION

Our mission is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.



Bear River cutthroat trout.

TROUT  **UNLIMITED**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MAKING A PHILANTHROPIC GIFT, CONTACT:

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