

Every River
Needs A Champion



Trout Unlimited in Utah
***Working for
Our Waters***

*Expanding Coldwater Conservation
Across the Beehive State*





Pulling Together to Protect Utah Resources

It's no secret that Utah has some of the best fisheries in the West - perhaps in the world. Brown, rainbow, and brook trout abound in our waters, but our favorites, the four subspecies of cutthroat trout native to Utah (Bear River, Bonneville, Yellowstone, and Colorado River), are sought after in every corner of the state. Trout Unlimited (TU) staff are working hard to conserve the places where these fish live. If you're lucky and spend time volunteering on a project, our team of world class biologists, engineers, and project managers can point you to where you can catch some. They may even find the chance to wet a fly with you.

Utah is vast and TU has a lot of ground to cover. To help our nine conservation staff decide where it's most important to work, we've designated Priority Waters. From the Bear River in the north to the Escalante River in the south, we are working on fish passage, habitat improvements, instream flow leases, agriculture improvements, fish population reintroductions and many other types of projects. Some notable wins in the past year include North Eden Creek fish passage that opened up 10 miles of habitat and Demand Management Pilot Program agreements that put more than 2,000 acre feet of water back in the Price River.

Of course, none of the work we do is possible without our partners. We work with federal agencies, county officials, cities, state agencies, farmers and ranchers, and universities. Our friends like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program open doors for us to do the important conservation work on the ground with private landowners.

Others, like Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), work hand in hand with us to reintroduce native cutthroat trout populations. Organizations like the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) bring money to the table to open up conservation work at an unprecedented scale. They are champions of a united conservation cause.

We acknowledge the threats to our waters. Utah faces dry hydrology and is plagued with wildfire that burns across our watersheds and damages valuable fisheries. TU stands ready to help with these problems by leasing water where its available and building resilient rivers and streams that hold up to wildfire.

We use proven techniques that improve water quality, raise water tables, and widen the riparian areas that can act as fire breaks. We remain hopeful and optimistic that these challenges can be overcome and work to continually improve the long-term outlook of our watersheds. 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

Front Page: UM Creek on the Fish Lake Hightop in Southern Utah, where TU reconnected and revitalized trout habitat. At left, from top to bottom: Building a beaver dam analog to support the Bear River; Southeast Utah Project Manager Tommy DeHart puts in off-season work; and the view downstream on North Eden Creek towards Bear Lake from a new fish-passable bottomless-arch culvert.



Focusing on Priority Waters

To sharpen our impact and deliver the greatest benefits for trout and clean water, TU has identified Priority Waters: the places where protection, reconnection, and restoration can make the biggest difference. Though every effort has a ripple effect that serves waters statewide, our work is focused on these priority areas:

**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**

With your support, TU can put this bold vision into action immediately by keeping more water in Utah's rivers, reconnecting critical habitat, and ensuring healthy streams for trout, wildlife, and communities alike.

2025 Impact Snapshot

3 Billion Gallons

Of water conserved or kept flowing in Utah rivers

Over 600 Hours

Of volunteer time engaged for healthy rivers and streams

450+ Natural Structures

Installed to reconnect floodplains and boost river resilience

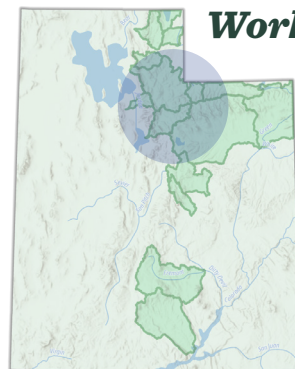
26 Miles

Of stream habitat reconnected for native trout



Above: An exclusion fence TU constructed in Big Bear Hollow, designed to keep roaming animals from damaging fragile habitat.

Photos Opposite Page, Top Left: Construction at the Dinsdale Diversion. Top Left: Volunteers on Chalk Creek. Bottom Right: Beaver dam analog building at Big Cottonwood Canyon, a key watershed for Salt Lake City.



Working together to protect and heal the

WASATCH RANGE

Across the Wasatch region, partners are coming together to heal rivers, strengthen water quality, and protect the native fish that define these waters.

Strategies include reconnecting habitat and migration routes, providing instream flow during critical periods, and restoring both aquatic and riparian habitat.

The Wasatch team brings together government agencies, landowners, and other nonprofits to complete meaningful projects that improve water quantity and quality from the headwaters to the Great Salt Lake.

Impact Snapshot

300 Structures Installed

To restore over five miles of stream in the Wasatch Range

28 Miles of Habitat

Reconnected to original channels, improving fish passage

600+ Volunteer Hours

Dedicated to rivers and streams of the range

Over 1 Billion Gallons

Of water kept instream across the Weber and Provo Basins



OPPORTUNITY IN THE OGDEN BASIN

The Ogden Basin supports a designated Blue Ribbon Fishery, and its remote headwater streams sustain healthy fisheries and some of the few remaining salmonfly hatches in Northern Utah, occurring on the South Fork and mainstem Ogden rivers. In 2025, we closed out the Dinsdale Diversion project, reconnecting four miles of habitat along the mainstem Ogden River, and completed basin-wide macroinvertebrate sampling to characterize water quality and guide future management efforts.

THE WORK AHEAD

TU will complete construction of a fish passage project in the headwaters of the South Fork Ogden River. This effort will open access to nearly 90 miles of ephemeral and perennial streams, expanding critical habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout.

BUILDING A STRONG WEBER BASIN

The Weber River travels 125 miles from its headwaters to the Great Salt Lake. Along the way, it supports municipal and agricultural needs, including the Ogden–Clearfield metropolitan area, while providing critical habitat for wildlife. In 2025, TU restored more than five miles of headwater and mainstem habitat, removed three fish passage barriers, and completed improvements across more than 30 acres of floodplain.

THE WORK AHEAD

In 2026, we will remove two additional fish passage barriers, advance engineering at a third site, and continue floodplain and riparian restoration to strengthen the Weber River's resilience for fish, wildlife, and communities.



PROTECTING THE POPULAR PROVO

The Provo River is Utah's most heavily fished river, offering exceptional angling on pristine waters. It also supplies water for critical industries, which can leave some stretches with very low summer flows. In partnership with local stakeholders, we secured minimum instream flows through irrigation season, keeping water cool and connected for fish and aquatic insects, with documented increases in both trout and whitefish since the program began.

THE WORK AHEAD

In the field, TU is working to extend these flow leases into the future and secure additional water in reaches most affected by dewatering and high temperatures.

RESTORING THE SPANISH FORK FROM WILDFIRE

Many streams in Spanish Fork Canyon have been degraded by multiple wildfires over the last decade. Working with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the USFS, we are restoring riparian areas through instream structures, habitat improvements, and native plantings. This work is improving trout habitat, reducing stream temperatures, limiting erosion, and strengthening watershed resilience.

THE WORK AHEAD

In the coming year, TU will continue prioritizing the restoration of fire-impacted, headwater streams. Moving through the 100,000 acre Pole Fire burn scar, we are maintaining and monitoring streams previously restored, while initiating new projects on others. Working with partners we will be rehabilitating deeply incised streams, reconnecting them to their floodplains. This will not only improve stream health but restore acres of surrounding habitat, encouraging healthy soil and vegetation growth. By improving the resiliency of small headwater streams and their surroundings, we are helping safeguard entire watersheds, protecting the trout within them and the communities that depend on them.

COMING TOGETHER ON THE JORDAN RIVER

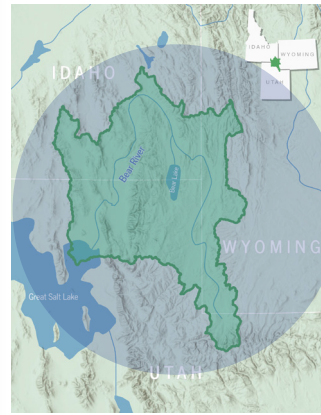
As one of Utah's most populous watersheds, the Jordan River offers a powerful opportunity to engage the local community in hands-on conservation. This year, volunteers joined us to build beaver dam analogs in Big Cottonwood Canyon, a key watershed for Salt Lake City. This work improves habitat and water quality for trout while also supporting the city's drinking water infrastructure by reducing downstream sedimentation.

THE WORK AHEAD

Future efforts will expand process-based restoration and address impacts from heavy metals and other pollutants throughout the watershed.



Youth volunteers help remove river-protecting fencing as grazing season winds down.



Hands-on conservation that keeps rivers thriving

THE BEAR RIVER WATERSHED

The Bear River watershed stretches across Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming, winding through mountains, valleys, farmland, and a mix of private and public lands.

For more than 20 years, TU has worked to restore habitat and reconnect streams across this 7,500-square-mile watershed, which provides cold, clean water for communities, agriculture, Bear River cutthroat trout, and other native wildlife.

Running for about 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 supports energy production, agriculture, and outdoor recreation, and our work helps balance these competing demands while improving fish passage and restoring trout habitat.

TU and partners have reconnected hundreds of miles of tributary streams by removing dams and improving diversion structures to benefit Bear River cutthroat trout. For example, in Idaho's Paris Creek, TU worked with PacifiCorp to decommission a hydropower plant to restore flows and fish passage to three and a half miles of the stream in 2025.

Impact Snapshot

Reconnected 11 Miles

Of North Eden Creek with the replacement of a county road culvert

19 Ponds Created

Off channel in the West Fork Bear River to reduce riparian encroachment from livestock

450+ Structures

Installed over 18 miles of streams to help restore fish habitat

Restored 3.5 Miles

Of stream flows on Paris Creek with the decommissioning of PacifiCorp's hydroelectric plant



Above: Installing a culvert on Deadman Creek. At right: Boots - and bodies - in the water to install a low tech, process-based structure in the Upper Bear River.



UPPER BEAR PARTNERSHIP

On the mainstem Bear River near Evanston, Wyoming, we have partnered with local agencies, landowners, and water rights holders to rebuild 11 irrigation diversions, reconnecting more than 22 miles of river for migratory cutthroat trout. In the Uinta Mountains headwaters, we are advancing a Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration Program with the USFS. In 2025, we installed 357 low-tech process-based restoration structures over 15.7 stream miles and created 19 off-channel ponds to reduce riparian impacts from livestock and improve habitat resilience.

THE WORK AHEAD

In 2026, we will continue both mainstem river reconnection and headwater restoration. On the Bear River, two irrigation diversions will be rebuilt to restore fish passage to an additional eight miles of river. In the headwaters, we will be expanding restoration and wood placements to additional streams, while also revisiting and building upon the work completed during the past two years.

RECONNECTING HABITAT ON BEAR LAKE

Bear Lake spans the Utah-Idaho border and supports cutthroat trout that migrate into tributaries streams to spawn. For decades, road crossings and irrigation diversions blocked access to these stream habitats. By replacing barriers, screening diversions, installing fish ladders, and improving habitat, we've helped drive a strong rebound in wild cutthroat trout in the lake. Both states now allow harvest of wild cutthroat trout from Bear Lake for the first time in decades. In 2025, we replaced a 90-foot long perched culvert with a fish-passable bottomless-arch structure, reconnecting 11 miles of North Eden Creek and eight miles of intermittent tributaries. These efforts will allow spawning cutthroat trout to enter the creek from Bear Lake in 2026 for the first time in roughly 80 years.

THE WORK AHEAD

We will monitor cutthroat trout migration into North Eden Creek to assess their use of the creek for spawning, with an intern dedicated to checking a fish trap and assisting with fish and habitat surveys. We will also be planning and designing options for fish habitat improvements in the headwaters and restoring stream flows in the lower creek.

CONSERVING BEAR RIVER RANGES

The Bear River Mountain Range is the source of the Cub, Logan, and Blacksmith Fork rivers. These rivers offer extensive public access, abundant insect hatches, and outstanding fly fishing. Since 2007, TU has operated a fish ladder on the Cub River to assist the migration of cutthroat trout, passing over one thousand fish upstream. On the Logan River, the Cache Anglers TU chapter and staff have worked with the USFS and other partners for over 20 years to construct and maintain a riparian fence to protect a vital spawning tributary for cutthroat trout, Spawn Creek. In the Blacksmith Fork, we worked with partners to reconnect more than 20 river miles by rebuilding an irrigation diversion to support migration. In 2025, we partnered with the USFS to restore ecological function in Saddle Creek by constructing 100 restoration structures over three miles, planting an acre of willows, and installing two miles of electric fence.

THE WORK AHEAD

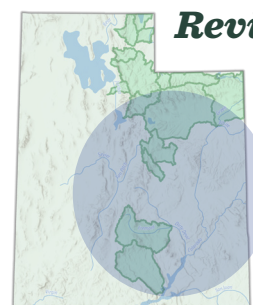
We continue to operate and maintain the Cub River fish ladder to assist cutthroat trout migration. We are also evaluating options to improve fish passage at the site of the ladder and planning and designing two river restoration projects. On Spawn Creek, we continue fence maintenance while planning for the replacement of over three miles of the 20-year-old fence. Lastly, we are monitoring and maintaining our restoration site on Saddle Creek from 2025 and including additional miles of structures, road crossing improvement and vegetation planting downstream to further protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat.

SMITHS FORK RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

The Smiths Fork River enters the Bear River near Cokeville, Wyoming and has one of the most important migratory populations of cutthroat trout in the Bear River Watershed. TU has reconnected tributary streams and installed fish screens to support these migratory fish.

THE WORK AHEAD

We will begin the first phase of two irrigation diversion rebuilds and a river restoration project on the Smiths Fork. Two large push-up dams will be removed that are destructive to fish habitat and a large sediment source. Work on about 2.7 miles of river near the diversions will include reconnecting nearly two miles of side channels, increasing the quality and quantity of fish habitat.



Reviving Southeast Utah Rivers in the

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

For too long, the Colorado River has been stretched beyond its limits. Major reservoirs remain chronically low, and the basin's environmental, economic, and cultural values are increasingly at risk.

With so much at stake, communities across the West are searching for solutions to restore the river's future.

Amid grim headlines, TU offers optimism grounded in action. As trusted local experts, we know what it takes to stabilize and strengthen this remarkable system. With staff working in partnership across the basin, we lead coordinated policy and on-the-ground restoration that delivers real results.

Our projects improve rivers and watersheds, and sustain the fish, wildlife, and communities that depend on them.

Impact Snapshot

1.6 Billion Gallons

Of water conserved as part of the Utah Demand Management Pilot Program

329% Increase

Of winter flow in the Price River - four times as much water as the prior year

80 Natural Dams

Installed to help restore habitat throughout the basin

400 Willows

Planted to strengthen riverbanks in Southeast Utah



Work doesn't stop outside of field season - TU staff continue monitoring and measuring critical water data in the winter months.

KEY WORK ACROSS WATERSHEDS

TU is advancing grazing management at UM Creek and Danish Meadows through new fencing that will allow riparian pastures to be rotated, with implementation planned for 2026. Funded restoration and habitat construction on Niotche Creek at Johnson Mountain Ranch will support unique Bonneville cutthroat trout populations in summer 2026, alongside stream temperature monitoring at 10 sites across four drainages to fill critical data gaps.



RESTORATION IN ACTION ON THE DUCHESNE

The Duchesne River and its West and North forks provide more than 80 miles of habitat known for native Colorado River cutthroat trout populations. After recent wildfires in the upper portions of the drainage, TU partnered with UDWR, UDWQ, USFS, and the Central Utah Water Conservancy district to reduce overland sediment erosion, protect important infrastructure, and stabilize instream habitat in Wolf Creek, a tributary of the West Fork Duchesne River.

THE WORK AHEAD

Working collaboratively with partners from different regions of Utah, TU developed a suite of projects in the first step towards restoring a landscape influenced by the Yellow Lake Fire in 2024. Projects included in the Yellow Lake Fire Rehabilitation will have benefits for streams and rivers in both the Duchesne River and the Provo River. In the Duchesne, TU is working with UDWR and the USFS to install 20 beaver dam analogues, strategically fell up to 50 trees, and revegetate up to 15 acres of unvegetated hillside to reduce sediment erosion to Wolf Creek. Such work will help to protect downstream trout fisheries and Central Utah Water Conservancy District infrastructure.

Top: It's not all work and no play for Southeast Utah Project Manager Tommy DeHart, spotted here taking the time to put a line in the water.

Left: Willows on their way to strengthen riverbanks on the Price River.

BOLSTERING STREAMS IN THE BOOK CLIFFS

The Book Cliffs run along the southern edge of the Uintah Basin with multiple small streams. Many of the upper portions of these streams meander through sage land along sandstone outcroppings, all the while supporting coldwater fish such as Colorado River cutthroat trout. In partnership with the BLM, UDWR, Utah Division of Water Quality (UDWQ), and the Ute Indian Tribe, TU is working to restore these unique trout streams flowing through the desert.

THE WORK AHEAD

TU worked with its partners in the Uintah Basin to have a watershed restoration plan put together for the Willow Creek watershed. Willow Creek and its tributaries support healthy trout populations as well as a variety of other native species. TU is partnering with UDWR, UDWQ, and BLM to implement LTPBR, including the maintenance of previously installed structures across 1 mile of stream and the addition of new structures throughout approximately 2.5 miles of stream. This work will be a piece of a larger effort to restore many more miles of streams in the Willow Creek watershed.

HELPING HANDS ON HUNTINGTON CREEK

Huntington Creek rises on the Wasatch Plateau and flows nearly 50 miles through forests, farmland, and desert landscapes before forming the San Rafael River. It supports one of Utah's best wild trout fisheries while also providing vital water for local towns, agriculture, industry, and wildlife.

THE WORK AHEAD

Following fires and subsequent flooding, TU continues working with partners to restore habitat, protect native trout headwaters, and stabilize the drainage for the future. Completed planning and permit requirements for stream restoration in Nuck Woodward Creek and initiated NEPA planning for side canyon restoration, with implementation scheduled for 2026.

FREING THE PRICE RIVER

Dammed for more than a century, the Price River now flows free for 25 miles thanks to federal funding, a decade of partner work, and TU's role in the removal of Gigliotti Dam and the \$3.5 million Helper Revitalization Project. This effort is boosting outdoor recreation while restoring habitat for priority species like Colorado cutthroat trout and bluehead sucker.

THE WORK AHEAD

TU is working with private landowners in Beaver Creek to implement LTPBR restoration alongside UDWR's beaver relocation efforts, including construction of 80 BDAs, planting 400 willows, and relocating three beavers. We are also planning large-scale restoration and grazing management improvements below Lower Fish Creek, and completed a Price River Minimum Flow Study to help ensure aquatic conservation needs are included in the Lower Basin Reservoir study.





Many hands make light work when everyone pulls together for the good of our shared waters, as pictured here during a BDA build in Utah.

TOGETHER, WE GET THINGS DONE

Private philanthropy makes it possible to put boots on the ground, boost local economies, and engage communities. Your investment enables TU to leverage public funds, multiplying the impact of critical restoration across the state.

YOUR SUPPORT PROTECTS UTAH'S COLD, CLEAN WATER BY:

Putting Boots on the Ground

Your support allows our expert staff to preserve existing habitats, dig into expansive restoration, advocate meaningful policy reform, and develop critical partnerships in Utah.

Strengthening Local Economies

TU focuses on maintaining mutually beneficial stakeholder relationships, revitalizing economies, and sustaining stewardship of natural resources.

Engaging the Community

Working with Tribal Nations, private landowners, water managers and ag producers, agencies, and municipal bodies accelerates significant projects and sustains funding sources.

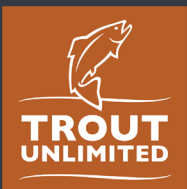
Restricted gifts include a 16% administrative fee that supports the people, tools, and systems that our field and advocacy staff rely on to succeed.



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.

Bonneville cutthroat trout on the Weber River.



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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MAKING A PHILANTHROPIC GIFT, CONTACT:

JORDAN NIELSON | UTAH STATE DIRECTOR
jordan.nielson@tu.org | (801) 850-1221

SCOTT REINSTEIN | SENIOR DIRECTOR, MAJOR & PRINCIPAL GIFTS
scott.reinstein@tu.org | (480) 495-2882