

# Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI)

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative is a partnership-driven effort to conserve, restore and manage ecosystems in priority areas across the state to enhance Utah's:

- Wildlife and biological diversity
- Water quality and yield for all uses
- Opportunities for sustainable uses













# WRI and UPCD

- The Watershed Restoration Initiative is a Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPCD) sponsored initiative that serves as a clearinghouse to coordinate and participants' conservation concerns and priorities, discuss and implement solutions, and promote an atmosphere of collaboration among landowners, private organizations, and state and federal agencies.



# UPCD Regional Teams

- Southern Region- Cedar City at Southern Utah University
- Northeast Region- Vernal at the Uintah County office
- Southeast Region- Green River at City Hall
- Central Region- Springville at the UDWR office
- Northern Region- Ogden at the UDWR office



# Utah's Watershed

## RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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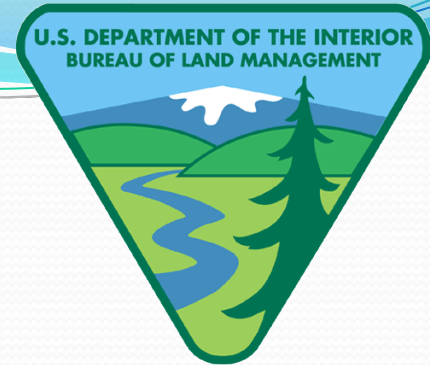
Every Utahn can become a partner in this effort by becoming involved in restoration work in their community. Let your community leaders know you care about Utah's watersheds and the efforts of the Watershed Restoration Initiative. The work is challenging, but our investments today will pay dividends for future generations.

[wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds/](http://wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds/)

# What's on the [wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds/](http://wildlife.utah.gov/watersheds/) ?

- Project proposals
- Completion reports
- Interactive GIS map that shows proposed projects, completed project, and focus areas.
- Scientific literature
- Calendars
- Partners

# Partners



- [Utah Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [Utah State University Extension Service](#)
- [USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
- [Utah Association of Conservation Districts](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [U.S. Farm Services Agency](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service](#)
- [Utah Department of Environmental Quality](#)
- [Utah RC&D Councils Association](#)
- [U.S. Bureau of Reclamation](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands](#)
- [Utah Division of Wildlife Resources](#)
- [Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands](#)
- [Utah Division of Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Utah Department of Agriculture and Food](#)



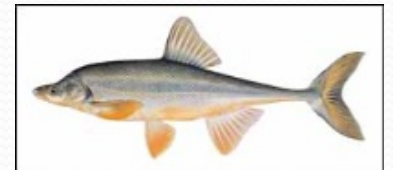
# WRI Project Timelines

- Projects must be entered into the Project database by December 31<sup>st</sup>
- UPCD holds meetings and reviews/approves project proposals October-January
- Project proposals are ranked by regional ranking teams- February
- Project proposals are reviewed by other organizations/groups (Habitat Council and sportsment groups)- January – March
- Project funding decisions are made- May
- Money is available for projects- July 1<sup>st</sup>



# How are projects ranked?

- Are they located in a Conservation Focus Area (CFA)?
- Do they benefit wildlife? Benefit high interest game species? Benefit sensitive species?
- Does the project improve watershed health? Improve water quality and increase water quantity?
- What are the risks of doing this project? What are the risks of not doing this project?



# How are projects ranked?

- How does this project relate to other management/conservation plans?
- What is the future management of the project area?
- What type of monitoring will be conducted on the project area?



# WRI Grants

- Grant money is given to governments and non-profits organizations from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Project work is implemented July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.
- Project completion reports must be completed by August 31<sup>st</sup> each year.
- Grant money is reimbursed to organizations as often as quarterly.



# Funded By WRI

- Labor
- Archaeology clearances
- Material (trees/shrubs, water control structures, tools)
- Seed

# Not Funded By WRI

- Land and/or Easement acquisitions
- Equipment (bobcat skidsteers, tractors, etc)
- Monitoring/Research
- Water developments (guzzlers)
- Administrative costs

# Example of WRI Projects with tamarisk/riparian/Russian olive components

- Mill Creek/Pack Creek Restoration
- Scott M Matheson Wetlands Restoration
- Castle Creek Restoration
- San Rafael River Restoration
- Colorado River Tamarisk/Russian Olive Removal

# San Rafael Restoration Project



# San Rafael Restoration Project



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