

October
2021



UINTA COUNTY Connection



Bear River Projects

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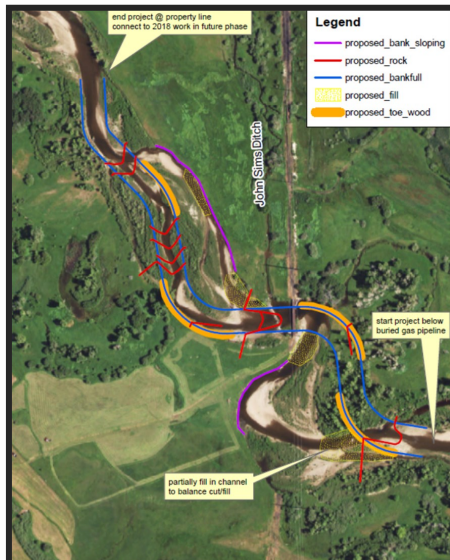
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The Bear River is the largest river in the western hemisphere that does not have an ocean outlet. In fact, it crosses the state boundaries of Wyoming, Idaho and Utah 5 times before emptying into the Great Salt Lake. Private, state and federal lands within the watershed place high demand on water resources for various uses throughout the landscape. In the 2014 Upper Bear River Sediment TMDL, instream erosion was estimated to account for 77% of the sediment loading that caused the river to be placed on the 303(d) impaired list. Rapid channel migration, severe bank erosion, and irrigation push-up dams in the upper Bear River add to the sediment loading.

In order to address the in-stream erosion and streambank stability, coordination among private landowners and several funding partners was necessary. The Uinta County Conservation District began working closely with Dave Kimble, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, to begin the process. This was no small undertaking as river restoration is often very expensive and requires professional engineering and contractors familiar with river hydrology to design and construct successful projects. Partnerships have been key in securing the funding and technical expertise needed to initiate stream restoration projects, and to see that the work is getting done on the ground. *Continued on Page 2....*



UCCD Grocery Totes

For sale again at Benedicts in Mt View (\$1)

Most stores will let you use your own bag if you are willing to bag your own groceries!



Tire Water Tanks available!

Contact UCCD for more information



Bear River Projects Continued

You may have noticed big piles of rock, track hoes, large dump trucks, and other equipment staged along different areas of the river at different times. These are all signs that a river restoration project is about to begin. The first stream restoration project was completed in 2019 on the Bear River north of Evanston, near Almy. Since then, 3 more projects have been completed and 2 are currently under construction in the same area. The projects have included the following restoration techniques:

- restoration of several thousands of feet of river through realignment and re-shaping to promote natural channel stability that balances stream power with sediment loads.
- installation of several in-stream rock structures to promote channel stability by reducing shear stress on streambanks and provide fish habitat
- replacement of irrigation “push-up” dams with permanent, large rock structures that raise the water level sufficiently for irrigation needs without the need for annual instream maintenance with heavy equipment
- installation of hundreds of feet of toe-wood to protect stream banks from erosion and provide instream cover for fish.
- salvaging and re-planting vegetation in areas disturbed by channel reconstruction activities.



By attempting projects that are large enough to have a true, positive impact on the habitat, yet are of manageable size to complete in a reasonable timeframe, we can demonstrate to local landowners that the restoration of the Bear River, while not easy, is not impossible. Successful projects will make significant improvements and will have long-term positive economic benefits for landowners and water rights holders.

Funding and design engineering for these projects has come from many partners and entities who have similar goals of improving stream stability, water quality and fish passage, while helping landowners irrigate more efficiently and prevent them from losing land every year due to severe erosion. These partners include: Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Game and Fish, Trout Unlimited, the National Association of Conservation Districts, private landowners, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Open Rivers Fund, Western Native Trout Initiative, Resources Legacy Fund, and the Uinta County Conservation District. Projects of this size and cost would not be possible without these valuable partnerships.

For more information about the stream restoration efforts taking place on the Bear River, please contact the Uinta County Conservation District.

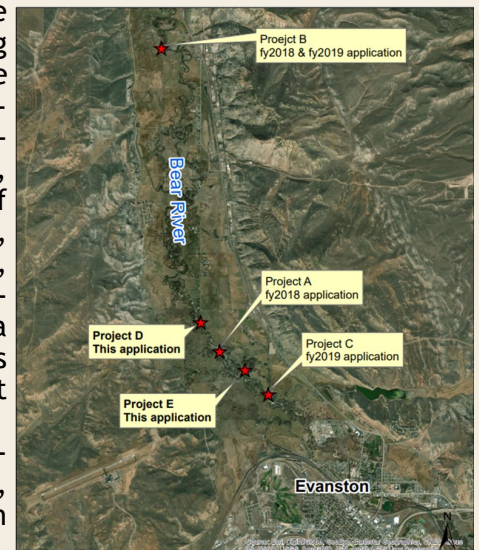




Photo: Using GPS technology, the contractor carefully places one big rock at a time to ensure the rock structure functions properly. This is a double cross vane structure. It will replace the temporary, cobble push-up dam that is constructed and washed out annually, adding sediment to the river.

-Kerri Sabey

Annual Bridger Lake Field Trip with Lyman Intermediate School 5th Graders A Success

September 30th was another beautiful fall day for the annual Lyman Intermediate School 5th Grade Bridger Lake Field Trip. At the request of the teachers, UCCD organizes this outdoor field trip each year as an opportunity for students to get hands on learning experiences in Mother Nature's classroom.

Students were more than excited to engage in learning as they rotated through four educational stations around the Bridger Lake Campground in the Uinta Mountains south of Mountain View. U.S. Forest Service employees Ben McDaniel and Sarah Smith took the students on an educational bike ride and taught them about coniferous forests, tree anatomy, and tie hacking. UCCD Natural Resource Specialist and Biologist, Grant Redden, taught the students the importance of adaptations in fish species as the students 'Fashioned a Fish' of their own with adaptations to fit a specific habitat. The students learned about predator/prey interactions between Wyoming wildlife species as they played a game of 'Quick Frozen Critters' and examined fur specimens of Wyoming mammals with UCCD Education Coordinator, Katie Lott. LIS teacher Lance Perkins discussed the importance of benthic species as an indicator of water-quality as the students collected visible and microscopic macroinvertebrate specimens among the rocks and moss on the edge of Bridger Lake.

This field trip would not be possible without the interest and support of the Lyman Intermediate School teachers, principal, and bus drivers, as well as the help of volunteers from the U.S. Forest Service and resources from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. We hope to continue providing this great outdoor experience to the students at LIS for many years to come! For more information about educational opportunities through the Uinta County Conservation District, please visit us at www.uintacountycd.com. Find us on Facebook @UintaCountyCD.

-Katie Lott



Uinta County Conservation District

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**Uinta County
Conservation District**

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The 2022 "Red
Books"
are in!

Stop by our office
to pick up your red
book today!

"The Nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1182-1945)

Wrapping up the Gardening Season

I've given a brief synopsis of an online webinar here in 5 basic points.
To see the full discussion search "Barnyards & Backyards Live!
– Wrapping up the gardening season" on YouTube.

1. Get the ground wet before the snow settles in for winter. In this way, you will have provided the soil with moisture as things thaw next spring.
2. Don't burn your vegetable garden. Here in the west we don't need to increase the alkalinity of our soil by applying ash from burning wood or other organic matter.
3. Water your trees and shrubs in the wintertime and make sure plants you want for next year are hydrated for winter.
4. Make sure the soil is covered with a mulch for winter. Ideally, you will get moisture into the soil and then cover it with a mulch before it freezes. This will also help to decrease weeds from germinating.
5. No fertilizing after Sept 15 because you can stimulate snow mold which can completely consume the small germinating grasses or tender shoots of plants you want to grow.

-Grant Redden

SEEDLING TREE ORDERS COMING SOON!

The Uinta County Conservation District will soon be accepting orders for our annual seedling tree and shrub sales.

Order forms will be available on our website when they are ready so check back often to see what species are available from the nursery this year.

Need help putting a planting plan together? Give us a call, we can help with suggestions for site prep, design, species selection, spacing, water requirements and more. Southwest Wyoming is a tough place to grow trees, making sure you have the right tree for the right place will give them that extra boost they need to survive and thrive.

We can't stress enough how important it is to get your order in as early as possible! Don't wait until the April 2022 deadline, certain species will sell out quick!

Seedlings are available in bareroot bundles of 25 per species, large tube in lots of 30 per species, or as singles in 1 gallon pots (XLP)