



Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative(WRI)

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Utah WRI

What is it?

A Partnership Driven Effort to Conserve, Restore and Manage Ecosystems (Watersheds) in Priority Areas Across the State

What ecosystem values do we care about?

- Wildlife and Biological Diversity
- Water Quality and Yield
- Opportunities for Sustainable Uses of Natural Resources

Priority areas are called **Conservation Focus Areas**.



Utah WRI

Supporting Infrastructure

- UPCD Director's Council sponsors WRI – Sets overall broad direction
- WRI Statewide Admin. – DNR & UDWR
- Governor and Legislative Support - \$4.0 Million Appropriation in FY2016
- Many Partners Support Specific Projects
- Major Funding/Staffing comes from DWR, BLM, NRCS, FFSL, USFS, Conservation Groups.....
- Regional Teams – Bottom up implementation process



Utah WRI Partnership Services

- Matching dollars
- Assistance in project planning & implementation
- Contracting & accounting
- Seed-purchasing, storage, mixing, delivery
- Equipment
- Project monitoring & reporting
- Project Management
- Ability to work on a landscape scale across boundaries
- Locally led teams
- Project database

Diamond Mountain Bullhog 2004



Woodland Succession
Phase III

Diamond Mountain Bullhog 2010



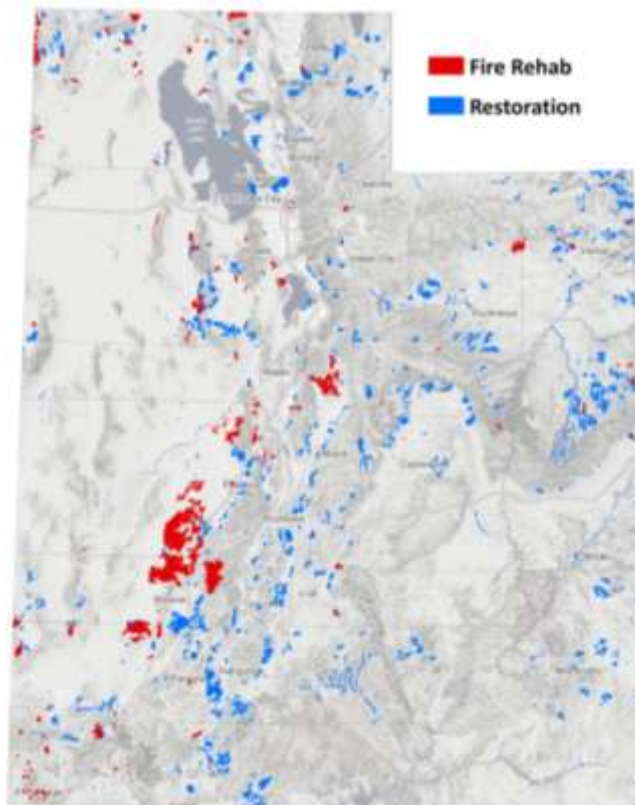
Woodland Succession
Phase I

Diamond Mountain Bullhog 2012

Average Cover	2004	2007	2010	2012
Utah Juniper	39%	0%	0%	0%
Wyoming Big Sagebrush	0%	2%	5%	6%
Black Sagebrush	2%	3%	4%	6%
Perennial Grass	1%	9%	8%	8%
Perennial Forb	1%	6%	6%	5%
Cheatgrass	1%	14%	2%	1%

Woodland Succession
Phase I

Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative Completed Projects (2006 – 2015)



For every DNR **\$1**
 spent on
 restoration, we
 have leveraged
 more than **\$5** from
 partner
 contributions

For every DNR **\$1**
 spent on fire
 rehab, we have
 leveraged more
 than **\$20** from
 partner
 contributions

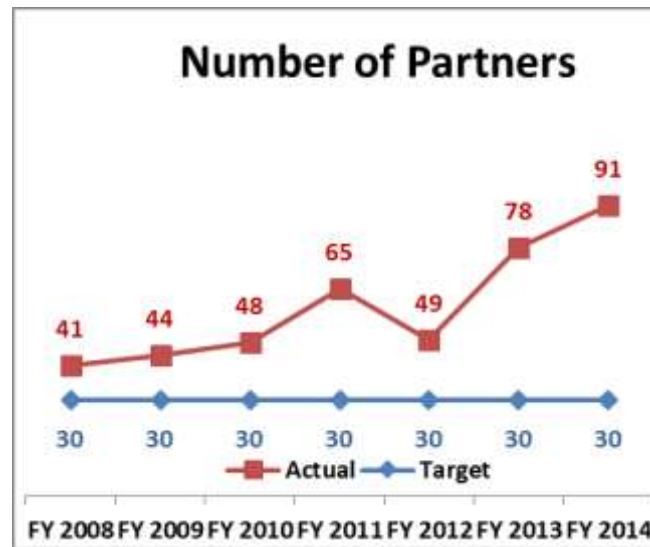
Other Restoration

Fiscal Year	Acres	DNR Spent	Partner Spent	In-Kind
2006	55,653	\$ 1,272,609	\$ 3,686,813	\$ 1,106,669
2007	55,340	\$ 1,359,572	\$ 4,838,098	\$ 631,885
2008	71,918	\$ 1,548,701	\$ 6,431,682	\$ 609,732
2009	76,569	\$ 3,664,449	\$ 9,553,075	\$ 508,177
2010	89,709	\$ 1,917,030	\$ 11,921,080	\$ 1,211,928
2011	64,992	\$ 1,685,009	\$ 11,594,144	\$ 2,038,261
2012	70,251	\$ 1,640,585	\$ 9,564,012	\$ 1,952,064
2013	74,935	\$ 1,749,632	\$ 12,032,734	\$ 2,111,830
2014	72,635	\$ 2,106,540	\$ 14,240,416	\$ 1,689,878
2015	79,804	\$ 1,213,189	\$ 13,381,507	\$ 1,859,944
	711,806	\$ 18,157,316	\$ 97,243,560	\$ 13,720,369

Fire Rehab

Acres	DNR Spent	Partner Spent	In-Kind
8,516	\$ 152,346	\$ 100,118	\$ 180,000
33,048	\$ 173,406	\$ 647,002	\$ 313,600
244,324	\$ 161,055	\$ 9,077,351	\$ 708,002
1,959	\$ 5,766	\$ 1,760,916	\$ 24,678
27,666	\$ 26,627	\$ 2,347,952	\$ 127,389
47,181	\$ 88,614	\$ 665,957	\$ 45,000
3,049	\$ 143,027	\$ 1,111,840	\$ 45,400
113,623	\$ 181,684	\$ 15,945,713	\$ 193,712
21,642	\$ 653,823	\$ 3,340,595	\$ 318,460
9,773	\$ 57,261	\$ 1,246,557	\$ 217,210
510,781	\$ 1,643,608	\$ 36,244,001	\$ 2,173,451

Project Partners



Utah WRI

Why Has It Worked in Utah?

Lessons Learned

- Started with an Obvious Threat and a Big Idea.
 - Obvious threat – Sage-brush die-off, cheat grass invasion and catastrophic wild fire.
 - Big idea (broader than just the immediate threat) – restore healthy watersheds for all interests (water quantity & quality, wildlife habitat & livestock forage, fire and fuels, benefit all users).
 - Sellable to big audience.
- Leadership Provided at Multiple Levels
 - Endorsed and sponsored at the highest levels – UPCD.
 - Champions emerged: Kevin Conway (DWR), Silvia Gillen (NRCS), Mike Styler (DNR)
 - Right administrative staff – Rory Reynolds (DWR/DNR) and A.J. Martinez (BLM)
 - Local leadership – chairs of regional teams are empowered and act.
 - Largest restoration players are involved.
 - Largest partners willing to take risks.

Utah WRI

Lessons Learned

- History on our Side
 - Great Basin Research Center since 1940s
 - 60 years of habitat experience in DWR, BLM, USFS
 - Long-term cooperation in range trend monitoring – DWR, BLM, USFS, UDAF
 - Seed warehouse in place.
 - Trained personnel throughout DWR.
- Bottom-up Hierarchy
 - All real project work done at regional team level – write own charter, elect own leaders, establish own focus areas, review own projects, rank own projects.
 - Centralize only when it makes sense - project database, administration (contracting, accounting support, etc.), fund-raising, marketing, training.
 - Only broad direction and guidance from top – annual schedule, ranking criteria.
 - Administration supports local decisions – e.g., do not change ranking decisions.
 - Administration removes roadblocks.

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Lessons Learned

- Practice Partnership
 - Easy and safe to participate – no secret handshake.
 - Open communication – database, meetings, field tours.
 - Play to partners strengths.
 - Credit shared by all – “give credit freely”, we not I.
 - Partnership not a dictatorship.
 - Report accomplishments.
- Science Approach.
 - Use best science available.
 - Monitoring emphasized.
 - Be adaptive.

Utah WRI

Lessons Learned

- Operate at a Scale that Matters.
 - Big Projects – “Go big or go home”.
 - Big NEPA.
 - Big funding.
 - Economy of scale.
 - Ownership boundaries blurred – learned from fire rehab.
- Solution-minded not Problem-minded
 - Analyze problems but quickly get to solutions.
 - Pragmatic.
- Partnership not a Charity
 - partners get something (dedicated funding).