

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative Central Regional Team Charter

Background: Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (UWRI), a Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (Utah PCD) sponsored initiative, is a wide-view watershed restoration initiative formed in 2003 to leverage diverse interests including: government entities, Non Government Organizations, industry, citizens, and other like-minded organizations to mitigate and improve watershed health in Utah.

Mission: The purpose of the regional team(s) is to serve as a clearinghouse for coordinating and sharing participants' conservation concerns and priorities, discussing potential solutions and for cooperatively implementing conservation activities.

Vision: UWRI is a partnership-driven effort to restore and manage land health in priority areas across the state. The Utah PCD values adopted by UWRI are to:

- Protect and enhance wildlife and biological diversity
- Improve water quality and availability
- Promote the opportunity for sustainable agriculture
- Maintain quality of life through economic and social values of healthy watersheds

Goal: To mitigate threats to watershed health through cooperative management and restoration actions on public and private lands in Utah.

Parameters: The regional teams are composed of restoration focused staff and representatives of the Utah PCD, as well as other local conservation minded organizations and stakeholders that reflect the ecologic, economic, and social demographics of that region. Each team is locally led and works cooperatively to plan and implement projects. Projects will be developed based on:

- Established watershed goals and objectives at the 8 digit hydrologic unit code, sub-basin level
- Focus areas for projects that are systematically adjusted to meet WRI goals and objectives
- Risk analysis that determines availability of contributors and resources and identifies threats and risks to watersheds
- Strategic long-term implementation plans that support land use plans or other conservation plans
- Monitoring and evaluation plans for projects and/or focus areas
- Prioritizing projects based on ranking criteria established by statewide guidance with the regional team providing local guidance

Membership: All meetings are open to the public or anyone wishing to participate.

Voting Membership: Voting participation requires regular attendance of team meetings and familiarity of projects and/or issues.

Administration:

- Is facilitated by a Chairperson and Vice-chairperson to serve one year terms beginning January 1st each year (such positions may be held by members who are active in the regional team)
- Once each term is up, a new Vice-Chairperson is elected and the outgoing Vice-Chairperson will immediately assume the role of Chairperson. If practical, efforts should be made to rotate this position between the different Utah PCD members involved. Also, the Vice-Chairperson shall not be from the same agency/group as the Chairperson. These actions will lessen the burden on one, or just a few, of the agency/groups The Chair is responsible for distributing information to all regional team members, scheduling meetings, and acts as the liaison with the Utah PCD and UWRI
- The Vice-chair serves to support the chair in developing agendas and facilitating regional team meetings, attending other group meetings where regional team representation is required, and assist with other duties critical to meeting regional team objectives
- If /when the chair position is vacated, the vice-chair shall assume the role of chair
- Quarterly meetings will be called by the Chair and other meetings as designated by the Chair or Vice-chair
- Decisions are made by consensus or by simple majority

Meeting Structure and Frequency:

- The winter meeting should occur early in the calendar year and be devoted to presenting projects to be submitted to the UWRI and Utah PCD. The project ranking committee should be determined during this meeting and a separate date decided upon for that committee to rank those projects
- The Ranking Committee Meeting should occur no later than February as the final rankings are due to Utah PCD by March 1st. Once the draft rankings are determined by the committee, they should be presented to the entire team either through a team meeting or via e-mail
- The spring meeting should be devoted to current year project status to ensure treatments will be completed before the end of the State of Utah fiscal year. This meeting should also dedicate time to begin collaborative planning on how to meet the objectives for the next highest priority sub-basin watersheds/focus areas
- The summer meeting should consist of at least one field tour to review projects and discuss the approved projects for that year
- The fall meeting should be devoted to reviewing sub-basin watersheds/focus areas, recommending changes needed in the governance of the regional team, and electing a new vice-chair with appointment beginning January 1st. Project proposals need to be entered into the database by December 31st each year
- Any additional meetings/field trips/etc will be determined on an as needed basis by the group