



# RESTORING WATERSHEDS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



UTAH'S  
WATERSHED  
RESTORATION  
INITIATIVE



# WATERSHEDS INVOLVE MUCH MORE THAN JUST WATER



In Utah, healthy watersheds are vital to ensure the ongoing success of wildlife and biological diversity, water quality and yield and opportunities for sustainable uses of our natural resources. The term “watershed” is much more than just a place where water converges. It’s the lifeblood of the landscape, sustaining the animals and people who depend upon it. The Watershed Restoration Initiative’s (WRI) vital restoration projects maintain and enhance the health and sustainability of important areas.

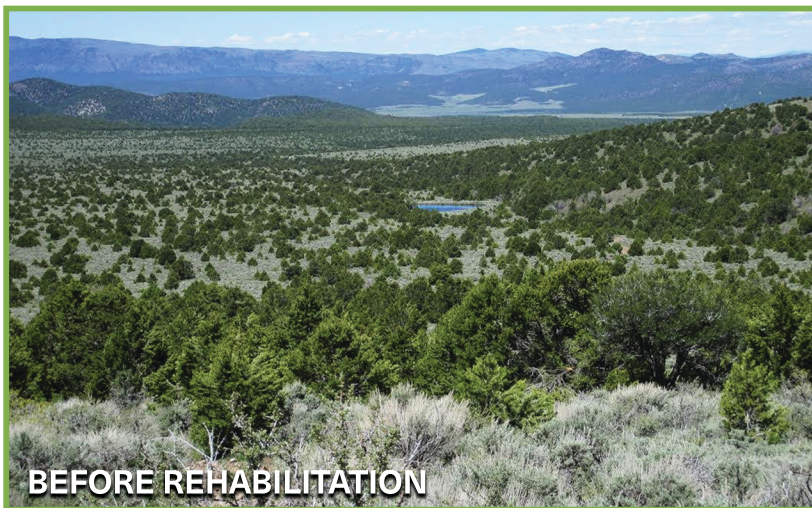
WRI is a partnership-based program in Utah to improve high-priority watersheds. In its 13th year, WRI is sponsored by the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development. As our communities expand and our population increases, we have a growing obligation to actively manage, protect and restore watersheds across Utah. As part of this effort, we are tackling a variety of watershed challenges. Specifically, we are:

- Reducing invasive & over abundant plant species
- Limiting destructive wildfires
- Restoring degraded streams & riparian areas
- Reversing aspen forest decline

Actively managing and restoring our watersheds is a critical responsibility, one we must all embrace in order to preserve and enhance essential resources for future generations.

**SINCE 2006, WRI PARTNERS HAVE COMPLETED OVER 2,000 PROJECTS, IMPROVING OVER 1.6 MILLION ACRES AND NEARLY 1,200 MILES OF STREAMS. OVER 500 AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO WRI PROJECTS BY PROVIDING FUNDING AND IN-KIND ASSISTANCE.**





**BEFORE REHABILITATION**



**AFTER REHABILITATION**

## THE BENEFITS OF WRI'S REHABILITATION PROCESSES

Through strategic rehabilitation processes such as - the reduction of invasive and over abundant plant species, fire prevention and reseeding, restoring degraded stream and riparian systems and reversing aspen forest decline - WRI restores and prevents the destruction of our vital watersheds by promoting positive changes to reduce future problems.

### SOME OF THE KEY RESULTING BENEFITS OF THESE PROCESSES INCLUDE:

- Protects and rehabilitates vital habitats for many wildlife species
- Reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfires in treated areas
- Improves water quality and increases water yield
- Increases forage for sustainable agriculture
- Maximizes benefits while leveraging State-level investments
- Provides economic benefits for local communities



WRI operates as a diverse partnership of state and federal governmental agencies working together with non-governmental organizations, industry, elected officials and private landowners, and is coordinated by Utah's Department of Natural Resources. Funding for WRI comes from federal agencies like the BLM, NRCS, U.S. Forest Service, as well as from Utah's Legislature.

Additionally, state agencies like the Division of Wildlife Resources, Forestry Fire & State Lands, Agriculture and Food, SITLA, and DEQ also provide funding. Many private landowners and public land grazers participate too, along with non-governmental organizations, including the Mule Deer Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Foundation, Utah Wild Sheep Foundation, Utah Archery Association and Safari Club International.





**"LEFT UNCHECKED, DECLINING RANGELANDS  
AND SOIL EROSION WILL IMPACT RURAL  
ECONOMIES, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IN GENERAL."**

KEVIN CONWAY  
FORMER DIRECTOR OF  
THE UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO GET INVOLVED VISIT:  
[WATERSHED.UTAH.GOV](http://WATERSHED.UTAH.GOV)**