

**Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative  
Central Regional Team Charter  
Updated (2024)**

**Background:** Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (UWRI) was formed in 2006 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 cooperatively implementing conservation activities.

**Vision:** UWRI is a partnership-driven effort to restore and manage land health in priority areas across the state. UWRI is focused on improving three ecosystem values:

- Watershed health and biological diversity
- Water quality, yield, and hydrologic function
- Opportunities for sustainable uses of natural resources

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

**Objectives:** The Central Region team is locally led and works cooperatively to plan, prioritize, and implement projects that:

- Enhance ecosystem values at the landscape scale.
- Reflect coordinated partner priorities across land ownership boundaries.
- Address established statewide ranking criteria.

**Participation:** All meetings are open to the public.

**Voting Membership:**

Voting opportunities include two tiers: 1) General administration including officer elections, proposal review, and charter changes; and, 2) Approval to move to ranking and project ranking by a ranking sub-committee.

**Tier One** - General administration including officer elections, proposal review, and charter changes

- Voting participation at the pre-proposal and proposal meetings requires regular attendance at team meetings and/or familiarity with projects and issues.
- Tier-one activities require a simple majority vote.
- Changes to the charter require a 2/3 majority vote.

**Tier Two** – Project approval to move forward for ranking and project ranking by a ranking sub-committee

- Members of the ranking committee consist of no more than one representative per entity.
- Core members of the ranking committee include governmental and non-governmental organizations that are founding members of the UWRI partnership and/or have a long-standing record of participation in the UWRI process and funding of UWRI projects.
- Core members include the following agencies and groups:

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources,  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Forest Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands  
Utah Trust Lands Administration  
Trout Unlimited  
Utah Lake Authority  
Salt Lake City  
Utah State Extension  
Mule Deer Foundation  
Utah Department Environmental Quality  
Eagle Mountain City  
US Department of Defense  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Sageland Collaborative  
Jordan River Commission

Each core entity may assign one representative voting member during the pre-proposal meeting. To be eligible for Central Region ranking committee assignment an individual will:

- familiarize themselves with the projects prior to the proposal meeting
- attend the proposal meeting
- score all approved projects according to statewide criteria
- attend ranking committee meeting
- Ranking committee may have up to 5 “member at large” positions that shall not be from the core member group or represent a group multiple times.
- Disagreements will be addressed through discussion and the final ranking will be based on a simple average of all individual ranking members’ scores.
- If necessary, nomination for removal of a ranking committee member will be on the grounds of not attending the necessary meetings, failure to rank all projects, poor engagement, or especially egregious behavior that distracts or disrupts the process. This nomination will be followed by a second and require a 2/3 or higher sub-committee vote for removal.

For the purposes of this section, an ‘entity’ is defined as a participating organization (i.e. federal agencies, state agencies, NGOs, industry, landowners, private citizens, etc.). The definition of ‘entity’ may be expanded upon request.

**Administration:**

- The chair and vice-chair serve one-year terms beginning January 1st each year, or the first meeting thereafter.
- A secretary may be nominated and volunteer to help keep meeting minutes and help the Chair and Vice-chair as needed.
- Upon term completion, the vice-chair will transition to the chair position. A new vice-chair will be nominated from email responses or during the pre-proposal meeting. Nominees must be consulted and willing to accept nomination. Nominations will be voted on in the pre-proposal meeting. Each elected person serves one year as vice-chair and the next year as chair.
- If the vice-chair position becomes vacant an immediate nomination and election process will commence to elect a new vice-chair.
- The previous year chair will lend support for continuity and will assist the new chair and vice-chair.
- If practical, efforts should be made to rotate the chair and vice-chair positions among different entities. The vice-chair shall not be from the same entity as the chair.
- The chair is responsible for distributing information to all regional team members, scheduling and leading meetings, and acting as the liaison with UWRI Administrators.
- The vice-chair serves to support the chair in developing agendas, facilitating regional team meetings, attending meetings where regional team representation is required, and assisting with duties critical to meeting regional team objectives. The chair and vice-chair will work together to plan a summer field tour.
- The chair will select a person to record meeting minutes for each meeting.
- In situations where changes to the charter are needed and these changes would require a considerable amount of work, a subcommittee will be formed to accomplish the task. Subcommittees will be formed from entities and assigned on an as-needed basis.
- All proposed and substantive changes to charter will be presented to the entire group for approval.
- Comments to project proposals must be entered into the UWRI project database five days prior to the project proposal meeting for project managers to prepare a response.

## **Annual Calendar:**

January: Project proposal deadline (official deadline given by UWRI Admin). Projects must be entered and submitted into the UWRI database in order to be considered for the following FY for funding.

February/March: Project Proposal and Ranking Committee Meetings.

March: Ranking results due to UWRI Admin Team.

April/May (every odd year): Statewide UWRI Meeting

Summer: Summer field tour to view implemented projects throughout the Central Region.

November/December: Pre-proposal Meeting

- Housekeeping from prior meetings (e.g. presentation of sub-committee reports and recommendations)
- Administrative Program updates
- Elections for vice-chair will be held in-person.
- Identification of ranking committee members
- Status updates for previously funded projects
- Proposal presentations for following FY
- Introduction of vice-chair
- Speakers optional