

## Southern Region Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative Team Charter

**BACKGROUND:** Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative (UWRI) was formed in 2006 to leverage diverse interests including governmental and non-governmental organizations, industries, citizens, and other conservation minded organizations to mitigate threats to and improve watershed health in Utah.

**MISSION:** The Southern Region Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative (SRUWRI) will work together and take cooperative action as partners with federal, state and local agencies, tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, private livestock operations and other affected private landowners, communities, and other stakeholders to define common visions and goals as they relate to ecosystem restoration. The SRUWRI will work to coordinate and leverage technical and financial resources, set priorities for management and restoration, strengthen efforts for monitoring and assessment, develop innovative approaches to problem solving and develop and implement outreach and educational efforts.

**VISION:** Water quality, quantity, and biodiversity are maintained and improved across the landscape through active and passive science-based ecosystem restoration and management. The goal of SRUWRI is to maintain and improve habitat for Utah's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (as defined in Utah's Wildlife Action Plan) and high interest game species. SRUWRI habitat management actions will support sustainable agriculture and will maintain public value-added incentives, such as visual resource management, recreational opportunities, and open space at a landscape level.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Provide coordinated leadership in natural resource management and public service in cooperation with property owners/users for the long-term sustainability of Utah's natural resources to meet the needs of current and future generations.
2. Act as a point of coordination for funding and cooperation.
3. Strive to work with partners such as agencies (state, federal and local governments) permittees, private landowners, local communities, tribes, etc.
4. Conduct science-based ecosystem restoration through physical and mechanical habitat manipulation such as seeding, reconstruction, vegetation management, species transplants and other means. Such projects will:
  - a. Think cross-boundary, multi-species, multi-use.
  - b. Be developed collaboratively.
  - c. Utilize management plans, best available science and a Five Step Planning (multi-entity/partner/interests) process:
    - i. Develop measurable *long-term* goals and objectives that meet values and watershed/focus area goals and objectives.
    - ii. Determine strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats through analysis by all interested parties
    - iii. Develop a long-term strategic implementation plan that includes all current and foreseeable future needs of the project (includes long-term monitoring strategy/timeline)
    - iv. Implement projects through cooperating agencies, groups, and individuals
    - v. Conduct monitoring/assessment/evaluations that include effects to project related fish and wildlife species as well as vegetation and other ecological resources.
5. Facilitate communication and team building among the public, stakeholders and the UWRI to promote a better understanding of the risks to natural resources and values, and to improve cooperation and problem solving across boundaries.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The SRUWRI membership is composed of any person actively attending SRUWRI meetings (see Tier One section definitions).

The Ranking Committee is composed of up to one representative from each of the following core group entities and the “members at large” (see “members at large” definitions in Tier Two section below).

### **SRUWRI Core group**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Utah State University Extension Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Utah Association of Conservation Districts
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Farm Services Agency
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- U.S. Forest Service
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
- School And Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State lands
- Utah Division of Parks and Recreation

## **VOTING**

Tier One voters are all active general members. Active general members are individuals who attend and participate in at least 50 percent of the meetings during the year (see annual timeline below). Attendance for the Winter and Fall meetings can be virtual.

### **Tier One votes:**

- Officer elections (require a simple majority vote)
- Charter changes (require 2/3 majority vote)
- Ranking committee member additions (require a simple majority vote)

Tier Two voters are the Ranking Committee (SRUWRI core group representatives and “members at large”)

### **Tier Two votes:**

- Ranking committee member removal (see removal criteria below)
- Resolving disagreements during ranking committee meeting(s) (simple majority vote)

## **PROJECT RANKING**

- Ranking will be conducted following the ranking criteria template provided by UWRI
- The Ranking Committee will be composed of the SRUWRI core group representatives, as well as up to five “member at large” representatives who share the vision and mission of UWRI.
  - The core group of the ranking committee will be composed of no more than one representative per Core Group entity.

- The "member at large" component of the Ranking Committee may consist of up to five members representing stakeholders active in SRUWRI, including but not limited to sportsmen organizations, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, local governments, etc. Each type of stakeholder (e.g., sportsmen organizations) may have up to two representatives. "Member at large" representatives should be representative of their broader stakeholder.
- Eligibility for Ranking Committee nomination: Must be an active general member of SRUWRI as defined in the Tier One section of this charter and must become familiar with the project proposals in the UWRI database and the UWRI ranking criteria.
- All ranking committee nominees will be voted on in a Tier One vote. No ranking committee members will be allowed to participate in the ranking process unless they have been voted on in a Tier One vote. Approval to become a Ranking Committee member is by simple majority.
- Eligibility to participate in the ranking process and Tier Two voting: Ranking Committee members must attend all ranking committee meetings. If a Ranking Committee member has a legitimate reason to miss a Ranking Committee meeting they may designate a capable substitute to attend the meeting in their place. This does not allow the substitute to rank projects or participate in Tier Two votes, it is simply to allow for continued eligibility of the official ranker on the Committee. The SRUWRI leadership will determine eligibility based on attendance/representation.
- If a Ranking Committee member position is vacated any time during the year, the entity that they represent may nominate an individual to attend Ranking Committee meetings but that individual will not be an official Ranking Committee member unless/until approved via Tier One vote.
- Disagreements on the ranking committee will be resolved through a simple majority Tier Two vote. Votes resulting in a tie will be decided by the SRUWRI Chair.
- Grounds for removal from the Ranking Committee: Egregious acts/behavior by a Committee member are grounds for removal. Removal shall be proposed by a Ranking Committee member, followed by a second. Removal must be approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  or higher Committee vote with at least 60% of the active Ranking Committee members present.

## LEADERSHIP

The SRUWRI is governed by a Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary. These positions may be held by general members or Ranking Committee members who are active in SRUWRI Chapter.

- The **Chair** is responsible for distributing information to all SRUWRI members and acts as the liaison with the statewide UWRI. The Chair is responsible for scheduling meetings and developing required correspondence to meet the objectives of SRUWRI and UWRI.
- The **Vice-chair** serves to support the chair in developing agendas and facilitating SRUWRI meetings, attending other group meetings where SRUWRI representation is required, and assists with other duties critical to meeting SRUWRI objectives. The Vice-chair organizes and leads the summer field tour.
- The **Secretary** is responsible for taking minutes at all SRUWRI meetings, and for providing additional support to the Chair and Vice-chair as requested. Minutes should be distributed to all leadership within 10 days following any SRUWRI meeting.
- If the Chair position is vacated, the Vice-chair shall assume the role of Chair. All unscheduled vacancies will be filled by nomination and Tier One vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting or virtually as needed.
- The term of elected Secretary shall be two years. The term for the elected Vice-chair shall be for two years, with one year as Vice-chair and then one year as Chair. A new Vice-chair will be elected annually, and a new Secretary will be elected bi-annually at the Fall meeting.

## ANNUAL TIMELINE

The SRUWRI is committed to holding three annual meetings, and other meetings as designated by UWRI leadership.

- The SRUWRI leadership will determine meeting dates and locations.
- Sub-committees may be assigned as needed.
- The SRUWRI Fall meeting will be devoted to electing a Vice-chair and Secretary, . and distributing information needed for project ranking and the Winter meeting project presentations. At least one informational presentation is encouraged.
- The Winter meeting will be devoted to presenting the projects to be ranked.
- The Spring meeting is designated by the state UWRI administration and may not occur yearly. All members are encouraged to attend if held.
- The Summer meeting will consist of a field tour to showcase restoration projects or other work completed through the SRUWRI program.
- The Fall and Winter meetings will be held in Cedar City, Utah unless otherwise designated by the Chair.