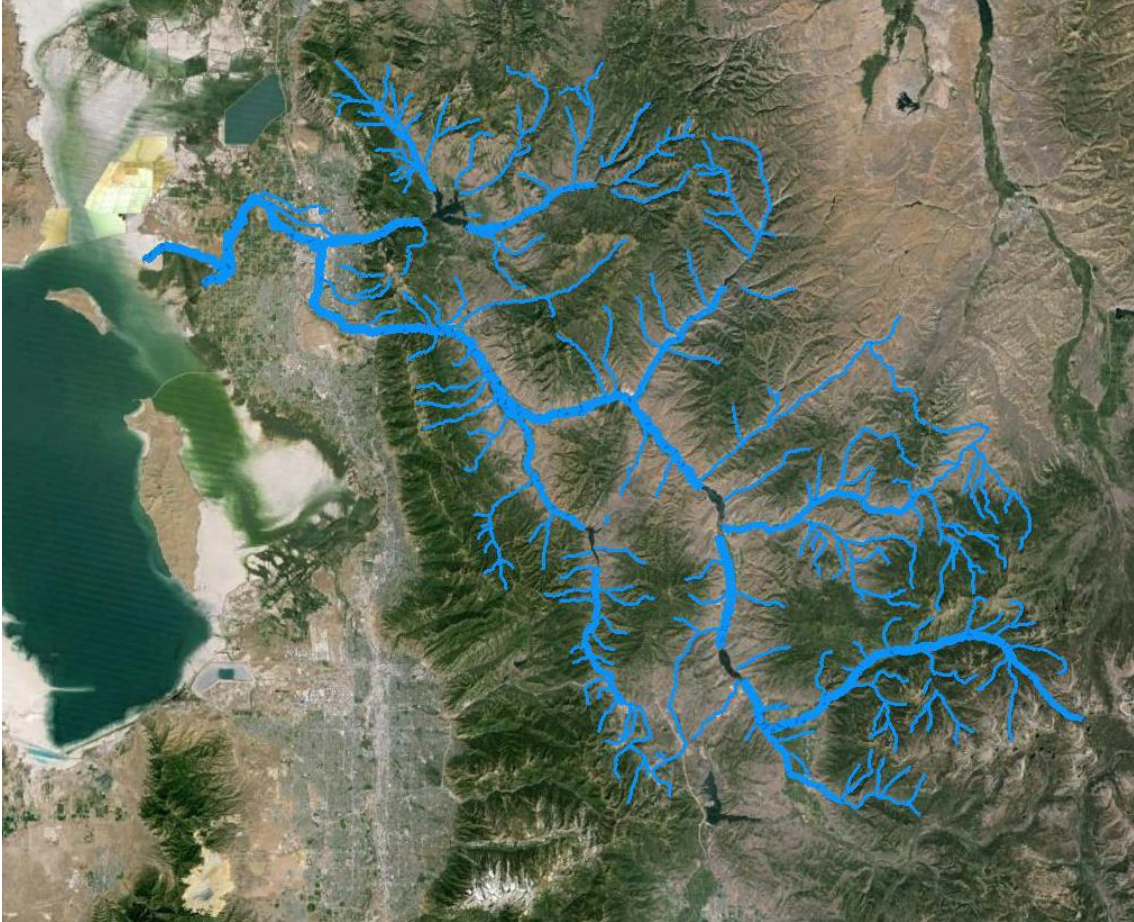


Weber River Partnership Capacity



WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grants for FY 2016

FOA No. BOR-DO-18-F005

Applicant Contact:

Paul Burnett
Trout Unlimited
5279 South 150 East
Ogden, UT 84405
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Executive Summary

1/26/2018

Applicant:
Trout Unlimited
1777 N. Kent Street
Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22209

On behalf of the Weber River Partnership, Trout Unlimited wishes to serve as the primary sponsor to develop a formal and durable Watershed Partnership in the Weber River of Northern Utah. Currently members of several agencies and organizations voluntarily compose the Weber River Partnership. As a voluntary organization, the partnership has a wide variety of successful accomplishments since we formed in 2013. Major accomplishments include the development of a Watershed Plan, an annual watershed symposium, which has been held for 4 consecutive years, and enhanced project-level collaboration. However, in order to expand the capacity of the Weber River Partnership, we wish to develop a more formal structure, and develop specific restoration goals within the Ecological Systems of the Weber River Basin. With help from this grant, we will be able to accomplish the following goals 1) Establishing the Weber River Partnership as an officially recognized group, 2) Developing capacity to support the partnership through hiring a Watershed Group Coordinator, and 3) Continue improving project and stakeholder coordination and development of watershed management goals.

Proposed Project Term: Two Years

Project Location

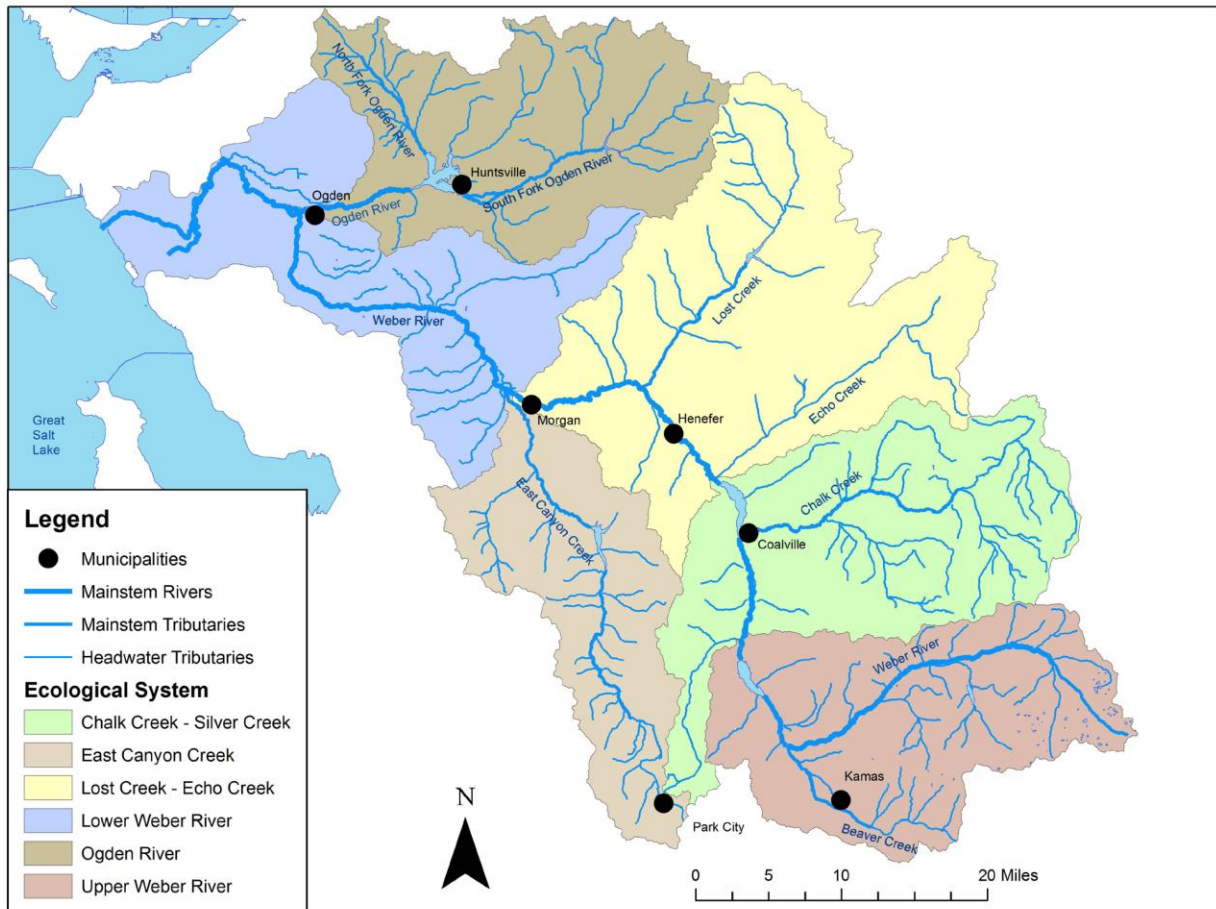


Figure 1: A map showing major waters, watershed boundary and ecological systems of the Weber River.

Background Information

The Weber River Basin (HUC6 160201) supports a wide diversity of values important to the people of Northern Utah. It provides drinking water to approximately 21% of Utah's population, it is a critical landscape and water source for thousands of agricultural producers and it is the second-most popular stream fishery in the State. Alongside the extensive agricultural production, the Weber River watershed provides critical habitat for imperiled fish species, (the Bonneville cutthroat trout and Bluhead sucker) and a framework for nontraditional economic drivers that complement traditional rural economies such as recreational angling and water-based recreation. For example, based on a 2013 economic study by Utah State University, recreational fisheries (a \$265M Utah industry) and reservoirs bring tourism and jobs to rural counties.

The Weber River Watershed encompasses approximately 1.5 million acres in Northern Utah ranging across a biodiverse landscape including a high elevation alpine zone, Uinta subalpine forest, Wasatch montane zone, semiarid foothills, mountain valleys, salt desert, and wetlands. As an exception to other watersheds in the state of Utah, a vast majority of the land area (83%) within the Weber River Watershed is privately owned, and most of the watershed area is managed for rangeland or cultivated for agricultural production. Population centers in the Weber River watershed include the Ogden-Clearfield metropolitan area within the lower watershed and Park City in the headwaters of East Canyon Creek, a major tributary.

Water needs in the watershed are served by three BOR Projects: the Ogden River Project, the Weber River Project and the Weber Basin Project. In addition much of the headwater flow from the upper Weber River is diverted into the Provo River as part of the Provo River project during the winter.

Threats

Despite its value to our communities and economy, the Weber River is one of Utah's most degraded and at-risk river basins in Utah due to widespread watershed degradation in both the mainstem and tributary systems. The Weber River has been heavily degraded and highly fragmented. Land management actions and direct stream channel modifications caused by flood control, irrigation diversions and transportation infrastructure have simplified over 60 miles of a historically complex river system. At the same time, the construction of water diversions, dams, small impoundments and road crossings have resulted in 396 fish migration barriers throughout the watershed, fragmenting the habitat that remains. Consequently, two aquatic species, the Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) - the only native trout to the basin - and the bluehead sucker, continue to be seriously threatened by these habitat impacts because they cannot move between habitats and the habitat they occupy is degraded. Nevertheless, the resilience of these native species continues to elevate them in priority and indicates a continued need to develop aquatic conservation projects in the Weber River.

In addition to physical stream channel impacts, future water supplies in the Weber River Basin are a continuing and increasing concern, particularly when viewed through the lens of climate change and increasing human demands. Providing water for the diversity of needs in the Weber River watershed, including agricultural, municipal and hydropower uses as well as values supported by system water, such as recreational fisheries, native aquatic species and water recreation, is becoming progressively more challenging. For example, the Ogden-Clearfield metropolitan area was the 16th fastest growing area from 2000-2010 according to U.S. census figures, and the watershed is projected to grow in population from 500,000 to 1.8 million by 2020. This is confounded by the fact that all of the available water rights are currently appropriated. Coupled with the accelerated population growth in the Provo-Orem

metropolitan area, which was THE fastest growing metropolitan area in the U.S. during the 2000-2010 census period, growing at a 43.5% rate with no change in future trajectory. Water from the Upper Weber River is diverted into the Provo River to support this growth. These increasing demands make the formalization of a watershed partnership and the implementation of a watershed plan imperative to maintain the Weber River Watershed's diverse values.

Development of the Weber River Partnership

To help address the various challenges described above in the Weber River watershed, agencies, NGO's and individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests have worked together to develop the Weber River Partnership. The following partners have each contributed to the development of the Weber River Partnership and the Weber River Watershed Plan by funding representatives' participation and committing time and resources:

- Weber Basin Water Conservancy District
- Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District
- Trout Unlimited
- Morgan County
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Kamas Valley Conservation District
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Pacificorp
- Ogden City
- Utah State University
- Utah Division of Water Rights
- Summit Land Conservancy
- Blue Ribbon Fisheries Advisory Council
- Private Landowners

The primary strength of the Weber River Partnership is our composition of individuals representing broad interests and backgrounds, ranging from representatives with state agencies such as the UT Division of Wildlife Resource, UT Department of Agriculture and Food, UT Division of Water Quality, USDA NRCS, water users such as the Weber River Water Users and Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, municipalities such as Ogden City, and nonprofits such as Summit Land Conservancy and Trout Unlimited.

The Weber River Partnership has been in existence as a voluntary, informal partnership since 2013, when a steering committee developed and wrote the Weber River Watershed Plan, which was completed in 2014. The Bonneville Environmental Foundation has been a critical partner in the facilitation and development of the Weber River Watershed plan. More details on the development of our watershed plan and our location can be found here:

<http://watersheds.b-e-f.org/project-portfolio/utah-division-of-wildlife-resources-weber-river/>

The Weber River Watershed Plan serves as the guiding framework structuring our conservation and restoration efforts to improve the watershed's long-term health, measured by the status of specific conservation targets:















- Water Resources
- Native Aquatic Species
 - Bluehead Sucker
 - Bonneville cutthroat Trout
- Ecological Systems
 - Upper Weber
 - Chalk and Silver Creek
 - East Canyon Creek
 - Henefer Valley, Lost and Echo Creek
 - Lower Weber
 - Ogden River

The document is scientifically-informed and includes input from a broad range of resource experts and community stakeholders. The Plan is can be viewed in its entirety here:

https://extension.usu.edu/waterquality/files/uploads/Utah_Water_Week/Final_Weber_River_Restoration_Plan_2014.pdf

The Weber River Restoration plan identified 14 challenges or threats to the conservation targets in the Weber River. The most threatening challenges negatively affect values across the entire watershed and require a cohesive effort in order to develop lasting and effective solutions. Although many threats were rated as 'Very High,' a key and overarching threat was the lack of durable watershed leadership and communication structure. As an informal partnership, we have made progress but we are still capacity-limited and aspire to have independent, but collaborative leadership to improve the effectiveness and credibility of the partnership. The 2014 Watershed plan showed that many of the other difficult challenges can be addressed with effective watershed leadership.

Table 1: A table from the Weber River Watershed Plan that shows the summary threat rating for all of the watershed values.

<i>Threats:</i>		<i>Summary threat rating across all impacted watershed values</i>
Community Engagement		
Lack of Watershed-scale Leadership Structure		Very High
Policy		
Permitting		High
Legal Harvest		Low
Restoration Funding Programs		Medium
Land Use		
Land Management, Future Development and Urbanization		High
Infrastructure, Utility Development and Maintenance		Very High
Gas, Oil, and Mineral Development		High
Habitat and Water Management		
Watershed-scale Water Resource Management		Very High
Small Scale Water Resource Management		Very High
Historic and Current Channelization and Flood Control		High
Ecological		
Whirling Disease		Medium
Introduced Trout Species		Medium
Invasive Organisms		Very High
Climate Change		Very High
Summary Rating for the Weber River Watershed		Very High

Through the development of the Weber River Watershed plan the steering committee identified 4 broad strategies to help address the challenges within the Weber River watershed. These strategies include:

- 1) Communications
- 2) Policy
- 3) Land and Water Use
- 4) Habitat Restoration

The four strategies should not be viewed as separate silos but should be considered in a hierarchical manner. For example communications are the basis upon which all other strategies rely. If communications are not effective among the watershed stakeholders, then effective watershed policy cannot be developed, or efforts to change policy are more likely to

fail. Further, land and water use cannot be developed in a consistent and sustainable manner if effective policy and communications do not exist. Finally habitat restoration is ineffective if no or ineffective land use strategies are in place to protect restoration measures. The primary need fulfilled with this Cooperative Watershed Grant proposal is to help our Watershed Partnership meet the communications objectives identified in the Weber River Watershed Plan.

Currently, individual project partners rely upon small scale funding and coordinate on a voluntary basis. With this grant, we hope to catalyze a more durable partnership by investing in partner capacity to develop an official, chartered leadership structure and establish 501(c)(3) status to solicit funds and engage a broad base of local stakeholders throughout the watershed. This leadership is essential to continuing collaborative work in the watershed. Although the initial group of partners involved in the watershed partnership were committed to collaboration, durability remains the most significant challenge, particularly as individual people progress in their careers and no longer participate in the partnership.

It is readily understood that most of the challenges to successfully developing a cohesive watershed group in the Weber River Watershed are based on social values. Conflict has occurred for generations among the stakeholders ranging from water user conflicts with water conservancy districts to conflicts flaring over out-of-basin water deliveries. Members of the Weber River partnership have already experienced events when agricultural producers in the watershed have expressed their skepticism of people and organizations with an interest other than traditional agricultural values.

In terms of restoration and management the status quo, characterized by small-scale individual projects and activities is both easy and inexpensive to implement. Most small water users act exclusively in their own interests without considering their operations in the context of the larger watershed. This becomes potentially challenging when considering larger-scale restoration, which is potentially more expensive up-front and involves complex long-term planning whose results may not be immediately visible. Certain actions may be perceived as hostile to traditional management strategies. Ideas such as diversion consolidation, efficiency improvements and fish passage have met resistance in the past.

Weber River Partnership Vision

The Weber River Partnership has developed a draft charter with a vision and mission statement that we hope to develop and finalize with this draft.

The current vision statement of the Weber River Partnership is “To ensure the long-term sustainability of the natural environment, economy, and lifestyles that make the Weber River Watershed a unique and desirable place to live, work, and play.”

The current mission statement is: “The mission of the Weber River Watershed Partnership is to advance collaboration, coordination and education within the Weber River Watershed by improving communication among diverse stakeholders to develop actions, which will be mutually beneficial.”

Previous Activities

Although informal and relatively recent on the scene in the Weber River Basin, the Weber River Partnership has many collaborative accomplishments behind it. First and foremost, the Weber River Watershed Plan represented a significant advancement in planning within the watershed by incorporating previously competitive values and bringing people who represented these values together to develop an inclusive strategic plan. Although developed by a smaller steering committee, this plan received and continues to receive strong support from a wide range of organizations including water users, agricultural agencies and natural resource agencies.

The Weber River Watershed plan identified the need for an annual basin-focused symposium. This symposium was accomplished through a collaborative effort among agencies such as the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, NRCS, BOR, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Division of Water Quality, Trout Unlimited, Summit Land Conservancy, Ogden City and more. Annual participation in the day-and-a-half event has been around 125 people in which many issues have been discussed. We hope to sustain this annual tradition to keep momentum behind the public dialog generated at these symposiums.

Finally, over the past 2 years several partners within the watershed have developed valuable GIS data layers for the benefit of the entire watershed. We have been able to raise funding to begin analyzing these layers through research at Utah State University. These research studies, including the Bluehead Sucker Life History Study, Basinwide Habitat modeling, Beaver Suitability Model, and Barrier Removal Prioritization study have been shaped by the Weber River partnership. The availability of these valuable datasets puts the Weber River Partnership in a great position to take strategic management actions as we move into the future.

Drought Resilience

From 2012-2016, the Weber River basin experience consecutive low-water years, which generated great concern among water managers and fisheries managers. In fact, water management tolerances were so tight that at least 6 dewatering events were recorded on the Lower Weber River, a key habitat for the Bluehead Sucker. As water demands continue to increase, we only expect to see these pressures increase and we all members of the Weber River Partnership are concerned about the synergistic effects of greater water demand, particularly in the upper Weber River and harshening drought conditions, particularly with the potential implications of climate change. Although this project does not explicitly address

drought resiliency, complimentary projects sponsored by the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District are bringing partners together to develop drought contingency plans. Other partners, such as Trout Unlimited have interest in developing similar contingency plans, but within headwater habitats where critical trout habitat occurs. We are working to develop a pilot flow transactions program in the Weber River and involves proactive planning for drought conditions.

Technical Project Description

Applicant Category

Because the Weber River Partnership has been formed as an informal group, our grant application should be considered as a request to support an Existing Watershed Group (Category 2).

Eligibility

As a major partner within the Weber River Partnership, Trout Unlimited proposes to act as the primary sponsor for this grant. We are eligible for receiving these funds, because we have played an important role in developing and maintaining the partnership as well as developing projects supported by the strategies within the Weber River Watershed Plan. Trout Unlimited is an eligible 501C3 organization.

Goals

As a partnership we have the following goals:

1. Increase capacity of the Weber River Partnership
 - a. Develop clear guiding documents such as a Charter or Articles of Incorporation
 - b. Develop formal governance
 - c. Establish 501c3 status to allow the partnership to manage money, seek grants and hire staff
 - d. Hire a Watershed Group Coordinator
2. Improve collaboration
 - a. Facilitate planning sessions
 - b. Establish a formal meeting timeframe and annual schedule
 - c. Continue hosting the Weber River Symposium annually
3. Develop projects and strategies that are more effective at the major risks within the watershed.

Approach

We wish to accomplish the following tasks allowed under this grant.

Task A:

1. Hire a facilitator to assist with outreach to stakeholders.
 - The facilitator will aid the chapter with formalization of the charter or articles of incorporation and aid with securing the necessary signatures.
 - The facilitator will coordinate initial meetings that will focus on formalizing the partnership.
2. Hire a watershed group coordinator.
 - After we make progress with the developing the charter or articles of incorporation we will work with the facilitator to develop a work-plan and project description of the watershed group coordinator.
 - We will hire the coordinator during the first year of the grant agreement.
3. Conduct outreach activities. Our primary outreach activities will be:
 - Develop a website
 - Develop project outreach materials focused on landowners and water users

Task B:

1. Improving on existing restoration plans.
 - Our current watershed plan is 4 years old, and the partnership has developed a broad range of projects and has secured additional basin-wide data. During this grant period, we propose to work with the watershed group coordinator and facilitator to develop more refined strategies based on the 6 ecological systems and the improved data. This will be a collaborative process that accounts for native fish species, water quality, water demands, and agricultural users.

Task C:

1. Completing an analysis to prioritize watershed management projects and identify specific project locations.
 - This is one of the primary goals of convening quarterly meetings as a partnership and through the annual Weber River Symposium. Our goal is to ensure that stakeholders and project partners are openly collaborating and communicating about projects. Maintaining lines of communication results in better and more comprehensive on-the-ground actions.
 - Develop project timelines and milestones

Schedule of Activities

Table 2: A Gantt chart showing the quarters in which we expect to execute tasks or meet milestones. Major milestones are indicated in black squares. Ongoing activities are indicated in grey squares.

Activity	Year 1				Year 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
Task A.1 Finalize Charter	■							
Task A.1 Develop Bylaws		■						
Task A.1 Elect Board of Directors		■	■					
Task A.2 Hire Watershed Coordinator				■				
Task A.3 Outreach Activities				■				
Task B.1 Update the Watershed Plan					■	■	■	■
Task C.1 Project Coordination and Prioritization	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Task C.1 Symposium				■				■

Relevance to Other Plans

The Weber River Watershed Plan was not intended to be used independently of other plans, but was intended to be complementary to the other efforts. The real meat of the Weber River Watershed Plan is the concept of formalizing the social infrastructure through the Weber River Partnership to ensure that other plans such as TMDLs, species conservation plans, and drought contingency plans are successfully developed and implemented with the representation of broad stakeholder interests. The Weber River partnership supports the various TMDL's that have been developed across the watershed and we plan to make progress towards implementing those TMDLs. In fact, we believe that by implementing this proposed project, we will enhance the TMDLs through enhanced engagement and communications. Additionally, the Weber River partnership has spurred broader discussions regarding drought contingency and water conservation plans. Members of the partnership have agreed to be on a drought contingency task force developed by the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, and we have also participated in water conservation workshops. Concurrently, we believe the Weber River Partnership has broadened the discussions of water management and habitat fragmentation and how operations and sensitive fish populations are interrelated. Formalizing the partnership will ensure that we can sustain these collaborative efforts long-term.

Evaluation Criteria

We propose to evaluate success of this project through following metrics:

- Development of formal governance such as Articles of Incorporation or Charter
 - This metric represents major progress in further developing the Weber River Partnership. When we are successful with this metric, it demonstrates that we have secured broad stakeholder participation and support among our partners. This is a key step towards building capacity.
- Conducting the Weber River Symposium
 - During this grant period we propose to host 2 annual Weber River Symposia. Each event represents continued participation by our stakeholders and partners and it shows that the partnership continues to have relevancy among participants within the Weber River Basin
- Development of website
 - The development of an informational website represents success in developing improved communications. It allows us to provide an outreach tool to new participants and to build capacity by pointing potential funders to our website.
- Hire a Watershed Group Coordinator
 - This is an important step that represents significant capacity in the watershed. The new Coordinator will be able to focus on maintaining stakeholder engagement and meetings, ensuring that the partnership continues to play a leading role in collaboration across the Weber River Basin.
- Update the 2014 Watershed Plan
 - 2019 will mark 5 years since the time we originally produced the Weber River Watershed plan. Maintaining this plan is important to ensure that we are working collaboratively and strategically to address the significant needs within the watershed. We need to incorporate new data to refine our goals and strategies outlined in the 2014 plan.

About the Applicant

On behalf of the Weber River Partnership, Trout Unlimited is submitting this proposal. The mission of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. A grassroots organization headquartered outside of Washington, D.C., TU currently has 206 staff working in 36 offices from Alaska to North Carolina. The vast majority of TU's employees are professional conservationists and over the past 20 years, TU has been engaged in restoration at the watershed scale in places throughout the U.S. that support rich and diverse coldwater fish communities through our Home Rivers Initiatives (HRI). All of our HRI programs support TU's strategic plan guidance to Protect, Reconnect, Restore and Sustain our critical fisheries and the habitat upon which they rely. The Weber River Home Rivers Initiative was established in 2012. Over the past 6 years TU has leveraged over 1,000,000 for restoration actions within the Weber River Basin and we remain

committed to working as part of a larger watershed partnership to solve critical challenges in the Weber River Watershed.

Paul Burnett serves as TU's Weber River Home Rivers Coordinator and lives in Ogden, Utah. Before coming to TU in 2011, Paul worked for 8 years at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as a Habitat Restoration and Cutthroat Trout Conservation Biologist. Paul received a BS in Ecology from Idaho State University in 1999 and a MS in Fisheries Biology from Utah State University in 2003. He has extensive experience in stream restoration and fish passage design. Paul also serves as the team leader for Northern Bonneville BCT conservation team and manages the BCT Status Assessment database. Paul formerly served as the President of the Board of Directors of the Ogden Nature Center in 2012, an Ogden nonprofit organization focused on environmental education.

Budget

Activity	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total	Budget Narrative
Task A.1 Develop Charter or Articles of Incorporation Charter, Bylaws, and Board of Directors				
Contract Facilitator:	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,000.00	Contractual services with a facilitator to coordinate stakeholders and establish articles of incorporation.
TU Project Coordinator	\$ 3,458.21	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,458.21	TU Project management.
Local Travel Mileage	\$ 108.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 108.00	Mileage to meetings.
Task A.1 Hire Watershed Coordinator				
TU Project Coordinator	\$ 2,416.21	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,416.21	TU staff time required to accomplish this task.
Task A.3 Conduct Outreach Activities				
TU Project Coordinator	\$ 1,958.21	\$ 1,958.21	\$ 3,916.42	Continue partner coordination efforts through working groups
Local Travel Mileage	\$ 108	\$ 108.00	\$ 216.00	Associated mileage reimbursement.
Contractual (Watershed Group Coordinator)	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 19,000.00	The Watershed Group Coordinator will lead this effort.
Task B.1 Improve Existing Restoration Plans				
TU Project Coordinator	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,332.83	\$ 6,332.83	TU staff time to assist with the update to the watershed plan.
Contractual (Watershed Group Coordinator)	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	
Local Travel Mileage	\$ 0.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 108.00	Associated mileage reimbursement.
Task C.1 Watershed Project Prioritization				
TU Project Coordinator: 100 Hours at \$40.94/hr	\$ 1,658.41	\$ 1,200.20	\$ 2,858.21	Assist with meeting coordination and
Contractual (Watershed Group Coordinator)	\$ 3,829.32	\$ 11,329.12	\$ 15,158.44	Coordinate agenda, speakers, and facility.
Local Travel Mileage	\$ 108	\$ 108.00	\$ 216.00	Associated mileage reimbursement.
Trout Unlimited Indirect	\$ 5,296.03	\$ 5,296.03	\$ 10,592.06	TU's NICRA. See attached.
TOTALS	\$ 48,440.39	\$ 48,440.39	\$ 96,880.78	



WEBER BASIN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

2837 East Highway 193 • Layton, Utah 84040 • Phone (801) 771-1677 • (SLC) 359-4494 • Fax (801) 544-0103

May 3, 2016

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Morgan County

Paul Burnett
Project Coordinator
Trout Unlimited
5279 S 150 E
Ogden, UT 84405

Dear Colleagues:

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD) would like to offer its support to the Weber River Partnership Development proposal submitted by Trout Unlimited to WaterSMART's Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant. The proposal seeks to support and strengthen the existing Weber River Partnership in its efforts to improve water quality, promote sustainable use of resources, and improve the conditions of streams and rivers in the Weber River Watershed. The growth of population within the watershed makes water quality a persistently larger issue. The Partnership would benefit from the involvement of all of the stakeholders within the watershed, allowing for the identification and address of major issues.

WBWCD has been involved in the watershed for decades and wishes to continue to provide assistance and guidance when needed. We support Trout Unlimited in their ability to carry out the capacity building objectives of the grant. We are familiar with their work protecting and restoring stream ecosystems and working with local landowners. We trust the expertise of their conservation staff and their ability to manage funds responsibly while the Partnership is being formalized.

Thank you for your support of our shared efforts to protect the Weber River Watershed and for your consideration of this proposal. Please feel free to contact me at spaxman@weberbasin.com or 801-771-4355 if you have questions about our role within the Weber River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Scott Paxman, PE
Assistant General Manager/COO

TIF/bb



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Alan Matheson
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Walter L. Baker, P.E.
Director

May 2, 2016

Water SMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grants
FOA No. R16-FOA-DO-008

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ), I offer our support for the Weber River Partnership Development proposal by Trout Unlimited. The aim of this proposal is to support and strengthen the existing Weber River Partnership in its efforts to improve water quality, promote sustainable use of resources, and improve the conditions of streams and rivers in the Weber River Watershed.

The Watershed Protection Section of the DWQ works to protect and restore water quality by working with a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement watershed plans and restoration projects. It is our experience that local stakeholder involvement and coordination are crucial to our success. In the Weber Watershed, the Weber River Partnership has provided that involvement and coordination. DWQ supports the Partnership's efforts to develop a more formal structure and increase their capacity to enhance communication, build local interest, identify projects, and host the annual watershed symposium.

We support Trout Unlimited in their ability to carry out the capacity building objectives of the grant. We are familiar with their work protecting and restoring stream ecosystems and working with local landowners. We trust the expertise of their conservation staff and recognize their ability to manage funds responsibly while the Partnership is being formalized.

Thank you for your support of our shared efforts to protect the Weber River Watershed, and for your consideration of this proposal. Please feel free to contact me at klundeen@utah.gov or 801.536.4335 if you have questions about our role within the Weber River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Kari Lundeen
Weber River Watershed Coordinator
Watershed Protection Section



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

May 2, 2016

Weber River Partnership WaterSMART Grant Proposal
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, we offer our support for the proposal requesting funding to develop a formal watershed group within the Weber River. The timing for this proposal could not be better as an informal Weber River partnership was formed several years ago. Even as an informal group, the Weber River Partnership has already made great strides in bringing stakeholders together in the watershed and has organized watershed stakeholder symposium in 2014 and 2015. This funding to formalize this group and develop Watershed Management Project concepts for critical areas in the watershed would allow the Weber River Partnership to fully function as a watershed group and propel this Partnership into the future. It would help us to dedicate greater resources to the implementation of watershed protections, and reach out effectively to landowners and community stakeholders. We share the vision of the Weber River Partnership as a robust governing body that provides the critical infrastructure in the Weber River Watershed with a full time director, and is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Weber River Watershed.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is working with the Weber River Partnership to better manage the fishery and associated riparian habitat in the Weber River drainage. Riverine habitat comprises less than 0.25% of the surface acres in the State of Utah yet is inhabited by a large percentage of species in Utah. While the Weber River offers great brown trout fishing, we also manage for two sensitive species, the Bonneville cutthroat trout and the bluehead sucker. To date we have worked with the Weber River Partnership to obtain funding to remove several barriers to fish movement that prevented these species from fulfilling their life history needs. The partnership has also helped fund a graduate project studying bluehead sucker life history in the Weber River. This study has identified critical spawning areas for the bluehead sucker thus allowing for better protection of this species. Since the formation of the Weber River Partnership, we have been able to make our partners aware of the precarious status of these two fish and inform them of actions that could be detrimental to their continued existence. The common goal within the Weber River Partnership is to protect and enhance the populations of these two species to preclude the need for future federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

We support this WaterSMART proposal and plan to make use of the outcomes from this project by continuing to participate in the growth and development of the Weber River Partnership, and by acting as a major stakeholder in its efforts toward community outreach, land conservation, and restoration projects within the region.



Page 2

May 4, 2016

Subject: Weber River Partnership WaterSMART Grant Proposal

Thank you for your support of our shared efforts to protect the Weber River Watershed, and for your consideration of this proposal. Please feel free to contact us if you have additional questions about our role within the Weber River Watershed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Thompson
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Northern Region Aquatics Manager



Summit Soil Conservation District
P.O. Box 526 Coalville, Utah 84017

May 3, 2016

Water SMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grants
FOA No. R16-FOA-DO-008

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of the Summit Soil Conservation District, we offer our support for the Weber River Partnership Development proposal by Trout Unlimited. This proposal is to support and grow and build the existing Weber River Partnership in its efforts to improve water quality, water quantity, and improve the conditions of the Weber River Watershed.

The Summit Soil Conservation District works to protect and restore water quality and water quantity by working with a variety of stakeholders and landowners to develop and implement watershed plans and restoration projects. In our experience, local stakeholder involvement and coordination is critical to our success. In the Weber Watershed, the Weber River Partnership has provided that involvement and coordination. Summit Soil Conservation District supports the Partnership's efforts to develop a more formal structure and increase their capacity to enhance communication, build local interest and involvement, identify projects, and host the annual watershed symposium.

We support Trout Unlimited in their ability to carry out the capacity building objectives of the grant. We are familiar with their work protecting and restoring stream ecosystems and working with local landowners. We trust the expertise of their conservation staff and recognize their ability to manage funds responsibly while the Partnership is being formalized.

Thank you for your support of our shared efforts to protect the Weber River Watershed, and for your consideration of this proposal. Please feel free to contact me at gpappas@utah.gov or 801.455.5341 if you have questions about our role within the Weber River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Andy Pappas
Upper Weber River Watershed Coordinator



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J. SHEEHAN
Division Director

May 3, 2016

Paul Burnett
Project Coordinator
Trout Unlimited
5279 S. 150 E.
Ogden, UT 84405

Subject: WaterSMART R16-FOA-DO-008: Weber River Partnership Development

Dear Paul.

It has come to my attention that Trout Unlimited is seeking funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Grants Program to further develop the Weber River Partnership, a group that has existed since 2013. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, State Wildlife Action Plan Program (SWAP) supports this project as it will establish the required social conditions to enable wildlife and habitat protection. Of particular interest to the SWAP is the presence of several native fish species which will require accelerated management in order to avoid an Endangered Species Act listing within the upcoming decade. The status quo is insufficient to that task.

Trout Unlimited proposes to: 1) formalize the existing, functioning, unofficial Weber River Partnership into an officially recognized group, 2) complete its mission statement, 3) and develop some watershed management project concepts to help implement their existing strategic plan.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and numerous partners, are acutely aware of the need to develop local capacity for inclusive planning and management of watersheds, particularly those with extreme demands placed on them. The Weber River watershed is just such a place. Fortunately, an informal but highly functional Weber River Partnership has been created in the last few years, and they have developed a whole-watershed strategic plan which is ready for implementation. An award from your program would enable that implementation to begin.

The Weber River watershed contains habitats that are essential to a number of SWAP Species of Greatest Conservation Need (beyond the aforementioned fishes), and which are also the focus of tremendous competing interests. Implementing the broad-based, inclusively-developed Weber River Restoration Plan will serve many users, for generations to come. My program enthusiastically supports this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jimi Gragg
Coordinator, Wildlife Action Plan





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May 4, 2016

G. KEITH DENOS, GENERAL MANAGER

Paul Burnett
Project Coordinator
Trout Unlimited
5279 South 150 East
Ogden, UT 84405

Subject: WaterSMART R16-FOA-DO-008: Weber River Partnership Development

Dear Mr. Burnett:

Provo River Water Users Association recognizes the efforts of the Weber River Partnership in attempting to address the numerous issues affecting the Weber River watershed, and is supportive of the referenced WaterSMART grant application to further these efforts.

Sincerely:
Provo River Water Users Association

Jeffrey D. Budge, P.E.
Operations and Engineering Manager