



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Utah Fish & Wildlife Management Assistance

Restoring America's Fisheries & Wildlife

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Who Are We?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance (FWMA) program is comprised of 64 field stations nationwide. There are 9 Mountain-Prairie Region FWMA offices, located in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah & Wyoming.



FWMA manages rivers in the Uintah Basin, Utah.

The FWMA program fills a vital role in restoring and maintaining the health of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources. FWMA functions like a general practitioner in the medical field: FWMA biologists monitor the health of fish and wildlife resources, diagnose ailments, prescribe remedies, refer specific problems to specialists, and coordinate diverse efforts to restore and maintain health. The program helps avoid listing actions under the *Endangered Species Act (ESA)* – or, in other words, it helps to keep the patient out of the intensive care unit.



FWMA staff assessing stream habitat and quality.

In the Mountain Prairie Region, FWMA helps conserve more than 20 million acres of habitat for fish and wildlife on Tribal lands, National Wildlife Refuge System lands and other Federal lands. Thirteen ESA listed species, and 24 recreationally valued fish and wildlife species benefit.

FWMA Activities:

In the Mountain-Prairie Region, FWMA activities focus on:

- Native Fish & Wildlife Conservation
- Native American Tribal Assistance
- Federal Lands Management
- Fish Passage
- Interjurisdictional Fisheries
- Aquatic Nuisance Species

FWMA works closely with other Service programs, International, Federal, State, Tribal, and private entities to complement habitat restoration and other resource management strategies for maintaining healthy ecosystems that support healthy fish and wildlife populations.

The American people benefit from healthier ecosystems and resulting increases in fishing and other recreational opportunities.

Utah FWMA Office

The Utah FWMAO, formerly known as the Roosevelt FWMAO, was originally established in 1971 to provide fish and wildlife technical assistance to Indian tribes in Utah in order to fulfill its trust responsibility.

Technical assistance includes helping tribes manage their fish, wildlife, and habitat resources. One of our major conservation projects is working with Tribes, other Federal agencies and State natural resource agencies to conserve Bonneville cutthroat trout and other native species.

How we Help

Native Fish & Wildlife Conservation - *Conserving imperiled fish and aquatic species and wildlife, (i.e. those in serious decline or listed under the ESA), by planning, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating activities such as habitat restoration and captive propagation and prevent them from being listed under the ESA.*



Bonneville cutthroat trout

Today, major conservation projects for Utah FWMAO include restoration of native Bonneville and Colorado River cutthroat trout into streams on the Confederated Tribes of the Goshutes and Northern Ute Indian Reservations in Utah. Activities include conducting fish population surveys; removing nonnative fishes that compete with the trout; constructing fish barriers to exclude nonnative fishes from reentering reclaimed streams; repairing stream side habitat; building fences to keep cattle out of sensitive stream areas; and carrying out stream-side spawning, hatching and rearing of cutthroat trout for reintroduction into restored streams.

The Utah FWMAO also assists in developing stream flow recommendations for endangered fishes and determines impacts to river habitats from oil and gas development.

Tribal Assistance - *Managing natural resources, restoring native species, recovering threatened and endangered species, and restoring habitats to fulfill trust responsibilities.*

The Utah FWMAO works with our tribal partners to better manage their fish, wildlife, and habitat resources on 4.5 million acres of Tribal land. This includes managing fish and wildlife resources, restoring native species, recovering threatened and endangered species. In addition, the station provides hands-on learning experiences for Tribal members interested in pursuing fish and wildlife careers.



Ute Indian Buffalo roundup at buffalo (bison) roundup



FWMA staff spawning Bonneville cutthroat trout

Federal Lands Assistance - *Working with federal land managers, such as the Department of Defense, in rangeland, wildlife and fish management on Federal lands and assisting National Wildlife Refuges to plan, manage, and restore fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.*

The Utah FWMAO provides fish and wildlife assistance to the National Wildlife Refuge System through fish, wildlife, and habitat surveys; activities to protect, conserve, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats; preservation efforts of threatened, endangered, depleted, and native fish species and their habitats; effectively addressing invasive and nonnative species issues; and providing knowledge of baseline fishery and wildlife resources and requirements.

The Utah FWMAO also conducts fish, wildlife, waterfowl, and reptile surveys on 1 million acres of land on Hill Air Force Base. In addition, fishing ponds have been developed and managed on the Air Force Base to provide fishing opportunities for military personnel and their families.



FWMA staff stocking fish



Partnerships Make it Happen

We work closely with the following partners: the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Southern Ute Tribe, the Northern Ute Tribe, the Goshute Tribes, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, and other Service programs. In addition, many local civic groups and volunteer citizens are actively involved with the fish and wildlife management activities, education, and outreach.

These many dedicated partners and volunteers keep the Utah FWMAO operating to bring recreational opportunities and healthy ecosystems to you, your family, and future generations.

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