



# Utah Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Monthly Report (June 2020)

## Overview

The Utah Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Vernal, Utah assists partners with Fish Passage, National Fish Habitat Partnerships and Tribal Wildlife Grants. Partnership agreements are held with Trout Unlimited, Utah's Department of Wildlife Resources, Tribal governments and Universities (Brigham Young University, Utah State University). A major role of the office is with Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah. This newsletter will highlight some of the activities with these groups for June, 2020.

## Native American Tribes

Access to Utah's Native American Tribes were not allowed in June due to COVID-19 closures. Though no field work was accomplished, 2020 access permits were received.

### Ute Tribe

An access permit to enter the Northern Ute Tribe was received for 1 June - 1 August. Another access permit was received for August 1 - November 22, 2020. The Northern Ute Tribe's Fisheries Office continued field work this month. Their efforts have been fisheries surveys, and FWS consultation on FERC's relicensing of the Hydropower Project.

(Ute Tribe continued)

Utah FWCO assistance at Big Springs Fish Hatchery has not happened this month and may not in 2020 as assistance is contingent upon hired FWCO employees and COVID-19 restrictions being lifted.

### Goshute Tribe

The Utah FWCO is planning to provide a project proposal for Spring Creek stream restoration on the Goshute Indian Reservation. This will be accomplished with additional funding through WRI if received.

### Paiute Tribe

The stream restoration project on the Shivwits reservation is underway. The tribe continued spraying vegetation this month. Cutting mature tamarisk is an objective still needing attention. The goal is to improve habitat for virgin spinedace in the river while maintaining southwest flycatcher habitat by planting cottonwoods and willows.

Resources and permissions for beaver control and monitoring on the reservation along the Santa Clara River was addressed, and a SOW with Utah's DWR was worked on. This SOW will be presented to the VRP this summer or early fall.

Access permits to assist the Paiute Tribe are needed but not yet available.



## Fish Passage

The FWCO is yet to finalize an agreement with Utah's DWR for fish passage improvements in Raft Creek in N.E. Utah.

Additionally, we participated in coordinating fish passage design in the Virgin River in Zion's National Park. This effort is being planned by a work group that includes the Park Service, Utah's DWR and our Regional Fish Passage Coordinator William Rice. We appreciate Bill's interest and help with this phase of the project. The work group's kickoff meeting was held in Zion National Park this month.



## Hill Air Force Base

Nick and Holli have been busy getting 2020 projects underway. Holli has been in the field weekly and is doing a great job working with BYU employees on wildlife surveys. Nick has spent time in both the field and office while taking care of wildlife projects, agreements, and contracts for invasive species management.

## Outlook

The Utah FWCO will continue working with partners to conserve fish and wildlife resources in Utah.

Our priorities at Hill Air Force Base will continue, as will our emphasis on fish passage in streams where fish habitat is fragmented by barriers, and we will continue in our important role to assist Utah's Native American Tribes.

## State Assistance

The FWCO in partner with the UDWR and Forest Service worked together to plan native cutthroat trout activities on Ashley National Forest. The FWCO will participate in several stream treatments in August.

