



Utah Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Monthly Report (November 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. 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 our activities with these groups during the month of November 2020.

Riparian Restoration

The FWCO teamed up with the Paiute Tribe's resource specialist to conduct stream restoration in the Santa Clara River. Nonnative tamarisk and Russian olive trees were cut and treated along the stream's shorelines. The area was in a tributary to the river within the borders of the Shivwits Band reservation. The visit included



Tributary to the Santa Clara River where cut and removed.

coordination with the UDWR for beaver control in the same reach of river.

Fish Passage

Progress was made in pre-construction, planning and design for fish passage in the Virgin River in Zion's National Park. William Rice teamed up with the Utah FWCO in a meeting that included engineers from FishOne Inc. and Zion National Park Service employees to finalize design for four barriers in the Park.



Virgin River fish barrier proposed for fish passage in Zion National Park.

In the meeting alternatives for dam removal or partial dam removal for all sites were determined. Further consultation with the DWR was accomplished during November's visit to southern Utah.

Fish passage with the Ute Tribe and DWR are wrapping up for the structure at the Myton Townsite Diversion. Funding is being moved from the DWR to the Tribe for modifications needed to improve the structure's fish collection functions. We hope to

have this funding transaction completed by 30 December 2020.

The Paiute Native American Tribe

The Shivwits Band of the Tribe requested FWS assistance surveying endangered desert tortoises found on the reservation. Last year 6 tortoises were located, and plans were made to participate in Spring surveys.

At present, the FWCO has been solicited to participate in several activities in this area, they include riparian restoration, beaver control and desert tortoise surveys.

The Northern Ute Native American Tribe

We coordinated the transfer of fish passage funds from the DWR to the tribe for design work completed by the tribe.

Plans were made for the tribe to consider stocking larger CRCT in Cedar View Reservoir. Intentions are to have the reservoir support CRCT brood for the tribes Big Springs Fish Hatchery

Hill Airforce Base

Nick Brown and Jase Taylor have been busy doing restoration work on the UTTRN. We are pushing as far as we can before weather hits us. The FWS purchased 630 acres worth of seed for the project this year, and we have Air Force, BYU, and FWS planting and seeding the range every day. We probably have around 500 acres done, and as usual are hoping for a wet winter, spring and summer. We are also testing out a new prototype

seed drill to hopefully improve our seeding efforts in the West Desert. We will compare seed drill results in the spring when plants start to germinate

and grow. The data should tell us which methodology to use and help us reclaim more ground more effectively.



1700 acres sprayed with herbicide this month.

We had the C-130s spray about 500 acres of Imazapic herbicide, and about 1700 acres sprayed by a helicopter to compare methods. We mixed in other herbicides on a few passes to control Russian Thistle.

Deer Hunt: The base 2020 deer hunt is complete with 8 bucks and 23 does harvested by hunters. It was a successful year with many new hunters trying out the opportunity and really enjoying the experience.



Successful hunter with family on Hill AFB.



Guzzlers: The FWCO and Hill Natural Resource manager, Russ Lawrence with the base, continued the work to install two new water guzzlers on the south bombing range.

Pollinator Garden: The kiosk was completed by Holli Holmes; it now provides information about the wood ducks that live in the nearby pond.