



## 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).

Another management emphasis is with Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah. This newsletter will highlight some of activities with these groups for October 2020.

## Hill Air Force Base

This month we fixed the Craners area guzzler, which had been destroyed by historic high winds. This guzzler is designed to assist the DWR extend the summer range of California Bighorn Sheep. It will provide water for the sheep and other wildlife such as golden eagles on the Newfoundland Mountain Range.



The Air Force's C-130 spray crew came in and sprayed hundreds of acres of pre-emergent for fire breaks and future restoration sites, but unfortunately, the unit was called out on a mission, and could not spray the 1500 acres planned this year. We are working with the USGS (Matt Germino) over a several year period to look at the benefits and best practices of herbicide sprays to fight invasive species on the Air Force's bombing range. Hopefully, through this research, we will be more effective in preserving the remaining native habitat and be considered extremely successful in our restoration efforts. We have also started our fall restoration work which, if the weather cooperates, should result in well over 600 acres this year. The contracted seed was delivered, and the tractors are rolling out almost every day.

The archery deer hunt on base is going well, and so far all the buck hunters have harvested, and many of the doe hunters have as well.

We also had to say our farewells to Holli Holmes, our summer seasonal; she has been a big help to the program this year.



Holli Holmes with an adult wiper on 3 Pond.



## The Utah FWCO October Newsletter

### Hill Air Force Base, Cont.

**Deer Hunt:** During the 2020 deer hunt on base 7 hunters took their deer. Hunting was all archery.

The buck hunt was the first couple weeks of October and the doe hunt begin in the middle of the month.

**Spray Mission:** Starting mid-October C-130's and helicopters will be dispatched to help with restoration efforts by spraying Imazapic across select areas on the UTTR. We are also coordinating with Matt Germino from the USGS who is doing research on our restoration efforts looking at both fire and spray treatments and these effects and benefits on the UTTR.

**Welcome Jace:** We would again like to welcome Jace Taylor to our team! Although Jace is new with the USFWS he is no stranger to the UTTR and Hill Airforce Base. Jace worked as the BYU crew lead on this project for 4 years. He then worked as the coordinator for big horn sheep for the state of Utah; we are happy to have him here!

### 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. We will also continue our important role to uphold trust responsibilities with Utah's Native American Tribes in the management of their fish and wildlife resources.

