

# ***ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST***

## **Lower Stillwater Pond Fishery Enhancement**

Funding through the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative made it possible for fishery enhancement work to be completed on the Lower Stillwater Pond complex on Rock Creek during FY2015. A collection agreement between the Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) was completed to specify responsibilities for accomplishing the identified work and how it would be funded. The bulk of the work, which included a track hoe to excavate sediment from three ponds, two dump trucks to haul off dredge material and a back hoe to move materials, was completed in June 2015. Below is a quick overview of the work accomplished.

The project was funded for \$53,000. The total cost estimate for the work that has been completed to date is \$25,000 with \$20,000 funded by the UDWR through Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative and \$5,000 from the Ashley National Forest. Additional work is planned for Lower Stillwater in FY16.

Pond 2 – This pond is approximately 2 surface acres, and ¼ of the pond was dredged in October 2014 on the west side to remove brush and increase water depth. This pond has a head gate structure that delivers water to the Kids' Pond (Pond 8) through a pipeline. Five rock rubble piles were created to provide habitat complexity and islands within the pond. Rainbow trout were stocked during summer 2015.



*Pond 2 was drained and dredged during October 2014 on the west side. Rock rubble fish habitat structure was also created*

Pond 3 – This pond is approximately 3 surface acres. The dike which was damaged from burrowing rodents and beaver activity was repaired in June 2015. The work was completed with the use of a back hoe. Material was hauled to the site using a dump truck loaded with suitable fill material obtained from one of the ponds.



*Pond 3 before restoration work*



*Pond 3 following restoration work*

Pond 8 (Kids' Pond) – The dike on the south end of the pond was reshaped and stabilized by placing large angular rip rap along the slope down to the waterline. The disturbed soil on the top of the dike was reseeded with a native grass and forb mixture. Additional work planned for next spring will include anchoring logs to the bank in several locations to improve bank stability and provide fish hiding cover.



*Pond 8 before restoration work*



*Pond 6 being dredged and islands constructed*



*Pond 8 after riprap placement*



*Pond 6 following dredging with geese utilizing island*

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Ponds 5 and 6 were drained and dredged. Accumulated sediments were dredged out and placed in the fill location adjacent to pond 5 and north of the big pond. Pond 5 was restocked with catchable size tiger trout during summer 2015.