

Project Status

(As of May 1, 2016)

1. **Fish Treatment and Restocking:** October 2014-UDWR stocked native cutthroat trout from Elbow Fork upstream. September 2015-Fish removed the Mouth of Mill Creek upstream to Elbow Fork which included Tracy Lake and the lake at Log Haven. Assistance was provided by the Stonefly Society, Utah Anglers Coalition, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service and other volunteers. October 2015-native cutthroat trout stocked from Mill Creek Dam upstream.
2. **NEPA:** The Forest completed the Environmental Assessment on the Mill Creek Dam Removal. The decision will allow for the removal of the weir in Porter Fork and the replacement of the boardwalk above the Dam.
3. **Culverts:** The National Forest Foundation in coordination with the Forest and Salt Lake County replaced the culvert above and the culvert below Elbow Fork. The Forest, with funding from the Fish and Wildlife Service, oversaw the project in coordination with the County.
4. **Weir at Log Haven:** Salt Lake County through agreement with Flying Cloud Enterprises, Inc. with funding from the National Forest Foundation modified the stream channel and bank to allow for fish passage over the structure. Willows and alder for bank stabilization was provided by the Forest Service with assistance from Academic Collaboration of American Indian Students and their parents.
5. **Fish Screen at flume across from the Fee Booth.** The boulders at the bottom of the flume were adjusted to allow for the installing of the fish screen on the flume. This work was done by Salt Lake City in coordination with Salt Lake County. Weber Basin Job Corp. has built the screen and has had it galvanized. They are waiting for good weather to install the structure. Trout Unlimited paid for the supplies for the structure.

2016 work yet to be done:

- Last fish removal process will occur in September from the Mill Creek Dam down to the mouth of the Canyon.
- Removal of the Mill Creek Dam and restoring the stream (September/October)
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to restock 18,000 Bonneville Cutthroat Trout in October/November.
- Installation of the screen on the weir at the fee booth.

Work remaining:

- Additional plantings around high use areas
- Replacement of two culverts in Porter Fork
- Replacement of one culvert in Mill Creek
- We continue to work with the Scout Council on the development of a fish spawning channel at Tracy Lake.

(March 5, 2015)

1. In The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (FS) continues the environmental analysis on the dam and weir removal and riparian planting. The analysis is completed and the Forest and Utah State Historic Preservation Office are working on an MOU to mitigate for the dam and weir removals. Once the MOU is in place a final decision will be made.
2. The FS is currently looking for funding to replace the next two major culverts in Mill Creek. These culverts to be replaced are the culvert just above and just below Elbow Fork where the stream crosses under the road. The existing round culverts that constrain flood flows in the spring will be replaced by box culverts that will be buried below the stream bed. These box culverts are being constructed off site to shorten the construction window. Once installed, they will look like bridges and provide for better flood flow and fish passage and improve road safety.
3. Design work on the culverts in Porter Fork has begun. The National Aquatic Passage Team has completed the fish passage design work for one of the culverts on Porter Fork.
4. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will be treating Mill Creek from Elbow Fork downstream to the fee booth in September.
5. The environment education material continues to be reviewed in preparation for putting the material on the FS website.
6. A funding request to remove the Mill Creek dam was submitted to the Forest Service's Washington Office of the Forest Service. This proposal was received and is one of three projects to be listed in the President's 2016 budget proposal.
7. We are working with Weber Basin Job Core to construct a fish screen in the weir adjacent to the fee booth. This structure will prevent the reinvasion of non-native fish into the treatment sections.
8. In October, UDWR has restocked Bonneville Cutthroat trout upstream of the Mill Creek Dam.

Additional Funding Requests that have been identified and made.

1. Install grade structures below the weir at Log Haven.
2. Install the next two culverts in Mill Creek.

Past Reports

September 2014

1. The FS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have funded replacement of at least two culverts. These culverts were replaced in late September 2014 through October 2014. For photos of the replacement see habitat enhancement and click on culvert replacements or use the hotlink:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5417698.pdf

The two culverts within a mile of the end of the Mill Creek Road, which pass water under the road, will be replaced in the fall of 2014 (middle to the end of September through October). The Forest and County are working together to identify the exact closure date and inform the public as this closure. Because of the narrowness of the road and the size of equipment that will be needed to replace the culverts it has been determined that the best location to close the road is at Maple Grove Picnic Area otherwise known as the snow gate. This will prevent major construction delays that would occur if people were to park on the side the road higher in the drainage preventing the smooth delivery of both equipment and supplies to the construction sites. A closure order will be issued around the construction site to minimize interruptions to the work and to provide for public safety. This will disrupt recreational activities in the upper canyon but the intent is to have the work done before winter sets in.

The existing round culverts that constrain flood flows in the spring will be replaced by box culverts that will be buried below the stream bed. These box culverts are being constructed off site to shorten the construction window. Once installed, they will look like bridges and provide for better flood flow and fish passage and improve road safety.

2. Design work on the culverts in Porter Fork has begun. The National Aquatic Passage Team was on site in July conducting additional survey work in Porter Fork.
3. Utah Division of Wildlife Resource will be treating the stream above the Mill Creek Dam from September 9-11, 2014. Volunteers from a variety of organizations and the FS will be assisting in this effort. The drainage will remain open during this treatment.
4. The environment education material continues to be reviewed in preparation for putting the material on the FS website.

Additional funding requests that have been identified and made.

1. To replace an additional culvert just above Elbow Fork.
2. To do a 3D survey of the Mill Creek Dam and Porter Fork weir
3. To design the spawning channel and lake at Camp Tracy.

June 2014

1. The project and the staff of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) were recognized by the Intermountain Regional Forester for the "Sustaining Forests and Grasslands Award". It is recognized that without the partners' involvement in the project it would not succeed.
2. In The Forest (FS) continues the environmental analysis on the dam and weir removal and riparian planting. Scoping has been completed and the forest is responding to comments and specialists are writing their reports. It is anticipated that the analysis will be completed by the summer of 2014.
3. The FS has completed the cultural resource review needed for the Mill Creek Dam and Porter Fork weir removals. We are currently working on a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Utah's State Historic Preservation Office on mitigation for the project.
4. The FS has been two separate requests for funding to replace culverts in Mill Creek with fish passible structures. These were:
 - a. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under their aquatic passage program. We understand that this project was rated the number one project in Utah for funding this year. We should hear the final word on the request in late April 2014.
 - b. The Region has provided \$200,000 to replace the upper two culverts in the drainage. The project is currently in our contracting office.
5. Design work on the upper two culverts has been completed. Coordination with the County's staff was appreciated. The National Aquatic Passage Team is currently working with the Forest to complete additional work. They will be back in July and focus on the two culverts in Porter Fork.
6. We have received the fish treatment proposal for 2014 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resource and have reviewed it. It is anticipated that this treatment will take place on September 9-11, 2014.
7. The environment education material continues to be reviewed in preparation for putting the material on the FS website.
8. Three culverts were replaced in Church Fork to eliminate flooding that had occurred in the past.
9. The abandoned bridge near Elbow Fork was removed.
10. Weed treatments have continued in the drainage.

Additional Funding Requests that have been identified and made.

1. To replace an additional culvert just above Elbow Fork.
2. To do a 3D survey of the Mill Creek Dam and Porter Fork weir

3. To design the spawning channel and lake at Camp Tracy.

February 3, 2014

Completed in 2013:

1. A number of public meetings were held. Webpages were established to inform the public and agencies about the project.
2. Three culverts were replaced in Church Fork to eliminate flooding that had occurred in the past.
3. The abandoned bridge near Elbow Fork was removed.
4. The environmental analysis was started on the dam and weir removals and riparian plantings.
5. A cooperative agreement was signed with Trout Unlimited to allow for funds transfer from their "Embrace a Stream" program
6. Other agreements were signed with between partners to fund specific parts of the projects.
7. Volunteers made great strides in the development of the educational material for the project.
8. The first treatment was successfully conducted to remove non-native fish from Elbow Fork upstream.

Project components currently occurring in preparation for 2014 include:

1. The Forest (FS) continues the environmental analysis on the dam and weir removal and riparian planting. Scoping has been completed and the forest is responding to comments and specialists are writing their reports. It is anticipated that the analysis will be completed by June 2014.
2. The FS continues to conduct the cultural resource review of the area which will be incorporated into the environmental analysis.
3. The FS has been two separate requests for funding to replace culverts in Mill Creek with fish passible structures. These were:
 - a. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under their aquatic passage program. We should hear on this request about in late April.
 - b. Fire borrowing return funding through the National FS office. This request was not funded.
4. Design work on the culverts continues. The National Aquatic Passage Team with the Forest Service has provide the first set of plans for the upper most culvert. These have been provided to the County for review. Because of illness the Regional Office will be unable for provide the contract preparation and design of the structures as previously arranged. The Forest is therefore working on the design and contract packages of the upper two culverts in preparation for potential funding through the FWS.
5. The UDWR will shortly be focusing on the second treatment of Mill Creek to remove non-native fish from the Mill Creek dam upstream. One the proposal is completed it will be sent to the FS for review. It is anticipated that this treatment will take place in mid-September.
6. The technical committee continues to meet to coordinate work on the project.
7. The environment education material continues to be reviewed in preparation for putting the material on the FS website.

The project and the staff of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources were recently recognized by the Intermountain Regional Forester for the "Sustaining Forests and Grasslands Award". It is recognized that without the partners involvement in the project it would not succeed.

June 26, 2013

The Forest and our partners are currently in the planning, public information and implementation phases of the Mill Creek Restoration Project.

Individual tasks being worked on include:

1. Replace three culverts in Church Fork. Contract package completed, funds allocated.
2. The bridge near Elbow Fork should be removed June 28th. An agreement has been signed with the Stonefly Society to help fund this work. The upper canyon will be close to complete this work.
3. The Forest and our partners are continuing to work on the environmental education plan with our partners and other interested publics. A volunteer has been signed up to help move this task forward. A grant request is currently being prepared for this task and will be submitted by July 2, 2013.
4. The Forest and our partners continue to work with and inform the general publics, local municipalities, and state and federal agencies about the projects. Public meetings have and continue to be held at Skyline High School (June 7th and 27th 6:30 to 8:30 pm). The media were taken on a tour of the project and a number of news articles were prepared about the project.

May 30, 2013

The Forest and our partners are currently in the planning phase of the tasks associated with the Mill Creek Restoration Project.

1. The Forest is preparing the contracts to replace three culverts in Church Fork.
2. The Forest is conducting the environmental review to remove the weir in Porter Fork, planting riparian vegetation in the picnic areas, and removal of the dam upstream of Porter Fork and the reshaping of the stream channel. We will be sending out scoping documents within the month on these projects.
3. The Forest is working with Salt Lake County and a Forest Service team to design the replacement of culvers on Mill Creek and in Porter Fork.

4. The Forest and our partners are continuing to work on the environmental education plan with our partners and other interested publics.
5. The Forest and our partners continue to work with and inform the general publics, local municipalities, and state and federal agencies about the projects.
6. The Forest is working to identify terms and conditions necessary to protect National Forest resources during and after the fish replacement tasks.