



Investing in the Future of Utah's Wildlife

Habitat Council report for fiscal year 2010

Origin and purpose of the Wildlife Habitat Account

During the 1995 general session, the Utah Legislature created the Wildlife Habitat Account. This account provides dedicated funds from hunting and fishing license sales that must be used to enhance, preserve, manage, acquire and protect fish and wildlife habitat. The funds may also be used to improve public access to fishing and hunting areas. The Wildlife Habitat Account generates about \$2.3 million each year for habitat projects.

Members and duties of the Habitat Council

The Habitat Council makes recommendations on how to distribute the funds in the Wildlife Habitat Account. Council members include four individuals from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and four citizens who represent big game, waterfowl, upland game and sportfishing interests. Any organization or individual can submit habitat project proposals, which are reviewed and prioritized by regional teams. Then, the Habitat Council completes a final review and makes its recommendations. The DWR director authorizes projects and the funds to implement them.



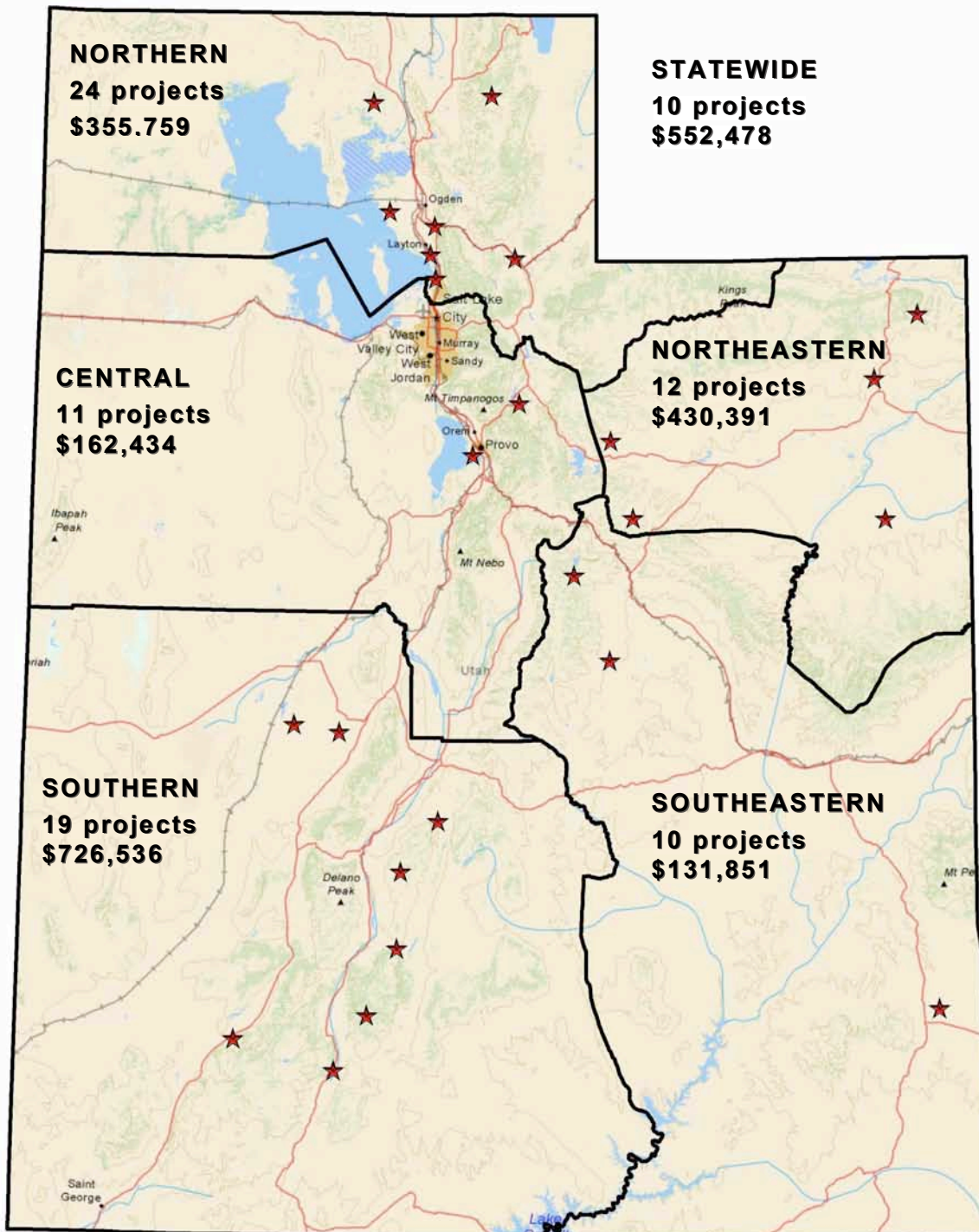
These photos show a stream-channel realignment project that improved water quality and wildlife habitat in Piute County.

Opportunities and commitments

The Wildlife Habitat Account represents an enormous opportunity, a great responsibility and the best possible investment for the future. Hunters and anglers have always been willing to pay their way and support programs that deliver on-the-ground results. Our commitment is to build on our successes and expand our efforts to benefit Utah's wildlife habitat and diverse citizen interests.

Fiscal year 2010 projects

In fiscal year 2010, the Habitat Council supported 68 new projects and 18 carry-over projects from the previous fiscal year. Total expenditures for fiscal year 2010 were \$2.36 million. The council's contributions funded habitat treatments (land and water), conservation easements and fishing piers. They also provided the funding needed to manage the DWR's Wildlife Management Areas. A total of 5,294 acres and nearly 10 stream miles were restored or conserved by projects with Habitat Council contributions.



This map summarizes fiscal year 2010 projects and Habitat Account expenses in each of the DWR's administrative regions. The red stars indicate projects with a defined footprint.

To review the details of any project, please visit us online at wri.utah.gov.

-- Published January 17, 2011