

Utah's Blue Ribbon Fisheries provide more than 400,000 anglers with quality fishing experiences.

These are the places everyone loves — the places where many anglers have caught their biggest fish and enjoyed some of their best moments outdoors.



## OUR WORK

### *Some recent accomplishments*

The following projects are only a small fraction of those the Blue Ribbon Fisheries program has helped to fund in recent years:

- Acquiring and improving the fishery in Kingston Canyon and Black Canyon (East Fork Sevier River)
- Restoring the Ogden River and Strawberry River
- Improving angler access at Scofield Reservoir
- Completing several restoration projects for native cutthroat trout
- Funding the production and stocking of wipers and tiger muskies
- Trapping and propagation of wild trout
- Building fishing piers, enhancing access for ice anglers, improving amenities for anglers at access points

## LIFE

### *Enhancing the quality of our lives*

Utah's Blue Ribbon Fisheries are about more than weekend recreation or lucrative tourism — they are about our quality of life. They are the places we go to spend time with loved ones, retreat from daily stresses and find joy in the natural world.

This is the year to try something new. Visit your favorite Blue Ribbon Fishery and then take a trip to one you've never seen before. It may be the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your Utah fishing adventures.

**[UtahBlueRibbonFisheries.org](http://UtahBlueRibbonFisheries.org)**



**BLUE RIBBON FISHERIES**

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# UTAH BLUE RIBBON FISHING



**UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

# MEMORIES

## Unforgettable fishing experiences

In all, there are nearly 50 Blue Ribbon Fisheries located across Utah. Some of them are big, busy rivers and reservoirs, while others are smaller gems, tucked away in quiet canyons or remote mountain valleys.

Here are just a handful of Utah's most popular Blue Ribbon Fisheries and the fish you'll find there:

- **Strawberry Reservoir** — rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and kokanee salmon
- **Green River** — rainbow trout and brown trout
- **Weber River** — brown trout, cutthroat, whitefish
- **Flaming Gorge Reservoir** — lake trout, rainbow trout, kokanee salmon and smallmouth bass
- **Fish Lake** — lake trout, splake, rainbow trout, brown trout and yellow perch
- **Lake Powell** — striped bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, walleye and catfish

Anglers come from other states — and sometimes, from other countries — to visit these destination fisheries. And while they're here, they make life-long memories, catch trophy fish and bring their business to local communities. To see a complete list of Utah's Blue Ribbon Fisheries, visit [UtahBlueRibbonFisheries.org](http://UtahBlueRibbonFisheries.org).

# STANDARDS

## Selecting the best of the best

About half of Utah's Blue Ribbon Fisheries are lakes and reservoirs, while the other half include rivers and streams. All of these waterbodies received the Blue Ribbon designation because they meet the following set of rigorous standards:

- They have abundant fish populations.
- They provide healthy aquatic habitat.
- They offer anglers unique, high-quality outdoor experiences.
- They deliver tangible benefits to the local and state economies.

The Blue Ribbon Fisheries Advisory Council works closely with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to evaluate the Blue Ribbon Fisheries on a regular basis. Waterbodies can gain or lose their Blue Ribbon status, depending on how well they meet the program's requirements. For a detailed look at the requirements, visit <http://go.usa.gov/BwJB>.



# INVESTMENT

## Our commitment to the future

The Blue Ribbon Fisheries program invests in Utah's world-class waterbodies, funding everything from stream restoration and tree planting to fishing piers and angler access.

The program has also funded training for DWR personnel, allowing them to learn the latest in stream-restoration techniques. Utah's high degree of success in stream restoration is a direct result of this training. If you've fished in Utah within the past five years, you've benefited from the Blue Ribbon Fisheries program.

Working closely with the Blue Ribbon Fisheries Advisory Council, the DWR has also spent nearly \$2 million on fish habitat restoration and angler access projects since 2004. Those projects were focused on Blue Ribbon waters or potential Blue Ribbon waters. So far, they've achieved the following results:

- Restored more than 2,200 acres of riparian and reservoir habitat
- Acquired nearly 6,000 acres of reservoir access for anglers
- Secured miles of stream corridor access for anglers
- Trained 20 biologists in stream-restoration techniques

Other important Blue Ribbon Fisheries funding partners include local governments, the U.S. Forest Service, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Rocky Mountain Anglers and Trout Unlimited.

# ECONOMICS

## Much more than good fishing

Blue Ribbon Fisheries are economic powerhouses. A study at Utah State University revealed that anglers spent more than \$264 million while visiting Blue Ribbon Fisheries in 2011. That spending was for things like food, lodging, gasoline and equipment rental. In contrast, anglers spent about \$107 million while visiting non-Blue Ribbon waterbodies.

Those figures were just anglers' direct expenditures for 2011. The ripple spending effect resulted in an additional \$661 million in industry output, nearly \$72 million in tax revenue and the employment of more than 8,000 Utahns.

As an angler, you don't have to pay an additional fee to support or enjoy the Blue Ribbon Fisheries program. The money to fund the program comes from a portion of your fishing or combination license purchase. License sales — which totaled more than 516,000 licenses in 2012 — generate between \$400,000 and \$500,000 annually for the program. The Blue Ribbon Fisheries Advisory Council allocates the money to identify, protect, improve and publicize all of Utah's Blue Ribbon Fisheries.

