WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

Application for WNTI Funding

Application Deadline: 5 pm Mountain time October 7, 2016

Application not to exceed 10 pages total (including the 3 page cover sheet)

Cover Sheet

Applicant Information

Lead Applicant Organization or Entity: National Forest Foundation
Contact Person Name: Marlee Ostheimer
Address: Bldg. 27, Suite 3, Fort Missoula Rd
City, State, Zip: Missoula, MT, 59804
Email: mostheimer@nationalforests.org
Telephone: 406-830-3368
Website Address: www.nationalforests.org

Project Information

Project Title: Mill Creek Watershed Restoration
Project Location State: Utah County: Salt Lake Nearest Town: Salt Lake City
Congressional District of Project: Utah US District 3
Watershed/Stream/Lake: Mill Creek
Native Trout Species Benefitted by Project: Bonneville cutthroat trout
Total Project Budget: $2,092,440 Total Amount Requested: $50,000
Total Matching Funds or In-Kind Support Secured: $2,042,440
Project Map Coordinates (decimal degrees) Lat: 40 Long: -111
Project Start Date: 9/2017 Project Completion Date: 10/2017
Is there a monitoring plan following Partnership guidelines? Yes
If multiyear project, is there a breakdown of tasks, accomplishments, and budget by year in distinct phases? Yes
Land Ownership (public or private; if public, specify managing agency): Forest Service
Is there a letter of support from the State or Federal fish and wildlife agency or Tribal government? Yes
If project is located on private land, please also attach a letter of support from landowner

In which USFWS Region is the project located? (1, 2, 6, 7, 8) 6
Region 1: Idaho, Oregon, Washington Region 2: New Mexico, Arizona
Region 6: Montana, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming Region 7: Alaska
Region 8: California, Nevada

Is your project currently listed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife FONS system? yes
Please indicate FONS Project Number (if applicable): 65310-2014-888
Note: Many previously submitted, but unfunded projects have been placed in the Fishery Operational Needs System (FONS). Please check with your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office if you are unsure about the question.

Sponsoring Professional (federal, state, or tribal agency resource manager)

Name: Paul Cowley
Title: Natural Resource and Planning Staff Officer
Affiliation: Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Signature (required):
Mailing Address: 857 West S. Jordan Parkway, South Jordan, Utah 84095
Phone: 801-999-2177 Email: pcowley@fs.fed.us

WNTI Funds Requested: **$50,000**

Total Matching Contributions (cash and in-kind): **$2,042,440**

Match ratio (WNTI:Partner) **1 : 41**

Total Project Cost: **$ 2,092,440**

Partner Contribution Detail (List and briefly describe the project partners and their financial contributions.)

Partner	Cash	In-Kind
Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Coordination), Spawning Channel Design		$27,000
Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage Funds (Culvert Replacement Contract Support)	$149,000	
PacifiCorp (fish removal chemicals, development of interpretive signage)	$10,000	$2,000
Trout Unlimited, Utah Council and Stone Fly Society (Bridge removal & migration barrier construction)	$4,000	$15,000
Flying Cloud Enterprises, Inc. (work on private lands and coordination)	$1,000	$1,000
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Fish removal and restocking, public information)		$43,000
Utah Habitat Council, Watershed Restoration Initiative (dam removal)	15,000	

USDA Forest Service (culvert replacement design and implementation, project coordination, education plan, dam removal and stream restoration planning and implementation, weed treatment, environmental analysis)	$ 838,685	$158,755
Salt Lake County (coordination and implementation of work on Flying Cloud Enterprise, Inc.'s land)		$8,000
Weber Basin Job Corp, Welding Department		$4,000
Western Native Trout Initiative 2016 funding (dam removal)	$41,000	
National Forest Foundation (culvert replacement implementation, project coordination, fundraising)	$295,000 (variety of private sources of funding)	
Amount left to raise (3 culvert replacements, completion of web heritage educational materials, partial funding for trail reconstruction, and the spawning channel at Tracy Lake)	$480,000	
Budget Totals	**$1,833,685**	**$258,755**

Note: $161,431, or about a third, of the amount left to raise is currently pending. We expect the remaining funding to come from a variety of both private and public sources. The NFF can allocate some federal funds towards the completion of this project.

Project Partners (list all project partners and contact information)

Partner Organization: Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America
Contact Name: Craig Butterfield Position: Director of Outdoor Adventure
Email: craig.butterfield@scouting.org Telephone: 801-582-3663

Partner Organization: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Contact Name: Michael Slater Position: Central Region Aquatics Manager
Email: Michaelslater@utah.gov Telephone: 801-491-5651

Partner Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Contact Name: Mark Fuller Position: Colorado River Fisheries Project
Email: mark_h_fuller@fws.gov Telephone: 435-789-0351

Partner Organization: Forest Service

Contact Name: Paul Cowley
Email: pcowley@fs.fed.us
Position: Natural Resource & Planning Officer
Telephone: 801-999-2177

Partner Organization: Trout Unlimited
Contact Name: Bob Dibble
Email: dibsent@aol.com
Position: President Utah Council
Telephone: 435-640-4635

Partner Organization: PacifiCorp
Contact Name: Eve Davies
Email: Eve.Davies@pacificorp.com
Position: Principal Scientist
Telephone: 801-220-2245

Partner Organization: Salt Lake County
Contact Name: Robert Thompson
Email: RThompson@slc.org
Position: Water Resource Specialist
Telephone: 385-468-6642

Project Components (select all that apply)

X Riparian or In-Stream Habitat Restoration
X Barrier Removal or Construction
X Watershed or Population Assessment
☐ In-Stream Flow Acquisition Planning
X Watershed Connectivity
X Monitoring
X Education/outreach
X Watershed Planning

Anticipated Outcomes (fill in values applicable to project)

9 # Stream Miles Restored or Enhanced
9 # Stream Miles Reconnected or Reopened
2 # Acres of Lake/Wetlands Restored/Enhanced
10 # Barriers Removed or Constructed
1# Watersheds or Rivers Assessed
10# Stream Miles Assessed
1# Populations Assessed
1 Other: Education Plan

Project Narrative

Please use 12 pt. font, single line spacing, and standard margins. This portion of your application should not exceed 7 pages.

I. Project Summary - The funding requested is to aid in the replacement of an undersized culvert, the last fish passage barrier on Mill Creek, with a fish friendly passage structure. This is part of the Mill Creek Watershed Restoration Project (MCWRP), a multi-year project to improve native fish habitat in Mill Creek. This project includes removing ten man-made barriers and restoring Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) and other native non-game fish to the upper nine miles of Mill Creek and the lower mile of Porter Fork. The project also includes removal of an unneeded bridge and an abandoned hydroelectrical dam, redesign of the stream channel, improved fishing access, redesign of a small lake to include a spawning channel, replacement of seven undersized culverts that are partial fish barriers and the development of educational material to inform the public of the importance of aquatic and terrestrial resources, including native fish.

II. Problem the Project Addresses - In Mill Creek, on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (UWC) in Utah, Utah's state fish, the BCT, is struggling to survive amidst a maze of man-made barriers and competition from non-native fish species.

Once prevalent throughout Utah, eastern Nevada and smaller areas in Idaho and Wyoming, BCT today occupy only one quarter of their historic range, according to a recent report by Trout Unlimited. As early as the 1870's, non-native fish species such as brown trout and rainbow trout were imported into streams throughout the Wasatch Mountains to replace the diminished BCT, an important source of food for early settlers. Man-made barriers later fragmented Mill Creek's already-struggling BCT population, and as a result, very few BCT have existed in the Wasatch Mountains for over 100 years.

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is working through a highly leveraged public-private partnership to restore genetically pure BCT within their historic range in Mill Creek. This work is a top priority of the UWC and Salt Lake community and critical to the survival of BCT as a species.

In 2014, when the NFF first joined this effort, Mill Creek was highly fragmented by ten man-made fish passage barriers, including undersized culverts, weirs and a 14-foot abandoned hydroelectric dam. By late fall 2016, only one of these barriers, an undersized culvert, will remain in the main stem of Mill Creek. This culvert limits fish passage and connectivity between the upper and lower canyon. Replacing this culvert with a fish friendly passage structure will completely reconnect fish populations throughout the nine-mile stretch of Mill Creek.

The MCWRP addresses most of WNTI's strategic priorities for 2015-2020. Specifically, this project will: protect, enhance or restore a WNTI priority western native trout species, and; improve degraded and isolated habitats by removing man-made barriers to restore connectivity. Ultimately, this project will result in the restoration of genetically pure BCT and other native fish throughout more than 10 miles of native fish habitat.

In addition to the removal of ten full or partial fish passage barriers, restoration activities include the removal of non-native and hybrid fish, restoration of riparian conditions through active riparian plantings and education, channel restoration and installation of a fish migration barrier to prevent future invasions. This restoration effort significantly increases the number of miles of BCT in the Central Geographic Management Unit as described in the Utah Conservation Agreement for BCT. The project also addresses climate change by expanding BCT higher in the drainage through the replacement of migration barriers, allowing the fish to move into higher, cooler waters.

III. Project Objectives/Supporting Documentation - The project addresses the key threats to the BCT by removing hybrid cutthroat and non-native trout, connecting isolated habitats, improving public awareness of species' needs, and restoring native fish communities. The project restores native BCT to the upper nine miles of Mill Creek and the lower 1.2 miles of Porter Fork, improving the status of western native trout. The project enhances the Mill Creek watershed by removing an abandoned hydroelectric dam, a bridge and a diversion weir, providing fish passage over a second weir, and replacing seven undersized culverts with passable structures. A fish migration barrier is being placed at the bottom of the restored section to prevent invasion of non-native fish.

This work is supported by both the Range-wide and State of Utah's Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Conservation Agreement and strategy to restore BCT back to its historic habitat.

IV. Project Methodology - This is a multi-year watershed restoration project with some work having been completed and other work having yet to be completed.

- 2012 – Formed partnerships and identified project work
- 2013 - Developed communication plan; started environmental analysis to remove the Mill Creek Dam, replace the boardwalk, and remove the Porter Fork weir; removed the Elbow Fork Bridge, and; removed non-native fish above Elbow Fork
- 2014 - Removed the fish community above the Mill Creek Dam; replaced the upper two culverts above Thousand Springs; continued the environmental analysis on the dam removal, and; restocked BCT above Elbow Fork
- 2015 - Restocked BCT above Mill Creek Dam; replaced the two culverts around Elbow Fork; removed non-native fish from the mouth of the canyon to Elbow Fork including the fish in Tracy Lake (the Boy Scouts pond) and the pond at Log Haven; designed the barrier at the canyon mouth; completed the walkway conceptual redesign and environmental analysis to remove the Mill Creek Dam and Porter Fork weir, and; contracted the survey of the Mill Creek Dam and the design work for the stream channel adjacent to the dam
- 2016 - Restocked BCT above the Mill Creek Dam; eliminated the partial barrier at Log Haven by building up the stream channel; redesigned the walkway above the Mill Creek dam to improve fishing access; removed non-native fish from the mouth of the canyon upstream to the Mill Creek Dam; removed the dam; raised funds to reconstruct the Mill Creek boardwalk, and; began raising funds for culvert removal in 2017

THIS FUNDING REQUEST: The funding requested will support the contract to remove an undersized culvert, the last remaining barrier on the main stem of Mill Creek. The work includes using heavy equipment to remove the existing roadbed, reroute the channel, and replace the undersized culvert with a fish friendly passage structure. After the new structure is in place, the subcontractor will return the channel to its natural place, reconstruct the road and restore the streambanks and vegetation around the project site. The environmental analysis for this task is complete.

ADDITIONAL WORK to be completed in 2017 and 2018: Remaining work includes: replacing the boardwalk upstream of the dam to improve fishing and riparian access; replacing the two culverts in Porter Fork; design work to rehabilitate Tracy Lake; construction of a spawning channel to educate over 12,000 Boy Scouts on native fish and soil and water conservation practices, and; completion of the educational material for the watershed. This work will be completed as funding becomes available.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is completing the fish removal and restocking work. The Forest Service is completing work on federally managed property with financial assistance and some contracting work being completed by the NFF. The NFF is coordinating funding and contracting for the trail, spawning channel and several culvert replacements. The culvert replacement, trail reconstruction and spawning channel construction will be contracted out.

V. Project Monitoring/Evaluation of Success – The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, in coordination with the Forest Service, will monitor the success of the fish removal and restocking. The Forest Service will conduct the monitoring around the new culverts, the dam and the riparian restoration work. The Forest Service, working with private home owners, will manage long-term maintenance of the new culverts on Porter Fork. The Forest Service will maintain the educational material and their website on the project. Salt Lake County is responsible for the long-term maintenance of the new culverts on Mill Creek Road. The Great Salt Lake Council will be responsible for monitoring activities on their lands around the Tracy Lake Boy Scout Camp.

VI. Partnerships for this Project – This project is engaging a large and diverse group of public and private stakeholders. Coordination and watershed plan development has involved all of the partners. Implementation has shifted based on responsibilities and authorities. Volunteers have assisted as needed with removal of dead fish and instream garbage, collection of willow cuttings for replanting riparian vegetation, etc.

While many partners are engaged in this project, the NFF's role is unique. We joined this effort in 2014 as part of our *Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences* conservation campaign, a public-private partnership with the Forest Service through which the NFF is coordinating funding and on-the-ground work to implement high-priority projects throughout the National Forest System. Because the NFF works in collaboration with others – the Forest Service, local government, and community groups and organizations – our projects benefit from volunteers, matching dollars and in-kind donations.

We have secured funding for this project through the Gordon Moore Foundation, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, and the Richard K. and Shirley S. Hemingway Foundation. We currently have all funds either secured or pending for the reconstruction of the trail, and we have a request for $80,000 pending through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Bring Back the Natives grant program for the removal of the Mill Creek culvert. We are currently working on identifying additional funding to replace the Mill Creek culvert and construct the spawning channel.

VII. Project Timeline – The removal of the final culvert on Mill Creek is planned for completion by fall, 2017. The milestones are listed above with five years of work completed to date. Marlee Ostheimer will be responsible for the final completion report.

VIII. Supplemental Information

Status of Project Design and Environmental Compliance – The environmental analysis to remove the Mill Creek Dam, replace the walkway adjacent to the dam site and remove the weir in Porter Fork was completed in August 2015. Stream alteration permits for the remaining culvert replacements have not been acquired yet. This will occur in the spring of 2017 after the design is completed.

Species Present – The BCT is a Species of Concern in the state of Utah, a Forest Service Regional Foresters Sensitive Species and managed under a state and range-wide conservation agreement. In addition to the BCT, we anticipate that native dace, sculpin and sucker will be stocked in the restored section to reestablish the native fish community.

Outreach/Education – There have been a number of news stories, both on the television and in print, developed about the project, including the removal of non-native fish, the restocking of native fish, and the habitat work. A press release recently went out announcing the removal of the Mill Creek Dam. The NFF published a blog (https://www.nationalforests.org/blog/local-utah-contactor-supports-fish-habitat) on our website and recently made social media posts about the dam removal on our Facebook page with over 200,000 fans. Two websites have been developed specifically for the project. The Forest Service has held two public meeting to educate the community about the project and have given a number of tours and special interest group presentations. We recently secured funding through the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation to install interpretive panels along the reconstructed Mill Creek Trail that teach about the work and the history of the canyon. Trout Unlimited has featured the project in their national

magazine, *Trout Magazine*. Some limited educational material has been developed and is on the Forest Service's webpage.

IX. Budget - I have identified the budget for the culvert replacement only.

Category	WNTI	Partner Match	Total
a. Personnel	2,400		2,400
b. Travel	2,000		2,000
c. Equipment*			
d. Supplies			
e. Contractual	45,600	104,400	150,000
f. Construction			
g. Other			
TOTAL	50,000	104,400	154,400

X. Budget Narrative – We anticipate that the contract to replace the culvert will be let in the spring or early summer of 2017 with the work being completed in late fall 2017. The majority of the funding requested will go towards the contract, with some funding going towards the NFF's contract management, including staff time and travel to the site. Because this work is included in the NFF's *Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences* conservation campaign, all funds raised will be matched 1:1 by the U.S. Forest Service. A grant from WNTI would be additionally leveraged by other public and private funds.

XI. Project Staff – The contracting office will be the NFF with many years of experience partnering with the Forest Service to accomplish work on public lands. Marcus Selig, NFF Vice President of Field Programs, will oversee contract development. A Forest Service engineer with the appropriate qualifications will oversee the culvert replacement and associated stream channel reconstruction. The engineer has not yet been assigned. The agency's hydrologist and fish biologist will also assist in this work. The hydrologist will be Charlie Condrat (BS degree in hydrology and over 20 years of experience). The fish biologist will be Paul Cowley (MS degree in fish management and over 25 years of experience).

I certify that the above information is true and accurate

Signature: 

Print Name: Marlee Ostheimer

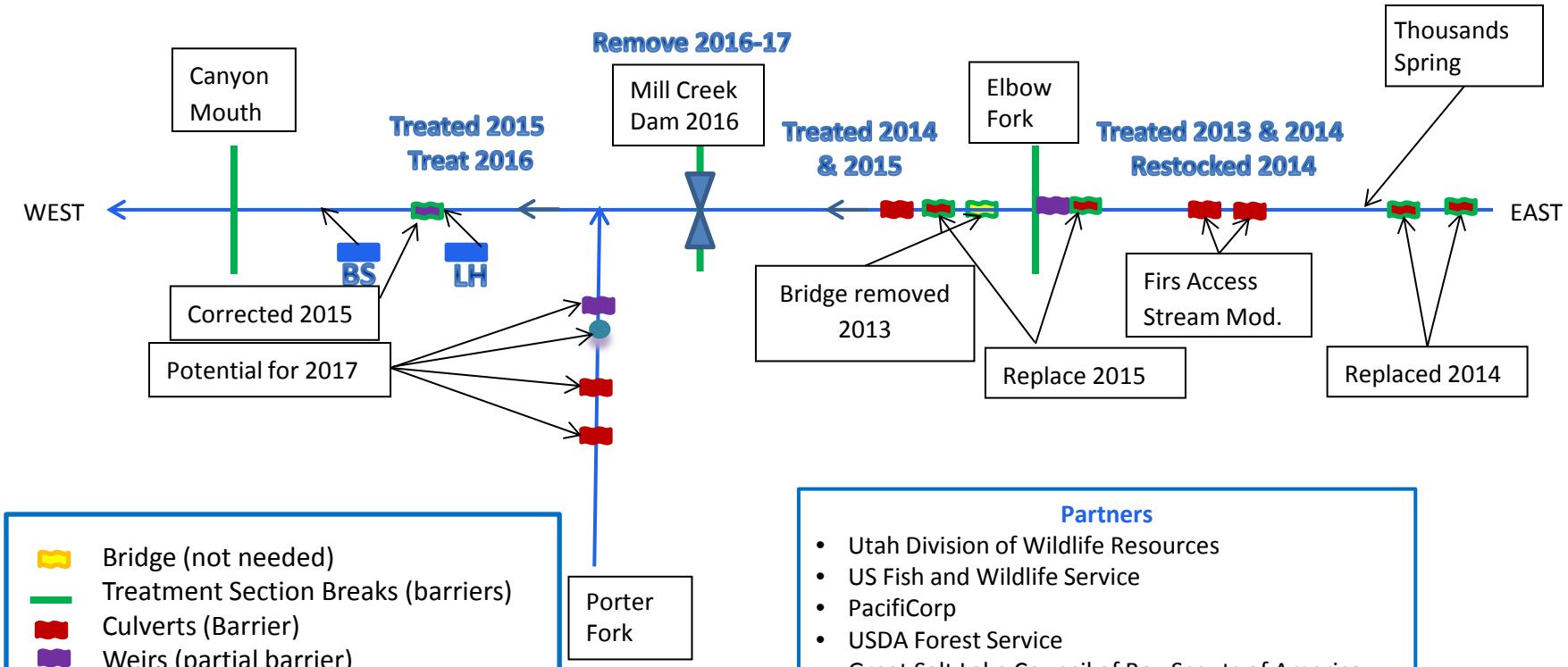
Title: Philanthropy & Partnerships Coordinator
Organization: National Forest Foundation
Date: 10/5/16

Inlet of rock culvert similar to the one that will replace the fish passage barrier on Mill Creek

Outlet of rock culvert

As of April 27, 2016

Mill Creek Native Fish Restoration
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
2013-2017



- Bridge (not needed)
- Treatment Section Breaks (barriers)
- Culverts (Barrier)
- Weirs (partial barrier)
- Water wheel (barrier)
- Hydro Dam (barrier)
- Ponds (Treated in 2015, Treat in 2016)
- BS Boy Scout
- LH Log Haven
- Corrected Structures

Partners

- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- PacifiCorp
- USDA Forest Service
- Great Salt Lake Council of Boy Scouts of America
- Wasatch Legacy Partnership
- Utah Council Trout Unlimited
- Stonefly Society
- Utah Anglers Coalition
- Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Conservation Team
- National Forest Foundation

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Salt Lake Ranger District | 6944 South 3000 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
801 -733-2660

File Code: 2630
Date: September 26, 2016

Landowner Consent:

I, Rebecca Hotze, as the manager of the Forest Service property in Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, agree to participate in the project being proposed and/or consent to the culvert replacement as part of the Mill Creek Restoration Project being considered for funding by the Western Native Trout Initiative. I agree to allow members of the (((Blank Organization))), NFHP Program representatives, and associated partners or their designated staff to inspect the property at any mutually agreeable time for the purposes of this proposal. I understand I shall be notified in advance of all inspection visits. I also understand that the project being proposed may not happen if the application does not meet the needs or qualifications of the National Fish Habitat Plan and is subject to availability of funds and ranking priority.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hotze
District Ranger

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Salt Lake Ranger District | 6944 South 3000 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
801-733-2660
FAX: 801-733-2684

File Code: 2610
Date: October 4, 2016

Therese Thompson
Project Coordinator, Western Native Trout Initiative
134 Union Blvd., Ste. 665
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Ms. Thompson;

I support the National Forest Foundation's (NFF) request to the Western Native Trout Initiative for the watershed restoration work in Mill Creek on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (UWC) to restore Bonneville cutthroat trout and other native fish species.

The work occurring in Mill Creek to restore native fish habitat is gaining both local and national interest. In addition to the work described in this proposal, our strategy in Mill Creek includes improving instream habitat, restoring riparian vegetation, reconstructing a trail, and creating a spawning channel at a large pond in the middle of the Camp Tracy Boy Scout Camp. We support this request and would appreciate your support of this project.

We have worked with the NFF through their *Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences* conservation campaign for the past four years. Through this public-private partnership, the Forest Service and NFF are working with many local partners to implement a suite of activities aimed at improving watershed and riparian conditions and providing public engagement and educational opportunities on the UWC.

The Forest Service and their partners provides a 1:1 match for every dollar the NFF raises for restoration at the UWC campaign site. This partnership enables us to get more done on the ground and to implement important projects that we may not otherwise be able to do in the desired timeframe due to agency budget restraints. In addition, the partnership is strengthening the Forest's connection to local nonprofit organizations, local and state governments, and the general public. These relationships are critical to long-term public lands stewardship.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hotze
Salt Lake District Ranger

cc: Cowley, Paul