



**Bear River Cutthroat Trout Mural - Merlin Olsen Park, Logan, Utah
Completed by Chris Peterson of Utah Wildlife Walls
In Partnership with the Utah Wildlife Federation**



Bear River Cutthroat Mural Project Report

WNTI 2024 Small Grant awarded to Utah Wildlife Federation

WNTI No: 2024 SG 7

The \$5,000 awarded to the project through the Small Grant WNTI program played a vital role in the larger-than-life native Bear River cutthroat trout mural at Merlin Olsen Park (280 East Center Street) in Logan, Utah.

The nearly 5,000-square-foot mural covers the walls and ceiling of an above-ground tunnel with the Little Logan River running through the structure. The 70-foot Bear River cutthroat trout was painted by artist Chris Peterson while standing in the water in waders and on a lift. Peterson found a way to cover the river during the work to prevent paint and other things from falling into the water. The entire mural, which includes five other wildlife species and native flora recognized in the area, is 30 feet across, 15 feet tall, and 100 feet long.

Peterson spent the better part of three weeks in late September and early October working on his masterpiece. Six local artists helped on the mural at times, and half a dozen more volunteered to help throughout the three weeks. While painting the mural, Peterson counted more than 100 people stopping by to ask questions or comment on the mural on several days. He estimates approximately 300 people will see the mural daily in the summer and roughly 100 during colder periods.

A QR code on the painting leads to the Utah Wildlife Walls website and a page sharing details of the native Bear River cutthroat trout found in that part of Utah. As of Jan. 15, 2025, there were 215 visits to the page. Logan City, the main contributor to the cost of the mural, held a celebration event on October 30, 2024. More than 120 people showed up on a cold evening to hear Peterson talk about his work and why he wanted to do such a large mural of a native trout. Representatives from the Utah Wildlife Federation, Utah, Cutthroat Slam, Cache Valley Anglers local Trout Unlimited Chapter, and Logan City attended the event.

Media Coverage

https://www.hjnews.com/news/local/reel-nice-new-logan-city-mural-features-20-foot-trout-old-ephraim-and-more/article_217fdb08-9739-11ef-b552-fb4db2d93894.html

https://www.cachevalleydaily.com/news/logan-city-sets-outdoor-social-to-celebrate-new-artwork-by-mural-artist-chris-peterson/article_5e93a642-92e7-11ef-8992-1b95c4a1602e.html

Ultimately, the mural will be a permanent symbol of the native cutthroat trout in the area and a place for visitors to learn more about Bear River cutthroat and the importance of protecting its delicate habitat. In addition, we hope young visitors will be inspired to take up fishing for native trout and become the next generation of native fish ambassadors. This mural compliments previous murals completed of Bonneville cutthroat (Salt Lake City) and Colorado River cutthroat (Vernal). That makes three of the four native cutthroat in Utah and three of the four included in the Utah Cutthroat Slam.

FINAL PROJECT BUDGET

Category	WNTI	Partner Match	Total
a. Personnel	N/A		
b. Travel			
c. Equipment*			
d. Supplies	\$2,500	\$21,500	\$24,000
e. Contractual	\$2,500	\$21,500	\$24,000
f. Construction			
g. Other			
TOTAL	\$5,000	\$43,000	\$48,000

Budget narrative:

Utah Wildlife Federation, as a 501c3 recognized nonprofit, is applied for the grant. The budget estimate came from the artist, Chris Peterson of Utah Wildlife Walls, a partner with the Utah Wildlife Federation and Utah Wildlife Walls.

Funding partners included Logan City/Cache Calley Development (\$20,000), Utah Cutthroat Slam (\$6,000), Logan City Art Grant (\$10,000), Bridgerland Audubon Society (\$6,000), and Cache Valley Trout Unlimited (\$1,000).