

# THE EPIC OF THE BEAR RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT

## THE AMAZING ALMY DITCH



FOR GENERATIONS, AND AS EARLY AS 1952, THE BEAR RIVER FLOODED ITS BANKS WHEN IT REACHED THE ALMY DITCH.

LARGE SEDIMENT WAS BLOCKING THE STREAM FROM FLOWING AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE FLOODING.

TEMPORARY DAMS HELPED RANCHERS DIVERT WATER FOR IRRIGATION, BUT THEY ALSO POSED A BARRIER FOR FISH SWIMMING UPSTREAM.

PARTNERS TO THE RESCUE! A TEAM OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKED TOGETHER TO REESTABLISH STABLE AND VEGETATED BANKS AT ALMY DITCH.

THE PROJECT INSTALLED STRUCTURES THAT ARE LOW-EFFORT FOR LANDOWNERS AND CROSSABLE FOR FISH.

THE ADVENTURING BEAR RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT CAN CONTINUE ON THEIR JOURNEY UPSTREAM!

Uinta County residents may not be aware of the vast amount of restoration work being done on the Bear River near Evanston. Its important to know about, because not just the fish are benefiting!

Since 2018, three phases of work have been completed to improve over 4 miles of the Bear River. Planning for phase four of the restoration project is in the works!

As a collaborator, the Uinta County Conservation District recognizes the amount of funding, coordination, and groundwork that goes into to such projects. But more importantly, UCCD recognizes the benefits to wildlife and humans alike as stream banks are stabilized and permanent irrigation diversions are established:

- The amount of **sediment in the river is reduced, improving the overall water quality** for aquatic life and humans.
- Agriculture and residential **lands are protected from streambank erosion.**
- Permanent diversions allow for **fish passage and more efficient irrigation.**
- **Riparian areas become more established:**
  - \* promoting longer term vegetation growth which equates to more shade/cover
  - \* improving habitat for a wide range of species diversity (plant and animals)
  - \* improving filtration and water quality
  - \* reducing flooding
  - \* increasing groundwater recharge
- **Recreation opportunities and scenic beauty are amplified** along the rivers and adjacent riparian areas.

We are grateful that so much work is being done right here in our county. “Stream restoration projects of this size and scope are no small undertaking,” noted Kerri Sabey, District Manager, Uinta County Conservation District. “They would not be possible without the collaboration and cooperation of many different partners including landowners, private organizations, government agencies, and experienced engineers and contractors.”

**\*The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has written articles with these comics about the [Almy Ditch](#) and the [Evanston Dam](#) projects.**

Follow the links on our website to read the articles ([www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com))

