STREAM RESTORATION HOTSPOTS

Stream restoration "hot spot" watersheds for fisheries, wildlife, and water quality benefits are identified on the accompanying map and list. These watersheds have streams where the main river channel could benefit from **active** restoration to achieve functions like floodplain: channel connectivity, vigorous native riparian vegetation, lateral channel stability, and channel complexity. These watersheds contain streams where restoration work may be in full swing, is proposed, or was recently completed. Work in all of these places will benefit fisheries and wildlife resources and water quality, in addition to other values. They were identified largely based on Strategic Habitat Plan enhancement priority areas and State Wildlife Action Plan conservation areas, as well as water quality restoration and protection information provided by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. They were also identified with Wyoming communities in mind – the majority of larger Wyoming communities have a stream flowing through them that could benefit from restoration.

Issues common to many of these streams, stream corridors, and watersheds: lack of beaver, trampled stream banks, excessive stream bank erosion, channel degradations, channel instability, over-widened channels, sedimentation, reduced floodplain connectivity, low riparian woody plant regeneration, loss of age-class diversity in cottonwoods, conifer encroachment, low stream flow, dewatering, loss of instream habitat, and invasive plant species.

Question and Answers:

Q: Does this list indicate where funding should be directed?

A: No, not directly. This list simply recognizes current and potential future stream restoration hotspots based on potential for fisheries,wildlife, and water quality benefits and opportunity to provide benefits where Wyoming people live and recreate. Since this list was largely derived from sources that drive funding decisions (i.e., Strategic Habitat Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, 2014 Wyoming Integrated Report), these watersheds are already places that rise to the top for funding projects for some grant sources.

Q: What do you mean by "active" stream restoration?

A: Active stream restoration refers to intensive work in and around the channel and floodplain to manipulate channel dimensions and stream banks. It often involves using structural materials like boulders, logs and landscape fabric to create and maintain features. It usually involves heavy equipment to move materials and re-shape banks and dig habitat features like pools and riffles. In contrast, many streams in Wyoming can be restored naturally (but slowly) by simply adjusting the management regime of the adjacent riparian and uplands. This "passive" restoration approach can be preferred in places with fairly natural sediment and flow characteristics and where landowners are willing and able to adjust grazing schedules.

Q: What can I do to become involved in stream restoration or at least learn more?

A: Contact your local Conservation District, Wyoming Game and Fish Aquatic Habitat Biologist, or Trout Unlimited Wyoming Water Project Coordinator. Individuals from these entities are generally aware of opportunities and activities in your area. Also, links to further information will be published on the Water Strategy Facebook page.

STREAM RESTORATION HOTSPOTS

Key	Region	10 digit HUC	Watershed or stream name	Community	Projects, comments or reasons for selection
NPC	Casper	1018000703	North Platte Casper	Casper	Multi-phase 14 mile restoration ongoing through Casper.
BHC		1018000701	Bates Hole / Bolton Creek	NA	Beaver restoration in Bolton Ck. Sediment reduction for N. Platte
SWC		1018000609	Sweetwater River	NA	Dumbell Ranch Mitigation Bank
LSY	Cody	1008001401	Lower Shoshone River	Cody	Shoshone R. project proposed downstream from Belfry Bridge
MLY		1008000806	Medicine Lodge Creek	NA	Proposed project on G&F WHMA
MCY		1008001303	Marquette Creek	NA	YSC core population. Passive restoration may be an option.
LGG	Green River	1404010301	Lower Green River	Green River	Russian olive removal & replacement in community of Green R.
SCG		1405000304	Savery Ck blw High Savery Res.	NA	Channel wide & shallow, eroding banks
LRG		1405000302	Little Snake River	Baggs	Extensive stream restoration ongoing
BRG		1601010103	Bear River	Evanston	From the confluence with Woodruff Narrows Reservoirs upstream to the confluence with Sulphur Creek
LSG		1404010402	Little Sandy River	Farson	From the northern boundary of S33/T28N/R104W downstream 17.7 miles to the Sublette/Sweetwater County Line
FCJ	Jackson	1704010302	Flat Creek	Jackson	Multi-phase project ongoing through NWR; possible work further ds
SRJ		17040105	Salt River HUC-8	Afton	Much potential for private land projects & benefits
SCJ		1704010301	Spring Creeks	Wilson	Benefits spawning cutthroat and Snake River fishery
MPL	Lander	1008000302	Middle Fork Popo Agie River	Lander	Ongoing work through Lander with potential upstream & downstream
EWL		1008000104	East Fork Wind River	NA	YSC stronghold, includes Bear Creek and East Fork Wind River
LPL		1008000301	Little Popo Agie R. and Twin Ck.	Hudson	NRCS working with landowners; benefits sauger habitat
ERR	Laramie	1018000205	Encampment River	Riverside	Multiple phases ongoing and future work; large public benefit
NPR		1018000206	North Platte Saratoga	Saratoga	Community looking for long-term solutions; flood concerns
CCR		1019000901	Crow Creek	Cheyenne	Community has TMDL concerns; potential for fishery benefits
LRR		1018001002	Laramie River	Laramie	Upstream of Woods Landing
NFP	Pinedale	1404010203	New Fork River	NA	Gas Wells project on BLM proposed; efforts ongoing on private
SFP		1601010202	Smiths Fork River	Cokeville	Riparian restoration work has been proposed
PCP		1404010202	Pine Creek	Pinedale	Plans developed, further action depends on interest/support/funding
TRS	Sheridan	1009010101	Tongue River	Dayton	An assessment has been completed and is a basis for projects
GCS		1009010102	Goose Creek	Sheridan	COE Flood mitigation project ongoing
CCS		1009020601	Clear Creek	Buffalo	Buffalo investing in greenbelt; Big Bull Reservoir alternatives under consideration