

BLACKNER'S BEND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT | WEBER COUNTY, UT

Project elements: Planning, hydrographic survey, river engineering, riparian restoration, permitting

Project location: 41.138512, -111.925631 south side of the Weber River

Project dates: Phase 1 constructed fall 2020, Phase 2 constructed fall 2022, Phase 3 currently under design

Brief description of project – The Blackner's Bend Habitat Restoration Project is a multi-phase project sponsored by Trails Foundation of Northern Utah (TFNU). Phase 1, completed in 2020, provides habitat for juvenile Bonneville Cutthroat Trout and Bluehead Sucker – two native fish species at risk for being added to the Endangered Species List. The project consisted of creating a side channel to the Weber River that incorporates riffle-pool enhancement, woody debris placement, and native plantings to provide habitat, shade, and protection for aquatic life. The side channel also serves to reconnect the floodplain to the historic bench. RiverRestoration performed 1D hydraulic analysis and provided documentation to show floodplain compliance for Weber County's Floodplain Development Permit.



Phase 2, completed in 2022, re-engages two historic high flow channels upstream of the Phase 1 habitat side channel. These historic side channels will convey flows, on average, every 1.5 years to provide additional floodplain reconnection to the area.

Phase 3 is currently under design and will include a mixed-use trail connection, pedestrian bridges, improved fish passage, and berm setback for increased floodplain engagement.

Other pertinent information – The Trails Foundation of Northern Utah is a local non-profit that supports the construction of non-motorized public trails to encourage outdoor recreation, education, and connection to nature. Several sites along the property have been designated for oak and elm tree plantings by local youth groups in celebration of Earth Day. RiverRestoration continues to partner and coordinate with TFNU on project along the Weber River from the mouth of Weber Canyon and into the City of West Haven.

