

Giraffe Creek Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Habitat Enhancement Restrictions on livestock use have been implemented throughout the Thomas Fork Watershed under the Thomas Fork Conservation Agreement for BCT. The agreement has greatly improved conditions in general, but fish habitat recovery has been slow in upper Giraffe Creek. Properly Functioning Condition Assessments, Pfankuch Channel Stability Assessments, and photographs show that upper Giraffe Creek is in poor condition, and BCT are currently absent from this section of the stream. This project would reduce livestock impacts to the riparian zone and speed fish habitat recovery through construction of off-channel watering troughs, livestock exclosure fences, upgraded drift fencing in high-maintenance areas, and stream bank re-vegetation.



The Role Of SEIFF: The Southeast Idaho Chapter of TU will lead a broad coalition of partners, including the US Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, partners to the Thomas Fork Conservation Agreement for BCT, permittees of the Montpelier Elk Valley Livestock Allotment, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Bear River Environmental Coordinating Committee. TU established itself as a conservation leader in the region two years ago and has now implemented two very successful habitat restoration/fish passage projects in the Thomas Fork Valley. Chapter volunteers are eager to continue their work with Bear River BCT and will donate an estimated 304 hours of labor valued at \$4,879. Volunteers will be trained in riparian restoration techniques, including bank stabilization and re-vegetation methods. Volunteers will also help to conduct habitat surveys and BCT population monitoring. TU will also provide a fisheries biologist (Field Coordinator for Cooperative Native Trout Programs) to assist with the project as needed.

Volunteers Needed: We are planning on the third full week of May 2006 for cutting and planting willows on Giraffe Creek inside and outside of the experimental exclosure fences. Our Embrace-A-Stream grant from Trout Unlimited indicated that TU volunteers would contribute 240 hours of time (6 volunteers x 40 hours each) in that activity. This is going to require chapter members to really step up, schedule some time off and donate some hours to this project. To sign up, or if you have any questions contact Todd Carter at tcarter@srv.net or Louis Berg at lberg@fs.fed.us.