

## Utah State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Utah's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



*Farmer and Seed Coordinator, Photo Courtesy of BLM*

### **Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People** **Sagebrush Management and Habitat Restoration**

When land is well managed, both wildlife and people benefit. State Wildlife Grants in Utah are being used to better manage sagebrush land areas so livestock have better grazing areas and wildlife have better homes. In addition, wildlife monitoring funded by State Wildlife Grants will provide information to biologists and decision makers, allowing the most cost-efficient conservation decisions. Projects like this conserve wildlife and natural areas, enhancing our own quality of life.



*Microbiologist Chris Heck, Photo Courtesy of Utah DWR*

### **Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife** **Implementation of Sensitive Species Program**

State Wildlife Grants in Utah are being put to use to conserve wildlife and vital natural areas by restoring habitat, monitoring and managing wildlife, and improving stewardship on both public and private lands. Five biologists, hired with State Wildlife Grant funds, participate in wildlife rehabilitation programs and research projects that will inform decisions and provide cost-effective solutions to management questions. The biologists are also testing for West Nile Virus and other diseases. The health of wildlife is often an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect all of us, this project is allowing us to identify and prevent problems before they threaten wildlife and affect humans.



*Castle Creek, Photo Courtesy of Utah DEQ*

### **Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas** **Fish Protection**

The least chub is a rare type of fish found only in Utah. State Wildlife Grants have been instrumental in helping conserve the least chub for future generations by supporting research about where it is living. This study led to the discovery of a genetically different population of the least chub in a previously undocumented location. Other State Wildlife Grant money has been used to create a second community of these least chub in a different location. This is a proactive way to conserve the least chub before they become more rare and more costly to protect.

**Congress has appropriated \$5.1 million in State Wildlife Grants to Utah since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.5 million state and partner dollars.**