

## Grassroots Spotlight | On-the-ground chapter success stories



stream on its threatened waters list.

In an attempt to restore the creek's natural character, the Flat Creek restoration project was conceived—a cooperative effort among the Town of Jackson, TU's Jackson Hole Chapter, the Teton Conservation District, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation and Tom Wesche of Habitech, Inc. The project embarked on an aggressive four-phase restoration effort beginning in 2004.

"This was not just a band-aid approach," says Phil Cameron, board president of the Jackson Hole

TU Chapter, "The goal of this project was to improve habits, reduce anchor and frazil ice, and allow the creek to reach its ecological potential."

TU volunteers, partners and contractors used logs and boulders to build structures intended to restore habitat variability and maintain bank stability.

The restoration efforts have already started to produce results. Wyoming Game and Fish population surveys have shown an increase in fish populations and the number of spawning redds. "It's very gratifying to see a collaborative effort by a diverse group of stakeholders produce such positive results for Jackson's cold water fisheries," said Jim Broderick, the chapter's treasurer.

The final phase of the Flat Creek restoration project will include the completion of a storm water wetland that will serve as a filter, capturing run-off and sediment before it reaches the creek.

For more information on the Flat Creek restoration, visit [jhtroutunlimited.org](http://jhtroutunlimited.org)

## Restoration Breathes Life back into Flat Creek

### WYOMING

Old timers in the Jackson, Wyo. area remember a time when Flat Creek was a healthy fishery filled with native Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat. But as growth in and around Jackson exploded in recent years, with the town becoming one of the West's more popular tourist destinations and a winter and summer playground, the stream took the brunt of the development.

Not that that was anything new for Flat Creek. The stream had been previously channelized to accommodate for growth in Jackson's historic downtown. Sediment has been degrading Flat Creek's habitat since the failure of an irrigation head gate deposited a heavy layer of silt. More recently, streets and parking lots added

to the problem as sediment, storm water discharge and road sand—laid down to make driving easier in the winter—poured into Flat Creek, adversely affecting water quality and stream habitat.

The result was that the creek, especially the three and a half miles running through the town of Jackson, had become wide and shallow and largely void of its natural runs and pools. Populations of resident native trout, as well as spawners from the Snake River, suffered. In the winter, anchor ice would form on the creek's bottom, threatening trout and causing flooding in the town of Jackson. The waters were so imperiled that the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality placed the