



News Release

Restoring Grimes Creek to improve water quality and habitat

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(BOISE) - A combined effort of many partners has resulted in the **restoration of another quarter mile of Grimes Creek**, located in the mountains north of Boise.

Partners created a new floodplain to improve water quality, and planted vegetation on a section of the stream to improve riparian and wetland habitat. Agencies, private landowners, volunteers, and conservation groups got together a few years ago to tackle the watershed-wide issues associated with abandoned mines in the area.

The **Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)** and **Trout Unlimited** - using grant funds provided by the **Idaho Department of Lands** and the **U.S.**

Forest Service - worked together to analyze the watershed and restore the segment of Grimes Creek. To target projects, IDFG assessed and mapped priority treatment areas and developed both a planting and volunteer recruitment guide. Trout Unlimited designed the restoration project and enlisted volunteers to help plant trees and shrubs.

Removal of tailings expanded the floodplain. Creating the new floodplain increases water storage in the stream, cools stream temperatures for fish, and provides new wildlife habitat.

Methodically treating stream segments, even small segments, is helping to achieve a goal of watershed-wide restoration. The Grimes Creek restoration effort is a long-term project.



Above: Aerial photo showing dredge mine tailings along Grimes Creek with narrow bands of floodplain and discontinuous and degraded riparian habitat. Photo courtesy of Trout Unlimited.

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily Callihan, Public Information Officer
(208) 334-0236 or ecallihan@idl.idaho.gov



Above: At the start of the project, remnant mine tailings restricted the stream channel.



Above: To expand the floodplain, an excavator removes tailing piles and prepares the site for planting trees and shrubs. Prior to removal, the mine tailings were tested for contaminants and none were found.



Above: In 2011, students and adult volunteers planted trees and shrubs on nearly a quarter mile of newly established floodplain along Grimes Creek. Staff from Trout Unlimited and IDFG spent time training the volunteers on how to properly plant the trees.



Above: Chris Murphy, IDFG, and Pam Harrington, Trout Unlimited, monitor the area that was planted in 2011. This photo, taken in 2014, shows the **trees and shrubs planted by volunteers are now well on their way to becoming established. The successful expansion of this floodplain will increase water storage for the stream and provides new wildlife habitat.**

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