

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT



RAY SCHELBLE/Courtesy photo

Restoration project: Long "fingers" of pine trees can be seen around Yuba Reservoir, ready to become artificial habitat modules at the lake.

Volunteers help restore Yuba Reservoir

The first phase of the habitat restoration project at Yuba Reservoir in Juab County was finished Jan. 26.

"Everything came together even though we had to deal with some cold, wind and snow," said Ray Schelble of Rocky Mountain Anglers, one of several fishing clubs that sent volunteers to assist in the effort.

"Twenty-six people including DWR employees, fishing club members and other interested anglers took part, and at day's end, 24 new habitat reefs were assembled and lined up along the shore," he said.

It is hoped this project will help the perch population in Yuba by improving the spawn and protecting small fish while they are most vulnerable to predation.

Habitat enhancement projects usually involve partnerships between interested anglers, businesses and the DWR. The Yuba project is no exception.

From sizable contributions from Micron and Western Star Construction, to over 500 unpaid volunteer hours, this effort demonstrates the cooperation possible between gov-

ON FISHING



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ernment agencies and the private sector when each strives for a common goal.

Additional opportunities for volunteers will present themselves in the near future. Those interested should contact the Springville office of the DWR at 591-5678.

SCOFIELD: "The fishing has been good," said Buddy Bunnell of Salem. "The fish have moved a little deeper than they were a couple of weeks ago, but they can still be found in under 10 feet of water."

Bunnell's secret to catching trout through the ice is to mask his scent. "In the winter, even more so than at other times of the year, trout seem to know when a bait has a human scent on it. By



RON COLBY/Courtesy photo

Helping hands: Nearly 40 volunteers have actively helped on the project, contributing about 500 hours and in the neighborhood of 5,000 miles on private vehicles.

using fish attractants, the human scent is hidden, and I believe that is what really bring in the fish."

PROVO RIVER: Those willing to fight cold temperatures have been finding their share of willing brown and cutthroat trout on the Provo this week.

Several anglers reported catching up to a dozen fish each time out. Standard nymphs, pheasant

tails, brassies, hare's ears and sow bugs seem to work best.

Remember to fish slowly, and plan on subtle, rather than strong hits.

THANKS, CHARLIE: Charlie Thompson, aquatics program manager for the Springville office of the DWR retired in January.

A true friend of the anglers of Utah, Thompson has been instrumental

in formulating a sound management plan for our local waters.

His involvement in fishery projects around the state will be missed. Good luck, Charlie, and maybe you'll finally have the time to catch a few of those fish you've cared so much for over the years.

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