



Yellowstone to Uintas Connection (Y2U) continues to make a significant positive difference for our fish and wildlife as the following report shows. In 2017, we significantly expanded our work to monitor and restore wildlife connectivity and watershed health within the corridor connecting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with the Uinta Mountains. Y2U hired an Outreach and Development Director and an Ecological Field Technician this year, both of whom helped us with this expansion of projects and effort.

This report is broken into two sections. The first, and longer, section outlines new and ongoing projects, their status, work plan and expected outcomes. The second section outlines projects that are now complete or on hold. See the asterisk under the project name in each section to see whether it is a new, ongoing, on hold or completed project.

2017 Final Report Yellowstone to Uintas Connection (Y2U)

Status of New and Ongoing Projects and Expected Outcomes for 2018	
Bear River Development *ongoing	<p>Status: Y2U continues to attend all public meetings of the newly formed Cache Water Conservancy District to resist plans for developing dams on Bonneville cutthroat trout streams in the Bear River Range and on the Bear River itself. In Spring of 2017, PacifiCorp (the largest dam operator on the Bear River) proposed raising Cutler Dam in Cache County by 3 feet to provide more hydroelectricity generation. There are community concerns that this will inundate productive farmland and wetland habitat.</p> <p>Work Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y2U is working with Chris McGinty, a Geographic Information Science (GIS) expert at Utah State University, and a coalition of local farmers known as ‘Don’t Raise Cutler’, to conduct a GIS analysis of the proposal. • In October 2018, PacifiCorp will begin collecting public feedback for the project’s Environmental Impact Statement, which Y2U will be heavily involved with. We are in direct contact with PacifiCorp’s Cutler Dam project lead, Eve Davies. <p>Expected Outcome: During the EIS process, use the GIS analysis to provide critical data on the project’s impact to city infrastructure, local agricultural operations, and migratory bird habitat.</p>
Limber Pine Trail *ongoing	<p>Status: In 2016, Y2U adopted the 1.2 mile Limber Pine Trail in the Bear River Range in the National Forest. This trail is a heavily visited location near Bear Lake and often receives over one-hundred visits per day. By adopting this trail, maintaining the educational signs, and visiting with hikers, Y2U can engage users and create a dialogue surrounding the corridor, it’s wildlife, and human impacts.</p> <p>Work Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In September, 2017, we received a grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) to conduct three youth environmental education events at Limber Pine Nature Trail in 2018. These will engage over 75 students from both rural and urban Northern Utah counties with a free take-home field guide, expert-guided hikes of the trail, and educational booths at the trailhead. • Additionally, in July 2017, the Herald Journal featured Y2U in an article about our adoption, maintenance, and future education plans for the trail. We will continue to raise awareness of the site with social media and newspaper publications. <p>Expected Outcome: Continue using the site for youth environmental education. In summer of 2018, we will station a Y2U employee at the trailhead once a month to hand out</p>

	education/interpretation information to hikers in order to expand public awareness of conservation efforts in the Bear River Range.
Noise Monitoring, Analysis and Report *ongoing	<p><u>Status:</u> Prior to 2017, Y2U collected over 100 days of sound data on snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt bikes and other vehicles. Over two thousand records of observations were entered into the database to date. In summer of 2016, there was a large increase in traffic with sound levels recorded at over 100 dB, so we decided to delay our sound report to allow for additional data collection in 2017. In summer 2017, we worked with Dr. Randy Martin from Utah State University, as well as an undergraduate intern, who helped us collect both air quality and sound level data. Currently we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adding additional sound data records to the database and preparing a final report. ● Analyzing opportunities to expand our data collection in 2018 and generate a map of Bear River Range Corridor to show areas impacted by sound from OHVs. ● Distributing the updated sound report once it is complete to Forest Service staff on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. ● Presenting the report to the local County Commission to propose changes to their speed limits, road maintenance and law enforcement. ● Continue leasing equipment for monitoring air quality (particulates), video with stereo sound, speed radar, and sound (decibel levels). <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> By exposing the excessive OHV usage - including excessive speeds, dust and noise - we hope to encourage action by the Forest Service. The resulting data set from this project will help with ongoing efforts to create summer and winter travel plans for OHVs that reflect the recent increase in traffic. The project is an important element of protecting wildlife in the corridor and providing opportunities for quiet recreation. In 2018, we hope to use the sound and air quality data to generate a map of areas negatively affected by OHVs.</p>
Road Closures *new project	<p><u>Status:</u> Yellowstone to Uintas Connection has been working on a new approach with regard to how we interact with federal land management agencies, such as the Forest Service, in which we have been offering our resources to assist these agencies in accomplishing their stated goals. This is especially important in areas such as Forest Travel Plans and grazing management protocols, where the agency often doesn't have the resources to fully monitor impacts of grazing and OHV use.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In September, 2017, on a field trip with a District Ranger, he mentioned that there were many roads that were closed to motorized travel in the Forest Travel Plan but that the Forest Service does not have the funding to physically close the roads. Our Director, Jason Christensen, retired from the landscape industry last year and sold most of his equipment to Kiesha's Preserve (KM Ranch), the wildlife preserve that we manage in Southeastern Idaho. Jason asked the District Ranger if he would be willing to let Y2U assist the Forest Service with closing roads with our equipment and operators. He accepted the offer. ● During two field trips in October, 2017, we successfully closed off 6.2 unauthorized motor vehicle trails in the Bear River Range. ● We met with the Logan District Ranger in late October and outlined our road closure success working with the Montpelier District Ranger. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> It is likely we will continue our road closures with both Logan and Montpelier Ranger Districts in 2018.</p>
Three Creeks Allotment *ongoing	<p><u>Status:</u> This 140,000 acre intensive infrastructure and grazing project by BLM and Forest Service will further fragment wildlife habitat in the Bear River Range. We have been negotiating with BLM for four years to engage the public in an objective, science-based project. The effort has not moved the agency. We continue to work with other organizations to promote a project that sets aside streams and watersheds important to cutthroat trout, sage grouse and pronghorn. We and our partners have collected habitat and water quality data and submitted it to the agency as well as providing detailed comments on the draft EA/EIS, which has been delayed for over a year.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In summer 2017, we met with Wild Utah Project and Western Watersheds Project staff to train ourselves in the BLM’s Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) methods for riparian assessment. • Continue monitoring with MIM methods and compare to other methods such as riparian monitoring protocols developed by Wild Utah Project (Riparian Stream Rapid Assessment [RSRA]). Present results to the BLM. • Appeal the EA/EIS. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> We will continue to monitor riparian conditions in the Three Creeks allotment and provide feedback to the BLM based on their monitoring methods. We will also give suggestions for improved monitoring methods that more accurately reflect the true condition in over-grazed riparian areas. Our goal is to work with the BLM to establish better monitoring of riparian areas and sage grouse habitat within the allotment.</p>
<p>Bear River Range E. coli Monitoring *ongoing</p> <p>Formerly: White Lakes, Millville and Providence Grazing Allotments EA</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> We monitor stream quality in grazing allotments through the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Bear River Range. These allotments are adjacent to the urban environment of Logan and other communities in Cache Valley, Utah. Wildlife habitat is compromised by livestock, off-road vehicles, and water development. We have submitted comments and began our own monitoring of the area.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In summer 2017, our Ecological Technician and two summer field technicians visited allotments to collect habitat data. • They monitored water quality for comparison to drinking water and recreation criteria as these are Municipal watersheds. • Monitoring expanded to include three additional grazing allotments • In October 2017, we prepared an E. coli report which was submitted to the Forest Service. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Continue monitoring E. coli in streams of the Bear River Range in and adjacent to grazing allotments. We plan on introducing our data in an Environmental Assessment of these allotments and negotiating for better utilization, rotation, and in some cases, closing areas of high recreational conflict and water quality impairment.</p> <p>For the E. coli report, see the project page under the ‘Science’ drop down of the ‘Our Work’ tab on our website.</p>
<p>BLM accountability project (Rich County, Utah) *ongoing</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Data collected on the BLM’s Duck Creek Allotment over several years have demonstrated that BLM methods do not provide an objective and accurate depiction of conditions on the ground or livestock forage consumption. We have asked the BLM to participate in an evaluation of their monitoring methods. They agreed in principal to do this, but have yet to follow through.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Carter, our Staff Ecologist, submitted a research paper which was published in Rangelands Journal refuting standard BLM and livestock industry grazing practices. • The BLM’s Office of Scientific Integrity requested that Dr. Carter peer review their national rangeland assessment. This was done done and submitted with numerous recommendations for more specificity. We are waiting on the release of this report. Y2U Staff are participating in BLM monitoring in Rich County, Utah. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Continued negotiation and project design, modification of BLMs Regional Rangeland Assessment to more accurately reflect condition on the ground versus potential condition.</p>
<p>Rasmussen Valley Mine *ongoing</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> The proposed Rasmussen Valley mine is a 440 acre open pit phosphate mine. The creation of this mine will destroy wetlands, wildlife populations, and plant communities while polluting the Blackfoot River and its tributaries with heavy metals. The mine will also cause noise and safety concerns that not only affect wildlife, but also humans.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We filed comments on the Draft EIS in 2016. The Final EIS came out in September 2016. We filed an objection on March 1, 2017, in which Y2U officially appealed the mine with the BLM. • In May, 2017, Y2U attended the Upper Blackfoot Coalition tour of the Blackfoot River including the Blackfoot Reservoir, mainstem and upstream tributaries adjacent to Rasmussen Mine. Participants were Monsanto, Simplot, Agrium, DEQ, IDFG,

	<p>NRCS, Forest Service, BLM, Trout Unlimited, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Sage Steppe Land Trust. 34 people attended.</p> <p><u>Expected outcome:</u> We established several contacts in the coalition and Monsanto during the tour in May. We are working with this coalition on mine mitigation efforts moving forward. Our goal at the mine site and adjacent land is to improve fish habitat, reduce grazing, and considering deer and elk migration pathways. We hope to obtain additional mitigations to offset damage and pollution.</p>
<p>Paris Creek Stream Restoration *ongoing</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> This project is planned to restore habitat for cutthroat trout in 0.5 miles of stream in the National Forest. We aim to increase stream flows in the currently dewatered reach of Paris Creek. Dr. John Carter has been working on this project for many years, engaging the Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game to conduct fish surveys. These were completed in 2001 and 2012, showing that Bonneville cutthroat trout are missing from the dewatered reach. We are now engaged with these agencies, private landowners and the Power Company to return sufficient flow to sustain cutthroat trout.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forest Service implemented the habitat reconstruction in September 2016 and it is now complete. We continue to jointly monitor its success, but it is already a very positive change with deep pools and riffles between. All willow plantings have survived. We continue to monitor flows and water quality in relation to cutthroat trout needs. • It is still evident that a water release at the upstream diversion should be negotiated with PacifiCorp. Pacificorp continues to deflect to irrigators, but our monitoring and research on water rights and water management at the plant reveal that the power company does have an option to release the water. • In July 2017, we submitted a grant to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund additional research on water rights and direct stream improvements. We did not receive funding but will continue to apply to this grant now that we have established contact with the program coordinator. • In October 2017, our Director Jason negotiated the permanent protection of 175 acres of Forest Service land surrounding the headwaters of Paris Creek from cattle grazing <p><u>Expected outcome:</u> The onus is on the Power Company and irrigators to step up and increase the stream flow. If this does not happen, we can challenge the renewal of the permit for the diversion on the Forest. We will continue to pursue grants and private donors to restore Paris Creek for native Bonneville cutthroat trout.</p>
<p>Pocatello Area Grazing Allotment Permit Renewal *ongoing</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> The federal agencies continue permitting cattle to graze and pollute watersheds and streams that comprise Pocatello's water supply. In 2012, we organized an allotment tour with the Forest Service and other interested parties and livestock permittees. The Forest Service management allows continued pollution of the streams and water supply. Our report and comments were submitted on the DEIS, showing all the streams in this 43,200 acre project area were polluted by nutrients, sediment and E. coli. We have engaged Pocatello City and provided our information to them and urged them to request that the watershed be managed with better utilization, rotations, and in some cases, closures to grazing. The Forest Service continues permitting grazing at the same level.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We wrote a very direct rebuttal of this decision and sent to the Forest Service. Our work lead to them closing an additional portion of the watershed to grazing. • We opposed the Forest Service's categorical exclusion of the new decision to force Pocatello City to build and maintain fences to protect a portion of the watershed, which should be the responsibility of the livestock permittees. • Pocatello is already paying the costs of treating their drinking water, their discharge water and this will only increase. The city recently passed a \$9.5 million bond issue to obtain more surface water in this watershed. • In 2017, E. coli data collected by both Y2U and Western Watersheds Project indicates that a significant portion of watershed needs to be closed. We will challenge their annual permit for grazing in the following years. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Continue placing pressure on the Forest Service as well as the City of Pocatello to affect management of the allotment in a way that reflects the impact that current grazing has on the drinking water of more than 100,000 citizens. Continue conducting stream monitoring, submitting comments, and raising awareness through media.</p>

<p>Winchell Project *new project</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Y2U has submitted comments to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with regard to a proposed project to build an ATV route between Morgan Meadows and the deserted historic mining town of Caribou City in the Caribou Range.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From the comments: The area is part of the regionally significant wildlife corridor that spans from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to the Southern Rockies, and motorized use on the proposed route would further displace wildlife in an area that is already overrun with OHVs/ATVs. ● Wildlife negatively affected by this habitat fragmentation include threatened species, the Canada lynx and wolverine, as well big game like deer and elk. ● Necessity for this motorized route has not been established as routes already exist to both Morgan Meadows and Caribou City. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> We are requesting further updates on the progress of this proposed project. Please see the submitted comments for more information.</p>
<p>John Wood Forest Management Project *new project</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Yellowstone to Uintas Connection has submitted scoping comments in response to the Forest Service's John Wood Forest Management Project in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From the comments: The project would negatively impact wildlife in the region with the construction of logging roads, resulting in habitat fragmentation and degradation for many species such as elk, deer, moose and other birds and mammals. ● The project cites purposes that lack scientific evidence while the location of the logging project exists in a regionally significant wildlife corridor that is home to threatened species like Canada lynx and wolverine. ● These species are facing further threats to their habitat due to climate change, and it is becoming ever more important that they have access to higher elevations and migration routes. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> We are requesting further updates on the progress of this proposed project. Please see the submitted comments.</p>
<p>Red Ryder Vegetation Management Project *new project</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Y2U has submitted scoping comments and a proposed alternative for analysis in response to the Forest Service's plans to thin timber in the Bear River Range, both in the Logan and Ogden Ranger Districts. The timber harvest is being proposed in the name of wildfire control and to prevent the spread of pine beetle, but there is a lack of evidence of the effectiveness of the proposed methods. The timber harvest and creation of roads would increase habitat fragmentation and degradation within the Bear River Range and the important Yellowstone to Uintas wildlife corridor.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In line with our new approach whereby we provide assistance to our underfunded land management agencies, Y2U met with the Logan District Ranger to discuss amendments to the project including allowing Y2U to help close roads post-project. ● We will be invited to tour the project with Forest Service staff in 2018 to learn more about the project's purpose and sited scientific reasoning. This will help us determine how to proceed with our scientific comments and feedback. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Working with the Forest Service in 2018 to ensure sound science is used for thinning, if thinning is indeed necessary. Ensure that a plan is developed for closing roads created for the project. See the attachment on our website project page with our full analysis, critique, and and suggestions for the proposed Red Ryder Vegetation Management.</p>
<p>Land Management Plans for Greater Sage Grouse *new project</p>	<p><u>Status/Background:</u> In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found that the sage grouse was warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) but precluded from listing due to other species with higher listing priority. In their 2010 finding, the USFWS identified habitat loss and fragmentation and the lack of adequate regulatory mechanisms as the primary threats to the sage grouse. In October 2015 the USFWS issued its determination that the sage grouse did not warrant listing under the ESA. The USFWS cited the conservation commitments in the amended land use plans as a substantial reason behind its "not warranted" finding. Then, on June 7 of this year, Secretary of Interior Zinke issued Order 3353. In short, the Department of the Interior believes the protections or the potential protections in the amended land management plans are too</p>

	<p>restrictive on commercial activities on the public lands, and it wants to return as much as possible to the earlier status quo.</p> <p><u>Work Plan (completed):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y2U submitted comments to both the Forest Service and BLM on the decision to amend the 2015 Land Management Plans for Greater Sage Grouse. • In the comments, Y2U maintained that the amended land management plans were insufficiently protective of sage grouse and did not allow recovery of viable populations across the species’ historic range. However, the amendments began to improve on the management problems that led to the “warranted” determination in 2010. • Y2U welcomed the opportunity to improve the conservation outcomes of land use plan implementation, however, amending the current plans as proposed is ill-advised and not supported by the best available science. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> In response to DOI Order 3353 and with implementation of the 2015 plans barely underway, plans that formed the basis for the 2015 USFWS “not warranted” decision, the BLM and USFS are backpedaling on their prior commitments. Y2U will continue to resist both the BLM and USFS decisions to amend the plans. See website project page for full comments.</p>
<p>Uinta Cattle Grazing Allotment Monitoring *ongoing</p> <p>Formerly: High Uinta Trespass Cattle Monitoring</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> In 2013, Y2U reported to the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest and the Ashley National Forest that cattle were trespassing, long-term, in the Burro Peaks Allotment, which was closed to grazing in the 2003 Forest Plan Decision. Y2U again documented these trespass cattle in fall of 2015. A report documenting this trespass was submitted to both Forest Supervisors at the end of October, 2015. We continued monitoring in October of 2016, reporting results to the Forest Service. In summer of 2017, we significantly expanded our monitoring efforts and dialogue with the forest service.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with both Forest Supervisors (Ashley and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache) in January, 2017 to discuss what actions the Forest Service intends to take to prevent additional cattle trespass. • Continued monitoring the Burro Peaks, Thompson Peak, and West Beaver Allotments that were closed to grazing in the 2003 Forest Plan Decision for trespass cattle. • Reported trespass cattle to the Forest Service and continue pressuring the agency to maintain the standards set forth in Annual Operating Instruction (AOIs). • Y2U was mentioned as an organization helping monitor allotments in the Hickerson Park and Commissary Park AOI’s produced by District Ranger Rowdy Muir from the Ashley National Forest Flaming Gorge-Vernal District. We are continuing to work with Rowdy as well as District Ranger Rick Schuler from the Evanston-Mountain View District. • In 2018, we will expand this program to include citizen scientists volunteers who will help monitor closed allotments. We will then engage in joint monitoring with Forest Service rangeland specialists on the open allotments. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Y2U’s consistent involvement in monitoring combined with our relationships established with the District Rangers will help keep permittees following the AOIs, thereby preventing the majority of trespass cattle in the Uinta Wilderness.</p>
<p>Environmental Advocacy *new project</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> An important part of our work involves publicly advocating for the restoration of degraded watersheds, in-tact ecosystems, and wildlife connectivity. We are empowering citizens to get involved with these efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 2017 Utah State Legislative Session, Y2U lobbied against Bear River Development and for SB 151 which would reduce the State's property tax subsidization of water use. Utah uses more water than any other state in the nation due to the perceived low cost of water. We need to move to a higher tier rate system that encourages conservation. We will continue lobbying at during the session in 2018, as well as organizing groups of citizens to lobby alongside us. • In June, of 2017 we conducted our first Successful Activism Training featuring presentations from PhD Psychologist Dr. David Christian and non-profit lobbying expert Stacey Frisk. The training helped introduce forty people to methods for interacting and working with decision makers. Whether you are lobbying politicians, communicating with public lands managers, or partnering with private landowners, it is important to have the tools to foster working relationships with individuals and groups from differing

	<p>backgrounds. We will make these trainings a bi-annual event, starting with one in January at Squatters Brewery.</p> <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Continue our lobbying efforts, activism trainings, and awareness campaigns to raise public involvement in conservation and expand public awareness of environmental issues.</p>
<p>Environmental Education *new project</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Education is critical to the work we do. In 2017, we significantly expanded our education and outreach efforts, especially for youth. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Internships for university undergraduate students. We employed an air quality intern and two field technicians to conduct ATV sound and dust monitoring, bird surveys, cheatgrass surveys, and large predator monitoring with game cameras. Providing these opportunities gives students real-world experience, fostering their continued involvement in conservation. ● Environmental Education Events - in 2018 we will conduct three environmental education events at Limber Pine Nature Trail for 75 students with a grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation. These events will reach students from rural and urban counties, and diverse backgrounds as we are collaborating with schools and minority education organizations to recruit students for the events. The events will feature a take-home field guide for each student, guided tours of the nature trail, and education booths at the trailhead. The booths include a mobile education outreach truck from the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, an interactive watershed trailer provided by the Forest Service, and a booth on keystone species managed by Y2U. ● In October 2017, we applied for funding from Keen Footwear to put on three additional environmental education events at Kiesha’s Preserve which will include a restoration project and science experiment for students, if we are funded. ● In 2017, Y2U put on several classroom presentations at Logan High School on watershed science, wildlife connectivity, ecosystem services, and keystone species, reaching over 150 students. We also tabled at several community events and presented at several community venues including Cache Valley’s “Green Drinks” and one of the Cache Environmental Coalition’s monthly meetings. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Continue providing education opportunities for youth, especially underserved groups, as well as provide environmental education opportunities to the communities in and around the corridor.</p>
<p>Landowner Conservation Campaign *new project</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Private land makes up a significant portion of the corridor and represents an opportunity to establish positive working relationships with those who rely on these lands for livelihood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2018, Y2U will work with Wild Utah Project and other professionals to conduct a GIS analysis helping determine wildlife bottlenecks and impedance points in the corridor, particularly on private land. We recently received funding from Biophilia Foundation to conduct this analysis. ● This analysis will help identify wildlife impedance points which we will use to inform an on-the-ground outreach campaign with private landowners. This campaign will include retrofitting existing fences with wildlife friendly fencing and developing conservation plans for each landowner’s property. We will assist each landowner with procurement of funds to implement the fence retrofits and conservation plans. ● We established relationships with several potential program participants this year including Casey Snider. Casey is the Chair of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Program and Director of Tread Lightly. He also received a Masters in Environmental Policy from John Hopkins. As an advocate for both ranching and conservation, Casey will be an excellent first participant for this Landowner Conservation Campaign. We conducted our first site visit with him in late November 2017. ● Y2U submitted a grant to National Geographic’s Long Distance Animal Migration program in January 2018 for funding of our first fence retrofit project with Casey Snider. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Provide resources and assistance with private land restoration efforts in the Yellowstone to Uintas wildlife corridor.</p>
<p>Volunteer Opportunities *new project</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Y2U is providing opportunities for volunteers to get involved with restoration. In 2018, volunteers will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor unauthorized cattle in the Uintas as a Citizen Scientist ● Help conduct on of our environmental education events for youth ● Become a citizen lobbyist during the 2018 Utah State Legislative Session ● Become a Y2U Peer Fundraiser for one of our many projects

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft road closures on Forest Service and BLM land • Volunteer for field work by contacting our Ecological Technician, Casey Brucker, and joining her in the field to check game cams, collect stream quality data, and conduct other research. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Expand our organization’s capacity and provide citizens with fun and unique opportunities to get involved with conservation efforts in their favorite wild places.</p>
Wildlife Survey and related field work *ongoing	<p><u>Status:</u> In addition to collecting OHV sound and air quality data, monitoring trespass cattle, collecting stream quality data, participating in Multiple Indicator Monitoring training, and working to restore fish habitat in Paris Creek, our Ecological Technician and summer field technicians completed the following field work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Survey - Monitoring mammals near Paris Peak in the Montpelier Ranger District of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest using game cameras. The area has historically been home to both Wolverine and Canada lynx. Wolverine have been documented in this area as recently as 2014 when one was hit by a car near Garden City. Our Ecological Technician completed a report of our findings. We documented 13 species including coyotes, moose, elk, deer and mountain lion. • Conducting bird surveys on Kiesha’s Preserve to document bird species that are present and evaluate how their presence changes over time. • Examining the impacts of passive restoration on Kiesha’s preserve through cheatgrass surveys on and off of the preserve. We use Kiesha’s to compare recovering land to adjacent grazed, mined, and ATV-degraded land. The preserve serves as an over-wintering range for elk and deer herds. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Continue monitoring wildlife within the corridor and provide the data to the Forest Service and BLM to help inform management decisions. We are expanding our Wildlife Survey in 2018 by partnering with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.</p>
Agency Oversight *ongoing	<p><u>Description of Activity:</u> Y2U continues to submit comments on Forest Service and BLM decisions, provide feedback on agency monitoring protocols (especially for livestock grazing), and working towards creative solutions to help these underfunded agencies accomplish their stated goals.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to submit comments on Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and other stages of the land management decision-making process. We submitted comments on four proposed agency decisions in 2017. • Continue following up with agency staff as projects develop, and when possible, attend site visits where both agency staff and Y2U staff can discuss project purposes and objectives. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Y2U has formed many valuable relationships with several Forest Service and BLM staff over the last year, resulting in many positive outcomes including helping with road closures, trespass cattle monitoring, and E. coli monitoring in sensitive riparian areas. With these positive relationships, we hope to increasingly be seen as a resource to these agencies for data and feedback.</p>

Status of On Hold and Completed Projects	
Deseret Land and Livestock *on hold	<p><u>Status:</u> This 200,000 acre private ranch owned by the LDS church spans the Bear River and Monte Cristo Ranges. It includes 15,000 acres of BLM land. The current grazing system has been refuted by leading range scientists. In some areas, the land and plant communities are severely degraded.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have requested and received BLM data under FOIA, provided detailed comments and a large number of references to the BLM. • We appealed a request for early turn-in of livestock. The appeal was denied. • We appealed the Final Decision in September, 2015 and became embroiled in back and forth of litigation with BLM and the permittees. We opposed intervention by the State of Utah and prevailed due to their lack of standing in the case. • Our briefs have been filed and we await the Judge’s ruling. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Given recent decisions by the Interior Board of Land Appeals in favor of BLM, it is difficult to predict the outcome.</p>

<p>Uinta Wilderness Domestic Sheep *on hold</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Y2U organized a coalition of environmental groups and interested individuals to address 11 sheep grazing allotments in the High Uinta Wilderness that are in conflict with bighorn sheep. We have met with the Regional Forester, Forest Supervisors, and other USFS staff on more than one occasion to delineate our concerns and recommendations. This 175,000 acre area is habitat for Canada lynx, bighorn sheep, black bears, cougars and many other species. It also provides a significant water source for much of Utah.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping and data analysis of our past monitoring data, Forest Service monitoring data, Bighorn sheep habitat, and risk analysis data. • We conducted field visits to Forest Service monitoring locations in August 2016 to collect data on forage production and land capability. This information was used to determine appropriate stocking rates and forage suitability classifications in comparison to those of the agency. • The project was re-scoped in spring of 2016. Our coalition submitted detailed comments. • An important element of our submission is a GIS-based capability model that will analyze the pounds/acre of biomass available in these sheep-grazed allotments. This will allow us to calculate an ecologically-based stocking rate for these allotments to present to the USFS. We expect the EIS to be released within the next year. During the last weekend of September 2016 we met with the agency to present our stocking rate and forage capacity model. The Forest Service was noncommittal. • We completed data analysis and submitted a report to the Forest Service as part of our coalition comments on the DEIS. <p><u>Expected Outcome:</u> Optimistically, the Bighorn Sheep risk analysis will result in Forest Service recommendation to close some allotments. Our work is intended to show the impact of current stocking rates, which are far too high. We are also considering orchestrating buyouts of some allotments.</p>
<p>Platte Petroleum *complete</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> This 18,000 foot deep oil exploratory well is adjacent to the High Uinta Wilderness, creates more roads and generates noise that will carry into the wilderness and roadless areas. Other issues include the project's heavy water use, chemical discharge, and associated negative impacts on water resources. The EA was available with an objection deadline in October 2016.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We filed multiple objections and the Forest Service produced three EAs in response to our objections and comments. • We engaged in a final resolution meeting and, as a result, the Forest Service released a Final Decision expanding its air quality analysis, wildlife analysis and did away with an excavated pond for wastewater from drilling. • A concern was the fact that wildlife would use the pond and be exposed to toxins. Now the wastewater is contained in a steel tank for disposal. <p><u>Expected outcome:</u> This project is currently on hold, although we continue to monitor additional action by the Forest Service.</p>
<p>Bloomington Coral: *complete</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> In response to a scoping letter for a project to build a new cattle corral, Y2U submitted comments for the Forest Service to eliminate cattle trespass on public and private lands in Paris Canyon, Idaho, and implement better public lands regulations in this important area of the Bear River Range.</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> We recently reached a collaborative solution with the Forest Service which conceded the coral in exchange for protecting 175 acres of Paris Creek headwaters, three monitoring exclosures, and collaborative monitoring on Forest Service land surrounding Kiesha's Preserve.</p>
<p>Paris Hills Agricom *on hold</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> Paris Hills Agricom is a mine near Kiesha's Preserve and Paris, Idaho. Due to underground pumping and reinjection issues, the mine permitting process is delayed by two years. We have continued negotiating for off-site mitigation for this phosphate mine, submitted sage grouse monitoring and mitigation plans to the mining company as well as State and Federal Agencies, and discussed the lack of air quality monitoring with DEQ. Some of our efforts to date have resulted in an expanded groundwater monitoring program and use of more efficient diesel trucks to limit air pollution.</p> <p><u>Work Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track permitting and submit comments to the involved agencies.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue negotiations for off-site monitoring and mitigation and cooperate in joint monitoring of Paris Creek flows and water quality.• Engage with local grazing associations and encourage improved cattle management around sage grouse habitat.• Our E. coli monitoring in Paris Creek demonstrates exceedances of Idaho E. coli criteria. We would like to work with landowners to improve grazing in this area and avoid having to submit E. Coli data to the State of Idaho for listing under the 303D process.• Utilize local media to educate the public and urge the County to press for full transparency on environmental issues (air, water and noise pollution) related to the mine and surrounding land.• Request public hearing on air quality issues.• While working with BLM, we have succeeded in closing illegal OHV trails adjacent to Keisha's Preserve and the National Forest, thereby protecting additional sage grouse lekking, nesting and brood-rearing habitat. |
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Expected Outcome: Some additional concessions from the mining company and cooperation on mitigating wildlife and OHV impacts in the adjacent areas of the Bear River Range.