



## Upper Snake River Restoration Project

**Teton Conservation District**

Established 1946

## History

**22 Miles of dikes and levies constructed along the Snake River corridor from just south of Moose to the South Park area since the 1950's.**

**The levies reduced the 100-year flood plain from 25,000 acres to 2,500 acres, diminished the amount of braided channel, and greatly increased channel instability.**

**The resulting constraint on flows increased water velocities, increased barren gravel bars, greatly reduced fisheries spawning and rearing habitat, and reduced and changed vegetation cover types from a predominately hardwood composition to an older age class conifer component.**

**The vegetative component has had a negative impact on wildlife such as moose and elk habitat as well as fisheries habitat benefits.**









## **Current Effort**

**Teton County and Teton Conservation District are local sponsors of this project in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a federal level.**

**Project will take an anticipated 14 years to complete at a cost of \$54,000,000. Teton County and Teton Conservation District are equally responsible for \$18,000,000 portion of local cost-share, which may be a combination of in-kind and cash contribution.**

**Feasibility study has been completed from 1997-2000 to identify impacts, determine feasible restoration measures and associated cost, and sites to be restored.**

**13 sites that each constitutes ½ to about 2 miles in stream length have been identified for restoration efforts. The uppermost site is approximately 4 miles south of Moose and the lowest site on the river is adjacent the South Park Wildlife Feeding Area.**

**A Demonstration Project that includes excavation of the river channel to help direct flows, a set of steel post brush fences to help protect an island and increase sediment deposits, and 6 floodplain ponds to provide fish and wildlife habitat have been constructed at site 9, which is immediately upstream of the Wilson Bridge.**























## Improvements

**It is estimated that within a 50 year period up to 50% of the habitat in the 22-mile reach may be protected and restored.**

**Improvement activities may include construction of spur dikes, barbs, rock grades, and brush fences to protect islands, habitat pond construction, channel excavation to help direct flows, irrigation head gate improvements for tributary stream fish passage and other habitat needs, and vegetative restoration.**