

# Beaver River Watershed Days

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## Introduction

The Beaver River is the life blood of Beaver County. It is used as a fishery, a recreation area and provides irrigation water for homes, gardens and farms throughout the county. Monitoring of the Beaver River in the early 1990's identified a variety of problems ranging from high rates of sediment movement to high amounts of phosphorus. We have worked with many different agencies, schools and private organizations to increase public awareness of the importance of taking care of the Beaver River and surrounding watershed. One method to accomplish this has been to create an annual Beaver River Watershed day. For 18 years more than 2900 volunteers have participated in this conservation activity. High school students, 4-H & FFA members, dedicated hunters, state and federal agency people and anyone who cares about the environment has all joined together to complete hands on projects that have improved the watershed.



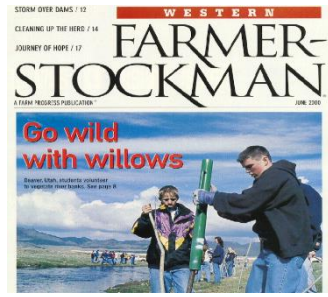
## Objectives

- \* Increase public awareness of the importance of taking care of the Beaver River and surrounding watershed.
- \* Conduct volunteer projects that will improve water quality in the Beaver River.
- \* Teach youth the importance of taking care of the environment.

## Methods

Beaver High School Students have spent one day each year doing many different activities that improved the Beaver River Watershed including:

- \* Planted willows to stabilize the river bank
- \* Planted trees for windbreaks
- \* Cut Juniper tree starts that were invading range ground
- \* Controlled noxious weeds by digging up thistles.



## Impacts

- \* For 18 years, over 2900 high school students, dedicated hunters and other volunteers planted willows, windbreaks, controlled noxious weeds, cut down Pinyin/Juniper and planted grass and browse in range areas.
- \* Public awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and the Beaver River Watershed has increased.
- \* The obvious value of the watershed days is the improvement of the riparian areas in the watershed.
- \* Possibly a greater value is making the students and adults that participate, aware of the importance in improving the Beaver river watershed.