



CLEAN WATER RULE UPDATE

Public Comment Period Now Open – Deadline is April 15, 2019.

Comment period now open:

We are facing one of the greatest threats to the Clean Water Act in its long and effective history. The Army Corps and EPA have proposed a dramatic rollback of the protections afforded by the law. We need your help to stop it and get the Agencies to go back to the drawing board to do much better. The comment period is officially open for public input on the Clean Water Replacement Rule. There are several extension requests pending, but for now, we are planning on a 60-day comment period with a **comment deadline of April 15, 2019.**



Take Action: Comment at <http://standup.tu.org/cleanwater>

TU response and how you can help:

The Clean Water Act and the 2015 Rule are vital to TU's work and to anglers across the nation. Whether TU is working with farmers to restore small headwater streams in West Virginia, removing acidic pollution caused by abandoned mines in Pennsylvania, or protecting the world-famous salmon-producing, 14,000-jobs-sustaining watershed of Bristol Bay, Alaska, we rely on the Clean Water Act to safeguard our water quality improvements.

On February 15 the Agencies published a proposal which would eliminate millions of miles of headwater streams and millions of acres of wetlands from the safeguards of the Clean Water Act. Many activities that occur in our headwaters, such as pipeline construction and gas drilling, would receive far less scrutiny because they would no longer trigger Clean Water Act review. With all of the challenges facing our trout and salmon watersheds, this is no time to weaken the law.

TU urges the agencies and go back to the drawing board and develop a plan that is at least as protective of our streams and wetlands as the 2015 Rule.

Comments for the Record: Trout Unlimited will be an active participant in this process, working with volunteers, staff and partners to provide information to the record and to ensure our concerns are heard during the public comment period.

- **TU Comments for the Record:** We are reviewing the proposal carefully and will work with our TU Science team to develop substantive comments in response.
- **Council letters:** The Government Affairs and Volunteer Operations team have a draft template letter prepared to assist TU Councils in submitting a comment letter for the record, including some proposed state or region-specific talking points. We are here to help as much or as little as required

to support each Council in submitting a letter outlining TU's key interests and concerns. Council leaders, please contact Rob Catalanotto (Robert.Catalanotto@tu.org) or Jeff Yates (Jeffrey.Yates@tu.org) for more information on submitting Council letters.

- **Action Alert:** is available on <http://standup.tu.org/cleanwater>. We would love to work with Councils and Chapters to promote this call to action to ensure the voices of TU members and supporters are well represented during the comment period.

Share your Stories: We encourage you to share your stories and concerns through letters to local papers or blog posts on TU.org or other online publications. The TU Communications team has templates and tools available to assist you. Contact Shauna Stephenson (shauna.stephenson@tu.org) for help drafting or submitting.

Additional Materials:

- 2019-Sportsmens Fact Sheet:
https://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/CWRrollback_Sportsmen_FactSheet_2019-01.pdf
- 2018-December update to TU Volunteers:
https://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/181214_TU_CWR_VolUpdate_InfoTalkers.pdf
- Federal Register Publication of Replacement Rule [84 FR 4154 \(February 15, 2019\)](#).

For questions, please contact:

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