RIVERS: Photos

RIVERS: River Inventory by Volunteers for Efficient Restoration Strategies

Overview: Photos

The RIVERS mobile application is a convenient way for Trout Unlimited chapters to collect data on and map disturbances on their home waters while fishing or conducting a watershed inventory. Up to three photos may be taken to complement the disturbance information collected. There several 'best practices' to keep in mind when photo-documenting disturbances on streams and rivers.

Best practices:

Photo documentation has a long history in natural resources. Quality photos are important so that they accurately portray the disturbance and can be used by others to make informed decisions on taking action:

Tip 1: Balance amount of detail (how close) with perspective (how far). GOOD: Left photo shows the extent (length) and scope (size) of a Streambank | Excessive Erosion (General | Specific) disturbance. BAD: Right photo has nothing for scale to understand culvert size and drop height of a Barrier | Culvert disturbance.

Tip 2: Use an object of known size for scale. GOOD: Left photo shows a person next to a Streambank | Vehicle Crossing disturbance. BAD: Right photo has nothing for scale on a Streamflow | Dewatered disturbance.

RIVERS is a mobile application to help Trout Unlimited chapters develop a database of disturbances on their home rivers. Start a survey, enter your information, mark a location, and define a disturbance using your mobile phone. It's that easy. (updated: 3/28/2019)

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Tip 3: Document the source of a disturbance (if possible). GOOD: Left photo shows the exact cause of the In-Stream/Channel | Channel Alteration disturbance. OK: Middle photo shows the tributary stream where the Water Clarity | Sediment Plume disturbance is coming from but does not show the exact source. BAD: Right photo shows Water Clarity | Metal Deposition disturbance but does not show the source.



Tip 4: Take multiple photos with different perspectives. These photos show a Barrier | Culvert that potentially could be impassible under lower flows. Left photo shows the culvert outlet, middle photo shows the inlet, and right photo shows the stream downstream of the culvert.



Tip 5: Take photos with good lighting. Photo to right shows a Streambank | Excessive Erosion disturbance photo that was taken in poor lighting conditions.

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