



National Leadership Council

Native Trout - Workgroup Report

Date: January 12, 2020

Workgroup Name: Native Trout Work Group

Workgroup Chair: Neil Warner neil@pennyandneil.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Calls are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday each month at 8:00 PM EST.

Workgroup Description: The Native Trout Work Group exists to facilitate grassroots implementation of Trout Unlimited National Conservation Agenda related to protecting our cold water native salmonid species. Scope of the work group activity is nationwide. The work group facilitates education, awareness, restoration and science projects related to native salmonid species. The work group provides information related to native species through a web page on TU's website and serves as an advocate for Councils and Chapters on issues related to native species.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Publish Brook Trout Poster by year's end
2. Create a Native Trout Program Template
3. Identify other programs that are working on Native Trout and determine how we might engage such as Atlantic Salmon Federation, Sea-run Brook Trout Coalition, the Michigan Grayling effort, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and the Yellowstone Native Fish Conservation Program
4. Continue to update the Workgroup page on TU.ORG
5. Encourage Angler Science Projects

Workgroup Activity: In general, our work group activities have supported creating greater Native Trout awareness through education, advocacy and the use of science to protect and recover Native Trout populations.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

Progress continues on our Eastern Native Trout Initiative.

- ✧ We will have a representative participate on the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture quarterly phone calls beginning in September.
- ✧ Work has started on finding funding for a Native Brook Trout poster. It is likely that we will need to apply for an Embrace A Stream grant to complete the project. We hope to have it completed by the year's end.

National Meeting Rogers Arkansas

- ✧ A Native Trout presentation was made at the National Meeting in October. The presentation was held jointly with the Land Conservancy Work Group and was well received.

Western Native Trout Angler Recognition Challenge.

- ✧ The program has launched and the work group will continue to help develop awareness in Western States.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

- ⤴ New Work Chair coming up to speed learning the group and needs of other areas of the country.
- ⤴ New members of the group coming up to speed.

Workgroup Next Steps:

- ⤴ Develop a Native Brook Trout Poster and publish by year's end.
- ⤴ Create smaller group to work on Native Trout Program Template
- ⤴ Compile list of other organizations working on Native Trout projects
- ⤴ Continue work on web page development



National Leadership Council

Climate Change Workgroup Report

January 12, 2020

Workgroup Name: Climate Change

Workgroup Chair: Brian Wagner, bewagner482@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Workgroup calls are held 8:00 p.m. EST on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call in Phone Number: 800-216-0770 access code of 165595#

Workgroup Description: What will the potential of a changing climate have on the coldwater resources we all respect and enjoy? Climate Change, and the extent to which it is man-caused, is a divisive issue; the Climate Change Workgroup respects that. We will develop an education and awareness program based upon the scientific background provided by TU Staff and others. With adequate scientific understanding, we all should be concerned about the impacts to our coldwater fishery resources. How much risk should we accept? Can we afford to risk the future of trout and salmon?

Workgroup Goals: As related in the work group description, the overarching goal of the work group is to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts on our coldwater resources through education and the best available science. Realizing that building resiliency through our normal adaptation work may not be enough, the group has also been focusing on advocacy and support of reasonable mitigation policies.

I would describe the current work group goals as such:

- Continue to develop and implement a climate change advocacy strategy.
- Continue to grow our climate change awareness campaign.

Workgroup Activity: The workgroup has been focused on the development and implementation of an advocacy strategy, implementation of a new volunteer climate change leader role and development of a new climate change membership survey.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

- Roll out of Council Climate Change Coordinator role. Limited progress has been made in filling these roles. Currently, 6 councils have filled this role. 2020 Goal: Have 20 councils fill this role by next National Annual meeting. Wagner reported that as more coordinators are added, the workgroup calls can serve as a forum to communicate activities.
- Membership survey. Upcoming survey is progressing towards implementation. The survey should go out end of February. There are currently 24 questions comprised of (1) questions from the previous survey so we can compare results; (2) four questions from the Yale participants used in their previous surveys so that we can compare TU with other constituencies; (3) a set of demographic questions; and (4) a question related to climate change effect on fishing experience. The survey questions are now under review

by National. Trout Unlimited National will conduct the survey. Assessing in-house capabilities to analyze data. Also, working on increasing response rate

- Climate Change Workgroup meeting in Rogers, AR.
 - Keaton Smith, Citizens Climate Lobby member from Fayetteville chapter. Presented on Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act and Citizens Climate Lobby. Keaton presented superbly in a bipartisan fashion. If you haven't had a CCL representative at your chapter or council meeting, I highly recommend it.
 - Helen Neville presented a high-quality presentation on Trout Unlimited's adaptation work to counter some of the effects of climate change.
 - Wagner and Jeff Witten presented to the Board of Trustees during their meeting Sunday morning, October 6th.
- Working with Citizens Climate Lobby.
 - Jim Wilson, Virginia Council Climate Change Coordinator attended the CCL National Lobby Day, November 11-12. Jim reported that the first day involved training on how CCL approaches their meetings with legislators including meetings with mock legislators. The second day consists of actual meetings with legislators.
 - Wagner noted that he had participated in the CCL Call Congress Day on November 6th in support of the lobby day. It was well organized and easy to find your legislators along with suggested messaging for your legislator. Recommended advertising this to a larger TU audience next time CCL has a Call Congress Day.
 - Jim Byrnes reported that he is planning on attending a CCL Northwest meeting in Vancouver, WA providing input on climate change and its effects on fisheries. Wagner will be attending a CCL meeting in January in Wilmington, DE.
 - CCL/TU blog. Jeff Holzem along with others have written and edited a blog for CCL publication demonstrating how Trout Unlimited and CCL can work together and help each other. Here is the link:
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/partnering-with-trout-unlimited/>
 - Steve Moyer was part of a discussion panel as part of the CCL Lobby Day. Here is the link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdQ3WHP-myo&list=PLXjILMNokmN4TPBYqfx8QsSluNx1r4TRj&index=5&t=0s>

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: Climate change.

Workgroup Next Steps:

- Action alert in support of Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act
- Fully develop network of Council Climate Change Coordinators. 2020 Goal: Have 20 councils fill this role by next National Annual meeting.
- Complete membership survey and distribute. Follow-up with features in Trout Magazine.
- Continue outreach with like-minded groups.
- Continue working with Citizens Climate Lobby. If you would like CCL contact info for your state, please contact Brian Wagner at bewagner482@gmail.com.
- Additions to our NLC Climate Change workgroup page. Work with science team and workgroup to add more science-based climate change/fishery reports/links to our workgroup page.



National Leadership Council

Delaware River - Workgroup Report

Date: 1/12/2020

Workgroup Name: Delaware River Workgroup

Workgroup Chair: Scott Seidman shseidman@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Jan 25, 2020 – In person at Edison NJ Flyfishing Show.

Workgroup Description:

Represents TU on efforts to develop fish-protective minimum flow agreements in the Delaware River Basin.

Workgroup Goals:

- Prevent Yo-Yo Releases on Delaware River
- Encourage the DRBC to provide enough release to support a year-round healthy environment for salmonids and Dwarf Wedge Mussels
- Communicate with the Delaware River Basin Commission to promote better water release policies within the confines of the Flexible Flow Management Plan 2017.
- Provide reliable and rapid communication between DRBC, relevant TU Councils, Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) and other relevant partners, and TU National
- Work with regulatory agencies in the Basin to promote science-based resource management policies.

Workgroup Activity:

Workgroup is currently scheduling the in-person meeting in Edison, developing agenda and finalizing site.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

Submitted letter to DRBG stakeholders regarding formula used to calculate release table.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: The two water banks for thermal stress and yo-yo releases are too small to do much good with.

Workgroup Next Steps:

Lay out meeting schedule for upcoming year.



National Leadership Council

Great Lakes - Workgroup Report

Date: January 9, 2020

Workgroup Chair: Robb Smith rsmithsr@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: No meetings are presently scheduled. A meeting will be scheduled in Feb. or March

Workgroup Description: 21 % of the world's freshwater is contained within the boundaries of the Great Lakes. In fitting with Trout Unlimited's Mission Statement to protect, restore, reconnect, and sustain coldwater fisheries, the Great Lakes NLC Workgroup (GLWG) is bringing to light the many complex issues affecting the Great Lakes Region. In doing so, the GLWG is seeking to provide scientific input and leadership into the resolution of the many problems in front of the Great Lakes Region. It is paramount that recognition and attention is given to the single largest source of coldwater in the United States.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Determine which government organizations and NGO groups most actively affect the policies of the Great Lakes Region issues and become more influential in their decision making.
2. Continue pushing forward the significance of the Great Lakes Region as a cold water resource in need of continued and increased attention.

Workgroup Activity:

Currently, Taylor Ridderbusch and I are proofing the first edition of the **"A Case for the Great Lakes"** and we will be starting to make presentations of the document at chapter and council meetings.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

We have completed the first edition of **"A Case for the Great Lakes"**.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: Finding resources to print hard copies of the document. Add additional visual features to the document.

Workgroup Next Steps:

In the future we will be analyzing what groups relevant to the Great Lakes that we would like to associate with and assign specific persons (workgroup members) to follow and join-in with those relevant groups. Such as the Great Lakes Commission, Michigan Water Resources Division, etc.



National Leadership Council

TUDARE - Workgroup Report

Date: January 14, 2020

Workgroup Chair: Bob Soddors (bsoddors@buildwithball.com)

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Scheduled calls on 2/12/20, 3/11/20 and 4/8/20

Workgroup Description:

The Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) was started by Trout Unlimited volunteers to expand capacity for stream restoration projects in the unglaciated region of the Upper Mississippi River Basin in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

TUDARE works to bring together partners from nonprofit conservation groups, community groups, schools, federal, state, and other agencies to plan, fund, and carry out stream restoration projects benefiting a wide range of plant, animal and fish species on sites accessible to the public. TUDARE's goal is to protect and restore the largest collection of limestone spring creeks in the world.

Since 2005, TUDARE and its partners have raised \$65 million for habitat projects, expanded public fishing access from 750 to over 1250 miles and carried out more than 350 projects. Its publications include a nongame wildlife habitat guide, two studies of the economic impact of recreational angling in the Driftless Area, and a scoping report, "Landscape of Opportunities", which is being revised to reflect 14 years of TUDARE experience. From the research presented at the Driftless Symposium, a white paper is being assembled to address best habitat restoration practices for projects resilient to climate change impacts.

Workgroup Goals: Please include here the 3-5 high level goals your workgroup has set for the year, or longer. Please be brief.

1. Continuation of the program for Limited Term Employees to work through DNR and do summer maintenance of restored streams in the Driftless area.
2. Successful completion of the [Driftless] Scientific Symposium February 4 & 5.
3. Hiring a PM/Engineer for projects.
4. The initiation of a pilot program of stream monitoring by the use of a phone app.
5. Continue mutual support (financial and volunteer) of chapters and councils in 4-state Driftless Area for chapter projects and TUDARE programs.

Workgroup Activity: Please provide here a brief, executive summary of recent workgroup activities since the last report.

1. Chair turnover from Jerry Sapp to Bob Soddors is in progress. Full turnover in February.
2. A grant application has been submitted to Cabelas Outdoor Fund asking for \$ 5,000 for the Limited Term Employee program.
3. Preparation for the upcoming Midwest Regional Conference has been a subject of the calls.

Workgroup Accomplishments: Please provide here a brief statement on the recent accomplishments of your workgroup, focused most heavily on the accomplishments since the last quarterly report.

1. TUDARE has approved a policy on CAFOS for the Driftless Area and continues to monitor legislative activity and problems throughout the region.
2. Work crews have been successful in stream cleanup activities.
3. Completed restorations of Tainter and Billings Creeks in Wisconsin.
4. Restoration of Blue River and tributaries continues (Nohr Chapter).

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

1. Trout Unlimited has applied and been awarded several million dollars in federal Farm Bill dollars for stream restoration work in the Driftless. We would like to use these Farm Bill dollars and various other funding sources to work on streams where there is a perpetual DNR angler easement.
2. The progress of raising money for the Limited Term Employee program continues to be difficult.
3. High water/flooding have hampered some restoration efforts.

Workgroup Next Steps:

1. We will be supporting the Scientific Symposium in February and take what we learn there to plan resilience in our stream restorations.
2. The next few months will be dedicated to what needs to be done to keep the Limited Term Employee program going. Wisconsin and Minnesota have good starts; need to focus on Iowa/Illinois.
3. Iowa has \$400,000 in funds for riparian management. Jeff Hastings is working on scoring sheet to revise priorities for funding.
4. Of the 36 projects that applied for NRCS money in Iowa, only 7 contracts were finalized due to farmers balking at paying their portions of the projects. Need to devise a plan to assist.
5. Minnesota is using Lessard Sams fund for projects. A licensed engineer is required to sign off. TUDARE is looking at hiring a project manager/engineer for Minnesota that could also be licensed in the other Driftless states for continuity of projects and cost. NWLF grant of \$200,000 has been secured to help with this effort.



National Leadership Council

Land Conservancy – Work Group Report

Date: January 12, 2020

Workgroup Name: Land Conservancy (CLCF)

Workgroup Chair: Bill Pastuszek, MA-RI, billp@shepherdnet.com c: 617 290 8370

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Work Group Meetings in 2019 were held on January 7; March 27, May 14; July 1 and August 12, Dates for 2020 (tentative): January 29, March 18, July & one or two dates in Fall 2020.

Workgroup Description: The Land Conservancy Work Group focuses on the **Protect** part of TU's mission by working with Land Trusts, Watershed groups, TU Chapters, and other entities to acquire land related to headwaters and other streams and tributaries to protect them and ensure future cold water access to the larger main stem streams and rivers.

Workgroup Goals: Key goals of the Work Group for 2020 include:

1. Continue outreach and education on the value of land conservancy to TU's mission for both TU members and key outside organizations (e.g. land trusts).
2. Refine intake mechanism and infrastructure for grant applications (portal established in 2019).
3. Provide for better visibility of the CLCF through regular reports/articles in TU media (website, blogs, Trout Magazine).
4. Grow Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund (CLCF) fund through continued support from foundations and other sources.
5. Distribute grants of up to \$5,000 to worthy projects based on criteria developed during 2019.

Workgroup Activity:

1. Actively worked with Lisa Beranek, TU Director of Leadership, to refine the application process for Land Conservancy projects using the EAS portal.
2. Provided guidance to MA-RI Councils to fund at least one potential land conservancy project and identify and encourage other applications.
3. Updated "Working with Land Trusts" presentation for distribution to councils and chapters.
4. Private funding in the amount of a \$25,000 grant was obtained by one workgroup member, which established the possibility that
5. Continued to identify additional sources of funding.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

1. Obtained an additional \$5,000 in funding for CLCF in addition to original \$25,000 secured by Paul Doscher.
2. Work Group members - Garry Crago and Paul Doscher - presented at Mass Land Trust Coalition meeting on the value of land trusts working with TU to protect cold water resources. (This presentation is adaptable for other meetings.)
3. Grant application process was developed and incorporated into the EAS portal.
4. Established co-chair of WG.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

1. Further funding for Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund a/ TU National for minimum levels of ongoing funding. b/ other funding source, e.g., foundations, businesses; c/ direct fund raising from individuals.
2. Additional members for Work Group Tasks – much effort to date has been done by too few WG members.

Workgroup 2020 - Next Steps:

1. Launch fully functional Land Conservancy application process through the EAS portal.
2. Facilitate Deerfield TU Chapter's application through the portal¹ which the MA-RI Council and various MA TU Chapters are helping to fund the purchase.
3. Solicit other members/participants for Work Group and address need for increased participation from existing Work Group members.
4. Work directly with key TU National staff, NLC leadership and BOT members to advocate for TU National funding for CLCF; utilize annual meeting as opportunity to address this issue.
5. Present "Wording with Land Trusts" at the Chapter level and direct outreach to Land Trust. Develop presentations for Regional Rendezvous and/or session planning for Work Group presentations for 2020 Maine Annual Meeting.
6. Develop task force to develop funding strategy
7. Get Work Group co-chair.
8. Develop task force to create outreach strategy.
9. Provide copy to Trout Magazine.

¹ This is for Franklin Land Trust's funding request for the acquisition of the 140+ acre Guddell-Hart tract in Heath MA



National Leadership Council

Responsible Mining and Energy - Workgroup Report

Date: January 14, 2020

Workgroup Chair: Harry Murphy hamurphy3@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: calls are the third Wednesday of each month starting at 6 p.m. mountain standard time.

Workgroup Description: Using the mining handbook developed by the mining work group the work group works with TU staff to advise and guide state councils and national TU to oppose proposed mines that would endanger coldwater fisheries and/or support or oppose mining legislation.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Incorporate the responsibilities and duties of the responsible energy work group into the newly named responsible mining and energy work group.
2. Work with TU staff to develop a position paper to guide TU, state councils and local chapters to understand the impact of essential minerals development and the impact on coldwater fisheries and protected areas. Essential minerals are necessary for the production of renewable energy, cell phone production and energy storage batteries.
3. Work with state councils and local chapters dealing with suction dredge mining impacts and legislative oversight.
4. Understand and incorporate the work groups responsibility regarding extraction of coal, gas and oil for energy production

Workgroup Activity:

The work group has worked with Idaho and Washington state regarding suction dredge mining activities within each state. We have been working with TU staff on the position paper on essential mineral development, and spent the largest portion of the committees time on reviewing and incorporating the responsible energy work group into the responsible mining and energy work group.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

With travel, holiday schedules and other conflicts it has been difficult to get all the members of the work group on any one call. It sometimes takes more than one call to reach consensus on projects and consolidation of work groups.

Workgroup Next Steps: