



# National Leadership Council

## Native Trout - Workgroup Report

### Date: September 18, 2020

**Workgroup Name:** Native Trout Work Group

**Workgroup Chair:** Neil Warner neilgrantwarner@gmail.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. Create Native Trout Awareness Program Template
2. Publish Article in Trout Magazine about Native Trout
3. Determine if each Council agrees with the Trout Unlimited definition of Native Trout
4. Support the Yellowstone National park Volunteer Fly Fishing Program
5. Publish the Brook Trout Poster
6. Enhance Native Trout Resource page on Tu.org

**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:**

1. A Goal 1 sub-work group has been formed and meeting monthly. Start of template has started. It has been decided to use the Arizona Native and Wild Fish Conference information to create a template other states can use. One State has shown interest in having a Native Trout Conference in their state and discussions have started with them. Generic Template has been started.
2. A Goal 3 sub-work group has been formed and meets on a monthly basis. Two questions have been created that we would like each council to answer. There has been much discussion about what is a "Native Trout". A better appreciation for the different parts of the country has come out of these discussions. We also have had these discussions with Helen Neville (Chief Scientist TU). The questions have been published to the councils and so far, we have received 17 responses.
3. The Brook Trout Poster is progressing, multiple drafts have been completed, we expect the final to be approved in September with printing to follow.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:**

- ⤴ Many on the group are new and the Chairperson is new. Everyone has been coming up to speed. The discussions for Goal 1 and 3 were interesting in that some of us had different definitions for Native Trout. Through the discussions we have come to appreciate the differences between areas of the country.

**Workgroup Next Steps:**

1. Finish Native Trout Conference Template.
2. Create list of items that can be used to promote the Brook Trout Poster.
3. Review answers back from Councils on the questionnaire and create a Work Group report.
4. Finalize design of Brook Trout Poster in September and send to printing.



# National Leadership Council

## TUDARE Volunteer Steering Committee

### September 24, 2020

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

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** October 14, November 11 and December 9

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. Raising dollars to support one or more summer habitat crews to work on past restoration projects. Expand to other states.
2. Workdays in the Driftless to build habitat structures or stiles.
3. Workshops/Symposiums for volunteers and cooperating agencies. Working on a Virtual Bus Tour this year.
4. Raising awareness and funds to support the Kinni Dam Removal project.

#### **Workgroup Activity:**

1. Working on getting support within TU for the Kinni Dam removal/restoration project.
2. Working on putting together a "Virtual Bus Tour" to take place of our usual in person event.
3. Assist in development of Wise H2O water quality app.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

Citron restoration is complete.

Hired Dustan Hoffman as a Project Manager for Lessard Sams projects in SE Minnesota.

#### **Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:**

Coronavirus

#### **Workgroup Next Steps:**

1. Develop hierarchy within the Steering Committee to identify next Chair/Co-Chair.
2. Support within the NLC and broader TU for the Kinni Dam Project and funding. Will be discussed at the September meeting of the TU Stream Access Workgroup.



# National Leadership Council

## Responsible Mining & Energy Work Group

### September 24, 2020

**Workgroup Chair:** Harry Murphy - hamurphy3@gmail.com

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. mountain standard time.

**Workgroup Description:** Focus our efforts to protect cold water fisheries from the various modes of energy production. We assist the TU staff focused on mining issues and help them communicate with the membership about their projects. We advise and assist local chapters and councils on issues with mining or energy production concerns in their areas.

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. We continue to work with the TU staff to support bi-partisan efforts to pass “Good Sam” legislation supported by both conservation groups and mining interests.
2. Support the Critical Minerals Report prepared by TU staff, presenting the report to state councils to gain their support.
3. Work in conjunction with the Great Lakes work group to support local chapters and state councils to oppose a proposed zinc, silver and copper mine on the banks of the Menominee river on the Wisconsin, Michigan border.
4. Continued support of councils and chapters dealing with mining issues by acting as a conduit to TU staff and TU resources, offer the work groups Mining Handbook as a guide.

**Workgroup Activity:** We continue to support the Critical Minerals Report and support legislative efforts to create a research program to recycle electronics (cell phones, laptops) to recapture critical minerals and thus reduce the need for new mines.

**Workgroup Accomplishments:** Creation of a coalition of state councils, local chapters and TU staff to oppose the North Forty mine on the Menominee river in conjunction with the Great Lakes work group.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Working with congress at both the state and national level to pass legislation to protect cold water fisheries is slow and cumbersome, even legislation with bi-partisan support can take months, even years to pass.

**Workgroup Next Steps:** Support the coalition opposing the North Forty mine, monitor legislation regarding Good Sam and the Battery Act (recycle electronics) and support the TU staff working to control and reduce speculative oil and gas leasing on federal lands.



# National Leadership Council

## Climate Change Workgroup Report

### September 24, 2020

**Workgroup Name:** Climate Change

**Workgroup Chair:** Brian Wagner, [bewagner482@gmail.com](mailto:bewagner482@gmail.com)

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Workgroup calls are held 8:00 p.m. EST on the fourth Thursday of the month.

**Workgroup Goals:** Raising 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.

**Workgroup Activity:** The workgroup has been focused on analysis of the new climate change membership survey (spring 2020), amplification of the group's climate change blog series, development and support of climate change advocacy nationally and locally, development of advocates (Council Climate Change Coordinators) and discussing modifications to Climate Change Awareness as a Critical Focus Area.

**Workgroup Accomplishments:**

- Five blogs were published by the workgroup in 2020.
- Climate change survey completed.
- Continued partnership with Citizens Climate Lobby. Shared Workgroup Message Map.
- Assisting staff with Environmental Defense fund grant. 6 states, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, New York, and West Virginia with climate change advocacy.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Workgroup would like climate change to have a more focal presence on TU website for members and potential members to see what TU is doing about climate change.

**Workgroup Next Steps:**

- Climate change will be an integral part of the new strategic plan for the organization. We need to support these recommendations as they move forward.
- Fully develop network of Council Climate Change Coordinators.
- Continue outreach with other like-minded groups and partners (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Environmental Defense Fund, Patagonia, etc.).
- Continue working with Citizens Climate Lobby. If you would like CCL contact info for your state, please contact Brian Wagner at [bewagner482@gmail.com](mailto:bewagner482@gmail.com).



# **National Leadership Council**

## **Great Lakes Workgroup Report**

**Date: September 25, 2020**

**Workgroup Chair:** Robb Smith – rsmithsr@gmail.com

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** October 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:00PM Call in number to be determined.

**Workgroup Description:** Current on Website

**Workgroup Goals:**

1. Rollout of “Case for the Great Lakes”.
2. Integration of TU with decision making partners with regard to Great Lakes issues.
3. Discuss strategy to investigate the tailing dam permit in opposition to a hard rock mine on the Menominee River near Lake Michigan.

**Workgroup Activity and Accomplishments:**

On our most recent meeting of Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> the workgroup discussed recent Great Lakes issues including, the locks at Brandon Rd IL, the Back Forty Mine, and wind power issues concerning the Great Lakes. Kudos to Taylor Ridderbusch for his help and support of the Work Group.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:**

We are working past the Covid situation and using new meeting technologies to move forward.

**Workgroup Next Steps:**

The GLWG has had a meeting with the Mining Workgroup concerning some issues with the “Back Forty” mine in Michigan and will continue to investigate the best method to advocate against it. The workgroup will not be joining any coalition opposing the mine at this time.



## National Leadership Council

### Delaware Conservation - Workgroup Report

Date: September 27, 2020

**Workgroup Name:** Delaware River Workgroup

**Workgroup Chair:** Scott Seidman shseidman@gmail.com

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** none this quarter

**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 fostered discussion about the proposed DEC Trout Management Plan, it's impact on the Upper Delaware, and interactions between PA and NY on Delaware regulations.
- "Roadmap" distributed for approval.

#### Workgroup Accomplishments:

- Completed the Delaware Message Roadmap.
- Represented TU's / Workgroups interests partnering with Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) and Upper Delaware River (UDR) Conservation Community to ensure the UDR received the highest-level protections as a wild premier fishery in the new New York State Trout Management Plan.
- Work Group worked closely with the UDR Conservation community on new protocols in the FFMP to curb erratic water releases from the NYC Delaware River basin reservoirs and keep the Tailwaters cool during summer heat waves.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Overcoming 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. Work group reps to meet (in a variety of capacities) with NYC DEP leadership.



# National Leadership Council

## Land Conservancy Work Group

### September 28, 2020

**Workgroup Chair:** Bill Pastuszek, Colrain MA, [billp@shepherdnet.com](mailto:billp@shepherdnet.com), 617 290 8370

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Last Meeting, September 3, 2020. Next meeting: October 14, 2020.

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. Continued 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. Grow Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund (CLCF) fund through continued support from foundations and other sources.
3. Solicit applications, approve requests, and distribute grants of up to \$5,000 to worthy projects related to land acquisition (fee, easements, restrictions) for cold water related projects.
4. Refine, improve, and develop outreach to TU chapters, councils, land trusts, and land trust organizations.

#### **Workgroup Activity:**

- Arranging for a video presentation showing the Work Group's projects. Images from recent projects – New Hampshire, Colorado, Mass – will be included. Paul Doscher is working with a videographer who is willing to work at cost to produce this video. Timeline: 60-90 days. A site visit to the Guddell Hart project is being scheduled.
- Arranged for payment of expenses to the videographer through our funds on hand.
- Added new members.
- The Guddell Hart Parcel closed and the Land Trust will have a ceremony to recognize the stakeholders in this project, including TU.
- Developed a statement to be posted in the NLC Workgroup and Leaders Only Forums outlining the WG's purpose and soliciting grant requests.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

- Work Group Road Map submitted.
- *Projects – Most Recent.* Funding as part of the Guddell Hart acquisition continues to establish the efficacy of the aims of this Work Group. The contribution helped to bridge the final funding gap to allow the Land Trust to proceed with the acquisition.
- Development of a fully functional grant application process built on the EAS platform. The most recent grant application process went smoothly and the applicants gave it high marks.



- *Cold Water Land Conservancy Overview.* Development of this *Overview (CWLCO)* was led by WG member Paul Doscher, WG member, assisted by the WG chair, and with committee members providing input. The document allows Work Group Members to reach out to potential donors and applicants. In conjunction with the Land Trust Conservancy slide deck (update in progress) and the video (also in progress), there several effective means of providing information, outreach, and opportunities.

#### **Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:**

- *Membership.* The work group is small but cohesive. Several new members have joined. Some additional members, particularly from Western TU chapters and councils would be welcome.
- *Fundraising.* A Work Group challenge is to raise sufficient funds to meet demand in the future, *independent of TU funding.* This challenge is likely to increase as potential non-profit funding sources feel the impact of COVID-19.
- *Visibility and Outreach.* The Work Group believes there is demand for the WG's funding premise but is faced with the challenge of visibility, i.e., locating chapters and organizations that would be able to take advantage of the acquisition funding.
- *Grant Size.* The size of the grants (\$5,000) may be insufficient to attract interest for larger projects.

#### **Workgroup Next Steps:**

- *Video Project.* Complete video project and incorporate some of the material into a PowerPoint presentation.
- *Cold Water Land Conservancy Overview.* In conjunction with the video project, use the Cold-Water Land Conservancy Overview to present to potential grant funders and supporting organizations and individuals.
- *Outreach.* Market Work Group Funding services through internal TU media and develop outreach to Councils, Chapters, and land-related organizations for acquisition funding. Post LC WG statement in TU forums.
- *Presentation.* Provide a presentation for TU national/regional meetings, whether virtual or in person. Seek out opportunities to make presentations to Councils, Chapters, and land conservation-related organizations. This can be completed once the video is done.
- *TU Staff.* Invite TU staff to an upcoming meeting to discuss the role of land conservancy in the overall mission of TU.
- *Fund Name.* Name the Fund so that there is greater visibility and recognition.
- *Membership.* Continue to seek to expand Work Group membership.