



## National Leadership Council

### Native Trout Workgroup

May 20, 2021

**Workgroup Chair:** Werner Studer, [wgstuder@yahoo.com](mailto:wgstuder@yahoo.com)

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Monthly on fourth Wednesday of month at 8:00 Eastern time.

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

- 1) Continue to develop templates for conducting Chapter/Council sponsored Native Trout Awareness Programs.
- 2) Support Yellowstone National Park Volunteer Fly Fishing Program
- 3) Follow and support the Buffalo Creek Project in Custer-Gallatin National Forest.
- 4) Develop and produce a Yellowstone Cutthroat Subspecies informational poster

**Workgroup Activity:** Continue supporting protection and recovery of Native Trout in the United States through public education

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

- 1) Completion of workgroup message map to NLC site
- 2) Completed and tabulated survey of Council agreement/disagreement in comparison to TU definition of Native Trout and data given to Dr. Helen Neville for consideration for the ongoing definition of native fish species by TU fishery scientists.
- 3) Brook Trout poster completed and distributed to involved Councils for public education
- 4) Subgroup will continue to develop Native trout program templates
- 5) Development and publication of Yellowstone Cutthroat poster has been begun.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Current Chair is newer member of the workgroup and has limited computer word processing skills and limited experience in functioning as chair of a committee. NLC Chair Jim Walker has been a helpful mentor. Limited Zoom meeting attendance; typically, 5-8 members joining meetings out of 37 monthly meeting announcements emailed.

**Workgroup Next Steps:** Workgroup is developing ways to support removal of the Lower Four Snake River dams; monitoring the Buffalo Creek Project and supporting and developing the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout poster.



# National Leadership Council

## Responsible Mining and Energy Workgroup

### May 21, 2021

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

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

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. We are working with the TU staff to support bi-partisan efforts to pass "Good Sam" legislation supported by both conservation groups and mining interests.
2. We are working with the Great Lakes work group to support local chapters and state councils to oppose a proposed copper mine on the banks of the Menominee river on the Wisconsin, Michigan border.
3. We are working with the TU staff to support Trout Unlimited's Oil and Gas Reform campaign to change the federal governments outdated oil and gas leasing regulations.

**Workgroup Activity:** We received a report from the TU staff regarding Oil and Gas leasing reforms and efforts to move forward with "Good Sam" legislation and recruit sponsors for the bill.

**Workgroup Accomplishments:** Contacted state councils requesting letters in support of "Good Sam" legislation, letters in support of Trout Unlimited's Oil and Gas reform campaign and in opposition to the North Forty mine in Wisconsin and Michigan's U.P.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Working to pass legislation is a long-term project that can change or stall due to elections and changes in political will. Constantly moving forward despite setbacks and delays takes time to pay off.

**Workgroup Next Steps:** The work group will continue to monitor proposed mines in Idaho and Michigan, support the TU staff and act as a conduit for TU staff to the grassroots members of Trout Unlimited.



# National Leadership Council

## Climate Change Workgroup

### May 21, 2021

**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:

1. Raising awareness about climate change and its impacts on our cold-water resources through education and the best available science.
2. 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:

#### Workgroup Accomplishments:

1. Blogs by Chase Whiting <https://www.tu.org/magazine/action-on-climate-change-moving-ahead-in-washington/> and Ann Foster <https://www.tu.org/magazine/sharing-paradise-with-grandkids-on-earth-day/>
2. Support of 30 x 30 plus 20.
  - a. 30X30 is shorthand for a goal to permanently protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which would protect habitat for at-risk species, sequester and store significant amounts of carbon, and help ensure that global temperatures do not reach higher than 2.7°F (or 1.5°C) above pre-industrial temperature levels.
  - b. Protecting 30 percent of land and waters would be a significant milestone, but it would not be enough. To stay below 2.7°F, another 20 percent of U.S. lands and waters would need to be restored so they are both resilient to climate change and can store carbon efficiently.
  - c. 30x30 TU FAQ Sheet [https://www.tu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/TU\\_30X30\\_FAQ\\_2\\_20\\_21.pdf](https://www.tu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/TU_30X30_FAQ_2_20_21.pdf)
3. Creating new Science oriented TU Climate Change presentation.
4. Continue working with Citizens Climate Lobby in support of reintroduction April 1<sup>st</sup> of bill. If you would like CCL contact info for your state, please contact Brian Wagner at [bewagner482@gmail.com](mailto:bewagner482@gmail.com).
5. Action list for coordinators

**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:

1. Workgroup identified the following as potential resources to further explore for toolkit. Sample messaging
  - a) Lobbying toolkit
  - b) Template how-to for op-eds
  - c) Field visit toolkit

- d) Citizen science (existing temperature data, current monitoring, volunteer engagement)
- e) Handouts/FAQ
- f) How-to make short videos for use in advocating to congressional members



## National Leadership Council

### Great Lakes Workgroup

May 22, 2021

**Workgroup Chair:** Robb Smith [rsmithsr@gmail.com](mailto:rsmithsr@gmail.com)

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** A meeting is to be held June 15<sup>th</sup>. Zoom notification will follow.

**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 cold-water 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 cold-water in the United States.

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. Provide informational updates to the many threats facing the Great Lakes Region including an editing the "Case for the Great Lakes" report.
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:**

Recently, former TU employee Taylor Ritterbusch, has taken a new position with the *Michigan* Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). He will be a loss to the GLWG and we will miss him. The workgroup will be starting an edit to the Case for the Great Lakes to bring it up to date with current situations.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

We are continuing to track issues in the Great Lakes including the Back Forty Mine Project and wind power facilities in the open waters of the Great Lakes. The "Line Five" pipeline crossing the Straits of Mackinaw continues to be a contentious subject.

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

1. Discussions as to where the GLWG and Region fit into the new TU Strategic Plan. I do not feel that we have had much or any input into the creation of the new plan.
2. Discussions with TU staff as to whether Taylor R. will be replaced or if a different more inclusive position will be created to serve the Great Lakes Region. Taylor's position dealt mostly with legislative policy tracking and advocacy.
3. Finding resources to print hard copies of the CFTGL. Add additional visual features to the document.

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

Restore a regular meeting schedule as we work through the revisions to the CFTGL document, continue GL's situation discussions, and find out if we will be getting a new contact person from TU for the GLWG.



# National Leadership Council

## Delaware River Workgroup

### May 23, 2021

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

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** In planning

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

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

**Workgroup Activity:** Members of the workgroup have been in contact over aligning regulations on the border waters of the Delaware between PA and NY. The workgroup was also somewhat engaged with how the new NY Trout Management Plan will impact the Delaware basin

**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.: Members of the workgroup have been in contact over aligning regulations on the border waters of the Delaware between PA and NY.  
The workgroup was also somewhat engaged with how the new NY Trout Management Plan will impact the Delaware basin

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Workgroup has not been very active

**Workgroup Next Steps:** The next meeting will be arranged in the near future, and a change in leadership will be planned.



## National Leadership Council

### TUDARE Workgroup

May 23, 2021

**Workgroup Chair:** Bob Sodders (email - bsodders@buildwithball.com)

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** June 9, July 8, August 12 and September 9

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

1. Raising dollars to support one or more summer habitat crews to work on past restoration projects. Have started discussions with Iowa DNR.
2. Developing nutrient trading strategies with various municipalities in Wisconsin
3. Workshops/Symposiums for volunteers and cooperating agencies.
4. Started a YouTube channel for Driftless Area Restoration Effort (focus on monitoring, science, invasive, etc. )
5. Raising awareness and funds to support the Kinni Dam Removal project.

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

1. Working on getting support within TU for the Kinni Dam removal/restoration project.
2. Members have started a statewide CAFO committee in Wisconsin for the purpose of understanding how facilities are permitted, getting earlier notification of permit requests (so we can become a viable respondent in the process) and better monitoring controls.
3. Continue to assist in the implementation of the Wise H2O water quality app.

**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.

Jeff Hastings has taken control of the Driftless Fish Habitat Partnership Initiative. Need to work with new Board on funding, etc.

YouTube Channel is up and running. Get grants to purchase equipment to further the production of content.

Distribute kits for Wise H2O water quality to TU North Bear Chapter.

Stiles installed on Dutch Coulee in Wisconsin.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Please include here any internal or external obstacles of challenges faced by your workgroup in achieving your goals.

Coronavirus

**Workgroup Next Steps:** Please include here your workgroup's expected next steps and activities that you will be taking on to move your goals forward. Please be brief.

1. Develop hierarchy within the Steering Committee to identify next Chair/Co-Chair.
2. Developing YouTube Channel.
3. Support within the NLC and broader TU for the Kinni Dam Project funding.
4. Continuing to engage local municipalities about the benefits of nutrient trading strategies and how that can save them money.
5. Several projects slated to start in Wisconsin and Minnesota in May.
6. Jeff Hasting is working with Iowa DNR to plan projects on North Bear and the Yellow River in 2022 utilizing NRCS funds and Farm Bill dollars.





# National Leadership Council

## Land Conservancy Workgroup

### May 25, 2021

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

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Last meeting: May 2021. Monthly meetings to be scheduled for 2021.

#### 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:

- The Workgroup has met several times and has interacted with TU National with respect to disseminating the video and related materials.

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#### Workgroup Accomplishments:

- *(Completed)* Video presentation showing the Work Group's recent projects - New Hampshire, Colorado, Mass – were included. Paul Doscher was instrumental in getting this project to the end.
- *(In progress)* Working with TU National to disseminate the video and related materials.
- *(in progress)* Distribute a letter for posting in the NLC Workgroup and Leaders Only Forums outlining the WG's purpose to raise awareness of the Workgroup and its possibilities.

#### Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

- *Membership.* Additional members, particularly from Western TU chapters and councils would be welcome. Several new members have come on board recently.
- *Fundraising.* A Work Group challenge is to raise sufficient funds to meet demand in the future, *independent of TU funding.*
- *Visibility and Outreach.* Demand for the WG's funding premise but there is the challenge of visibility, i.e., locating chapters and organizations that would be able to take advantage of the available acquisition funding. Grant size (\$5,000) may be insufficient to attract interest for larger projects.

#### Workgroup Next Steps:

- *Outreach.* Market Work Group Funding services through internal TU media, social media and develop outreach to Councils, Chapters, and land-related organizations for acquisition funding.
- *Presentations.* Based on completing the video project, 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.
- *Fundraising.* Locate and develop funding sources to improve the WG's scope.