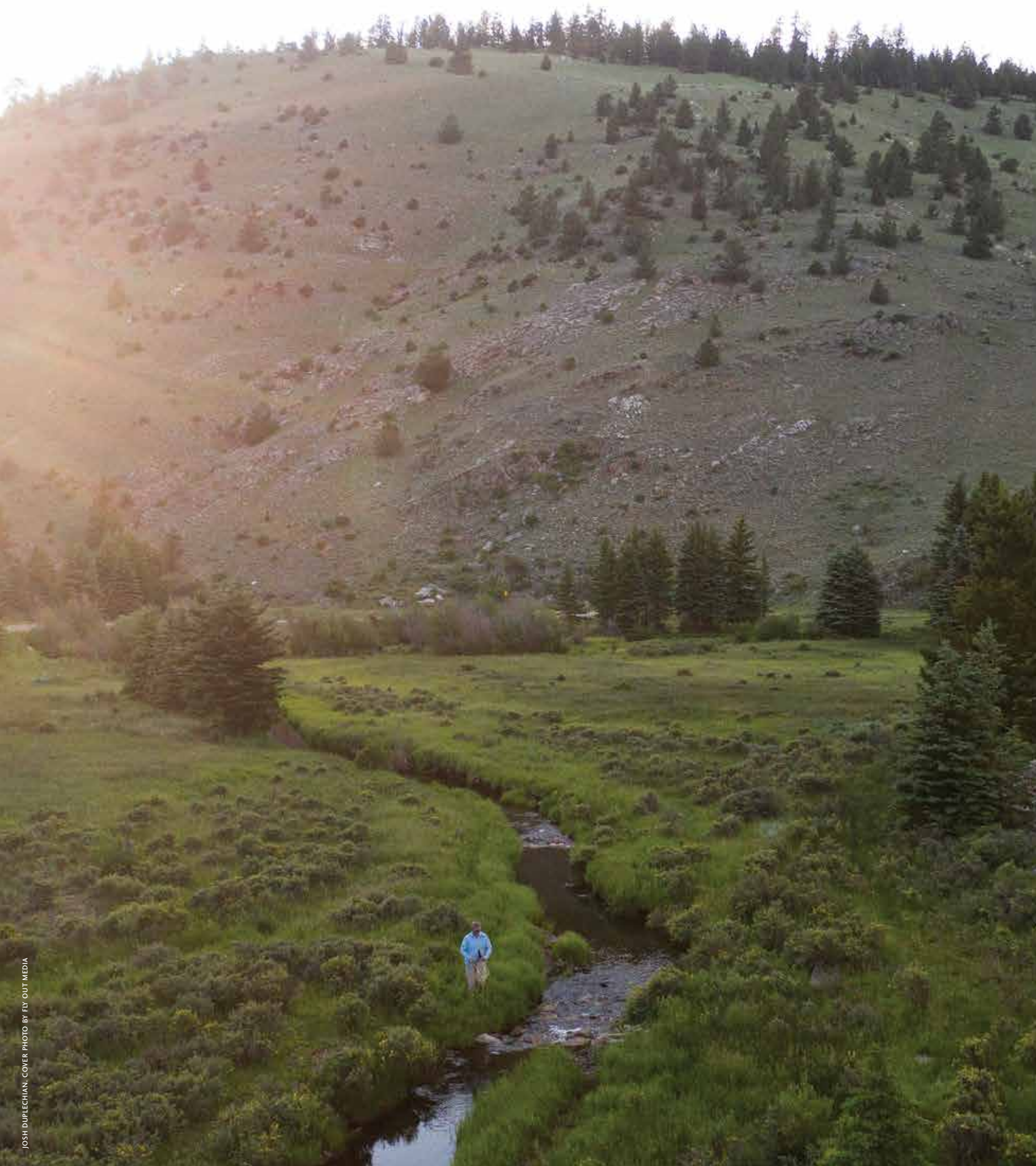


2020/2021

PROGRESS REPORT





In any other year, we might look at our list of 2020 wins and call it good.

More than 6.8 million acres protected. Over 1,400 river miles reconnected and restored. Volunteers who performed more than \$9.7 million in service to their communities. Legacy-defining wins that will shape generations to come in the form of a reprieve from mining in Bristol Bay and guaranteed and permanent conservation funding with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act.

Good news all. News that in ordinary times we celebrate as a year well done.

But when I look back on this time and these wins, they are not the thread that stands apart from the rest of the fabric.

We have been living through times like no other: a world-wide pandemic, a polarized political landscape and a national reckoning over racial injustice.

Yet through it all, we have grown—not just in acres protected and miles reconnected, but in substance and style. The heart of TU has always been its people and the community they create, and we learned a little more about who we are and who we want to become as conservationists and as a community.

We came together and plotted new courses—toward shared Priority Waters and a commitment to care for and recover them, and toward new ways of connecting with and engaging every person who cherishes wild and native trout and salmon and the rivers and streams in which they swim.

Our staff and volunteers showed their resilience. While that “get it done” mindset has always been the stubborn streak that defines many in our ranks, it manifested in new and creative ways as we masked, zoomed and multitasked our way through days turned to weeks and months.

Our community of anglers and conservationists pushed us to do better, be better, be more inclusive and welcoming. It is a challenge we take seriously. Just as nature has taught us, it is diversity that will make us better and stronger.

Through it all, there was the outdoors, our connection to lands and rivers that sustain us. We flocked to the great outdoors. In a time that could otherwise be defined by hardship, we found joy in renewing our vows to the places that matter most to us.

Anglers are eternal optimists. We face challenges, but I have faith. We will see opportunity where others see barriers, adventure where others see trials.

Let our eternal optimism be the fuel that carries us forward.

Thanks for all you do for Trout Unlimited.

Chris Wood
President and CEO of Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited By the Numbers

Trount Unlimited is a community of more than 350,000 members and supporters operating out of more than 400 local chapters and state councils. Our ranks include some of the most dedicated trout, salmon, and steelhead anglers in America, but also clean stream advocates who are passionate about ensuring that the next generation can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. Our “boots in the water” accounted for 340,475 volunteer hours, 2,006 conservation projects and 929 education projects that engaged youth. But what does “boots in the water” mean? It means physically working—digging, planting, carrying, cleaning. Making rivers better. Planting trees, placing rocks, securing logs, all to benefit rivers and streams, the wild and native trout that inhabit them and those who fish them.

It means being present. Participating. Being there to teach children river stewardship, or to get wounded veterans on the water. Being part of the process from the obscure planning meeting to the high-profile congressional hearing. Showing up, again and again, educating, advocating, all in the name of conservation. Mile by mile, acre by acre, no organization in the world does more to improve, protect and sustain trout and salmon waters than Trout Unlimited.



Despite a global pandemic, in FY21 TU's 420 chapters and councils and the thousands of volunteers who lead them:

CONTRIBUTED
340,475
HOURS, VALUED AT
\$9.7 MILLION

ENGAGED
74,191
PEOPLE THROUGH:
2,006
CONSERVATION PROJECTS
2,562
COMMUNITY EVENTS
929
YOUTH EDUCATION EVENTS
212
SERVICE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

SERVED
118,243
DUES PAYING MEMBERS

RAISED
\$8.5 MILLION

SPENT
\$6.9 MILLION

We are here to be the positive change in our communities. By making our waterways more resilient, we are working toward a better, safer, cleaner future. By keeping public lands public, we are safeguarding the headwaters of our rivers and upholding the promise of places that belong to all. In reconnecting these places we are keeping water in our streambanks and utilizing flood plains thereby lessening the impact of drought and flood. By restoring degraded streams we are removing toxic chemicals from our water supplies and providing usable habitat to fish and wildlife populations. Through outreach to youth and veterans, we are passing along the wonder and healing and peace that comes with the power of water and fishing. • From the headwaters to the sea, we are not daunted by the challenges we face. • Quite the opposite in fact. Trout Unlimited is here to serve. We are here to get things done.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2020

6,825,457
ACRES
PROTECTED

78,605
RIVER MILES
PROTECTED

1,045
MILES
RECONNECTED

388
MILES
RESTORED

Seven Reasons to Support Trout Unlimited

1



JOSH DUPLICHIAN

Make fishing partners for life

Need a recommendation on a good place to fish, an update on water conditions or even a good place to eat after a day on the water? We've got a chapter for that.



JOSH DUPLICHIAN

2

Work in your community

Trout Unlimited volunteers logged more than 340,000 hours of volunteer service in 2020, an effort worth more than \$9.7 million.



3 Read the best magazine dedicated to fishing and conservation

Relax with the best publication about trout and salmon, delivered four times a year to your doorstep.



4 Help make an impact nationally

TU is on the front lines of issues such as responsible energy development and climate change, working to secure and protect coldwater fisheries across the country.

MATTHEW MATEO



MATTHEW MATEO

5

Support local, on-the-ground change

TU staff work on hundreds of conservation projects and campaigns in their own backyards.



6

Advance coldwater conservation

Back the efforts of innovative engineers, scientists, attorneys, and conservationists working on behalf of clean water and wild and native fish.



7

Make the future better

Conservationists are eternal optimists. Join a group that believes in leaving the world better than they found it.

Conservation Wins in Alaska

Bristol Bay and Tongass National Forest receive protections

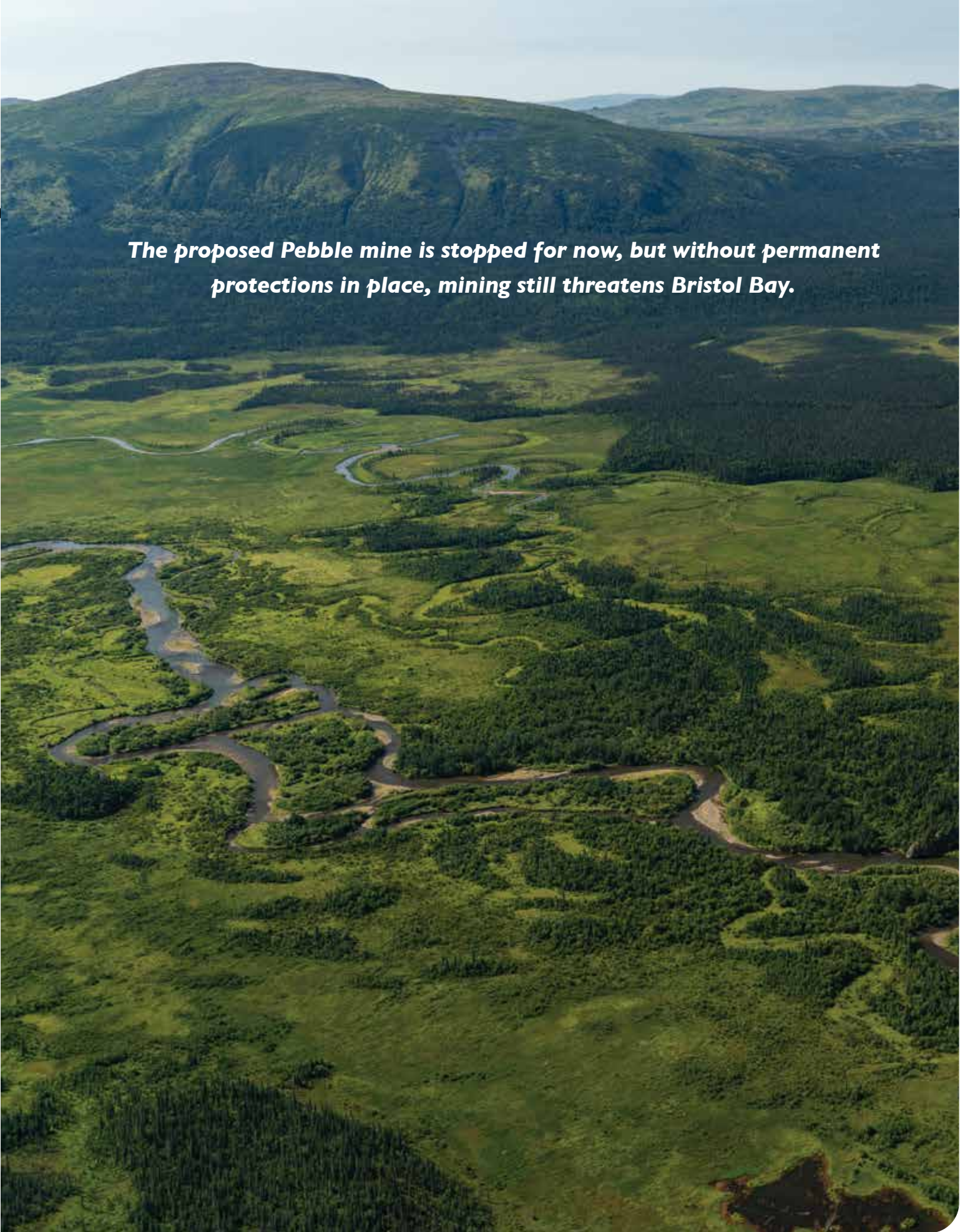
“Joy. Sheer joy and relief.” That’s what Bristol Bay indigenous leader Alannah Hurley felt when she learned that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would deny the permit for the proposed Pebble mine—the most unlikely, hard-won and important conservation victory of 2020.

After a multi-year permit review process, the Corps concluded that the proposed mine would fail to meet Clean Water Act standards, and “went against public interest.” Along with Alannah, anglers,

hunters, commercial fishermen, wildlife enthusiasts, chefs, scientists and Alaskans statewide cheered the decision, knowing that without the key federal permit, the project was virtually stopped.

But without permanent protections in place, mining still threatens the Bristol Bay region. We are working to ensure lasting safeguards for trout and salmon and the fish-based resources of Bristol Bay. By working with the EPA and allies in Congress, we can achieve long-term security for Alaskans

and their homes, jobs, and culture. Trout Unlimited remains committed to standing beside local people to obtain these protections for Bristol Bay’s fish, and to ensure that wild landscapes remain for generations to come. We will once again need the strength and voice of the fishing community to speak up for the next chapter of our work in Bristol Bay. Please visit savebristolbay.org/take-action to add your support for long-term protections.



The proposed Pebble mine is stopped for now, but without permanent protections in place, mining still threatens Bristol Bay.



Tongass

Southeast Alaska’s Tongass National Forest is the largest in the U.S., and part of the largest temperate rainforest on earth. It produces more than 50 million wild salmon annually from thousands of salmon streams.

Until 2021, it was known for something else as well: Tongass was the only national forest where industrial-scale clear-cut logging of old-growth forest still took place.

In a decision that recognized that fishing, guiding, and tourism are pillars of the regional economy, the Forest Service put an end to the practice. The decision also reflected the forest’s irreplaceable cultural value to local tribes, and its critical role in mitigating climate change effects. The Forest Service will instead refocus its attention on what matters: forest restoration, recreation, and resilience.

At the same time, the Forest Service will reinstate Roadless Rule protections that were lifted in 2020 in a misguided effort to expand logging into more than nine million acres of the Tongass—a decision that also ignored the desires of the local tribes, local businesses and 96 percent of the people who commented on the proposed rule.

Fishing and tourism support one in four jobs and contribute \$2 billion to the local economy.

LWCF Funding to Benefit Hunters, Anglers and Outdoor Fans

Decades of work were rewarded in 2020 when the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law, providing full and permanent financing for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

LWCF has been a cornerstone for anglers and everyone who loves the outdoors, securing fishing access sites across the country. In fact, every county in every state has benefitted in some way from LWCF funds, whether by access, conservation easements or recreation areas such as playgrounds and soccer fields.

“As a nation, we are turning more than ever to our great outdoors,” said Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited. “The passage of the Great American Outdoors Act means more hunters will have access to public lands, more anglers will be able to get on the water and more kids will be able to play outside. Not only that, fish and wildlife will benefit from better habitat.”

Equally important and of special note for trout and salmon conservation was the funding dedicated to the maintenance backlog in national parks and on public lands, managed by agencies such as the Forest Service.

“Neglected roads have been bleeding sediment into our streams and blocking fish migration for years,” said Corey Fisher, public lands policy director at TU. “These dollars can go a long way to improving water quality and improving our fishing.”

Trout Unlimited has seen the benefits of LWCF dollars in numerous locations in the past. The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia was purchased using LWCF funds, as was the 8,000 acre Cold Stream Forest in Maine which protects native brook trout. In Montana, the BLM used LWCF to close on the acquisition of 13,000 acres of lands to help protect Gold Creek and Belmont Creek, both tributaries of the famed Blackfoot River and home to wild and native populations of Westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout.

In Colorado, funds were used to acquire 80 key properties along the Big Thompson River after the catastrophic flood of 1976. The funds were used to compensate families for their losses while creating new park lands and recreation opportunities along the river canyon. This foresight avoided some \$16 million in estimated property damage when the river flooded again in 2013, while also providing outstanding fishing opportunities for an estimated 200,000 angler days each year.

Additionally, LWCF has been used to provide fishing access sites across the country. Since 1966, when LWCF began, the state of Montana has spent tens of millions of LWCF dollars to buy and develop fishing access sites. Today LWCF has helped secure 70 percent of Montana’s fishing access sites. What’s impressive is that this story isn’t unique—all across the country LWCF has made fishing access possible on hundreds of rivers, lakes and streams in places like Letort Spring Run in Pennsylvania, the Upper Colorado River in Colorado and the Brule River in Wisconsin.

With the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act those investments will continue long into the future, creating opportunity for hunters and anglers across the country.

Blackfoot River MONTANA
The BLM will be able to acquire another 1,120 acres in western Montana, completing the 13,000-acre proposal first announced in May 2019 to acquire former industrial timber lands in the Gold Creek and Belmont Creek drainages, both tributaries to the famed Blackfoot River that are home to wild and native populations of Westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout.

Rogue River-Siskiyou OREGON
Access improvements on the Lower Rogue River Wild and Scenic section.

Chugach National Forest ALASKA
Upgrades to the Russian River campground

Sweetwater Lake COLORADO
This is 488 acres that will go to the White River National Forest, providing access to Sweetwater Lake and surrounding White River National Forest lands.

Chequamegon-Nicolet WISCONSIN
The SB Oconto River system includes over 94 miles of connected, class I trout stream, providing spawning, climate change resilient, and foraging habitat for native brook trout. Replacing the existing fishing pier will ensure anglers will continue to have access to this high-quality fishery

Ottawa National Forest MICHIGAN
The Ottawa National Forest in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula was awarded funding for 44 projects through the Great American Outdoors Act. Of these, several included infrastructure improvements which will enhance coldwater stream function, dramatically improve native trout and aquatic organism passage and augment overall watershed health and resiliency. Additionally, numerous enhancements will be made to improve public land and water access opportunities for hunters, anglers and recreationists.

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument MAINE
Development of a management plan which protects critical habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon and brook trout and access to backcountry ponds and the East Branch Penobscot River for brook trout anglers.

Monongahela WEST VIRGINIA
The Marlinton White Sulphur Ranger District Stream Crossing Structures for Trout Fisheries will replace three road stream crossing structures, open more than eight miles of aquatic habitat, and improve recreational travel and access to the headwaters of the Greenbrier and Gauley Rivers.

“The passage of the Great American Outdoors Act means more hunters will have access to public lands, more anglers will be able to get on the water and more kids will be able to play outside. Not only that, fish and wildlife will benefit from better habitat.” —Chris Wood



Tree Army Expands in Michigan



In the 1930s, millions of Americans were put to work planting trees across the country to help repair damage from aggressive agricultural and logging practices that contributed in part to the Dust Bowl and other environmental problems. Roosevelt’s Tree Army, as they were nicknamed, eventually planted more than three billion trees, built critical infrastructure for parks and trails, and much more, leaving a legacy that forever transformed America’s public lands and waterways.

Not quite a hundred years later a smaller but no less inspired Tree Army is at work in Michigan.

Over the past two years, Trout Unlimited’s Rogue River Tree Army has planted over 17,000 trees along rivers and streams throughout the Rogue River watershed, providing shade, woody debris, streambank stabilization, and stormwater uptake for this important trout fishery just north of Grand Rapids. But the Rogue River Tree Army, made up of TU staff, seasonal work crews, and volunteers, is just getting started.

In 2021, the Tree Army set its sights beyond the Rogue River watershed to take this initiative to more coldwater rivers and streams across West Michigan.

Thanks to a new grant from the U.S. Forest Service, TU and our partners at the Land Conservancy of West Michigan aim to enhance the resilience of West Michigan forests by planting 31,000 trees and shrubs at key riparian and shoreline sites in the Lower Grand, Pere Marquette, White and Muskegon River watersheds as well as along Lake Michigan.

By selecting high priority sites and utilizing climate adaptation strategies,

the project will fortify habitats on lands that are high quality, protected, and connected, maximizing impact for water quality, wildlife, and public benefit.

TU incorporated strategic priorities of federal, state and local partners to determine 13 project sites on lands that are legally protected for their high conservation value and significant public benefits. These priority lands:

- feature large, connected and high-quality habitats
- are adjacent to National Forest, state or locally protected lands
- are in above-average resilient landscapes as mapped by The Nature Conservancy
- buffer high-quality waters, natural river systems, and critical dunes



40,000 trees planted to date on 15 Michigan rivers and streams

Trout and other coldwater species depend on the shade, instream wood habitat, filtration, and nutrient inputs that healthy riparian forests provide. Climate change threatens the hydrology of these important waterways and will increase stressors on trees within the riparian zone. Connected and intact resilient

In 2021, the Tree Army set its sights beyond the Rogue River watershed to take this initiative to more coldwater rivers and streams across West Michigan.

riparian forests will become even more important in keeping these waterways healthy in the future.

While the Rogue River Tree Army has planted a small fraction of the billions of trees planted by Roosevelt’s, TU’s strategic, climate-informed approach will leave a legacy for West Michigan’s trout waters and inspire others to take action for their home rivers.

Roosevelt’s Tree Army was much more than a Depression Era public works project; it leveraged the power of the outdoors, demanded teamwork, bolstered confidence, built skills, and restored a sense of national pride when it was at an all-time low. So too do projects like the Rogue River Tree Army have the potential to inspire the American spirit and remind us who we are and what we are called to do.



More Conservation Wins



Rattlesnake Creek

Rattlesnake Dam

With the removal of the Rattlesnake Dam in Missoula, Montana, a pristine wilderness will finally be reconnected to the Clark Fork River and the bustling center of this Western recreation hub.



Rattlesnake Creek

The dam, built in 1904, was removed this summer, allowing native westslope cutthroat and bull trout to reach important tributaries again. Prior to its removal, the dam created a seasonal fish passage barrier that hampered access to upstream habitat by both native and wild trout.

“Rattlesnake Creek is one of our prime westslope cutthroat and bull trout spawning tributaries for the Clark Fork in this section,” Rob Roberts, the TU project manager overseeing the demolition and restoration told the *Missoulian*. “A lot of the sportfishing opportunity that you see in the Clark Fork and lower Blackfoot, comes from the spawning activity that happens in Rattlesnake Creek, whether it’s brown trout, rainbow trout, cutthroat and even mountain whitefish.”

The protect resulted in 1,000 feet of stream channel restoration, five acres of wetland and floodplain creation, and new trails and kiosks. The total project cost is \$1.37 million, 95 percent of which is funded by state, federal and private grants. The project includes funding from more than 20 entities, including numerous local businesses, individuals and organizations.

Provo Water

Fished by nearly 7,000 anglers per mile per year, the Lower Provo is a popular blue-ribbon fishery and one of Utah’s most popular destinations for anglers. But low flows in a section near the end of Provo Canyon left trout struggling with low flows and warm water during summer months.

Spurred by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, which works to connect corporate partners to flow restoration projects, TU set to remedy the situation with a diverse set of partners such as the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and U.S. Department of the Interior. To solve the problem, electricity that would have been generated by the river was purchased by TU using contributions from Facebook, Swire Coca-Cola, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative and the Utah Habitat Council.

These generous contributions allowed 7.12 cubic feet per second to remain in the stream instead of bypassing the end of Provo Canyon, giving trout the boost of water they need to make it through the warm months. The partners in the agreement will continue to meet annually for ten years to determine the amount of water needed to keep the fishery healthy.

Clean Water Act

In 2020, TU fought back against a new federal policy that dramatically weakened the Clean Water Act by removing protections for millions of miles of ephemeral streams, which flow only in direct response to precipitation.

In announcing the “Navigable Waters Protection Rule” rule, which replaced the 2015 Clean Water Rule, federal agencies declared that mapping and data limitations prevented them from saying how many of these streams would lose protections, and where they were.

TU scientists, working with partners at the University of Georgia, drew from the best available national stream maps and devised a novel method for predicting the



JOSH DUPLICHIAN

location of unmapped stream channels.

The resulting maps and analysis, published in a peer-reviewed journal, showed that almost five million miles of U.S. streams are ephemeral. None of them would be protected under the new policy. In 2021, a federal judge threw out the rule and the Biden administration began working to restore coverage for these small streams. TU’s data helped pave the way for these victories.

Washington mining

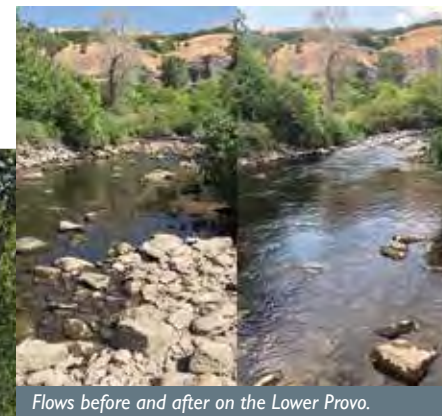
At the urging of a TU-led state-wide coalition, the state of Washington passed a bill banning suction dredge mining in critical habitat designated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for threatened or endangered salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

The law brings the state in line with the Clean Water Act, the ESA and laws in neighboring states.

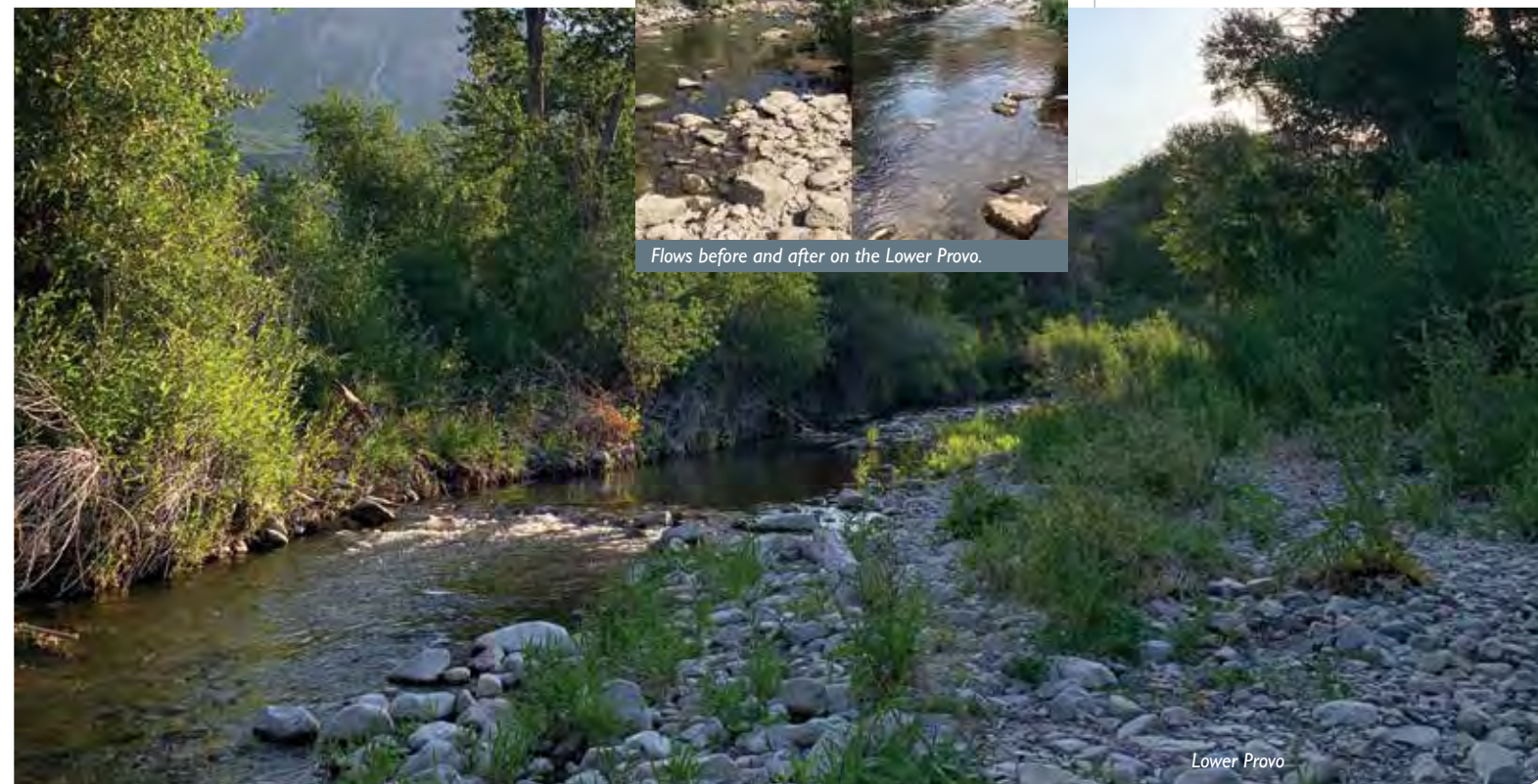
Suction dredge mining is a form of mining that uses gas-powered dredges to vacuum up rocks, gravel, and sediment from the bottom of creeks and rivers to search for gold. Scientific studies show suction dredging degrades water quality through erosion and sedimentation and mobilization of mercury and other heavy metals. It also harms fish and the aquatic food web by destroying aquatic habitat, physically “processing” fish and aquatic life, creating fish stranding risks, and denuding riparian vegetation.

Prior to the ban, miners could dredge almost anywhere, including recently restored habitats and areas occupied by endangered species.

“For years, we’ve had enormous taxpayer investment in restoring water quality and fish habitat while we let outdated motorized suction dredge mining laws needlessly threaten our most sensitive fish populations. Our lawmakers remedied this glaring oversight in our regulations,” said Crystal Elliot, Washington habitat director for Trout Unlimited.



Flows before and after on the Lower Provo.

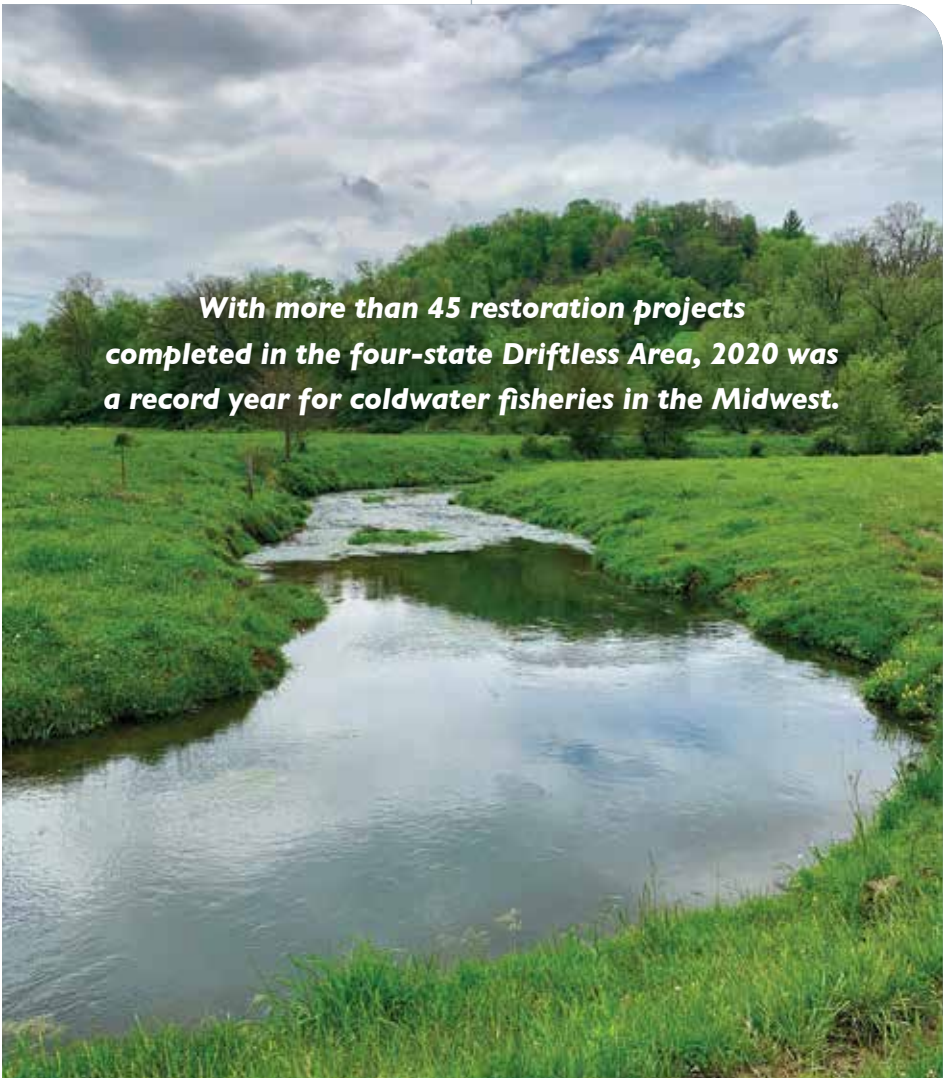


Lower Provo

Record year for Driftless restoration

With more than 45 restoration projects completed in the four-state Driftless Area, 2020 was a record year for coldwater fisheries in the Midwest. Thanks to good weather, TU and our partners restored more than 22 miles of trout streams in 2020.

Over the past several years, TU received two Regional Conservation Partnership Program awards worth \$12.1 million targeting coldwater streams in the Driftless. In Minnesota, the state council is pursuing its 13th round of funding from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage state sales tax program, which has provided more than \$24 million to date and funded restoration of more than 40 miles of publicly accessible trout streams. These showcase projects have shown a 10-fold increase in trout numbers, stimulated local economies and increased angler access over the region.



With more than 45 restoration projects completed in the four-state Driftless Area, 2020 was a record year for coldwater fisheries in the Midwest.

Community Science

TU continued its dedication to the science behind conservation by working with volunteers to deploy a set of Mayfly Sensor Stations.

While many scientists and anglers rely on USGS data to track streamflows and water quality data, those stations are often located at the mouths of large rivers, leaving users to extrapolate what may be happening on smaller but equally important streams.

Developed by Stroud Water Research Center, the Mayfly Sensor Station is a low-cost, easy-to-use water monitoring station designed to collect continuous data, often taking measurements every 15 minutes. Data are then uploaded to an online database via cellular signal for real-time access to current stream conditions.

TU is now building the necessary capacity to be a key service provider, bringing this technological capacity to our chapters and partners throughout the country. We now have 24 stations deployed in Michigan, five in New York, and two in Oregon.

Restoration in the Midwest

In the Midwest, removal of two dams is making a big difference for trout populations.

In Wabeno, Wisconsin, a remnant logging dam was blocking the passage of fish. After

obtaining buy-in from the landowners, TU was able to remove the dam and restore the habitat around the site.

In Wellston, Michigan, TU worked with a diverse group of partners to revive the bank on the Manistee River below the Tippy Dam.

The site, known as the Tunk Hole, was eroding severely due to foot traffic from salmon and steelhead anglers. This area receives some of the highest angler pressure in the state. Erosion is an issue because of the spot's location on an outside riverbend, but erosion was exacerbated by people accessing the river.

The bio-engineered stream bank will provide access to anglers and other recreational users while maintaining streambank stability. Subsequent phases of this project which will aim to restore over 1,000 additional feet.

Making progress in Maryland

TU's Western Maryland Initiative (WMI) continues to build robust partnerships for cold-water conservation in Maryland's Appalachian Region.

Since WMI's inception in late 2018, TU has built a coalition of conservation organizations that has restored four miles of streamside areas; fenced cows from two miles of stream; and engaged more than 100 student and community volunteers. And we're just getting started.



GEORGE KLANE

Defending Red Brook

In Wareham, Mass., TU and our partners quickly stood up a campaign against a 775-acre development in the headwaters of Red Brook, home to one of the few remaining salter brook trout populations outside Maine.

Spearheading the fight were the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter and the Massachusetts / Rhode Island council, who marshaled local communities

to protect this unique form of sea-run brook trout. TU and our partners have spent more than \$4 million over the past few decades restoring this stream—dam removals, tree plantings, restoration, and monitoring that led to a seven-fold population leap.

In April, the people of Wareham voted overwhelmingly against the development, which would have turned 700 acres of pine barrens into hotels, homes, and a horse track / casino.



Recognizing Essential Workers

As the pandemic increased in severity and communities began to isolate, Trout Unlimited offered free memberships to essential workers as a small token of our appreciation for the risks they were taking in frightening times.

Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited, heard from the first 500 by email.

“I have absolutely loved the personal interaction with the essential workers who are now full-fledged TU members. ... The stories of the grocery clerks, drug store employees, sanitation workers, doctors, nurses, cops, fire-fighters are all inspiring,” he wrote. “In the stress of COVID-19; in the stress of shelter-in-place; in the stress of a ‘new normal’ of which we do not yet know the contours, I am heartened by the fact that there are truly wonderful people in the world.”

Here are some of their stories.

“I am a certified paramedic. I have been a TU member in the past and have renewed for another year. Thank you for the offer of a free year with TU for essential workers. Please take my free one year to TU and reinvest the money for the future anglers and TU. Thank you again and Fish On!”

“Do I qualify for the free membership? I am a special education teacher at a school for individuals diagnosed with autism. We are doing our very best to implement distance learning for our students and provide daily support for their parents who desperately need assistance. I’m very proud of being an integral part of leading this process and feel very fortunate to be there for the students and families I love very much...”

A day later, Scott wrote back...

“I would like to retract the request to determine if I am an essential worker. That was selfish on my end, and many other people out there fit that criteria far more appropriately. Thank you once again for what TU is doing. I have the utmost respect for your company. Take care.”

Wood replied, “Mom, doctor, analyst, teacher, fireman, grocery worker, special-ed teacher: essential is such an eye-of-the-beholder word. Scott, you are essential.”

“I’m a Captain on the fire department in Decatur, IL. I joined TU a couple weeks ago, and just saw that you are waving the dues for essential workers. I’m not seeking a refund of my dues. I’m happy to support TU.

The closest trout fishing to me is either 4 hours away in southern Missouri, or a little further into the Driftless area in Iowa and Wisconsin. I go religiously (and let’s face it, it is a religion) every 2 weeks. I get up at 2 a.m., drive four or five hours to the stream, and arrive right at sun-up. I fish till it gets dark, load up and drive four or five hours back, arriving home at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. Always worth it. Three or four times a year I drive to northern New Mexico to fish with a guy I’ve become friends with who guides out of the Taos fly shop. I drive 18 hours straight through, fish hard for two or three days, then drive 18 straight back home. Always worth it.

My schedule affords me a great deal of time off. I’m 24 hours on duty, 48 hours off. That works out to a 2- or 3-day work week. If there is something I could do for the organization with all that time, please reach out to me and let me know.”

The new Trout Unlimited Service Partnership



This past year Trout Unlimited’s Veterans Service Partnership—a decade-old program dedicated to active-duty service men, women, reservists, veterans and military family—proudly became Trout Unlimited’s Service Partnership, opening the door to serving first responders as well.

This change reflects our recognition of what it means to “serve,” and welcomes members of our communities who also selflessly risk life and limb daily to keep us safe. Through the Service Partnership, TU is now offering members of the fire service, medical, and law enforcement communities, and their families the same opportunities and recognition that we have offered to the military community since 2011. This includes a free one-year introductory membership for new-to-TU Veterans and First Responders and has all the benefits of a paid membership.

Leading this change for TU is Mike Banaszewski, who joined Trout Unlimited as the director of TU’s Veterans Service Partnership in October 2019 after nearly 30 years of military and federal service with the Department of Defense. A life-long fly angler, conservationist, and TU Life Member, Mike is also a certified casting instructor and has worked as a fly-fishing guide in Maryland and Virginia.

“Members of the military and first responders face similar hardships and strains to their personal lives, yet their devotion to duty stands as an example to us all,” Banaszewski said. “By welcoming these individuals into Trout Unlimited’s passionate community of anglers and conservationists, we in a small way, say ‘thank you’ for their service and grow stronger as an organization.”

Through the Service Partnership, Trout Unlimited is now offering members of the fire service, medical, and law enforcement communities, and their families the same opportunities and recognition that we have offered to the military community since 2011.



Q&A with the Woman Behind New York City’s “Trout Uber”

Lillit Genovesi, Trout in the Classroom Coordinator, NYC & Watersheds

Tell us about how you came to TU and your experience with conservation.

From a young age I was drawn to animals, nature, and the outdoors and since I grew up in Los Angeles I mostly learned about these things through books and movies. In addition to being far removed from nature, I felt the cultural and socioeconomic limits on access to nature-based recreation.

My passion for nature quickly turned to an interest in science and conservation, thanks to the guidance of so many wonderful teachers. And so when it came time to choose a major in college my (confused) parents asked me what I planned to do with a degree in marine biology, to which I answered “I just want to teach kids about fish!” and they replied, “That is not a job, Lillit!!”

But years later, that’s exactly what I do!

What excites you most about your work?

I truly have a deep respect and appreciation for all the wonderful people I get to work with and for. From teachers, to students, to colleagues, and donors, I feel incredibly fortunate that the people around me have the same goal in mind, to take care of our rivers, streams, trout, and freshwater resources for future generations to enjoy.

What are some of the lessons you want to impart to young conservationists?

I would love for young conservationists to know that I truly believe that

the future is bright, and it’s because of them. I meet so many students that care deeply about nature, our environment, streams, trout, and caring for one another. Our understanding that communities filled with respect for one another is the path to a healthy environment and bright future. It’s important to be curious, see other peoples’ perspectives, and then decide together what really matters. Then we can together reach our goals for conservation and stewardship.

You’re famous at TU for your Trout Uber ride—tell us the story!

On March 13, 2020 when New York State abruptly went into a lockdown, everything seemed to go silent. I think we were all in a state of shock, unsure about the future, and not sure how to proceed. It was clear that teachers were overwhelmed, and I wanted to help as best as I could. In desperation, many teachers just planned to leave their trout in the schools... unsure of their fate. Thankfully I was able to obtain emergency trout release permits from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for early releases. Teachers that had access to transportation or to a nearby stream were able to proceed with an early release, but for many teachers in NYC this was not an option. With help from some amazing friends of the program we were able to coordinate the “Trout Uber.” It took multiple trips from the watershed to NYC that day, and at one point my car was stacked

with over 2,000 trout fry in various buckets and coolers. Thankfully my live-in trout release helpers (my husband and kids) were able to join me and help with acclimating the trout, carefully releasing the fish into the Cross River, and most importantly taking photos and video to share with all the NYC students who worked so hard to care for and raise these little fish, whose release represented to them small symbols of hope.

We have learned a lot in the past year about diversity, equity and inclusion: How can the conservation community be a more open and welcoming place?

TU and other not-for-profit partners are a great place start



“It’s important to be curious, see other peoples’ perspectives, and then decide together what really matters. Then we can together reach our goals for conservation and stewardship.” —Lillit Genovesi

in welcoming people of color, women, and young people into the conservation community. I think one major barrier for many is the access to nature-based recreation and safe outdoor spaces. I know this to be true for many students I work with in NYC and from my own experience growing up in a large city.

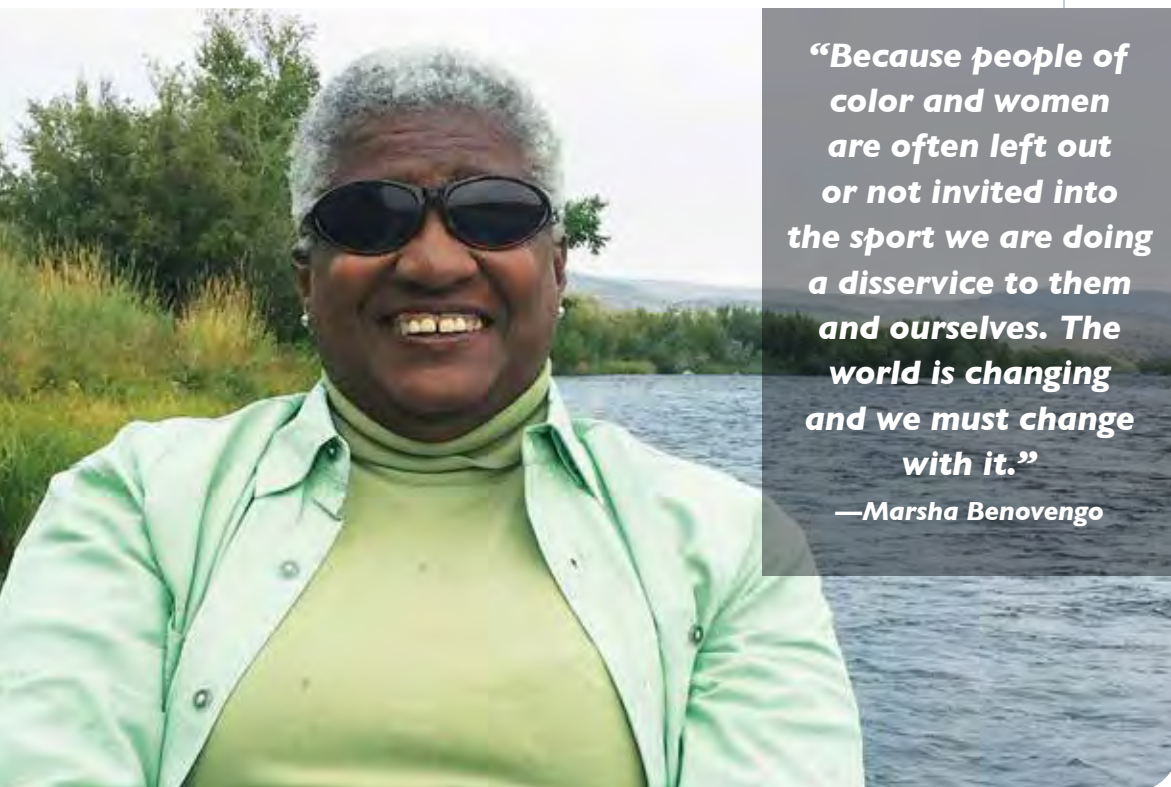
Growing up in Los Angeles, I knew and cared more about the rain forest than about the amazing chapparral environment just a few miles away from my own apartment. The famous quote from forestry engineer, Baba Dioum, “In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what

we are taught” rings true. We need open, welcoming outdoor spaces for all people to enjoy in their own communities, and we can achieve this by inviting more people to join us outdoors, supplying transportation, resources, and especially making sure everyone knows that their presence plays an important role in a sustainable future.

“We Are TU”

In 2020, Jenny Weis, Alaska communications director, decided we needed to get to know our own members better. Out of that desire came the “We are TU” project, a series of profiles in which members shared everything from how they got involved in fishing to what drove them as conservationists.

“The TU community has powerful shared values: clean water, healthy fisheries, and wild places. But we each traveled a different path to arrive at TU, and our commitment to conservation is different based on our backgrounds,” Weis said. “I created this blog series because I wanted to learn who TU community members are, how they got here, what inspires or disappoints them, and what keeps them with us. I saw the posts as an opportunity for TU to elevate people of diverse backgrounds, and I wanted it to be informal—like when you read it, you’d feel like you were sitting down to coffee or a tailgate beer with that person after a day on the river, where you’d talk about your past, share a laugh, and get real about things that need to change. Those who volunteered to be featured shared family histories, painful experiences, humor, wisdom, and hopes for how we can better achieve the vision we all share. In featuring them, it’s clear that while we are all TU, we are all different and the more we celebrate and honor those differences, the better we achieve our goals.”



“Because people of color and women are often left out or not invited into the sport we are doing a disservice to them and ourselves. The world is changing and we must change with it.”

—Marsha Benovengo

Marsha Benovengo

Where are you from and where do you live?

Born in Queens, New York City. Reside in Manalapan (central), N.J.

What is your history with conservation?

I became more aware and involved after learning to fly fish in 2003 and when I became involved with TU.

How has the lack of diversity in conservation and fly fishing impacted you?

The lack of diversity in fly fishing has impacted me as it has the whole community—it makes for a less realistic view of the world. Because people of color and women are often left out or not invited into the sport we are doing a disservice to them and ourselves. The world is changing and we must change with it. We become less viable when we don’t include others. It has given me the opportunity to speak out on the necessity for diversity and inclusion. I have been interviewed and videoed by Orvis,

for whom I work, on the subject. This video is shown in the stores throughout the country. It shows possibilities and negates stereotypes.

My role with role with TU as New Jersey council chair and the work that I am involved in along with some amazing women conservationists and anglers defeats the foolish notion that women “cannot” and people of color “don’t.” We are making strides now and for future generations.

What advice would you give to a younger version of yourself?

I’d tell my younger self to be patient, kind and look for the good in others, even when challenged.

Are you willing to share ideas for ways your average TU member can show up as an ally?

I never had a notion that I “couldn’t” fish or do anything else. My upbringing told me that I could. So my authentic self went blindly into a fly shop expecting that they would help me. Having said that, I think that folks have to find ways to build some basic knowledge, find resources, like TU, and not look back. Have expectations of fair treatment and accept and expect nothing less. Connect with interesting people and be prepared to bring your gifts to conservation and fly fishing. Join in, do the work, plant trees, tie flies, find and be a mentor and recognize and support good work.

Why Trout Unlimited?

Who doesn’t want to be attached to folks who are making a difference!?

Emily Heath

Where are you from and where do you live?

I grew up in the South but now live in Exeter, NH.

What’s your history with conservation?

I’ve always cared about the environment, but when I started fly fishing I began to see crucial connections between the health of our rivers and streams and the health of the planet as a whole.

Our membership and representation aren’t reflective of the diversity in the fishing and river-loving communities. How has the lack of diversity in fishing and conservation impacted your enjoyment of those activities?

I was curious whether there might be other LGBTQ fly anglers out there, because I hadn’t met many. So, I posted in a fly-fishing group on Facebook that was local to my state, just asking if others wanted

to connect. Some of the responses were truly vile. Far from addressing the comments, the admin told me I shouldn’t have posted something “political” and blocked me from the group. I spent a long time after that wondering if I wanted to be a part of the fly fishing community.

What does ‘giving back’ mean to you?

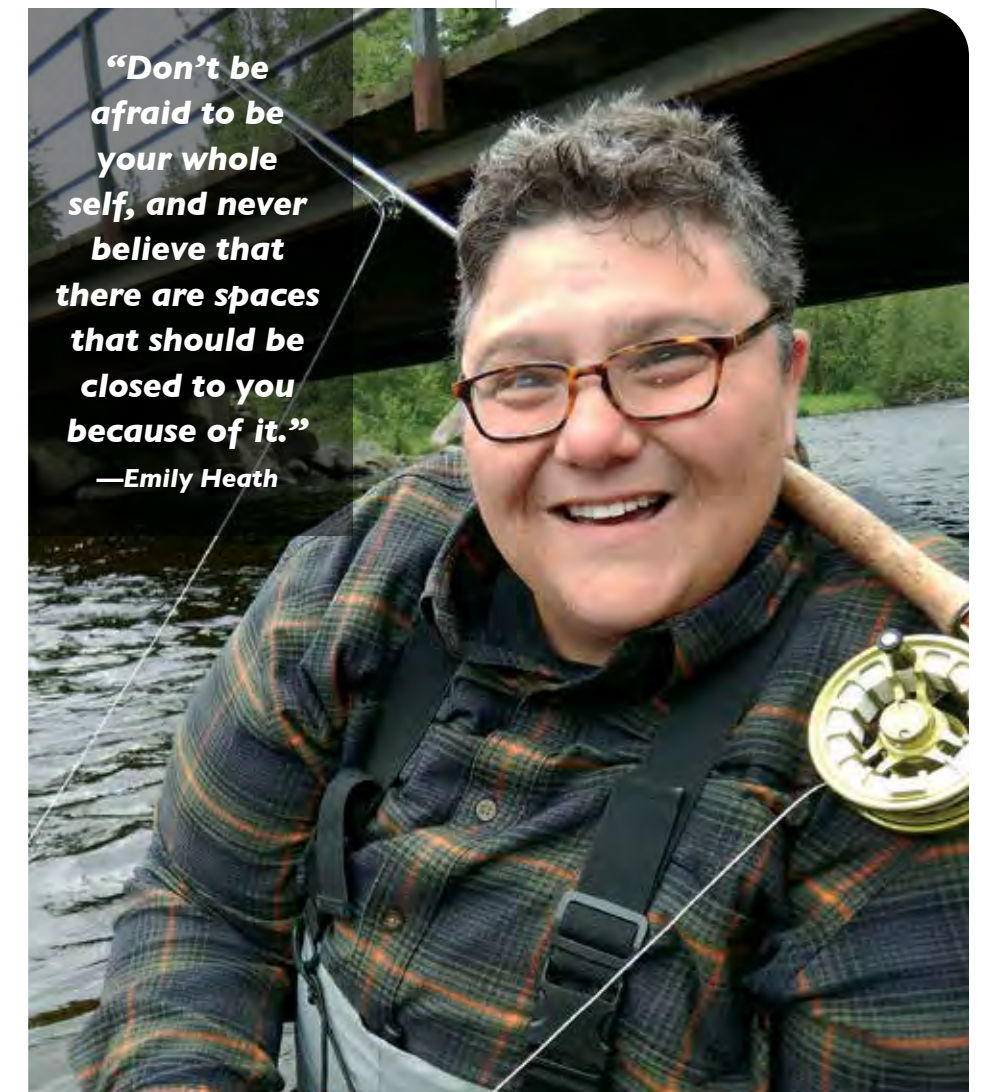
I’ve benefited from a lot of folks who have taken the time to teach me new skills on the river. When new folks ask me for advice, I’m always glad to pass on the knowledge. In a larger sense, I get a lot of joy from fly fishing. The least I can do to give back is to use my voice to help protect the trout and the rivers that I enjoy so much.

What would you grab if your house was on fire? (Don’t worry! Your humans/pets are already safe!)

A wooden box that was built by my great-great-great-grandfather in the early 1800s. He lived not far from where I live and fish, and it’s a tangible connection to my roots.

Why Trout Unlimited?

I’m a pastor, and in my faith tradition we are taught to take care of every good thing that has been given to us. When I fish I think about that a lot. It’s part of my job as a fly angler to take care of these special places that I love. Trout Unlimited works to ensure that the waters and fish we love will be around, and hopefully cleaner and healthier, for generations to come.



“Don’t be afraid to be your whole self, and never believe that there are spaces that should be closed to you because of it.”

—Emily Heath

What Resilience Requires

Dr. Rene Henery is Science Director with TU's California Program, an eminent ecologist, a lifelong angler and one of the core staff working to advance TU's practice of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Our world is changing... I can hear it in the midwinter sounds of my feet treading over rock and dirt where in the past there was snow; I can smell it in my summer clothes, saturated with smoke from the worst fire season in history; I taste it in the mineral bite of water from a dear friend's well as it runs low for the first time; I feel it in the way that the pandemic shows up in my dreams, in the stress parents are sharing about the extent of the uncertainty in their children's futures, in the civil unrest, the overt hostility towards people who look different, who come from a different place, who have different beliefs; in the cries for justice, for equity, for reform and for change...

My ecologist mind and heart ("eco" from the Greek "oikos" meaning "household" or "home") experiences and understands my life and the lives of other living things relationally, in the context of the household to which we belong.

Each of us, all of us belong to a multi-dimensional web of co-evolved life systems. As much as we are individuals, we are also each a system of parts in relationship, connected, working together, affecting one another.

In simple terms, *resilience* is the capacity of a system to recover from a disturbance. In co-evolved, resilient systems, the parts exist in a reciprocity of simultaneous dependence on and service to each other and the system.

The resilience of a system is an expression of a) the capacity of its individual parts and b) the nature and quality of the relationships between those parts. When the environment changes, and a part of the system is stressed, the nature and quality of that part's connection with the whole affects its capacity to weather that change as does its own capacity, the capacities of the other parts and the extent to which the connections among parts allow them to support the stressed part.

Think of a group of batteries, wired together. If wired in series, the system can

generate more power. If wired in parallel, it can generate power for more time. The capacity in each battery and the way they are all connected determines how they function as a whole. And, if they can be wired in different ways at different times, they can do more together than if they can only be wired one way.

Trauma is a disturbance sufficiently intense to significantly alter either or both a.) the capacity of part(s) of a system, or b.) the way some part(s) of the system are connected (relate) to the whole.

Different types of disturbance can traumatize in different ways. A single intense event can constitute a rapid and acute trauma: the effects of a car accident on a human body, the effect of the death of a child on a family, the effect of a catastrophic fire on a forest. Prolonged exposure to less intense stress, or repeated smaller disturbances can also traumatize: small repetitive motions can cause debilitating injury; the stress of the pandemic over the last year is having widespread effects on mental health; over a half century of impacts from dams is causing the collapse of salmon populations.

Because we belong to a system our trauma is often expressed relationally. When harm gets inflicted among parts of the system (e.g. one person is harmed or harms another) both parts, both people are wounded. Often those wounds persist in the forms of both anger and resentment on the part of those who experience mistreatment (the victim), and shame, fragility, and defensiveness on the part of those who feel another has been harmed

by their actions (the perpetrator). In my experience, many, perhaps most people carry both forms of wound to a greater or lesser extent.

As the climate shifts and our world changes, the pressures and associated stresses on people and living systems are increasing and metastasizing. Our resilience, the extent to which we are able to support each other and all life, will hinge on our ability to heal the wounds from our relational traumas and, in so doing, to bring a broader, more full range of responses and expressions of ourselves forward. Simply put, healing helps us adapt. This includes healing from the shame and guilt our perpetrator identified parts carry so that they can regain their capacity and step back into accountability,

to care for and be of service to the system, and healing from the anger, resentment, and mistrust our victim identified parts carry so that they can come into deeper connection with the system.

Healing from trauma is possible, but requires intention, energy, and practice. It requires that each of us commit to the work; work that can be difficult (especially initially), because of the painful places it can touch, and the fears of being hurt again it

can surface; work that can be challenging because it can be vulnerable, revealing our fears and requiring that we ask for help, seek support, and acknowledge that we need each-other. In my own experience, it is also work that can yield tremendous returns in the sense of wholeness and connection that arises from feeling part of life, feeling belonging. It is that same feeling, I would posit, that is the basis for the positive effects of nature on the human psyche, that fuels our work in conservation, and that keeps many of us returning to rivers.



Trout Unlimited Equity Practice

Over the past 60 years, Trout Unlimited has engaged millions of people in our ambitious mission to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.

Today more than ever, we recognize that achieving our mission will not be possible without the full participation of all people. We can—we will—do better to engage diverse communities. Building space and support for all people to participate in our work will make our organization and the communities where we work stronger, more lasting, and more sustaining.

TU's equity practice draws from the experience of our decade-old Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup and is intended to be a transparent and inclusive process that supports and informs TU's mission and vision. The word "practice" is intentional—our intent is to practice our values, not just profess them.

To that end, we have built partnerships with communities historically marginalized in conservation and we have diversified our board of trustees.

We have provided bias training for hiring managers, revised procurement and investment policies to make them more equitable, and removed gender from titles and program names.

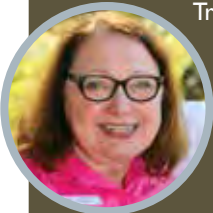
We have formed affinity groups to engage and support people who are not typically TU members or supporters, and integrated new DEI curriculum into volunteer training.

Finally, through what we are calling the "Ripple Project," we have assembled core teams of volunteers, staff, and trustees to practice equity through small-group collaboration in order to build skills and model the work of practicing equity. The conditions of 2020—with the global pandemic and heightened awareness of racial injustice in our society—gave our work both renewed focus and time to develop into a deep, impactful project.

TU's equity practice is iterative. It will evolve as the individuals who make up the organization grow and change as a part of our equity practice. We invite you to be a part of this growth. For more information about how to be a part of this positive change, please visit tu.org/equity.

Through what we are calling the "Ripple Project," we have assembled core teams of volunteers, staff, and trustees to practice equity through small-group collaboration in order to build skills and model the work of practicing equity.

Kerri Russell Equity Fund



Trout Unlimited lost one of its best in 2020 with the passing of Kerri Russell, who was 63.

Russell was a member of the Arkansas chapter of Trout Unlimited and a dedicated volunteer, serving as the banquet chair, newsletter editor, chapter president, state council president, National Leadership Council representative, vice chair and chair of the Women's Initiative Workgroup—later the Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup—as well as chair of the Land Conservancy Workgroup. She became a national trustee in 2017, and in 2019 she won the Ray Mortensen award, TU's highest award for volunteers.

"Kerri loved to fish. Loved it. She found peace in it, and she found camaraderie in it," said Beverly Smith, TU's vice president for Volunteer Operations. "Kerri loved TU, I believe, for the same reasons. Kerri was an important part of the TU family, and her loss leaves a huge hole. Kerri's energetic spirit matched with her dogged persistence on often challenging issues made her a force for positive change within our organization and the fishing community."

In her honor, and with a generous donation from the Russell family, TU has launched the Kerri Russell Equity Fund. The fund will be dedicated to deepening TU's inclusive and equitable culture and engaging more women and people of color by investing in:

- opportunities for volunteers and staff to develop equity-related competencies through small group learning and workshops.
- supporting local, chapter-led partnerships with groups and communities historically underrepresented at TU.
- improving equitable communications and marketing organization-wide through staff and volunteer training.
- systems to support recruiting and hiring a more diverse staff to better reflect the communities where we work.

For more information, or to contribute to the fund, go to <https://go.tulocalevents.org/russellfund>.



Stream Guardian: Renee Faltings

Building a durable legacy for coldwater conservation

There are plenty of aphorisms about the relationship between fishing and time. Two favorites are, “Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in,” and, “The time a man spends fishing is not deducted from his lifetime.” It’s true: the hours spent wading a trout stream, fly rod in hand, seem at once both limitless and fore-shortened. But while the breadth of our fishing experience may be hard to measure, the impact we have on trout waters is not.

The effects of stewardship, in all its manifestations, are measurable. Numbers of wild trout, angler diversity, streamflow, water quality—all are metrics of good trout stream stewardship.

Investments in stewardship can pay dividends far into the future. This is especially true when we pass on our stewardship ethos, bequeathing to a daughter or grandson much more than just our favorite rod. Through stewardship we leave for them healthy watersheds in which they too can discover that fishing, like a large planetary body, generates enough gravitational force to bend time and space.

Many TU members today are both protecting what they love and providing for who they love in years ahead. Members of the “Stream Guardian Society” make future commitments for TU through their estate plans. This is done by a gift through their will or trust, or often as beneficiaries of retirement accounts and life insurance policies, all in an effort to help ensure conservation work carries on.

We thank Renee Faltings and her fellow Stream Guardians for their commitment to and passion for TU’s mission.

The ink on her Portland State University diploma was still wet when Renee Faltings hit The Fly Highway three decades ago.

“I had my Subaru wagon, a golden retriever and a mountain bike,” Faltings recalled.

All she needed for her solo adventure on the vaunted fly-fishing highway was a new rod, reel and flies. She stopped in a fly shop in Sisters, Oregon, and found a future husband instead.

The marriage and wonders of 11 years of helping manage The Fly Fisher’s Place came after she completed her college graduation trip.

During that journey she found comfort from other travelers, ranching families and the owner of a restaurant who gave her a job when she ended up without enough gas money to get home. Faltings also realized during the trip that her connection to water, wild places and the fish that live there was not just something of her childhood.

“Standing in or sitting next to a river there is just something that fundamentally changes how you see life. Once you experience that there is no way anyone can ever take it away,” she said. “There is a feeling of power and peace at the same time. Water always wins, but, every once in a while, it gives you the break you need.”

The infatuation with water started as a youngster in Madras, Oregon. Her father was a pharmacist and each week he made trips to families living in remote locations to deliver prescrip-

tions and whatever else they might need from town. The weekly outings, some on the banks of the Deschutes River, fostered many special memories.

“I chased lizards and snakes, played in orchards and fished,” Faltings said.

Her father used a spinning rod while fishing, but around the age of 12 Faltings found a Fenwick fly rod at the house and started using it.

“I’d slap the water with a big stone-fly and stupid fish would take it,” she laughed. “I had no clue what I was doing, but I didn’t care.”

She eventually did have a clue and became increasingly interested in fly

fishing and the amazing locations associated with the lifestyle. After her post-graduation trip, Faltings did return to Sisters and married the guy behind the counter. She did a little guiding, spent a lot of time in the shop, but also started using her business degree as a financial advisor.

She eventually left the marriage and Sisters. As her career grew so did opportunities to explore new fishing destinations.

“I was single, so I worked a lot and I fished a lot,” Faltings said. “I really stretched my boundaries.”

She started to travel for fishing not only across North America, but also the world. Trips to Russia and Canada were highlights. She also discovered fly fishing on saltwater.

Faltings should have known better than to walk into another fly shop, but she did during a ski trip to Ketchum, Idaho.

She didn’t walk out of Silver Creek Outfitters engaged, but she did even-

“I have gained so much peace and pleasure from clean water and wild fish throughout my life. I want to know others will be able to do the same after I am gone.”



STEVEN BRUTGER

tually marry Dave Faltings and move to Idaho.

She found someone who shared her passion for fishing and new experiences in special places. The pins on the world map of places Faltings had fished kept growing, but the hardest 26 months of her life were waiting.

Dave was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, and passed away just over two years later. Now a divorcee and a widow, Faltings had learned not to take anything for granted.

“When they say don’t sweat the small stuff, they mean it,” said Faltings. “It really changes your life and who and what gets your energy.”

While conservation and Trout Unlimited have always been a part of her life, Faltings hopes to set an example for others by committing time and money to the organization’s efforts.

“I’ve had this realization over the past decade that unless people step up to the plate and get some skin in the game to protect what we have

we may lose it,” said Faltings, who joined Trout Unlimited’s Coldwater Conservation Fund board of directors two years ago “We need advocates for rivers—for fish. My new

mission in life is to help TU because they have some of the most talented and smartest fisheries people in the world. I trust they will take care of the places I love.”

In addition to serving on the CCF board, Faltings is also active with the local Big Blackfoot Chapter of Montana Trout Unlimited and enjoys chapter outings like a knapweed pull this spring.

Because the water, the fish and conservation mean so much to her, Faltings has arranged to continue giving to Trout Unlimited as part of her estate.

“It was a no brainer. I’m not married, and I don’t have children. The money has to go somewhere,” she said. “I have gained so much peace and pleasure from clean water and wild fish throughout my life. I want to know others will be able to do the same after I am gone.”

—By Brett Prettyman

Ways to Give Smarter

You can always make a gift to TU by check or credit card, but there are also other ways to help Trout Unlimited thrive while addressing your unique tax situation.

Donate appreciated stock. Transfer stock directly to TU, avoid taxes on the capital gain, and receive a deduction for the full value.

Give from your IRA. Donate directly from your IRA, pay no taxes on the transfer and satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD). This is a great option for those who do not itemize their deductions. Must be age 70 ½ or older.

Make a gift of real estate. Donate a second home or investment property to TU, avoid capital gains, and even receive an income in return.

Receive income for life. Avoid capital gains taxes on donated property, provide a stream of income for yourself or others, and receive a partial tax deduction.

Gifts in your will. Leave a gift to TU in your will so that future generations can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.

For more ideas tailored to your unique tax situation, contact Sue Thomas, Director of Gift Planning, at (703) 284-9421 or Sue.Thomas@TU.org or visit TroutLegacy.org

OUR VISION:

For communities across America to engage in the work of repairing and renewing the rivers, streams, and other waters on which we all depend.

OUR MISSION:

To bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.

NEW DIRECTIONS:

Trout Unlimited charts course with a new strategic plan

AT TROUT UNLIMITED, we fix rivers and streams. We bring people together. We make waters and communities more resilient to the effects of climate change.

We believe the most complex and seemingly insurmountable challenges can be solved when people come together and get to work.

We know this from experience.

We were founded by anglers who saw that the rivers we loved were being degraded, and not much was being done about it.

We decided to do something about it.

We banded together.

We found willing partners, picked up shovels, planted trees, and rolled rocks. We knocked on doors, built coalitions, and passed state and federal laws to protect our rivers.

It hasn't been easy. But through sheer determination and force of will, we have protected magnificent landscapes, cleaned up streams, and restored entire river systems. We have seen waters run clear and fish return.

The harder we work, the more we realize how much work remains.

So we're retooling, recruiting, and reinforcing. With a new strategic direction over the next five years and beyond, we will build on the great work of those who came before us.

We will recruit a larger, younger, and more diverse array of communities and conservation advocates willing to roll up their sleeves.

Together, we will do the good work of fixing our rivers and streams for the use and benefit of anglers, families, and local communities. Please join us as we move in this new direction.

—Chris Wood

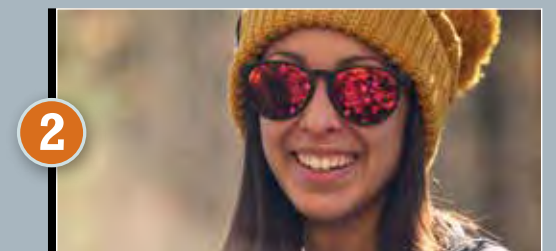
To learn more go to
tu.org/newdirections
or scan this code.



OUR GOALS



1 Identify a national network of **shared Priority Waters** for native and wild trout and salmon, and take strategic action to care for and recover them.



2 Inspire a **diverse corps** of staff, volunteers, and partners to advocate for and participate in the care and recovery of our lands and waters.

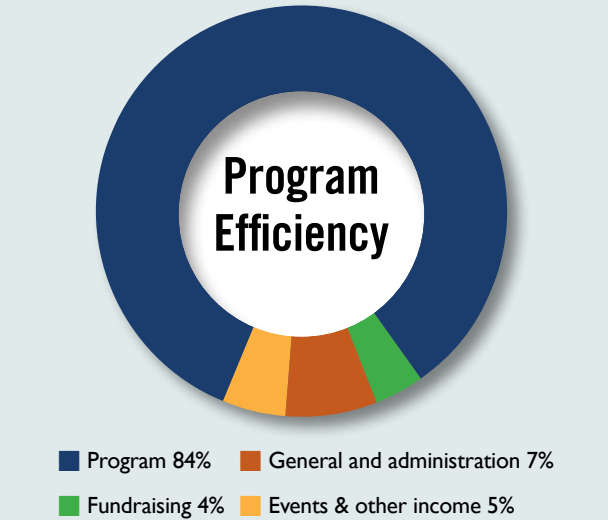
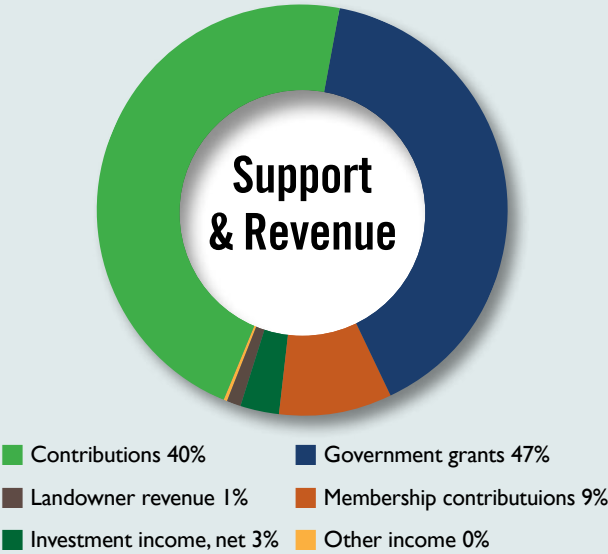


3 Invest in systems and people—staff, volunteers, and partners—so we have the **tools, technology, training, and resources** necessary to achieve our shared goals.

Trout Unlimited had a strong fiscal year 2021, increasing its net assets by over \$8 million to over \$34 million. This was the result of bequests exceeding \$3.9 million, an increase in membership contributions of \$1.4 million, and a \$5.3 million increase in government grants. Total support and revenue increased by over \$12 million to \$74 million, allowing Trout Unlimited to continue to expand its mission. Expenses increased by \$6 million to \$65.5 million, which is reflective of the increase in program funding. Trout Unlimited program efficiency ratio decreased to 84% as some programmatic activities were impacted by the pandemic.

The financial results depicted here are from Trout Unlimited’s audited March 31, 2021 financial statements, which contains an unmodified audit opinion. Trout Unlimited’s complete, audited financial statements can be found online at tu.org/about/financial-legal-and-governance/

Matt Renaud
Chief Financial Officer



For the fiscal years ending on March 31, 2021
(Dollars in thousands)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	
SUPPORT & REVENUE	FY 2021
Contributions	29,636
Government grants	34,648
Membership contributions	6,299
Investment revenue, net	2,314
Landowner revenue	775
Other income	333
Total Support & Revenue	74,005

EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Conservation Operations	48,754
Volunteer Operations	3,734
Communications	1,877
Government Affairs	948
Total Program Services	55,314
Fundraising	2,507
General & administrative	4,251
Membership Development	3,448
Total Expenses	65,520

Increase (decrease) in net assets	8,485
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SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	11,128
Investments	12,359
Accounts receivable, net	19,312
Inventory	549
Prepaid and other assets	713
Fixed assets, net	186
Total Assets	44,248

LIABILITIES	
PPP loan payable	3,337
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,008
Deferred membership fees	373
Refundable advances	310
Total Liabilities	10,029

NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	3,938
With donor restrictions	30,281
Total Net assets	34,219
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	44,248

Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees

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Chairman of National Leadership Council
Jim Walker, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

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Patsy Ishiyama, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

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Legal Advisor
David Armstrong, Esq., GREENVILLE, S.C.

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Alex Maher, JACKSON, WYO.
Gregory McCrickard, TOWSON, MD.
Stephen Moss, LARCHMONT, N.Y.
Phoebe Muzzy, HOUSTON, TEXAS
Tim O'Leary, PORTLAND, ORE.
Robert Oden, Jr., HANOVER, N.H.
Al Perkinson, NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLA.
Candice Price, KANSAS CITY, KAN.
Donald (Dwight) Scott, NEW YORK, N.Y.
Kathy Scott, NORRIDGEWOCK, ME.
Judi Sittler, STATE COLLEGE, PA.
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Jeff Witten, COLUMBIA, MO./ELKINS, W.V.

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