2022-2023 TROUT UNLIMITED ANNUAL REPORT

INVESTING IN IMPACT

TROUT UNLIMITED

Front cover: Youth fishing in a tributary to the Gunnison River in Colorado.
This page: Corinne Doctor, coordinator for the TU Colorado Council, holds her catch.

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When I reflect on the past year at Trout Unlimited (TU), I am both humbled and immensely proud of the day-to-day stories that we are creating together in communities across America. So many of you have stepped forward to invest your time, hard-earned dollars, resources, and passion into caring for and recovering the lands and waters that sustain this great nation.

From streambeds to legislatures, we have linked arms and the results are astonishing. This is TU's highest number of river and stream miles restored and reconnected in a year. Which means the waters in more of the places we love are running clean, cold, and fishable.

I cannot overstate the power of your generosity. Your support is helping to unlock once-in-a-generation public investments. Thank you for partnering with us to build the capacity and tools needed to leverage the highest conservation outcomes as we take on hundreds of boots-on-the-ground projects enabled by these partnerships.

With an exciting and unprecedented expansion in sight, TU is doubling down to invest in our systems and people. This is the only way we will harness the scale of the need and opportunity ahead of us to blend private and public funding and deliver on-the-ground, lasting impact.

It is not an exaggeration to say that what we do together now will determine what we are able to recover tomorrow. We must leave a legacy of cold, free-flowing, healthy waters to the next generation. I believe we can, and we will.

Thank you, again, for all you do. We are in this together.

Stay in touch,

Chris Wood
President and CEO

TU President and CEO Chris Wood.

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.

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.

Apache Trout monitoring in Arizona.

SEE WHAT MOTIVATES AND INSPIRES THE PEOPLE OF TROUT UNLIMITED.

Watch the video

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

PROTECTED

OVER 10,000,000 ACRES

of watershed landscapes

9,278 MILES

of rivers and streams

RESTORED

467 MILES

of rivers and streams

301 ACRES

of habitat

RECONNECTED

692 MILES

of rivers and streams

SUSTAINING THIS WORK IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Trout Unlimited's 400+ chapters and councils connected our communities to:

- 566,056 volunteer hours valued at $18,000,596 invested in projects
- 3,058 conservation or science/monitoring projects involving 16,536 volunteers
- 3,124 youth activities that engaged 92,990 young people
- 93 events designed for under-represented communities that reached 2,388 people
- 4,328 community engagement activities reached 87,451 attendees

Pere Marquette River in Michigan.

PRIORITY WATERS: OUR STRONGEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPACT

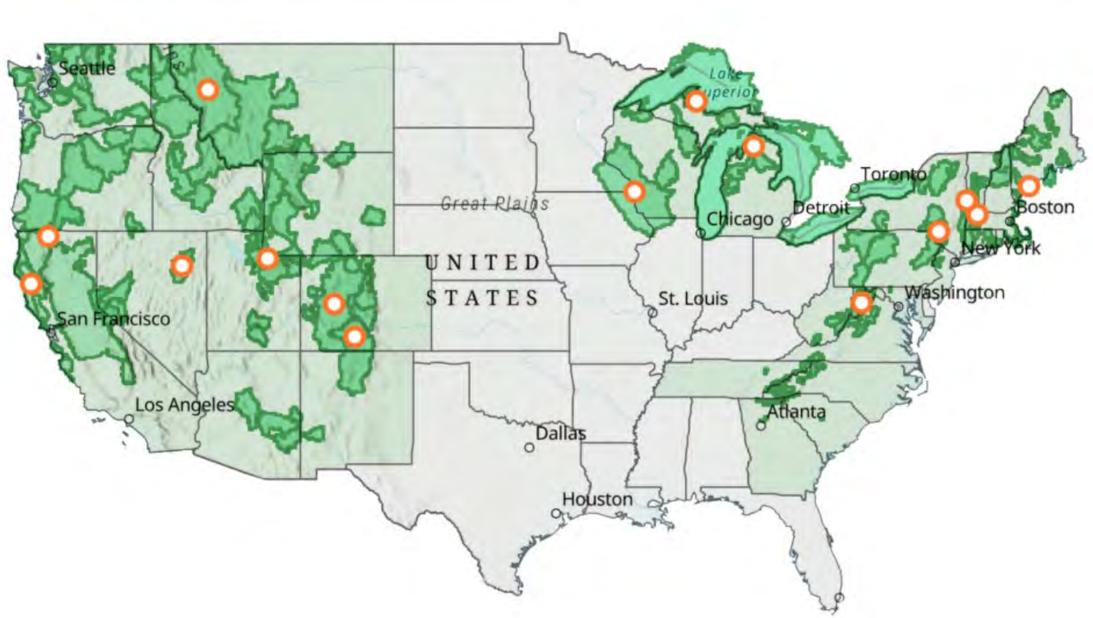
Trout and salmon are at a pivotal moment. The threats are enormous, and so are the opportunities.

Native trout populations and wild salmon runs are at risk of disappearing. Climate change is upon us. More than 1.5 million miles of America's trout and salmon waters are degraded.

But by working together—collaboratively, strategically, tirelessly—on watersheds across the country, we can rise to the moment.

This is the promise of Trout Unlimited's focused approach to conservation.

CLICK HERE TO EXPLORE THE MAP & FIND PRIORITY WATERS NEAR YOU.



To focus and expand our efforts on the most important habitat, we recently completed a comprehensive, state-by-state assessment to identify TU's Priority Waters. These are the places of greatest opportunity, where we have the strongest potential to protect, reconnect, and restore vital watersheds in our communities and across the country.

The Priority Waters work is central to our Strategic Plan and is driving greater coordination among those getting the work done on the ground: chapters, councils, partners, and national staff. Rooted in science and developed in collaboration, this initiative is maximizing outcomes for 200+ on-the-ground projects.

We are most successful when we pull together as staff, volunteers, and partners to focus our resources on shared priority areas—and stick with the work long enough to achieve an ambitious conservation vision. Thank you for uniting with us behind a vision of healthy fish and clean water, and we hope you see yourself in these shared efforts.

> ***From the start, our hope was that by developing shared Priority Waters, we would help engage new partners in our mission. And it has.***
>
> ***—Chris Wood, President & CEO***

Blackfoot River in Montana.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONSERVATION WINS YOU HELPED MAKE POSSIBLE

Becky Mitchell (left), Colorado Water Conservation Board Director and Mely Whiting (right), TU Colorado Water Project Legal Counsel celebrate the groundbreaking of the Colorado River Connectivity Channel project.

GROUNDBREAKING $33 MILLION PROJECT IS RECONNECTING THE COLORADO RIVER: Built in the 1980s to supply water to booming Front Range communities of Colorado, the Windy Gap Reservoir helped meet water supply demands of these growing communities, but has also considerably damaged the river's fish populations and water quality. TU is championing a solution to build a natural stream channel around the reservoir to improve the quality of this Gold Medal trout fishery and nearly 30 miles of the Colorado River. The reservoir's dam impedes movement of native fish and wild trout up and down the river, and is a source of warm, sediment-laden water to the downstream reach of the Colorado River. But now, TU and its partners are reconnecting this section of the Colorado River and reversing some of the damage the Windy Gap project has done over the past four decades. With funding from a wide array of sources, TU and its partners—Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Municipal Subdistrict, Grand County, the Upper Colorado River Alliance, Grand County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and others—broke ground on construction of the Colorado River Connectivity Channel in August 2022. The project will reopen the Colorado to fish passage, improve downstream habitat and water quality, and open up a mile of Gold Medal-quality public angling access.

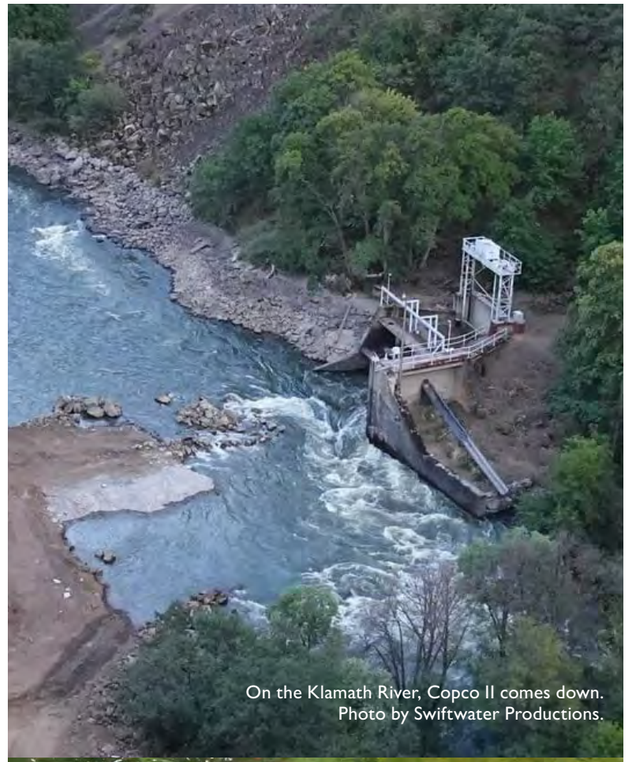
Learn more about Windy Gap

FINAL STEP ACHIEVED TO BEGIN THE LARGEST DAM REMOVAL PROJECT IN HISTORY: After two decades of unrelenting advocacy, untold hours of work by Tribal Nations, TU, and our NGO partners, and the investment of many philanthropic partners, four dams on the lower Klamath River in California are coming down. On November 17, 2022, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued the Final License Surrender Order for the Lower Klamath River Hydroelectric Project – clearing the last major hurdle necessary to implement the largest river restoration project in history. The deconstruction of all four dams should be completed in 2024. Above and below the dams, habitat restoration work has been underway for years, and TU is partnering with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to identify and prioritize the most impactful habitat and water quality projects in the reservoir reach so steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon, and other native species can take full advantage of the habitat.

Learn more about Klamath Dams

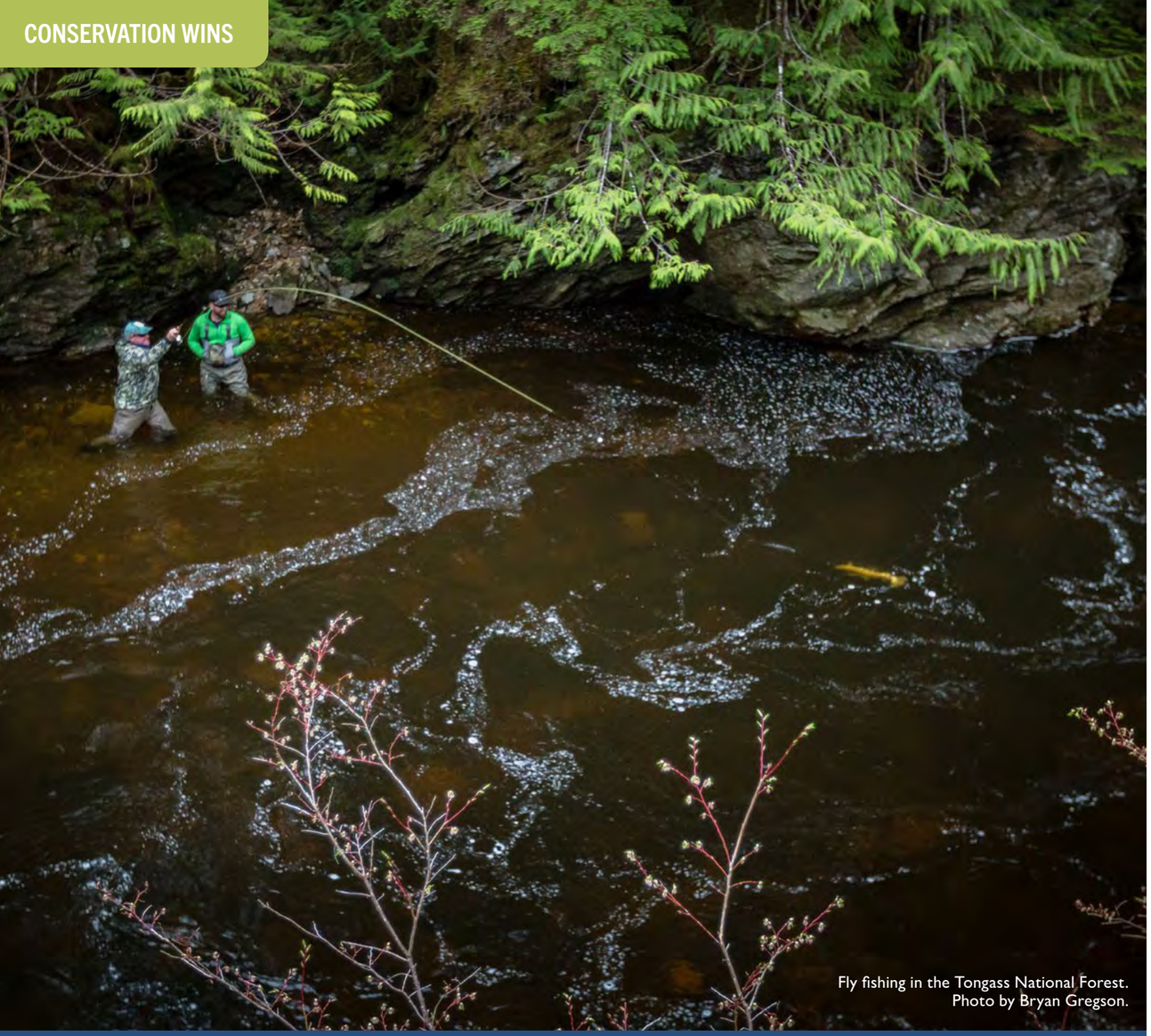
DEFENDING BRISTOL BAY: The Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers are world-renowned fisheries that provide half the world's sockeye salmon and are a 'bucket list' destination for anglers from around the world. For more than two decades, the proposed Pebble Mine at the headwaters of these mighty rivers has threatened local communities and jobs, a sport and commercial fishing industry worth $2 billion, and arguably the world's best salmon and trout sportfishing destination. In 2021 a TU lawsuit helped to get Clean Water Act protections back on track for the waters and wetlands in the vicinity of the Pebble deposit. On January 31, 2023, the EPA finalized Clean Water Act protections for waters and wetlands near the Pebble Deposit, essentially blocking the proposed mine. Together, we will continue to establish durable, long-term protections for this world-class fishery and the people who have established traditions and businesses around it.

Learn more about Bristol Bay



On the Klamath River, Copco II comes down. Photo by Swiftwater Productions.

Bristol Bay salmon.



Fly fishing in the Tongass National Forest. Photo by Bryan Gregson.

RESTORING THE TONGASS: TU has been working for nearly two decades to establish lasting conservation measures in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. On January 25, 2023, the U.S. Forest Service announced it is restoring the Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, re-establishing roadless protections on 9.3 million acres in the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. The Tongass is a large carbon sink that slows the effects of climate change. The amount of carbon dioxide stored in the Tongass National Forest – if left standing – is equal to the yearly CO2 emissions of over 421 million vehicles. To address more than 700 improperly placed or damaged culverts blocking hundreds of miles of quality fish habitat throughout the forest, our dedicated restoration biologist for the Tongass is advancing a robust body of work in high value areas with maximum benefit to local fisheries and communities. We will continue to restore waterways and defend the forest from unsustainable industrial clear-cut logging of old-growth and ensure unnecessary and costly roads are not built in areas important to fish and the extensive tourism and fishing industries they support.

Learn more about the Tongass

THREE HUNDRED AND FIVE MILES OF TROUT HABITAT PROTECTED IN NEW MEXICO: Thousands of miles of trout streams in New Mexico are susceptible to the historic drought plaguing the Southwest—and TU helped protect 305 of them throughout northern New Mexico from degradation and mining. As of July 12, 2022, using a state-level designation known as Outstanding National Resource Waters, a.k.a. Outstanding Waters, these rivers and streams are now protected from land use impacts like mining and road development that could degrade water quality. Outstanding Waters are the state's highest form of water quality protection, and although the designation process is usually straightforward, it took three years of advocacy by NGOs, tribes, landowners, and local leaders to get it done. Thanks to the work of TU and our partners, more of that watershed, including a segment of the mainstem Pecos River and 165 miles of its tributary streams, now have protections in place to prevent water quality impairments from mining and other activities expected to harm trout habitat and downstream water users.

Learn more about New Mexico trout streams

Rio Grande cutthroat trout in New Mexico.

RESTORING SPREAD CREEK IN WYOMING: In 2010, the removal of an obsolete dam opened up over 50 miles of the Spread Creek watershed to migratory trout and other native fish. The second phase of this collaborative, $1.6 million project was completed in July 2022, when a vital fish screen was installed that now allows migratory trout and other native fish (formerly trapped in the irrigation system) to continue their migrations towards the Snake River five miles downstream and is stabilizing the diversion, banks, and channel in the project area. A recent TU film, "Spread Creek," beautifully shares this story about wild, native cutthroat trout and the power that partners can have when we come together. "The story of Spread Creek is a story of persistence. It's a story of resiliency, not just for the fish and the stream and our beautiful native cutthroat trout, but also the partnerships and the relationships we've built." – Leslie Steen, TU's Wyoming State Director

Learn more about Spread Creek

Spread Creek restoration crew stands at the project site.

ADVANCING BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS

There has never been a more impactful time to invest in TU's mission. Your support is an invaluable anchor at TU that is building the capacity and tools needed to secure additional public funding made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Together, our partnerships are maximizing short- and long-term conservation outcomes needed for fish, people, and communities to thrive.

TU volunteers planting trees in the Catskills.


Pounding posts for a low-tech process-based restoration structure in the Upper Klamath Basin in Oregon.

Following are highlights of just a few of the projects that your support helped launch or advance during TU's last fiscal year.

RECONNECTING WARM SPRINGS CREEK IN MONTANA: In a watershed scarred by mining, TU is completing a series of restoration projects to reconnect 64 miles of habitat on Warm Springs for endangered bull trout. Multiple project partners anticipate investing approximately $2 million through 2026 to complete the remaining fish passage work in the watershed to ensure a healthier future for both the fishery and local communities.

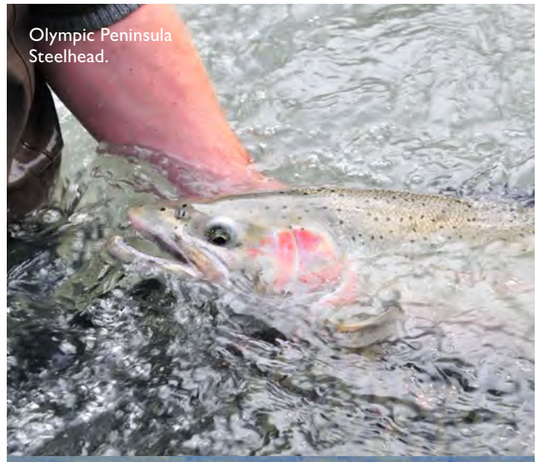
Learn more about Warm Springs Creek

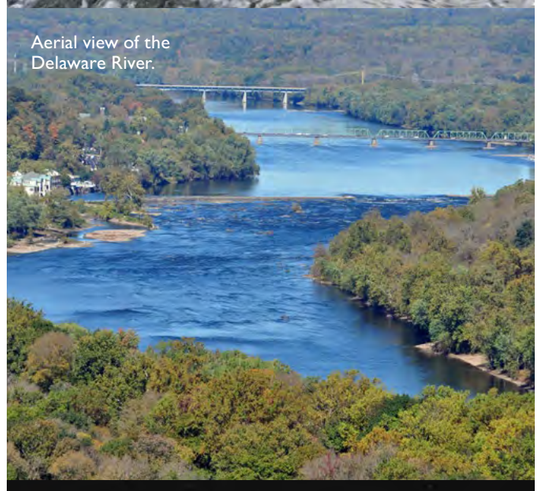

Warm Springs Creek in the Nez Perce National Forest.

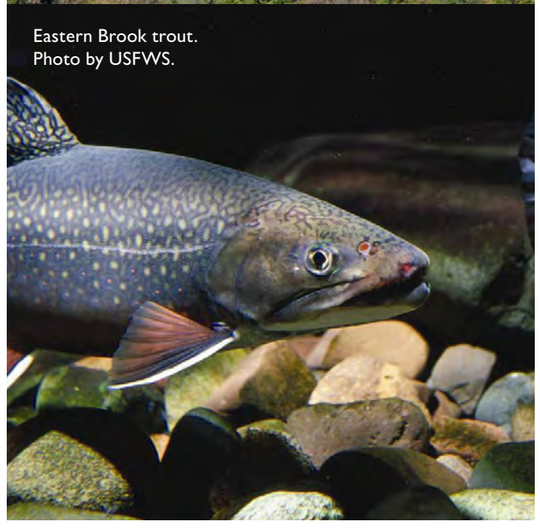
REBUILDING FLOODPLAINS IN NEW MEXICO: Little Turkey Creek was scorched by the Whitewater Baldy fire over a decade ago and then scoured to bedrock by flash floods. Thanks to a watershed-based plan and a blend of private and public funding, TU is actively advancing a long-term effort using process-based restoration techniques to capture sediment, rebuild floodplain connectivity, and restore beaver habitat in critical headwater habitat for gila trout.

Learn more about Little Turkey Creek


Volunteers at Little Turkey Creek.


Olympic Peninsula Steelhead.


Aerial view of the Delaware River.


Eastern Brook trout. Photo by USFWS.

RESTORING OLYMPIC PENINSULA STEELHEAD HABITAT IN WASHINGTON: Historically, the Pacific Northwest was the most productive steelhead and salmon region in the world, supporting up to 350 million spawning fish each year, but today runs are just a fraction of what they used to be. TU is addressing diminished salmon and steelhead populations by leading key restoration programs in the Hoh, Clearwater, Queets, Quillayute, and Quinault watersheds on the Olympic Peninsula. Private support helped leverage an additional $9 million+ in public funding in the past year to steward numerous projects through design and implementation phases - improving critical habitat for multiple life stages of wild steelhead.

Learn more about Olympic Peninsula steelhead

RESTORING THE DELAWARE RIVER IN NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND DELAWARE: The Delaware River's 13,539-square-mile watershed supports water supplies that serve more than 13 million people, including New York City's residents. TU and our partners are completing an impressive array of ongoing projects – many made possible by a $26.1 million funding infusion from the federal infrastructure law – that protect fisheries, mitigate flooding, repair aging infrastructure, and enhance river-related recreational opportunities. The funding is also setting the stage for a dam removal that will open up another 15 miles of habitat.

Learn more about our work on the Delaware River

CONNECTING WATERWAYS AND SEEING EASTERN BROOK TROUT SWIM FREELY IN MARYLAND: Removing barriers to reconnect waterways allows a stream to be a stream again and provides brook trout with unhindered access to cold tributaries critical to their survival. On a tributary to Blue Lick Run, in the Savage River watershed in western Maryland, TU and partners removed two 20-foot-long perched metal culverts that previously blocked access to 1.8 miles of headwater habitat. Just three short months after the project was completed, TU staff watched as Eastern brook trout moved through the newly constructed, aquatic-friendly box culvert. TU's ability to secure funding from the infrastructure law multiplies the number of fish passage barrier removal projects we can implement in the Potomac Headwaters.

Learn more about Eastern brook trout

RECOVERING NATIVE TROUT AND RESTORING COMMUNITIES IN WISCONSIN: The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is home to 1,200 miles of fishable streams and 600 fishable lakes. Over the past few years, TU has opened up dozens of miles of previously inaccessible stream habitat in northern Wisconsin by removing barriers such as obsolete dams and perched culverts, which form miniature waterfalls that block fish. Infrastructure law funding—which can only be secured with support like yours—is expanding this work with projects such as culvert removals that will reconnect over 15 miles of trout habitat in the South Branch Oconto River which is one of the highest quality coldwater systems on the east side of the Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest and one of the most visited.

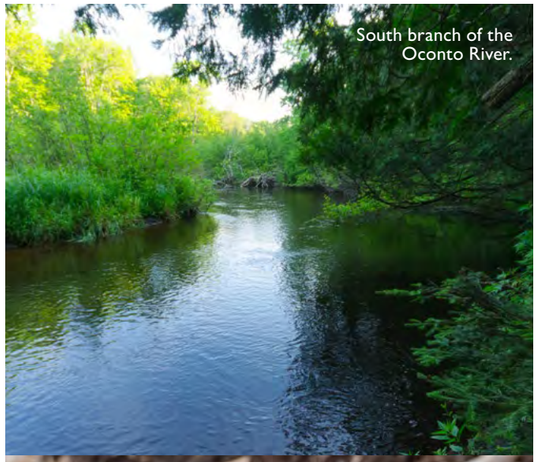
Learn more about restoration work in Wisconsin

ENLISTING THE HELP OF BEAVERS IN THE UPPER KLAMATH RIVER IN OREGON: On the Sprague River in the Upper Klamath Basin, where the 400,000-acre Bootleg Fire burned in 2021, infrastructure law funding is supporting TU's work to install beaver dam analogs and other low-tech structures that improve fish habitat for endangered bull trout. Our monitoring work last year has already shown substantial water quality benefits, along with natural beavers moving into the restored project reaches.

Learn more about our Upper Klamath work

UNBUILD IT AND THE FISH WILL COME —RESTORING THE UPPER BEAR RIVER IN WYOMING & UTAH: A unique variety of Bonneville cutthroat trout calls the Bear River home and migrates exceptional distances throughout the river system in search of cool water and suitable habitat. With infrastructure law funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service, and through partnerships with the Western Native Trout Initiative and local landowners, we are upgrading and improving irrigation diversions to remove barriers to fish migration and reconnect 45 miles of important habitat.

Learn more about our work on the Upper Bear River


South branch of the Oconto River.


Beavers play a critical role in stream restoration.


A Bonneville trout from the Bear River.

EXTRAORDINARY TEAM MEMBERS ARE THE HEART OF TROUT UNLIMITED

At TU, our passionate team of over 300 scientists, field experts, government affairs, operations, outreach, and development professionals fuel a comprehensive approach to watershed conservation.

Together, the TU team builds strong partnerships with governmental agencies, local communities, resource managers, and grassroots volunteers. We are a coalition of technical experts, field pioneers, passionate anglers, and tireless advocates. We are all working toward a shared vision of cold, clean water. TU's staff drive a unique blend of science, policy, advocacy, and boots-on-the-ground impact to create lasting resiliency in our water resources.

Our efforts generate a ripple effect as we partner with diverse communities to care for their rivers through over 400 councils and chapters from coast to coast.

AT TU, OUR PEOPLE DRIVE MEASURABLE, MEANINGFUL CHANGE FOR IRREPLACEABLE WATERS NATIONWIDE.

SETH COFFMAN
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROJECT MANAGER

For 15 years, Seth Coffman has partnered broadly to restore coldwater tributaries of the Shenandoah – including Beaver Creek. A few years ago, Beaver Creek was shallow and lacked quality cover and spawning habitat for trout. Today, thanks to Coffman's dogged efforts, the creek runs deep and narrow, providing better habitat that supports a more robust population of fish. Thanks to that work the Massanutten TU Chapter hosts the Beaver Creek Invitational where disabled veterans fish the restored waters. "I've [talked to] veterans from all services who are now coming here to reconnect with Mother Nature and other veterans. It helps them out with their re-entry into society after the time they have served," one participant said.

RENE HENERY
SCIENCE DIRECTOR, TU CALIFORNIA PROGRAM

At the intersection of policy, research, and practice, Rene Henery makes an impact across California. Beyond his working leading TU's science efforts in the Sunshine State, Henery provides leadership for TU's equity and diversity efforts. He emphasizes the strength that diversity brings to any system, whether it be a river or an organization. "Every person...is a collection of culminating moments in a long and unique thread of life through time," Henery writes. "The opportunity of a diverse system really becomes about all of those unique expressions becoming fully realized together."

GREG MCREYNOLDS
INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Greg McReynolds has been leading policy and advocacy campaigns at TU for 16 years. These days, he's busy conjuring up funding for grassroots organizing, tracking research findings, weighing in on policy, and amplifying a critical message: now is the time to save wild the Snake River salmon by removing the lower four dams. The work ahead is complex, but maintaining public momentum plays a pivotal role in moving toward a solution that will save salmon and trout in the Snake River. It's a decadeslong effort to recover once-thriving populations of salmon and steelhead, now declined by more than 90 percent. "For 50 years, we have tried barging fish, increasing spill over the dams, producing hatchery fish, and implementing dozens of other mitigation efforts," said McReynolds. Today, he says the science is clear: the dams must come out to avoid extinction. And he's focused on making that vision a reality.

COREY FISHER
SENIOR LANDS POLICY DIRECTOR

Like restoring natural processes on a wild river, TU's policy outcomes take time to flourish. Measurable progress can take months, years, or even decades. That's why policy experts bring knowledge, a collaborative spirit, and a long view to their work. That's especially true for Corey Fisher, whose work involves shaping policy to facilitate the clean-up of abandoned mines and modernize the woefully outdated 1872 Mining Law. Fisher and the TU Government Affairs team helped inspire and inform the bipartisan Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2023, addressing mines that impair 22,000 miles of stream with mine drainage and heavy metals.

ERIN RODGERS
WESTERN NEW ENGLAND PROJECT MANAGER

Even in a crisis, Erin Rodgers sees an opportunity to rise stronger than before. After floods devastated the Northeast in early 2023, Rodgers and her colleagues at TU saw the structures they'd put in place to create greater resilience in the ecosystem had fared even better than expected, mitigating greater destruction to the surrounding area while unrestored sites were decimated by floodwaters. Now, Rodgers and her team are identifying the opportunities to manage the disasters to come. Prior to flooding, "our field team had [just] gone around the whole state and done a bunch of monitoring," Rodgers said. "We've got 'before' data and now we're going around getting the 'after' data."

A SHARED PASSION

Through Trout Unlimited, an incredible grassroots network of volunteers inspires conservation, restoration, and stewardship of our shared waters.

In the last fiscal year, our volunteers donated 562,515 hours, valued at over $18 million using the Independent Sector's estimated value of volunteer time. More than 210,000 members and supporters were engaged in hands-on conservation projects, community science, environmental education, and social activities.

From Georgia to Washington and all the regions in between, TU volunteers raise over $13 million in donations annually to carry out our mission locally. This looks and feels like different things in different communities, as each local TU directs resources and time to the unique needs of their coldwater river, stream and community. However, each is bound by our common mission, our shared Priority Waters, and our commitment to engaging whole communities, particularly the next generation, in service to our mission. For example, last year TU volunteers reached more than 95,000 youth with fly fishing education or conservation and science programming.

WORKING AS ONE TU, NATIONAL STAFF, STATE COUNCIL, AND CHAPTER LEADERS MOVE TOGETHER TO CARE FOR AND RECOVER OUR WATERSHEDS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

High alpine lake in Colorado along the Continental Divide.

PLACES WHERE WE RENEW

Scot Simmons shares his remarkable story of healing that inspires him to pay it forward through mentoring and conservation. So many people have turned to the outdoors and specifically fishing in recent years for personal renewal. Thank you for helping to multiply these stories everywhere that TU is working on the ground and in our communities.

Scot Simmons in "The Studio"

Watch the video

Alleigh Raymond on the Davidson River. Photo by Connor Parton Photography.

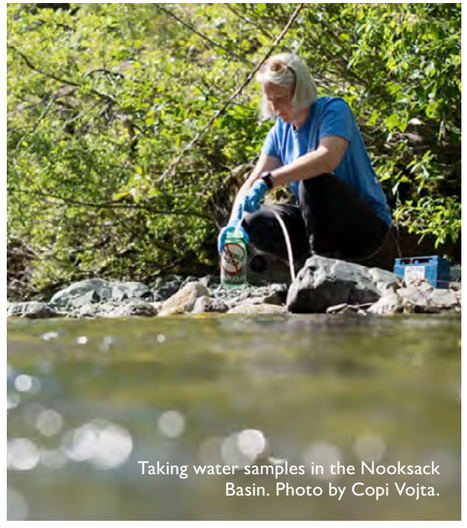
BLUE RIDGE TU BUILDS CONNECTION IN THE WATER

The 072 - Blue Ridge chapter likes to get their hands wet and their boots dirty. Thanks in part to a robust TU Service Partnership Program, the chapter closed out the year with nearly 15,000 volunteer hours. The Blue Ridge chapter partners with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing to promote the physical and emotional rehabilitation of wounded and disabled active military personnel and veterans through fly fishing. Programs include things like fly fishing trips and fly-tying workshops and increasingly work to connect participants back to the TU mission, to the TU community and to continued service through the chapter's programs. Fellowship with other anglers and mentors cement the therapeutic benefits of communing with the waters of North Carolina.

"A day on the river is a good day—even if it is raining and the fish aren't biting," said one participant. "It doesn't matter because you have the perfect peace to get through the day and take away the stress."

A deep commitment to service runs through TU members from coast to coast. "The common denominator of programs that use fly fishing as a form of therapy is you," said TU President Chris Wood. "TU is the volunteer labor force for programs like Reel Recovery, Casting for Recovery, Rivers of Recovery, Reeling in Serenity, the Mayfly Project, and Project Healing Waters. You counter the desperation of a cancer diagnosis, or of a veteran with PTSD, or a lonely child, with love and compassion. When others look across the landscape and see loss and degradation, you all see the opportunity to recover hope through restoration."

VOLUNTEERS GAVE 562,515 HOURS OF PASSION & HARD WORK



Taking water samples in the Nooksack Basin. Photo by Copi Vojta.

COMMUNITY MEETS COLLABORATION IN WASHINGTON

In 2020, the 938 - North Sound chapter in Washington dedicated its energies to a U.S. Forest Service initiative: the comprehensive inventory and mapping of trout and salmon populations in the Nooksack Basin by water sample collection. What happened next was a cascade of conservation, community involvement, and agency collaboration.

The chapter bought specialized collection equipment, trained volunteers, and sent these community scientists into the field, collecting data across the basin. At first, North Sound chapter leaders drove the effort—but as visibility grew, so did momentum: local anglers, students, and basin residents jumped on board to assist. Together, the team has sampled hundreds of sites. Their work generated more insights into populations and habitats, an expanding research area, and more agencies joining the effort.

Today, the North Sound chapter carries on a legacy of service exemplified by Bill McMillan. Bill volunteered with TU for decades, collecting steelhead spawning data on the Skagit River. Bill passed the torch to the North Sound chapter to carry on a tradition of conservation.

Trout in the Classroom student shows off her fingerling.

ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH EDUCATION THRIVES IN OHIO

Trout and Salmon in the Classroom (TIC/SIC) are environmental education programs that help K-12 students develop an enduring love for the environment. Approximately 100,000 students annually raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in a coldwater aquarium during the school year and in the process learn about the importance of water quality, aquatic biology, watershed management, and stewardship. In some cases, TIC/SIC offers students their first chance to care for another living thing or take a field trip to the source of their drinking water—and that makes an impact that can last a lifetime.

In Ohio, the 477 - Mad River chapter seizes TIC opportunities as they channel students into active participants outside the classroom, engaging the most youth participants outside of a school setting of any chapter. Mad River's TU Teens, a program now entering its twelfth year, is bolstered by smart partnerships that keep the program strong: Orvis sponsors equipment for TU Teens fishing trips, with generous donors covering remaining gaps.

Scot Simmons shares his love of fishing with his son.

TU INSPIRES A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION IN MINNESOTA

"There is no better mental health therapy for me than being out on the water." That's from Scot Simmons, but it's a common sentiment from TU members. Water is a balm for the soul, resulting in outcomes that exist outside of spreadsheets and measurability. Scot serves on the 023 - Twin Cities TU (TCTU) board, where he supports the Fostering the Outdoors program. Youth programming thrives at TCTU with a focus on developing the next generation of conservationists through Trout in the Classroom, an outdoor summer camp (The Ultimate Nature Experience), and a fly-fishing skills program for families.

On the ground, TCTU boasts 75+ miles of stream restored across the state. In the field, a strong Streamkeepers group measures water temperatures and chemistry, while keeping a sharp eye on areas for future projects. From education to advocacy, and from mental health to spiritual connection, TCTU is inspiring a culture of conservation in anglers of all ages.

Michigan volunteers take a break at a project site.

DEEP ROOTS: MICHIGAN CHAPTER KEEPS BOOTS IN THE WATER

TU's origins on the banks of the Au Sable River are well known, but the story of the 001 - Mason-Griffith Founders (MGFTU) chapter didn't simply crystallize in that moment. Their work lives on, rooted in rich history and looking ahead to the work yet to be done. "MGFTU decided a number of years ago that the focus of our chapter would be 'boots in the water' restoration and preservation work," said chapter president Karen Harrison. "We are able to make an impact because of our passion for the river, and we are very lucky to have dedicated volunteers."

From surveying brown trout redds in the South Branch of the Au Sable to placing and protecting 50+ large cedars in the Upper Manistee River's Deward Tract, the chapter has remained steady in their commitment to protection and restoration. Chapter leaders and volunteers keep their boots wet constructing fish structures, placing temperature monitors and reestablishing natural stream processes.

Students lead projects on the Chattahoochee River.

ALL HANDS IN TO RECONNECT WILD BROWN TROUT HABITAT IN GEORGIA

In the mountains of North Georgia, releases from Buford Dam cause erosion and sedimentation of wild brown trout habitat in the Chattahoochee River. A group of TU volunteers turned a $7,500 TU Embrace A Stream grant into a quarter-million-dollar restoration project energizing the local conservation community and engaging the next generation of conservationists by partnering with the University of Georgia 5 Rivers Club—led by college students.

Project leaders worked with an interdisciplinary team to create an ecological restoration plan covering 500 linear feet on both sides of the creek. Three obsolete culverts were also removed to increase aquatic connectivity, and volunteers spent several days removing invasive plant species from the banks and replacing the invasives with native flora. Leaders of the 034 - Pisgah and 348 - Rocky River chapters in North Carolina, who had worked on major projects recently, helped provide technical guidance and suggestions, representing a cross-state TU collaboration.

SMART INVESTMENTS FOR SMART CONSERVATION

Simply put, TU is an organization worth growing.

We all recognize the streams and fish we treasure are being threatened by climate change, population growth, development pressures, and a growing lack of connection to the outdoors, altering how our society cares for these irreplaceable natural resources. If we are going to be ultimately successful in achieving our shared conservation goals, we must rise to the challenge and scale our response to meet the needs of this moment.

A group of TU volunteers band together to restore a stream in the Catskills.

As part of our 5-year Strategic Plan, we are committed to harnessing the collective power of TU with a goal to invest in systems and people—staff, volunteers, and partners. In fiscal year 2023, we invested in better tools, technology, training, and resources necessary to achieve unprecedented restoration outcomes. Bolstered by stronger operations and relationships, TU is positioned to meet the scale of the need and opportunity for our work more ably than at any point in our 65-year history.

Some of the key investments we are making include:

REORGANIZING OUR EASTERN AND WESTERN CONSERVATION PROGRAM STRUCTURE to reflect the growth in the scope of our work, manage the increased number of staff and projects, and to meet the needs of that growing team into the future. This restructuring, along with investments in new regional and state leadership roles will fuel additional on-the-ground impact and strengthen our connections with local communities through our powerful network of 400+ state councils and chapters.

IMPLEMENTING SCALABLE SYSTEMS to support future growth, including a new financial management system designed for the size and complexity of the organization, major changes to our customer relationship management database to enhance communications and engagement, and targeted upgrades to human resources capacity and systems.

PROVIDING EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR OUR PROGRAM TEAMS including accounting and finance staff to help manage the complex accounting and compliance requirements for government grants, which have more than doubled from FY23 to FY24. This added support enables program staff to focus on what they do best because they can lean on specialized skill sets to support financial management and reporting requirements.

ENHANCING OUR STORYTELLING AND ADVOCACY CAPACITY to expand our presence with, and better engage communities, decision-makers, and members to advance our mission. We are investing in this capacity to ensure the public and policymakers understand the threats to the recreational and economic values of the landscapes and species we hold dear, as well as the communities that depend on them, and take action to support their recovery, protection, and resilience.

INVESTING THE STAFF TIME AND RESOURCES needed to complete the project planning, engineering, analysis, and research and development work to make the case for and secure hundreds of millions for federally funded restoration projects. The time spent developing proposals, persuading, negotiating, and working out detailed implementation plans are an up-front organizational investment that propels the impact we can harness over the coming decade.

MAKING THESE SMART INVESTMENTS FOR SMART CONSERVATION IS STRENGTHENING AND TRANSFORMING OUR ABILITY TO GET EVEN MORE DONE FOR OUR WATERSHEDS. IT IS YOUR PASSION AND GENEROSITY THAT MAKES THESE INVESTMENTS POSSIBLE AS WE BUILD A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER. THANK YOU.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, TROUT UNLIMITED

made planned investments in operational growth to meet the scale of the need and opportunity of our work in the next five years. By bolstering our systems and people, we are equipping a smarter, larger, and even more effective TU.

The Yellowstone River surges in Montana.

TU has seized the opportunity to make critical long-term operational investments across the organization. These investments are made possible by near-term inflows of unrestricted funding, notably from a substantial bequest and forgiveness of TU's Covid-era PPP loan, as well as increased long-term programmatic commitments from funding partners deploying additional awards, which reflects the effectiveness of TU's conservation mission. This combination of capital infusion plus increased long-term stability allowed TU to initiate a multi-year investment in systems to support a growing conservation portfolio plus investments in staffing to expand our supporter relationships.

TU is financially stable and fully prepared to absorb growth in all areas. Total revenue has averaged $70 million over the last three years - 20% higher than the prior three-year period and nearly double the revenue totals from a decade ago. Fiscal year 2023 closed with net assets totaling $40 million, down from $45 million in 2022, but $5.8 million more than $34.2 million in fiscal year 2021. Cash and cash equivalents increased by $400,000 to $11.3 million when compared to last year, due in part to efficient conversion of funder receivables into cash.

It is an exciting time of growth at TU as our conservation outcomes multiply each year, and these investments will continue to build a stronger TU with improved tools and technology, quality staffing management, and core support that will maximize our impact on the ground.

We are grateful for the generosity expressed by our donors with each contribution to our mission. Together, we are advancing our shared goal to protect and restore the rivers and streams that we all depend on.

Jim Hughey
Chief Financial Officer

The financial results depicted here are from Trout Unlimited's audited March 31, 2023 financial statements, which contains an unmodified audit opinion. Trout Unlimited's complete, audited financial statements can be found on our website.

SUPPORT & REVENUE

- Contributions, 43%
- Government Grants, 47%
- Membership Contributions, 8.8%
- Landowner Revenue, <1%
- Other Income, <1%

PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY

- Programming, 78%
- General & Administrative, 12%
- Fundraising & Membership, 10%

For the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2023
(Dollars in thousands)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORT & REVENUE	FY 2023
Contributions	27,528
Government grants	29,749
Membership contributions	5,612
Investment revenue, net	(445)
Landowner revenue	603
Other income	580
Total Support & Revenue	**63,627**
EXPENSES	
Program services	
Conservation operations	46,254
Volunteer operations	3,679
Communications	2,676
Government affairs	637
Total program services	53,247
Fundraising	2,588
General & administrative	8,211
Membership development	4,583
Total Expenses	**68,628**
Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	**(5,002)**
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION **ASSETS**	
Cash and cash equivalents	11,286
Investments	14,381
Accounts receivable, net	18,362
Inventory	913
Prepaid and other assets	487
Fixed assets, net	1,085
Total Assets	**46,514**
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,720
Deferred membership fees	294
Refundable advances	67
Lease liabilities	391
Total Liabilities	**6,472**
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	4,526
With donor restrictions	35,516
Total net assets	40,042
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**46,514**

LEADING US FORWARD

It would be impossible for TU to achieve these outcomes without the passion and leadership of our Board of Trustees, Councils, and Coldwater Conservation Board. Thank you to all of you who selflessly give your time, resources, and energy to build a better future for the rivers and streams where we live, fish, and renew.

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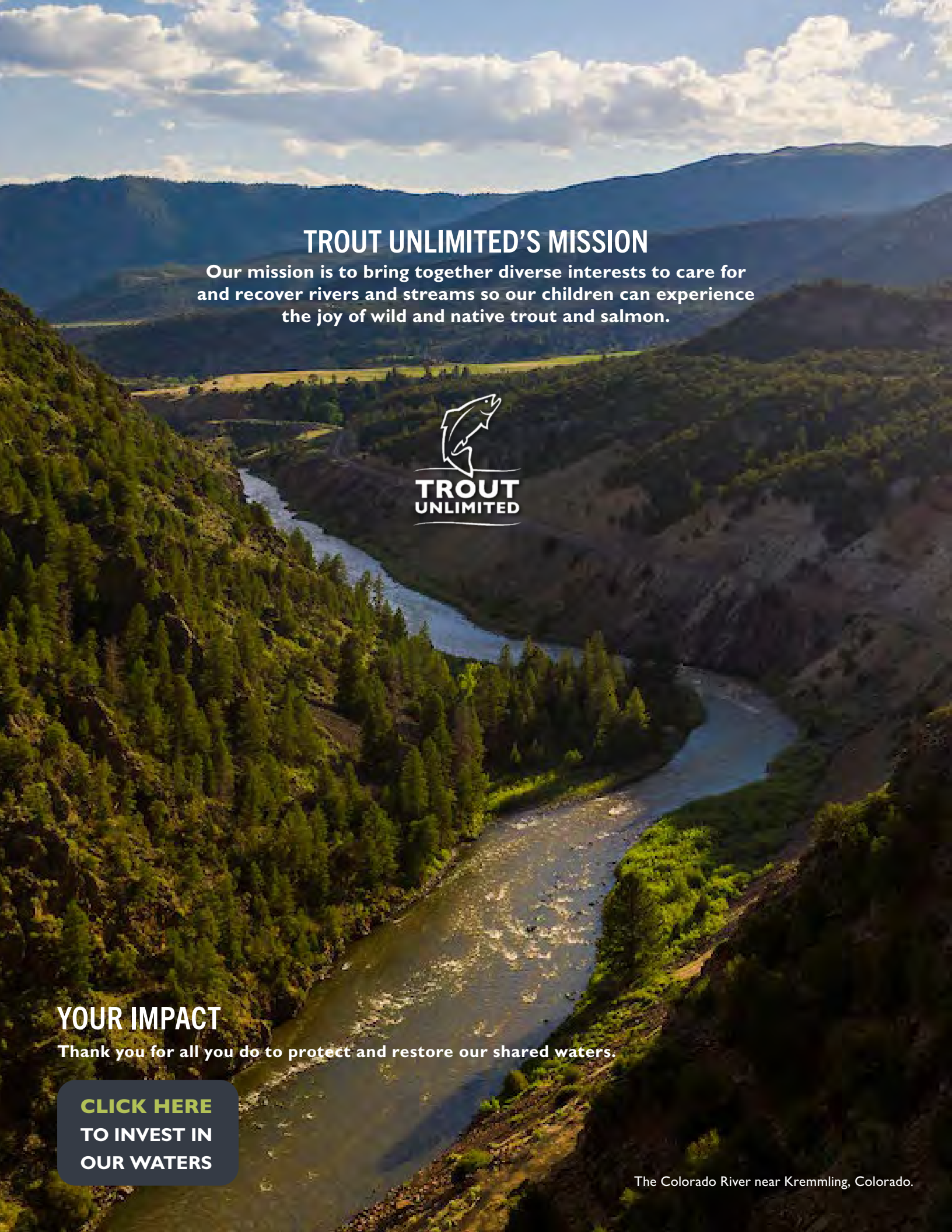
An aerial view of Bristol Bay in Alaska.


TROUT UNLIMITED'S MISSION
Our mission is 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.
TROUT UNLIMITED
YOUR IMPACT
Thank you for all you do to protect and restore our shared waters.
CLICK HERE TO INVEST IN OUR WATERS
The Colorado River near Kremmling, Colorado.