

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT
**RECOVERY
RISING**

**Every River
Needs A Champion**



Whether you are passionate about wild and native fish, inspired by the wonder of rivers or dedicated to clean water, we invite you into our community of optimists.

Together, we're making a difference—for our rivers, the fish that call them home, and the people and communities who rely on cold, clean water. I'm excited to share what we've accomplished in 2024–2025, and what we're building for the future.

With your support, Trout Unlimited (TU) is protecting, reconnecting, and restoring rivers at a pace that keeps rising, even in the face of challenges. Across our more than 200 Priority Waters, TU staff, volunteers, and partners are driving over 700 projects—from remote headwaters to iconic rivers to local streams.

This year, we've seen how our approach—rooted in community, collaboration, and credible science—continues to earn trust and get results. Our projects are not only bringing back trout and salmon, but also strengthening flood resilience, improving drinking water, and creating durable partnerships in places where consensus can be hard to find.

At the same time, we have redoubled efforts to protect important public lands such as roadless areas of the national forest system. These places are of enormous importance for native trout and salmon. The reality is that the challenges across our public lands are real. Shifting political winds demand that we be focused and steadfast while remaining true to our values. This past year shows the indomitable resolve of TU and the magic of bringing science, collaboration, and passion into our on-the-ground and advocacy work.

Our mission is clear, and our commitment is strong. Every project, every conversation, every volunteer effort adds momentum and ripples outward into lasting change. You make it happen.

With your support, our shared momentum is keeping rivers and streams healthy for generations to come. Thank you for standing with us, and for everything you do to protect the waters that bring wonder, renewal, and hope.

Onward,



Chris Wood
President and CEO



Our founders were anglers. By history and by nature, we are optimists.

Founded in 1959 on the banks of the Au Sable River near Grayling, Michigan, by a handful of anglers united by their love of wild trout and their growing disenchantment with the state's practice of stocking its waters with cookie-cutter hatchery trout. Convinced that Michigan's trout streams could harbor far superior fish if left to their own devices, the anglers formed a new organization: Trout Unlimited, dedicated to caring for and recovering wild and native trout and salmon.



In short order, the fledgling organization had persuaded the state to curtail trout stocking and begin managing for wild trout and healthy rivers. Inspired by that success, anglers in Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, and Pennsylvania quickly founded their own TU chapters, and the organization soon doubled in size.

We still help anglers channel their passion for fish into meaningful conservation, and we have grown well beyond those roots.

Over the years, we have safeguarded Bristol Bay's sockeye salmon fishery and protected more than 38 million of acres of public lands across the country. We have cleaned up abandoned mines and the streams they pollute, and championed a law that makes it easier for others to do so. We have helped spearhead the removal of antiquated dams from the Klamath in the West to the Kennebec in the East. We have reconnected thousands of miles of streams and reopened upstream habitat to native trout. We have mobilized thousands of grassroots advocates, educated generations of young people, and provided solace to countless veterans.

Today, TU is the nation's leading conservation organization working to care for and recover rivers and streams and their trout and salmon populations. We bring people together across the country to be champions for their rivers and help make our water cleaner and our communities healthier.

TOGETHER WE CAN RISE TO THE MOMENT.

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.

Click the button below to watch the 2-minute TU Champions Anthem video.



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The 2024-2025 Annual Report covers the fiscal year period from April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025.

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WHAT YOUR SUPPORT FUELS



WE ALL NEED COLD, CLEAN WATER

The people of TU are passionate about wild rivers, healthy streams, and the fish that call them home—whether we're out with a rod in hand or simply exploring with family and friends, eyes wide open to the beauty around us. We're deeply grateful to have you with us in this work.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Wild and native trout and salmon in the U.S. face historic threats. Over a million miles of their rivers and streams are harmed by pollution, habitat loss, and other pressures—putting many populations at risk of vanishing within decades. This isn't just a concern for anglers, but for **anyone who relies on clean water—which is all of us.**

WHO WE ARE

Since 1959, TU has been powered by a strong grassroots base. Today, 300,000+ members and supporters, 15,000 volunteers, and 400+ local chapters work with 300+ TU staff—experts who live in the communities their conservation work supports. **Our collective actions and support make us champions for our rivers.**

WHAT WE ARE INSPIRED TO DO

At TU, we refuse to stand by as rivers decline and trout and salmon disappear. Instead, we're driven to restore and protect the waters and fish that inspire and connect us—guided by **a shared vision of an America where healthy rivers matter and fish thrive.**

OUR CONSERVATION APPROACH

Trout Unlimited's success is rooted in a clear approach:

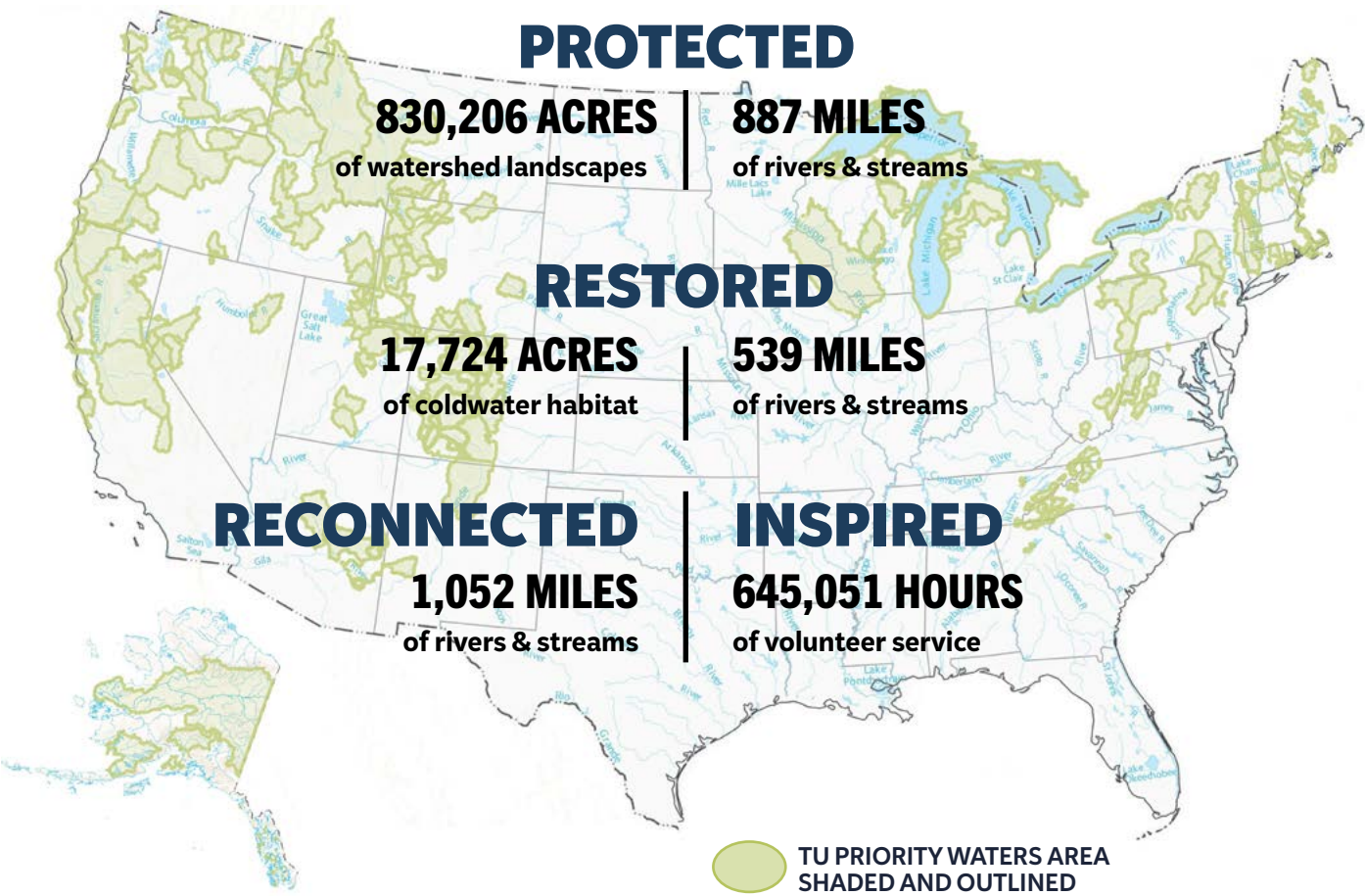
**PROTECT HEADWATERS,
RECONNECT HABITATS,
RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS,
AND MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES
to sustain progress.**

TOGETHER, WE GET THINGS DONE AT THE SCALE OUR RIVERS NEED.

Lasting conservation is built from the ground up, and we're in it for the long haul. TU proves this every year by completing hundreds of successful restoration and protection projects that turn conservation goals into visible results.

2024-2025
IMPACT
BY THE
NUMBERS

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE:



SUSTAINING THIS WORK IN OUR COMMUNITIES

TU's 400+ chapters and councils connect people to their local waters:

- **645,051 volunteer hours** invested in projects with \$19.8 million raised
- **3,740 Conservation or Science/Monitoring projects** engaged 20,021 people locally
- **121,832 youth reached** through K through college TU programming
- **Nearly 5,200 community engagement activities** reaching 129,307 people

Outcomes cover the fiscal year period from April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025.

2024-2025 CONSERVATION WINS

Recovery Rising

Your support makes hard-won conservation progress possible.

KEEPING AMERICA'S LANDS PUBLIC

TU has long recognized that protecting healthy lands and waters is easier, and far more cost-effective, than trying to restore what's been degraded. Through hard-fought wins for public lands, we act with determination to ensure future generations have access to clean waters and thriving, resilient landscapes.

[Learn more about how to stand up for public lands protections](#)

Aerial view of the Thompson Divide, where TU has spent over a decade securing long-term protections for one of Colorado's largest roadless forests.

PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S FALL RIVER

In 2024, TU partnered with the Pit River Tribe and led the sporting community to secure permanent protections for the **Sáttítla Highlands in California, with a formal national monument designation, effective January 2025.**

This win **protects the source waters of the Fall River**, which is the largest spring creek in California that harbors two distinct subpopulations of large rainbow trout.

It builds on a long list of TU victories—including protections for the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico and Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

KEEPING PUBLIC LANDS IN PUBLIC HANDS

In years past, **TU's advocacy has also successfully opposed large-scale public land sell offs.**

How do we do it? By making sure anglers and hunters who have a strong connection to public lands speak up. This was on display this year when millions of acres of public lands throughout the West were on the auction block, and **anglers, hunters, and public land users of all kinds came together to defeat one of the biggest threats to public lands we've ever seen.**

TU continues to rally members and other sportsmen and women to ensure public lands remain the backyard of the little guy and are not sold off and posted with "No Trespassing. No Hunting. No Fishing" signs.

DEFENDING ROADLESS PUBLIC LANDS

Looking ahead, **TU will continue to fight against efforts to repeal the 2001 Roadless Rule, threatening 45 million acres** of roadless National Forest lands across the country that **provide access to quality hunting and fishing opportunities found nowhere else.**

The success of the Idaho and Colorado roadless rules, which TU was intimately involved in helping develop, demonstrate how collaborative and thoughtful solutions can be brought forward to best protect human communities from fire while protecting the fish and wildlife and hunting and fishing values of roadless areas.

Together, we will remain vigilant in defending roadless safeguards that are **critical for sustaining cold, clean headwaters, healthy fisheries, and resilient forests.**

2024-2025 CONSERVATION WINS

Recovery Rising

Your generosity and partnership
turns vision into action.

A NATIVE TROUT SUCCESS STORY: APACHE TROUT DELISTED



For decades, TU has supported the White Mountain Apache Tribe and agency partners to restore the Apache trout, Arizona's state fish. TU's Arizona chapters, national science staff, and statewide partnerships have played a critical role in advancing one of the most remarkable recoveries in conservation history.

The vision and stewardship of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, who began protecting the Apache trout more than a century ago, remain at the heart of this achievement. In the early 1900s, Apache trout thrived across 700 miles of streams in Arizona, but by the 1950s their range had collapsed to just 30 miles. Decades of joint recovery work reversed that decline, expanding habitat, strengthening populations, and rallying support across communities.

In September 2024, these efforts reached an unprecedented milestone: for the first time ever, a sport fish—the Apache trout—was delisted from the Endangered Species Act.

This recovery is a testament to TU's core values and the persistence of our staff and volunteers, who never stopped advocating for these fish. Together with the White Mountain Apache Tribe and our state and federal partners, we've proven that collaboration can restore land, water, and even trout populations once written off as lost.

Going forward, TU remains committed to working hand-in-hand with the Tribe and our partners to ensure the Apache trout continues to thrive in its native waters for generations to come.

[Watch the TU film Resilience: The Rise of Apache Trout](#)

FLOWING FREE: KLAMATH RIVER DAMS COME DOWN

"We are confident that restoring the Upper Klamath Basin will deliver the greatest returns—for wild, native fish, for cold, clean water, and for the communities that rely on them." —Chrysten Rivard, Vice President, Pacific Region

For the first time in over a century, the Klamath River's Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and lamprey can reach more than 400 miles of historic spawning and rearing habitat in the upper basin. Flowing through California and Oregon, the Klamath is running free again, thanks to years of tireless work. TU's staff, members, and donors never wavered in their commitment and that dedication is paying off.

The four dams that once blocked fish passage, overheated the lower river, and contributed to catastrophic fish kills are now gone. Their reservoirs have been drained and replaced by native vegetation, and the river is reclaiming its long-buried streambeds.

For over two decades, TU stood with our partners to advocate for the removal of these dams in what became the largest dam removal effort in history. The \$500 million project was made possible by grassroots activism, court rulings, and complex negotiations.

Thanks to groundwork laid by the Yurok, Karuk, and Klamath Tribes, the final barrier was removed in August 2024. Just a month later, Chinook salmon were found above the former dams—a watershed moment in a decades-long effort.

The campaign faced major obstacles, nearly failing multiple times. But a coalition of tribes, conservationists, commercial fishermen, anglers, and other advocates always found a way forward.

The journey continues. TU's field staff are on the ground across California and Oregon restoring habitat, improving water quality, and tracking recovery. Every action brings the river closer to renewal and powers a revival at landscape scale—one that will sustain fish, strengthen communities, and benefit people for generations.

[Learn more about the restoration ahead](#)



Yurok leaders
and friends.



Blasting away
dams on the
Klamath
River. Photo
by Swiftwater
Films.



Process-based
restoration
in a Klamath
headwaer
tributary.



Leaping
Klamath
salmon. Photo
by Mid-Klamath
Watershed
Council.

2024-2025 CONSERVATION WINS

Recovery Rising

Your generosity and partnership turn vision into action.

RECONNECTING THE MIGHTY COLORADO

Preparing the headwaters of the Colorado River for a hotter, drier tomorrow.

In the 1980s, the Windy Gap Reservoir was constructed to meet growing water needs for Boulder, Fort Collins, and other Colorado cities. But for 40 years, it fragmented habitat and diminished the health of the Colorado River.

TU and its partners broke ground on the Colorado River Connectivity Channel in August 2022, and by October 2024, the natural bypass around Windy Gap was complete. The project reopened the river to fish passage, improved downstream habitat, and added a mile of Gold Medal public angling access. It will also create nearly 50 acres of new floodplain and riparian habitat and more than 10 acres of wetlands

The effort was a model of collaboration, uniting TU, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Grand County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and the Upper Colorado River Alliance with a common goal—to improve fish passage and the Colorado River as a whole. TU helped bring together funding from state, federal, and private partners to make the Connectivity Channel a reality. Corporate partners like PepsiCo, Frito-Lay, Intel, and Coca-Cola (via the Bonneville Environmental Foundation) made significant contributions to the project in alignment with their sustainability and water stewardship goals.

In May 2025, CPW biologists completed the first raft electrofishing survey in the new river channel, estimating 848 brown trout and 221 adult rainbow trout in the one-mile bypass reach. Sculpin also quickly colonized the channel and are now present in the Colorado River below Windy Gap Reservoir for the first time in nearly 40 years.

[Watch a video of the project site, expected to benefit 30+ miles of the Colorado River](#)



The project is expected to benefit over 30 miles of the Colorado River.



Breaking ground on the Colorado River Connectivity Channel Project in August 2022.



The project was completed and formally dedicated in October 2024 with about 150 people on hand.



In the first year, there are over 800 brown trout and 200 rainbow trout within a one-mile reach of the newly constructed river channel.

THE LONG GAME PAYS OFF FOR ABANDONED MINE CLEANUP

“This common-sense law gives us a critical tool to turn the tide, restoring clean water to watersheds across the West and beyond.” – Corey Fisher, TU Public Policy Director

In December of 2024, TU celebrated a breakthrough a decade in the making: the passage of federal Good Samaritan legislation to address abandoned mines leaking toxic waste into headwater streams.

After 20 years of relentless advocacy, TU played a pivotal role in advocating for the legislation, drawing on decades of on-the-ground restoration experience to raise awareness about the urgent need for action. The law creates a pilot program for organizations like TU to clean up abandoned mine sites without incurring

long-term liability for future pollution—previously a major legal barrier.

With over 40% of Western headwaters polluted by tens of thousands of legacy mines, this law jumpstarts clean-up efforts by TU, state agencies, and community partners. It embodies the best of TU: science-informed advocacy, multi-level engagement, and a refusal to give up on hard problems.

TU will continue to prioritize clean-up projects that turn toxic streams into thriving trout waters, setting the stage for a permanent Good Samaritan program.

[Learn more about clean up projects ahead](#)



2024-2025 RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

Recovery Rising

Your partnership drives real, on-the-ground change.

GO TIME ON THE OP: RESTORING RAINFOREST RIVERS



It's go time on Washington's lush Olympic Peninsula, where TU and our partners have ramped up critical work to restore habitat, remove fish migration barriers, and reconnect floodplains for struggling wild salmon and steelhead.

Local crews are replacing outdated culverts and adding log jams to help rivers function naturally again. Backed by private funds, state grants, and critical federal funding, this work boosts wild fish runs, supports coastal tribes and anglers, creates good local jobs and makes nearby roads more resilient to flooding.

[Watch TU's film *Olympic Peninsula: Restoring Rainforest Rivers*](#) to see how restoration protects these iconic rainforest rivers and supports partners on the ground, giving native fish a real chance to thrive again.

FUELING FIELD SEASON IN THE PINE TREE STATE



In Maine, a busy and productive field season on the Kennebago and Pleasant rivers has capitalized on partnerships with land trusts to protect wilderness areas, reconnect streams, and restore instream habitats. These comprehensive efforts collectively contribute to securing some of the best native brook trout strongholds in the country - the Kennebago watershed, in particular, supports one of the most resilient and self-sustaining populations of wild Eastern brook trout in the United States.

During the 2024 season, staff placed six miles of instream wood additions in these watersheds. Momentum for this work is growing as TU aims to add more field crews to complete additional wood addition projects, alongside conducting stream surveys that will lay the groundwork for future habitat improvement and barrier removal initiatives. Partnerships are a vital component of these projects, with support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, Appalachian Mountain Club, local chapters, and the Maine Council all contributing to key efforts.

"We value our partnership with TU to enhance native brook trout habitat through wood addition," said David Miller, Executive Director of the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust. "Together, we look forward to making even greater progress in sustaining some of the finest remaining coldwater habitat in the Northeast."

[Learn more about this collaborative effort to restore the Kennebago watershed](#)

BLOWN AWAY: BLASTING OUT BARRIERS IN A REMOTE MONTANA LAKE



In summer 2024, a loud blast echoed through Montana's Rattlesnake Wilderness. It marked the culmination of Senior Project Manager Rob Roberts' plan to decommission the McKinley Lake Dam—with the help of over 1,000 pounds of explosives packed in by mule.

Part of a long-term partnership with the City of Missoula, the project aims to return stored headwater flows to local rivers—water once set aside solely for municipal use. TU staff spent two weeks in the backcountry, living in wall tents to ensure the project's success.

"Rob epitomizes the TU ethos of doing whatever it takes to get the job done," said Montana State Director Casey Hackathorn. "From building partnerships to operating heavy machinery, he's literally done it all."

The removal mitigates the risk of dam failure and begins the restoration of natural conditions. TU partnered with the U.S. Forest Service's explosives team to safely complete the work. This pilot effort launches a broader initiative to assess and address aging dam infrastructure in the Rattlesnake Wilderness

[Learn more about this remarkable restoration project](#)

RECONNECTING THE MOOSE RIVER WATERSHED

In New York's Adirondacks, the Moose River watershed is a rich habitat for brook trout, but fragmented road systems have blocked fish passage and degraded this network of streams and wetlands.

In 2024, TU and the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) launched a five-year plan to reconnect 30 miles of habitat by replacing undersized and aging culverts. This work will not only improve access to critical coldwater refuge but also protect local roads and bridges from flooding.

"This broad partnership helps us deliver better conservation and a better future," said Steve Hurst, Fisheries Bureau Chief at NYDEC. TU's field expertise and community engagement continue to drive this work forward.

[Watch TU's film: *Connected Conservation-A Future for Adirondack Brook Trout*](#)



Recovery Rising

Together, we get large-scale projects done that address habitat degradation.

Restoring the Telluride Valley Floor in Colorado.

Photo by Kellon Spencer.

TU TEAM SPOTLIGHT

WHEN HEART MEETS DETERMINATION

TU's dedicated staff are turning passion into lasting conservation impact nationwide.

Driven by passion and united in purpose, TU's staff work alongside members, donors, volunteers, and partners to safeguard rivers and streams for generations to come. From advocacy on Capitol Hill to science-based solutions, community engagement, and on-the-ground restoration, our team brings every tool to protect and restore cold, clean water.



"In Arizona, conservation means more than restoring habitat—it's about building resilience for communities, wildlife, and future generations, and proving that coldwater can thrive in unexpected places."

—Nate Rees



LEADING COLDWATER CONSERVATION IN ARIZONA

In Arizona, TU is forging a new era of coldwater conservation under the leadership of **Nathan Rees** as Arizona State Lead. Formerly with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Nate has led efforts in public lands issues, restoration projects, and threatened species recovery. His leadership has strengthened native fish and wildlife populations and built lasting community ties. Nate supported the historic recovery and delisting of Apache trout alongside the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Federal/State agencies. Nate was recognized as the 2024 Conservationist of the Year by the Arizona Game and Fish Department for his commitment to habitat recovery and stewardship.

KEEPING THE NORTHEAST'S RIVERS FLOWING

For 14 years, **Tracy Brown** has worked to keep projects flowing across the Northeast, from the Catskills to the Taconic range. As a Program Director, she secures funding, coordinates culvert replacements, organizes tree planting efforts, and makes sure her team has everything they need to restore rivers and streams. Her focus is on strengthening native brook trout strongholds while reconnecting habitat for both brook and wild brown trout, and she brings both the credibility of well-worn boots and a proven record of restoration to her engagement with local communities, inspiring stewardship of their own rivers and streams.

"One organization alone can't do all the work that we face across our watersheds. Partnerships bring enthusiasm and resources that we absolutely need to get work done."

—Tracy Brown



ADVANCING SCIENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

Remote sensing, GIS tools, and drones are transforming stream health science—and TU's Field and Research Senior Manager, **Jake Lemon**, is making sure these technologies are accessible and affordable. By building in-house capability, Jake has cut costs and expanded TU's capacity to gather real-time watershed data across the country. He provides technical support for collecting data on stream attributes such as temperature and conductivity. With 12 years at TU, Jake continues to expand scientific knowledge and tools through training and volunteer engagement.

"The tools we're developing here in the Great Lakes are transferable nationwide, opening new opportunities for TU staff, chapters, and partners to collect vital watershed data."

—Jake Lemon



DEFENDING PUBLIC LANDS

Sophia Kaelke carries on a family legacy of conservation through her advocacy for public lands and rivers. Beginning as a grassroots organizer in Alaska and strengthened by an academic training in environmental studies, Sophia began her work at TU as an Oregon Engagement Manager, where she advanced policy goals through digital organizing and communications. Today, as Protection Campaign Center Manager, she directs efforts to safeguard millions of acres of public land for fish, wildlife, and our outdoor heritage. Rooted in tradition, Sophia brings bold, new energy to protecting and championing our irreplaceable rivers and streams.

"We must stay vigilant to keep public lands public and remind decision-makers that outdoor enthusiasts are paying attention. These lands represent the best of our country—let's keep them that way."

—Sophia Kaelke

TU TEAM SPOTLIGHT

TELLING TU'S STORY

For more than a decade, **Mark Taylor** has been broadcasting TU's successes as Eastern Communications Director. Drawing on 16 years as an outdoors editor, he works closely with staff to champion coldwater conservation initiatives across the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southern Appalachians, Great Lakes, and Driftless Area. Mark crafts engaging stories, articles, and videos that highlight TU's work and, most importantly, the people who make it happen; the dedicated and optimistic dreamers who believe in it, just like Mark.



"I think I might have the best job at TU—riding shotgun on reconnection projects, talking with our boots-on-the-ground staff, and watching our incredible body of work in the East come to life. I'm lucky to use stories, video, and photos to share the resilience and dedication driving this work forward."

-Mark Taylor



DRIVING RESTORATION IN THE BIGHORN BASIN

Conservation is never a solo effort. As Wyoming's Bighorn Basin Project Manager, **Brittany Swope** exemplifies how partnerships create lasting impact, leading projects with partners at the Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests to restore native Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat and protect stream ecosystems. Brittany tackled every aspect of conservation in the Bighorn Basin—from public outreach to construction and crew management. Her leadership earned her the U.S. Forest Service's 2025 Rise to the Future Award for Partnership, recognizing her work on projects like culvert replacements, large wood installations, and low-tech restoration methods. She also secured funding, filled staffing gaps, and drove restoration results that otherwise would not have been possible.

"Partnership is critical to every project's success, and it's what makes our work in the Bighorn Basin—and across the country—possible."

-Brittany Swope



BUILDING CRITICAL CONSENSUS

For nearly 24 years, **Warren Colyer** has advanced healthy waters by building relationships and fostering consensus with the communities that depend on them. An avid angler, his passion fuels a lifelong commitment to coldwater restoration, but it's his collaborative approach that drives critical projects to completion. After leading TU's Western Water and Habitat Program, Warren now serves as National Restoration Director on the Government Affairs team, where he shapes strategy and builds partnerships with private landowners, Tribal and Indigenous Nations, community groups, and abandoned mine cleanup advocates. His work blends relationships, research, and restoration—embodying TU's full-circle conservation model to create lasting change in compromised watersheds.

"With tight budgets and limited staff, many agencies can't tackle all the needed restoration. That's where TU comes in—with the expertise and boots on the ground to move projects forward—whether it's wildfire recovery, fixing up watersheds, or bringing fish habitat back to life."

-Warren Colyer

INSPIRING FUTURE STREAM STEWARDS

For **Cecily Nordstrom**, conservation isn't just a job, it's a way of life. As STREAM Education Manager, she camps under the stars, gets her hands dirty on restoration projects, engages media in conservation stories, and, most importantly, develops a lifelong passion for stewardship in the next generation. Cecily honed her skills as a naturalist at the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, where she discovered her passion for conservation and education. Today, she partners with TU volunteer leaders to deliver experiential programs nationwide. As a TU Costa 5 Rivers participant, she connected with fly fishing and riverscape health—passions she now passes on to students, inspiring future stewards of coldwater conservation.

"You can restore a river all you want, but it won't matter unless someone's there to protect and care for it in the years to come."

-Cecily Nordstrom



Recovery Rising

Together, we recover the natural
resilience of rivers and streams.

**Process-based restoration underway in a
Klamath River headwater tributary.**

Photo by Charles Erdman.



COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

UNLIMITED HEART

Volunteers lead the way to unlimited impact.

BEYOND THE STREAM: CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF TROUT CAMP IN MICHIGAN

The Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of TU (KVCTU), with the support of the Michigan Council, captured the essence of summer camp in the documentary [Beyond the Stream: Michigan's Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation and Trout Camp](#), filmed in summer 2024. This film highlights Trout Camp, where lasting connections are formed between campers and counselors—many of whom have participated since the camp's inception in 1997. Trout Camp is a five-day adventure along the banks of the fabled Au Sable River, the very

birthplace of TU. Through this program, KVCTU and members of several other chapters work to sustain a legacy of protection and stewardship by connecting children from all over the Midwest with the outdoors and inspiring them to care for their shared waters. The documentary follows Trout Camp staff as they instill a passion for healthy fish, clean water, and the art of fly fishing in their students. Ultimately, Beyond the Stream helps convey a critical message about the importance of conservation and stewardship.



Kids and volunteers at Michigan Trout Camp. Photo by KVCTU.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY, SERVING THE ENVIRONMENT: RHODE ISLAND TAKES ON BIG PROJECTS

Enhancing watershed ecosystems is ingrained in the DNA of the Rhode Island chapter. They manage active projects totaling over \$1 million, with initiatives that benefit fish, people, and communities. From the Sweet Pond Dam project, meant to protect a water source that supplies drinking water to more than 60% of the state, to a feasibility study for the removal of a dam on the Carr River, which will help safeguard local infrastructure, members, and volunteers are

committed to restoration across the state. The chapter collaborates with local and state officials, and partners at The Nature Conservancy, to address issues such as road washouts and water quality through these projects. However, it's not all work and no play for the Rhode Island chapter. They also engage kids, veterans, and community members by organizing fishing days, casting clinics, and social events to connect them with their rivers and streams.



The Rhode Island TU chapter at work on an obstruction removal project. Photo by Rhode Island TU.

MANY HANDS, ONE MISSION

From southern California to northern Maine, TU volunteers knit together the essential fabric of our mission. Last year, they contributed enough time to equal more than 310 full-time staff positions, representing over \$22 million in donated hours.

Across the country, locals offer their hard work and deep passion for coldwater conservation. In every corner of the country and across every metric, TU volunteers set new records in impact, including:

- **Logging 645,051 volunteer hours**
- **Completing 3,740 conservation and science projects with support from more than 20,000 volunteers**
- **Reaching 121,830 young people through K-college programming**
- **Connecting 129,307 people to their home waters through nearly 5,200 community engagement activities**

Chapters and councils also saw a 23% increase in funds raised through local campaigns to drive meaningful change in their home waters. Together, small towns, big cities, and a nationwide community of conservationists are fighting for the health of critical watersheds.

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

NEW YORK CITY: TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM BRINGS TROUT TO AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The New York City TU Chapter is unique for a few reasons. Not only is the chapter is lucky to have access to some truly diverse fishing spots, from the Catskills to the spring creeks of Pennsylvania (and even Central Park’s bass and carp), but their Trout in the Classroom program is the largest in the country, thanks to a partnership with New York City’s Department of Environmental Protection. NY Trout in the Classroom



Trout in the Classroom release with Samara Community School, Bronx at Cross River in March 2025. Photo by NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

educates over 20,000 students from 150+ schools about the importance of clean drinking water and its sources, reaching kids who might otherwise lack access and a connection to nature. While New York City might not be first on the list of remote honey holes, this chapter is making a big impact on the future of angling by nurturing the next generation of watershed stewards, ensuring a brighter future for our rivers and streams.

STRONG RIVERS, STRONG COMMUNITIES: WORKING TOGETHER IN CONNECTICUT

This past year, the Mianus TU chapter in Wilton, Connecticut planted more trees than any other TU chapter nationwide—and that’s just the start of their dedication to coldwater conservation. Their initiatives range from family fishing days to river cleanups and science-based water quality studies and stream health assessments powered by a deep bench of volunteers. This hard work is yielding positive results; over the past decade, volunteers and supporters have contributed more than \$750,000 to river restoration projects, dedicated over 25,000 hours of volunteer work, restored in-stream habitats across more than 2.5 miles of stream, and removed over 20 dumpster loads of trash from rivers and their surroundings. With nearly 4,000 members and supporters backing their work, the chapter is committed to protecting and sustaining the coldwater fisheries of Fairfield County.



Tree planting at the Dana Dam, a recently removed barrier on the Norwalk River in Connecticut. Photo by Mianus TU.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT: MONTANA’S WESTSLOPE CHAPTER FUELS THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION

In the iconic fly-fishing mecca of Missoula, Montana, the WestSlope TU chapter, led by a passionate volunteer board, is a powerhouse for coldwater conservation. This dedicated chapter raises over \$150,000 each year to support stream conservation efforts while collaborating with partners like the Mayfly Project and University of Montana researchers. Their commitment to the future is evident through scholarships for aspiring conservation students and impactful programs such as Missoula Fly Gals,

an active Trout in the Classroom program provides hands-on outdoor education to over 225 kids each year, and the Montana Trout Unlimited Conservation Youth Camp. Through stream cleanups and willow plantings, the WestSlope chapter not only advocates for healthy waters but also works to preserve Montana’s fishing heritage, support a vibrant outdoor recreation economy, and foster a passion for stewardship within the community.



*Fishing excursion.
Photo by Montana’s
WestSlope chapter.*

Recovery Rising

Together, we restore local rivers
& streams and strengthen
communities.

**Volunteers plant streamside vegetation at a dam
removal project in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.**

Photo by Mary Kate Ahles.



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

EXPANDING OUR REACH AND IMPACT



● Kern Meadows Restoration in California

TU has worked with multiple corporate funders to support our Kern Plateau Meadows Project, where we're employing innovative, nature-based solutions to restore thirteen critical meadows across more than 3,200 acres within the headwaters of the Kern and Owens River watersheds. The restoration of these meadows will restore floodplain connectivity, increase water storage capabilities, and increase late season base flows, all of which will help reduce the water demand from the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley and Southern California.

● Colorado River Connectivity Channel at Windy Gap

To date, the Colorado River Connectivity Channel is the largest aquatic habitat connectivity project in Colorado history. Decades in the making, a diverse group of partners and funders came together to achieve a common goal—to reconnect, and begin to restore, the watersheds of the Upper Colorado River. This monumental project, creating over a mile of new river habitat, enhances local communities, ecosystems, and economies, while helping to sustain the Denver Metro water supply and the overall health of the Colorado River, benefitting nearly 40 million water users across the Basin.

● Fancy Creek Wetland & Stream Restoration in the Driftless Area

TU partnered with Cummins Inc., a global leader in power solutions, to support their environmental sustainability goals and provide community engagement opportunities for local employees. This project in Southwest Wisconsin restores a local trout stream by removing an artificial ditch and re-establishing the channel's natural flow. The restoration enhances water distribution across the floodplain, increases groundwater levels, and supports the sedge-meadow floodplain ecosystem. Cummins employees volunteered by removing invasive and undesirable species in preparation for construction.



Our partnership model pairs public and private funds, creating leverage on corporate contributions that drives durable conservation outcomes on local, regional, and national levels. **Corporate partners work with TU for our expertise, scale, and commitment.**

30+ CORPORATE PARTNERS sponsoring active restoration projects
10+ INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED
130+ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES for active projects across 27 STATES

We are expanding our offerings and deepening strategic relationships with both new and longtime partners—working together to advance our shared goals at scale.

- Restoration project partnerships, including corporate water stewardship
- Employee, youth, and community engagement
- Conservation science & research
- Policy advocacy & coalition building

WHAT'S AHEAD

- We are co-creating partnership styles that **achieve multiple business goals, including sustainability metrics, brand storytelling, and more.**
- We are working with our partners to help shape their **sustainability strategies for 2030 and beyond.**
- We're thinking big—**pursuing landscape- and species-scale partnerships** to recover the ecosystems that sustain biodiversity.



Laura Schneck
 Director of Corporate Development
laura.schneck@tu.org

[TU Corporate Partnerships](#)

SUPPORTERS CARRYING THE CURRENT FORWARD

[Learn more about our
Stream Guardian Society.](#)

Chasing Awe

Dr. Rick Lindroth fell in love with trout habitat long before he became a trout fisherman. An esteemed scientist with a long list of publications, he spent his childhood exploring cold, clean forest ponds and streams in rural Illinois. Rick's deep connection to the forest ecosystems and his curiosity about the natural world led him to spend 35 years as a Professor of Ecology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

exploration and solitude. "I am never more alive than when I am on a river with a rod in my hand," he says. That's especially true in his home waters, Wisconsin's "incomparable Driftless region."

Nancy Lindroth, Rick's wife, also came late to flyfishing. Like Rick, she was drawn to cold freshwater habitats, but through the lens of an artist. She loves drawing and sketching, and the sensation of standing in the rush of moving water. Rick and Nancy both find awe, joy and connectedness in the natural world.

Now in retirement, Rick commits his time and talent to promoting science literacy and ecological stewardship across a broad spectrum of audiences. As a scientist and conservationist, he recognizes TU's crucial role in bridging science and public awareness. "TU's ability to focus on the niche of coldwater habitats makes it an extraordinary contributor to that subset of conservation," Dr. Lindroth says. "In coldwater conservation, TU is the best interface between applied science and the public."

Rick and Nancy know they stand on the shoulders of conservationists before them, preserving the natural world for future generations. Continuing this tradition of environmental stewardship, the Lindroths have included TU in their estate plans, paying forward the enjoyment and peace they find in lush trout habitat.

The Lindroth's gift will ensure that future generations will know the joy—and awe—of the cherished waters we love and protect.

Rick discovered flyfishing later in life, prompted by a sabbatical in New Zealand. In preparation for the trip, he bought a Sage blank and kit and set out to build his own fly rod, which he crafted with the help of an 85-year-old master in Madison. Landing a magnificent wild Brown in the Manawatu River of New Zealand was the spark that ignited a passion within Dr. Lindroth.

For Rick, fishing provides a pathway to a sense of awe, combining science and nature with



Rick and Nancy Lindroth at Copeland Falls in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Gila Trout Heroes

In 1977, when Jim Tilley opened his veterinary practice in Prescott, Arizona, Gila trout were on the endangered species list. After years of careful management, Gila trout were reclassified from endangered to threatened in 2006. That downlisting allowed the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGF) to provide opportunities for Gila trout sportfishing.

From 2009 through 2014, volunteers put their hearts - and their backs - into restoring Gila trout to their historic range. Led by AGF, the project attracted volunteers from groups like the Prescott Flycasters Club, the Northern Arizona Flycasters Club (Flagstaff), and Zane Grey Trout Unlimited (Scottsdale), among others. Jim was one of many volunteers who helped the efforts.

Small bands of volunteers took turns carrying metal frame packs, heavy with water-filled buckets and genetically pure Gila trout fingerlings from the South Diamond strain. Hiking for several hours over steep, rugged terrain, they released their treasure into an isolated creek on the edge of the Bradshaw Mountains where the Gila would face no threats from browns or rainbows. Conditions on the hike were challenging, but Jim carried on, undeterred. In fact, he made the trek twice - once in 2012 and again in 2013. In 2017, however, tragedy struck. The devastating Goodwin Fire started in the heart of the Bradshaws.

The fire ripped through surrounding Yavapai County, destroying homes and livelihoods. The entire fish population carried in by Tilley and other AGF efforts was lost, poisoned and suffocated by ash. In the remote waters where the volunteers released the fingerlings, stream work is exceedingly difficult. Restoration work takes more time and resources, and damage

extends to every natural process. But the Yavapai County communities and their shared waters slowly recovered from the dramatic effects of the fire and, in 2019, AGF began restocking Gila trout.

Through 2021, AGF continued repopulating the stream with eyed egg stockings, contributing to Gila trout recovery and serving as a genetic replicate of the South Diamond lineage. Today, a limited number of streams populated with pure Gila trout are open to catch and release fishing. Others remain closed to further help the threatened species.

Jim understands the looming dangers of an unpredictable future and unprecedented climate impacts like the Goodwin Fire. To address these concerns, Jim has dedicated a portion of his estate to TU, becoming a Stream Guardian. "Keeping a species viable requires science, resources, connections across political boundaries, and boots on the ground," Jim said. "TU lays a foundation of trust where people with different strengths, backgrounds and training can build a brighter future for our waters, together."

Jim's grit and perseverance helped save Gila trout, and his generous estate commitment will ensure that tradition of conservation and stewardship will continue. Because of Jim and fellow Stream Guardians, we all may know the joy of wild and native trout and salmon—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.



Jim Tilley returns Gila trout fingerlings to their historic range in Northern Arizona.

FINANCIALS

Recovery Rising
TU ended FY25 with a \$4 million surplus.

FY25 RECORD REVENUE AND A STRONG SURPLUS

In fiscal year 2025 (April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025), TU continued its unprecedented run of successful mission outcomes. Total revenue reached a record \$110 million, an increase from \$85 million from the prior fiscal year, as public and philanthropic conservation funding enabled larger and more impactful project implementation across TU’s national Priority Waters program portfolio. As part of this growth, TU also secured increased long-term commitments, with over \$150 million in multi-year funding for deployment over the next four years. Long-term partnerships like these provide opportunities for strategic planning and more substantial projects. As a result, TU continues to enhance its reputation as a partner of choice for public and private conservation stakeholders as our conservation outcomes multiply each year.

After a two-year campaign investing in modernization, systems, and people, TU returned to a balanced budget with a \$4 million surplus in FY25. We also anticipate that additional investments in fundraising capacity will continue to return benefits through new relationships. TU holds \$18 million of liquid cash on hand, with \$30 million of active receivables due for payment against \$1.5 million of payables and a balanced budget.

Continued growth will build an even stronger TU with improved tools and technology, best-in-class people, and core support to maximize our impact on the ground. TU is grateful for the generosity expressed by our supporters. Together, we are seizing this historic opportunity to advance our shared goal to protect and restore our treasured rivers and streams.



Jim Hughey
Chief Financial Officer

The financial results depicted here are from TU’s audited March 31, 2025 financial statements, which contains an unmodified audit opinion. TU’s complete, audited financial statements can be found on our website.

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

- Contributions, 32%
- Government Grants, 63%
- Membership, 3.5%
- Investment Revenue, <1%
- Landowner Revenue, <1%
- Other Income, <1%

WHERE YOUR GIVING GOES

- Programming, 85%
- General & Administrative, 8%
- Fundraising & Membership, 7%

For the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2025
(Dollars in thousands)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT & REVENUE	FY 2025
Contributions	35,526
Government grants	69,201
Membership contributions	3,880
Investment revenue, net	828
Landowner revenue	101
Other income	365
Total Support & Revenue	109,901

EXPENSES	
Conservation operations	83,726
Volunteer operations	2,003
Communications	1,850
Government affairs	1,851
Fundraising	4,307
General & administrative	8,484
Membership development	3,246
Total Expenses	105,467

Changes in Net Assets	4,434
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SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	11,932
Investments	13,465
Grants and contributions receivable, net	26,976
Accounts receivable	652
Inventory	1,060
Prepaid expenses and other assets	278
Fixed assets, net	3,559
Grants and contributions receivable, net	2,795
Total Assets	60,717

LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	9,798
Deferred membership fees	1,256
Refundable advances	5,492
Lease liability	3,240
Total Liabilities	19,786

NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	1,259
With donor restrictions	39,672
Total Net Assets	40,931

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	60,717
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BOARD & LEADERSHIP

LEADING US ONWARD

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WAYS TO SUPPORT

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

We are grateful for the support of every donor. There are many ways to make a difference with TU; from annual giving and legacy gifts to stock contributions and beyond.

To learn more or make a donation, please contact us at 1-800-834-2419 or www.tu.org/memberships-and-giving.

BECOME A MEMBER

Memberships include individuals, families, youth, businesses, outfitters, and lodges. Our members provide TU with strength in numbers to advocate for a better future for trout and salmon.

[Join us](#)

RENEW AND SUSTAIN

Renew your support or upgrade your membership to stay connected with our work and increase your impact.

[Support your passion](#)

LIFE MEMBER

Make your membership permanent with a gift of \$1,800, paid within a single year, and enjoy a lifetime of benefits – not the least of which is knowing that you have made an extraordinary commitment to the conservation of wild and native trout and salmon and the cold water and wild places that sustain them.

[Demonstrate your loyalty](#)

GRIFFITH CIRCLE

Named after TU founder, George Griffith, the Griffith Circle is a group of dedicated donors who give \$1,000 or more annually and receive in-depth updates about key national strategies and campaigns, and other benefits.

[Join the Griffith Circle](#)

COLDWATER CONSERVATION FUND (CCF)

This CCF features a participatory philanthropy model that provides a deep level of engagement. With a minimum \$50,000 commitment over five years (\$10,000 annually), CCF Board Members gather once annually to review project proposals and decide as a group how to invest their collective philanthropy to advance TU's work.

[Join the CCF](#)

PLANNED GIVING

Plan your legacy and join the Stream Guardian Society. By including TU in your will, trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or other planned gift, your generosity ensures that we can protect and restore rivers and streams for generations to come. Thank you for making this lasting impact on our waters.

[Leave a legacy](#)

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

TU partners with companies large and small to bring to life a shared vision for sustainability. Our partnership model pairs public and private funds, creating leverage on corporate contributions that drives durable conservation outcomes on local, regional, and national levels.

[Become a corporate partner](#)



THANK YOU FOR
CHAMPIONING A BETTER

FUTURE

*Claire Duplechian,
daughter of TU
Senior Producer Josh
Duplechian, with a friend
on the banks of the Upper
Colorado River.*



**Every River
Needs A Champion**