



Partnering with Land Trusts & Protecting Coldwater Resources

Presentation at Mass Land Trust Coalition | March 2019

About Trout Unlimited (TU)



- 🐟 TU's mission is to “Conserve, Protect & Restore Cold Water Resources”
- 🐟 There are 220 paid staff members spread across North America
- 🐟 TU has approx. 140,000 members
- 🐟 TU's members volunteer over 720,000 hours of service last year
- 🐟 The National Leadership Council (NLC) acts as liaison between BOT, staff and volunteer members

TU's Strategic Elements

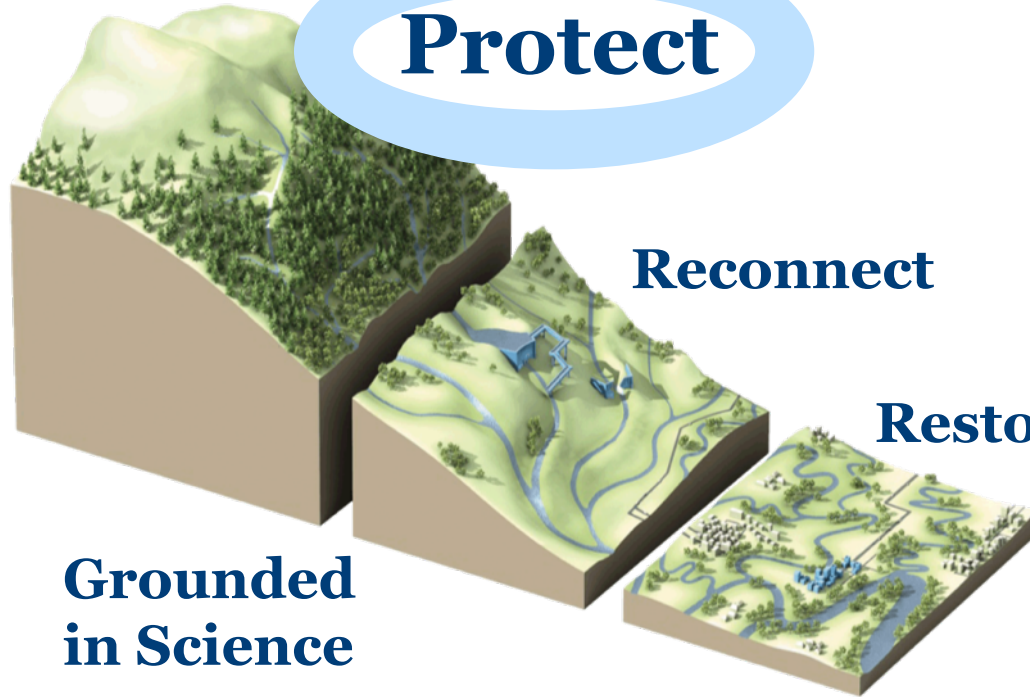


Protect

Reconnect

Restore

**Grounded
in Science**



TU's Mission & Land Conservancy



- ✦ TU's mission is to “Conserve, Protect & Restore Cold Water Resources”
- ✦ Land conservancy enables us to **protect** cold-water resources
- ✦ TU is not a land trust and we will not acquire land
- ✦ Partnering with land trusts is the best way to protect pristine streams
- ✦ TU's National Leadership Council (NLC) had created a Work Group to focus exclusively on land conservancy issues
- ✦ The NLC Work Group has established a Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund (CLCF) to fund deserving projects

Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund (CLCF) Mission



TU will **protect & restore private lands** with important cold-water habitat values in priority landscapes across the United States, and where possible, facilitate angler **access** to such lands. TU will **partner with land trusts** and other public and private land conservation organizations to assist them in acquiring **conservation easements** or fee interest in such lands, and by securing access agreements with willing landowners. TU will use its institutional capacity to **identify** important private lands, raise and leverage **funds** to cover acquisition and restoration costs, **design and execute restoration projects**, and **negotiate access agreements.**”

CLCF & Land Trust Partnership Goals



- ✦ Secure funds to provide grants for coldwater resources
- ✦ Cultivate relationships with land trusts
- ✦ Educate land trusts to the value of partnerships with TU to expand the possibilities that acquire lands with coldwater resources provides
- ✦ Establish mechanisms for funds to be distributed to land trusts for property acquisition
- ✦ Provide needed stream and riparian knowledge to ensure ongoing stewardship for protected streams

Land Conservancy Work Group Goals



1. Educate TU membership of the value of land conservancy and the significant value of working with land trusts
2. Raise funds to provide grants for suitable projects that meet established Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund criteria
3. Establish an application & evaluation process that will ensure that deserving projects are funded
4. Use the NLC & TU infrastructure (grant portal) to solicit and process project proposals

Why TU & Land Trust Partnerships?



- ✦ TU can provide funds and expertise to land trusts when property with water becomes available for purchase
- ✦ TU is well connect in MA with MF&W and can access key resources for evaluation of rivers and streams
- ✦ TU has experts in restoration of riparian habitat and that expertise can be used to assist in:
 - Culvert remediation
 - Dam removal
 - Habitat restoration
- ✦ TU can provide on-going stewardship & support of land that is conserved

TU Capabilities to Support Land Trust Efforts



- ✦ TU volunteers can:
 - Evaluate streams for temp., flow, entomology, etc.
 - Provide stewardship for long-term care & oversight
 - Help w restoration efforts needed to improve riparian areas: e.g. planting of trees for cover, erosion control
 - Help with citizen science for monitoring efforts
- ✦ TU staff can:
 - Provide help in areas of science, climate resiliency, etc.
 - Work with numerous partners in stream improvements

Land Conservancy & TU Commitment



- ✦ TU has shown its commitment – Projects protected with grants from NFWF and Chesapeake Bay Foundation.
- ✦ NFWF grant of \$71,000 protected 3,176 acres and 8 miles of EBT streams through grants to land trusts.



TU's Land Conservancy - Past Successes



- ✦ TU Grassroots have demonstrated this work “ad hoc” over many years
- ✦ https://www.tu.org/sites/default/files/Success_Stories_Case_Studies.pdf
- ✦ This document on the web site profiles 19 projects in 12 states completed prior to 2010 protecting more than 40,000 acres with TU help.



Upper Connecticut
River - NH
2100 acres – 6 river
miles protected



Madison River - MT– 1700 acres



40 acres at the headwaters of Pine
Creek, WI

Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund - Webpage



Trout Unlimited's Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund

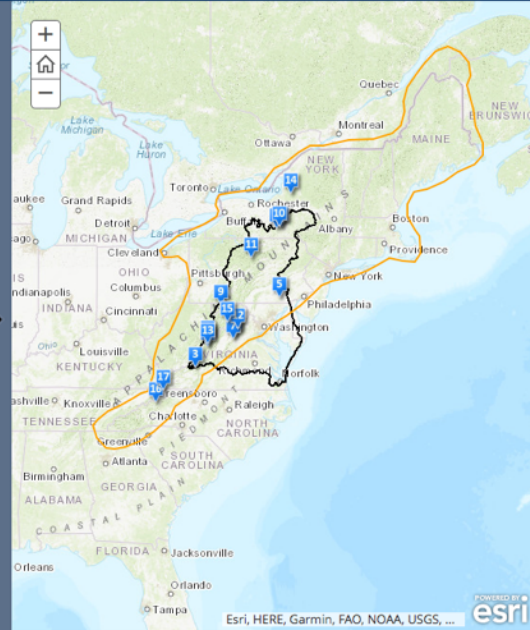
Three years of strategic grantmaking to protect Eastern Brook Trout habitat on private land. Financial support provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

A story map [f](#) [t](#) [s](#)



Introduction

TU's Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund provides grants to partner organizations to acquire lands and conservation easements to protect native trout habitat. In 2012, TU began issuing grants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (outlined in black on the map) for projects protecting brook trout habitat. In 2013, grants were provided for priority projects elsewhere in the historic range of brook trout (outlined in gold).



Jackson River Conservation Easement



Dry Run Conservation Easement



Trout Creek Conservation Easement



East Branch Owego Creek Conservation Easement



Climbers Run Nature Preserve



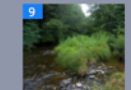
Robinson River Conservation Easement



Conway River Conservation Easement



Danby Creek Conservation Easement



Savage River Conservation Easement

Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund



- ✦ We recognize that protecting private lands is critical to achieving our mission
- ✦ Therefore, we partner with land trusts to bring our scientific expertise, volunteer & financial resources to protect the best coldwater habitat



Three Springs Run
Conservation Easement

The landowners are working with TU now to restore this and a nearby stream. 109-acre conservation easement held by the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust.

Coldwater Land Conservancy Funding



- ✦ NLC Work Group has obtained \$30K to fund suitable projects
- ✦ Fund will be administered by committee comprising TU staff & NLC Land Conservancy Workgroup
- ✦ TU's Embrace-a-Stream grant infrastructure (portal) will be utilized for all land conservancy grant submissions
- ✦ Applications will be evaluated according to criteria established by the Work Group
- ✦ Funding will be matching and up to \$5K per project

Land Conservancy Next Steps



- ✦ Commence with funding first CWCF project and implement new process for grant awarding
- ✦ Continue to provide education to TU members & collaborators of regarding land conservancy value & TU's role
- ✦ Encourage councils to engage with key collaboration partners – land trusts, river groups, state agencies, etc. for opportunities
- ✦ Publicize successes – e.g. council & chapter newsletters, Trout Magazine, land trust publications and media, etc.



West Branch North River – Heath, MA



Crowningshield Property
Land acquisition by
Franklin Land Trust
Spring 2015



Angeline Brook – Westport, MA



Land acquisition by
Buzzards Bay Coalition

Spring 2016

A Typical Brook Trout in MA



Gunnison Project: \$5,000 Request



- ❧ Chapter 057 – Gunnison Angling Society Chapter & Gunnison County & CO Division of Parks and Wildlife
- ❧ Purchase and management of 12 acre river-front parcel
- ❧ Property vulnerable to real estate development
- ❧ Improve an impaired boat launch w stream restoration, park, boat ramp, fishing access, restrooms & parking
- ❧ Chapter commitment to long-term property stewardship



Conclusion

NLC Work Group has established a strategy & process to protect critical coldwater streams through collaboration with land trusts

Provides funding to support purchase & transaction expenses, often hard for land trusts to obtain

Creates opportunities for longer-term collaboration between TU & land trusts

Long-term success depends on TU gaining much needed visibility within land trust community - this is a great start!



Questions?

