

STRATEGIC PLAN

Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

1. Conservation

Goal: Take action to support the following national TU initiatives needed.

I. Water Quality

A. Polluted Runoff/Clean Water Act

Objective: Reduce the adverse impacts to coldwater resources from polluted runoff (nonpoint source) pollution.

B. Home Rivers Initiative

Objective: Implement and expand TU's Home Rivers program, a cooperative, science based watershed protection and restoration effort designed to focus community energy into coldwater resources conservation.

C. Acid and Toxic Precipitation

Objective: Document the impacts of acid deposition on trout streams in the Appalachian region and work to reduce sulfate and nitrate deposition from acid precipitation to levels that would protect wild trout populations in the region.

II. Instream Flows

A. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Relicensing

Objective: Utilize the FERC relicensing process and federal natural resource laws to achieve substantial improvements in flows and fish passage for coldwater resources.

B. Non-FERC Hydropower Management

Objective: Improve flow regimes, water quality, and fish passage in and around federal and other non-FERC regulated dams.

C. Dam Removal

Objective: Restore salmonid habitat through selective removal of smaller, uneconomical dams.

D. Eastern Water Project

Objective: Develop a program in the eastern U.S. to utilize, and reform where necessary, state and federal law to ensure adequate instream flows for trout and salmon populations.

III. Atlantic Salmon Recovery

A. Watershed Protection and Restoration

Objective: Restore key salmon and steelhead watersheds.

B. Marine Survival and Interception of Salmonids

Objective: Assess factors limiting marine survival of salmonids, and advocate measures needed to increase marine survival.

IV. Wild Salmonid Conservation

A. Bring Back the Natives/Embrace a Stream

Objective: Protect and restore native and wild salmonids through cooperative conservation projects.

B. Stocking Policy Reform

Objective: Reduce harmful impacts of hatchery practices on native and wild salmonids.

- C. State Coldwater Resource Management Plans
Objective: Evaluate state coldwater management plans to enable TU members to advocate for improvements to state plans.
 - D. Invasive Species Management
Objective: Prevent and minimize harmful impacts of nuisance invasive species on salmonids.
2. Education
Goal: Continue and improve our participation in the following education areas.
 - I. First Cast
 - II. Trout in the Classroom
 - III. BSA Merit Badge support
 - IV. Speeches to students and other organizations
 - V. Books and Maps
 - VI. Working with other conservation groups to spread TU's message
 3. Statewide Coordination
Goal: Increase participation in state council meetings and regional meetings
 4. Fund-raising
Goal: Continue with currently effective fund raising techniques, increase use of grants to fund projects and expand our fund raising by taking advantage of a wider range of funding options
 5. Membership
Goal: Work to improve in each of the following areas of membership:
 - I. Recruiting New Members and Retaining Current Members
 - II. Developing Active Volunteers - Continue fish stocking and other member activities which encourage participation
 - III. Developing Leaders – Encourage volunteers to step up to leadership roles
 6. Budgeting
Goal: Develop a working annual budget and assess applicability of tax laws
 7. Annual Planning
Goal: Develop and implement policies in the following areas:
 - I. Develop and maintain a working strategic plan
 - II. Develop annual plans based on strategic plan
 - III. Improved Risk Management
 8. Communication
Goal: Continue to support and improve the following communication avenues:
 - I. Newsletter
 - II. Website
 - III. Monthly Meetings
 - IV. Newspaper announcements of meetings and special events
 - V. Provide action alerts on significant conservation legislation before national and state legislatures
 - VI. Maintain email site for member use to pass along fish stories

9. **Building Relationships**

Goal: Expand and improve relationships with landowners to enhance access to fishing, work with other conservation groups on joint projects, and enhance working relationships with state and local government agencies.