

NH TU COUNCIL NEWS

November 2007

On September 13 through the 15th Trout Unlimited held its Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho. Paul Doscher and I traveled together, arriving a few days early to take advantage of hosted fishing trips on the Big Lost, Big Wood and Boise Rivers, as well as the penultimate dry-fly spring creek venue at Silver Creek. The scenery was spectacular, despite the recent forest fires, from the sage covered slopes of Ketchum and Sun Valley to the high desert waters of the Middle Branch Boise and Owyhee Rivers. Many wild rainbows and a few browns were hooked and landed. On our last evening in the “Big Country” we drove up through the Sawtooth Range during a memorable sunset, passed through the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, and dined on the shores of the high mountain Redfish Lake in a vintage log building lodge.

On Thursday, the 14th, we participated in a Conservation Tour with about a hundred or so other members attending the meeting. We were able to view a number of stream bank restorations demonstrating the positive effects of working closely with private landowners, and were able to participate in planting cottonwood shoots in the newly remediated riparian zone on an important channel reach of Elk Creek in the mountain town of Idaho City.

A number of important items of concern to our New Hampshire Chapters resulted from the meeting. First, it was determined that TU’s Stream Access Policy, as presented in 2006, should remain intact, noting that prior to engaging in any Stream Access activity, local Chapters should contact their state NLC representative for review of specific details to determine what level of involvement is appropriate and within the mission parameters of Trout Unlimited. As of October 1, 2007, Tim McDaniel of the Monadnock Chapter has assumed the NLC duties for New Hampshire. He replaces Paul Doscher, who was elected by the general membership as a GRASSROOTS TRUSTEE. That second important result of the meeting allows Paul to work for the benefit of all the New England states, particularly in northern areas such as New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine in conjunction with Jan Allardt, our other regional Trustee who operates out of Greenwich, Connecticut.

Additionally, I participated in two sessions of meetings with other state Council Chairs. That group voted to recommend to the national Strategic Planning Committee that the role of all NLC representatives be clarified to include a responsibility on their part to report results of committees to Council Chairs on a monthly update basis. Also, we voted to request that five (5) new Grassroots Trustees be added nationally, and that the duties and responsibilities of both Grassroots and At-Large Trustees be defined clearly. Finally, a resolution was brought forward to have at least one (1) Council Chair from each region be included on the Embrace-A-Stream selection Committee, in an effort to streamline and improve that particular grant’s selection process. National staffers Dave Rogers and Duncan Blair were in attendance at those meetings.

In another important development, I was recently informed that National has received an NRCS grant to fund the position of Project Coordinator for the Upper Connecticut River Home Rivers Initiative. There are only ten other waterbodies in the US designated as Trout Unlimited Home Rivers, so this program is nationally highly visible, and should be of great benefit to the states of New Hampshire and Vermont. This undertaking will focus on TU's newly restructured National Conservation Plan to unify localized efforts on the four-point model to Protect, Reconnect, Restore and Sustain watersheds. That process reflects the TU MISSION to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries, and gives substance to the TU VISION that by the next generation we ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish thrive within their historical ranges. If anyone is interested in leading that project, Elizabeth Maclin, TU's Eastern Conservation Director is accepting resumes for that paid staff job. Her e-mail address is EMaclin@tu.org.

The Nash Stream restoration project is proceeding this fall with the replacement of a road-crossing culvert at the location of Farrar Brook, one of the more productive brook trout tributaries. Dianne Timmins and John Magee of NH F&G continue with their PIT tagging studies and biomass research to help Jim MacCartney, TU's River Restoration Specialist, focus his efforts based on actual research.

As a final note, I'd like to report that I participated in an Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Collaborative Focus meeting at the Fish and Game Department on Tuesday, October 23. Initiated by Matt Carpenter, the purpose of the meeting was to identify the focus areas of the state's various conservation organizations to help the state develop a work activity strategy that makes the best use of cooperative efforts working toward the goals outlined in the NH Conservation Plan as it concerns brook trout restoration efforts. Representatives from The Nature Conservancy, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the NH Audubon Society, the Department of Environmental Services, the Trust for Public Lands, the Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, Fish and Game's coldwater biology team and the TU Council were present. Each group is providing a GIS formatted map of their respective project areas to facilitate the production of an overlay map as a planning tool.

Submitted by:
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Chair
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