

50



COLORADO
50 YEARS
TROUT UNLIMITED
EST. 1969

50 YEARS PROTECTING RIVERS, AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED



A LETTER FROM BOB WEAVER CTU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1971 – 1979)

The Colorado Council of Trout Unlimited (now Colorado Trout Unlimited) was formed in 1969 to facilitate recruitment of new members, organization of new TU chapters, and to provide a voice on matters of state and national importance related to water and trout issues.

The primary goals for CTU's founders included building strong chapters in every major watershed in Colorado and forming committees to address trout conservation issues such as habitat protection and restoration, fisheries management, dams, and pollution.

Chris Crosby became CTU's first Chairman, and within two years CTU had accrued an impressive list of achievements including persuading Colorado Game, Fish & Parks to set limited harvest regulations for several experimental stream reaches; coordinating efforts with the City of Littleton to promote establishment of a natural floodplain park on the South Platte below Chatfield; hosting the first annual TU spring banquet; and securing places on citizen's advisory committees to Denver Water, the Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado Game, Fish & Parks, and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

In 1971, CTU received a \$6,000 grant and Chris hired me as the assistant to the Chairman of CTU. My work was focused primarily on helping Chris cover resource conservation issues including the South Platte Floodplain Park, the Denver Water Board's Eagle-Piney Project, Two Forks, and State legislation to protect instream flows and water quality. I later became CTU's first Executive Director. Chris and I made a great team. We are very proud of CTU's accomplishments on all of these issues and have enjoyed seeing the ongoing success of CTU building from our beginnings and continuing to provide that much needed voice for conservation on Colorado's water and related trout issues.



A LETTER FROM CAM CHANDLER CURRENT CTU BOARD PRESIDENT

Since its relatively modest beginnings in 1969, Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) has progressively grown in size and, more importantly, influence. Through the dedication and generosity of like-minded and committed volunteers, staff and supporters, CTU has developed a tremendous record of success over its first 50 years.

A key goal of the founding members of CTU was to establish strong TU chapters in each of Colorado's major watersheds. That goal has been achieved and surpassed! Colorado is now home to 24 TU chapters and boasts roughly 12,000 members across the state. Additionally, CTU now has 5 full-time employees busily engaged in supporting CTU's mission by advocating for sound water and conservation policy positions, supporting our chapters, expanding our membership and donor base and delivering new educational activities and programs to youth throughout Colorado.

CTU's founders also laid the foundation for an organization committed to positively impacting Colorado's laws and policies regarding public land use, water quality and water quantity, fisheries management, resource extraction, and habitat protection and restoration. Over its first 50 years, CTU has repeatedly demonstrated that it will stand up for what is right on important issues—and that commitment will never waver. At the same time, CTU has successfully cultivated cooperative working relationships with a variety of stakeholders (e.g., government, utilities, industry, landowners, etc.) including many that previously were perceived as adversaries.

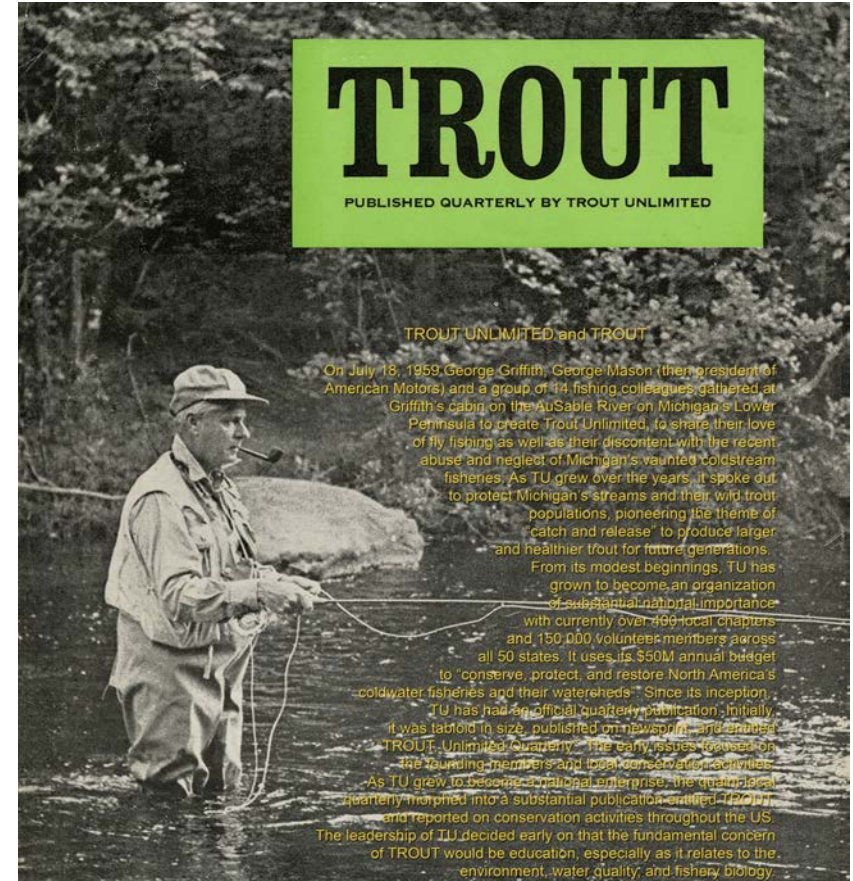
As you read this report and timeline, I hope you, like me, will feel a sense of pride in our accomplishments over the past 50 years. The issues and opportunities facing CTU and all Coloradans over the next 50 years likely will be more complex and will require even greater resolve, creativity and cooperation. Thankfully, I am confident that CTU is up for the challenge and that our organization's size and influence will continue to expand in the face of such issues. We're just getting started!





VAIL, CO

In August of 1969, a small collection of visionaries gathered in Vail and formed CTU. Chapter representatives, including those from Colorado's first two chapters – Cutthroat and Ferdinand Hayden - made up the Board of Directors. Today, Colorado has the second largest membership of any TU state council (trailing only Pennsylvania). Throughout those 50 years we have been committed to our mission: to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.



TROUT UNLIMITED and TROUT

On July 18, 1959, George Griffith, George Mason (then president of American Motors) and a group of 14 fishing colleagues gathered at Griffith's cabin on the AuSable River on Michigan's Lower Peninsula to create Trout Unlimited, to share their love of fly fishing as well as their discontent with the recent abuse and neglect of Michigan's vaunted coldstream fisheries. As TU grew over the years, it spoke out to protect Michigan's streams and their wild trout populations, pioneering the theme of "catch and release" to produce larger and healthier trout for future generations. From its modest beginnings, TU has grown to become an organization of substantial national importance with currently over 496 local chapters and 150,000 volunteer members across all 50 states. It uses its \$50M annual budget to "conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds." Since its inception, TU has had an official quarterly publication. Initially, it was tabloid in size, published on newspaper, and called TROUT Unlimited quarterly. The early issues focused on the founding members and local conservation activities. As TU grew to become a national enterprise, the quarterly gradually morphed into a substantial publication entitled TROUT and reported on conservation activities throughout the US. The leadership of TU decided early on that the fundamental concern of TROUT would be education, especially as it relates to the environment, water quality, and fishery biology.

National Trout Unlimited (TU) TROUT magazine cover from the 1960's highlighting the founding of TU in 1959.

COLORADO FOUNDING
1969



1960's

The Cutthroat Chapter was chartered in the early 1960s and is the 7th chapter established nationwide and first in Colorado.

1967

Ferdinand Hayden Chapter chartered.

1970

Gunnison Angling Society Chapter chartered.

Recognize any of these logos? CTU has gone through many different looks over the past 50 years. Today, we have a logo modeled off the National TU logo with an eye towards a "One TU" concept that binds together our many chapters, council and various staff program areas towards our shared goals.

INSTREAM FLOWS

QUICK FACTS

Since the passage of SB97 in 1973 the Colorado Water Conservation Board has appropriated instream flow rights for:

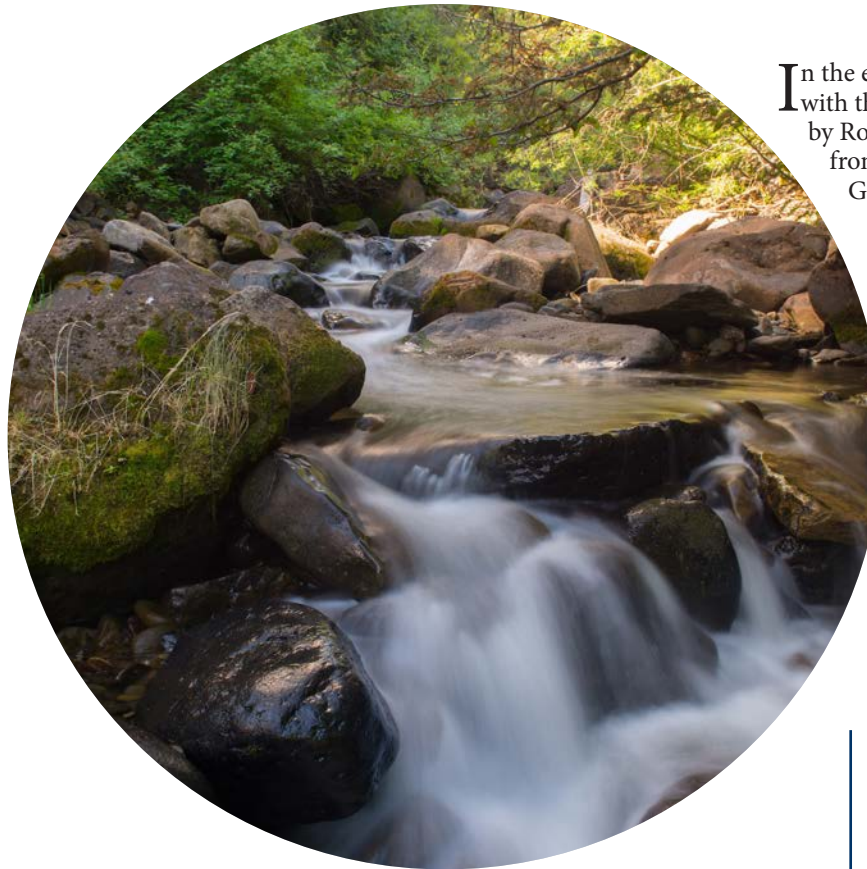
1,700 STREAM SEGMENTS

&

480 NATURAL LAKES

=

9,700 MILES OF STREAM



LEAVING WATER FOR THE FISH

In the early 1970s, CTU was involved in the formation of and worked in partnership with the Eagle Piney Water Protection Association, a group based in Vail and led by Roger Brown and Tam Scott, to defend streams on both sides of the Gore Range from the proposed Eagle-Piney project as well as the Eagle-Colorado and East Gore Canal projects.

These proposals by the Denver Water Board were designed to transport west slope water from the Eagle, Piney, and Blue River watersheds across the Continental Divide for storage in the proposed Two Forks Reservoir to serve the Denver metro area.

“We realized that Eagle-Piney was just a symptom of a larger problem,” explains then-CTU Executive Director Bob Weaver. “We were pushing for larger changes in the water law system and for statewide water planning.”

With momentum building behind a ballot measure to protect stream flows, and with CTU encouragement, the General Assembly acted in 1973 to approve SB97, allowing the State through the Colorado Water Conservation Board to appropriate water for instream flows “to protect the environment to a reasonable degree.” For the first time, water left in streams for fish is recognized as a beneficial use.

SILVER TROUT

The Silver Trout Award is established to recognize outstanding individual contributions to trout conservation in Colorado. The first award is presented to Pete Van Gytenbeek (pictured right), who served as Executive Director of National Trout Unlimited when it was based in Denver. Since then, 60 other trout conservation leaders have been recognized with the Silver Trout Award.



Boulder Flycasters Chapter chartered.

Wild Trout Chapter (now Denver Trout Unlimited Chapter) chartered.

1971

1974

CATCH-AND-RELEASE



At CTU's urging, Colorado Game, Fish, & Parks Division sets limited harvest regulations for several experimental stream reaches to encourage fisherman to release bigger trout and fish for sport, not just harvest.

GREENBACK DISCOVERY

Two small populations of Greenback cutthroat trout – previously thought extinct – are confirmed in Colorado; the species is listed as “endangered” and TU begins recovery efforts through a multi-agency partnership.



1973

CLEAN WATER ACT

With input and advocacy from CTU and conservation partners, the General Assembly passes the Colorado Water Quality Control Act within a year of the passage of the U.S. Clean Water Act.



EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS AREA



FISHING ON MUDDY CREEK

After ongoing advocacy by CTU against a proposed dam site on Rock Creek near Gore Pass, the Colorado River Water Conservation District instead selects aptly-named Muddy Creek as the site for Wolford Mountain Reservoir, preserving Rock Creek and improving the fishery on Muddy Creek.

Congress establishes the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area. The designation not only protected remarkable, scenic alpine backcountry in the Gore Range near Vail, Colorado but also protected rivers with boundaries that helped block development of the East Gore Canal and Eagle Piney Projects.

IT'S OFFICIAL

Colorado Trout Unlimited is officially incorporated as a Colorado non-profit corporation.

Alpine Anglers, Five Rivers, and Eagle Valley Chapters chartered.

1976

1980

1984

1986

1988

1978

West Denver Chapter hosts first Fly Tying Clinic which for 40 years has engaged experienced and novice fly tyers while raising funds for conservation.



Cheyenne Mountain (now Pikes Peak), San Luis Valley, and Yampa Valley Fly Fishers Chapters chartered.

1983

WILD TROUT POLICY

The Colorado Wildlife Commission adopts its first wild trout policy, establishing more than 200 miles of "Wild Trout" water, including segments of the Blue, Big Thompson, Eagle, Arkansas and the Frypan rivers.

Collegiate Peaks Chapter chartered.

1985

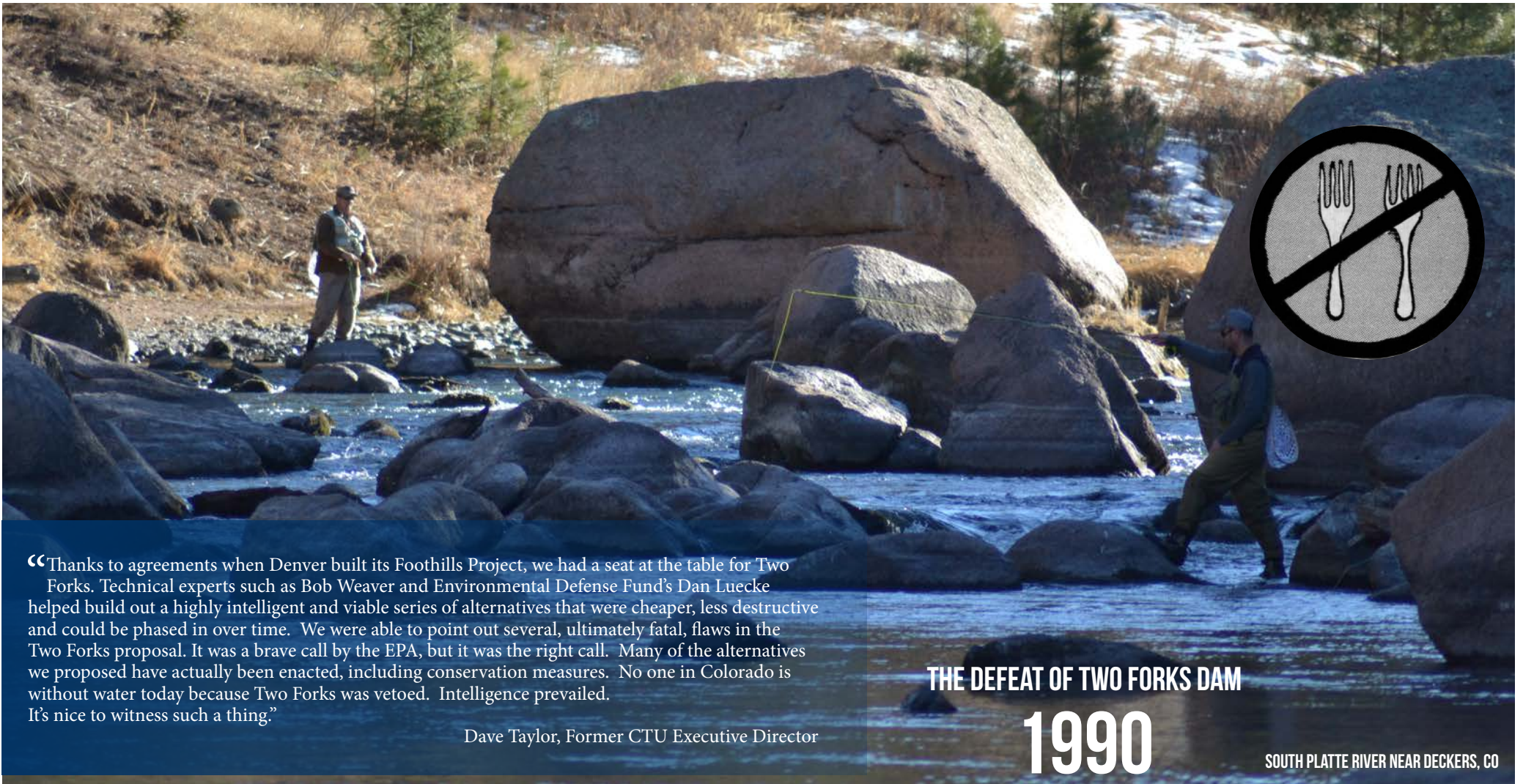


Southern Colorado Greenbacks Chapter chartered.

1987

WHIRLING HITS COLORADO

Myxobolus cerebralis – the parasite that causes whirling disease – is first detected in Colorado. CTU Resource Director and conservation bulldog Leo Gomolchak begins CTU's long-term campaign to end the stocking of infected fish so as to protect the health of wild trout populations.



“Thanks to agreements when Denver built its Foothills Project, we had a seat at the table for Two Forks. Technical experts such as Bob Weaver and Environmental Defense Fund’s Dan Luecke helped build out a highly intelligent and viable series of alternatives that were cheaper, less destructive and could be phased in over time. We were able to point out several, ultimately fatal, flaws in the Two Forks proposal. It was a brave call by the EPA, but it was the right call. Many of the alternatives we proposed have actually been enacted, including conservation measures. No one in Colorado is without water today because Two Forks was vetoed. Intelligence prevailed. It’s nice to witness such a thing.”

Dave Taylor, Former CTU Executive Director

THE DEFEAT OF TWO FORKS DAM

1990

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER NEAR DECKERS, CO



Jeff Oulton of the Gunnison Angling Society Chapter and Scott Ratcliff of CTU created the Superfly contest in 1989 and held the first event in 1990. Superfly continues to be a means of acquainting anglers with the Gunnison Valley’s fisheries while having a good time and raising funds.

1989



EPA chief William K. Reilly (pictured left at CTU’s 2019 River Stewardship Gala) vetoed the Two Forks Dam permit, citing “unacceptable adverse effects” to the South Platte’s “diverse riverine/wetland/upland complex with extremely high fisheries, wildlife and recreational values.”

Besides saving more than 40 miles of the South Platte river and tributary streams, the Two Forks defeat prompted water providers to take a more collaborative approach to water project planning.

EPA blocks dam construction

WASHINGTON (AP) The Environmental Protection Agency said Friday night it would not approve construction of the Two Forks Dam project in Colorado, the largest non-federal water project in the West.

The city of Denver and 40 suburban water providers sought approval to construct a 359-billion gallon reservoir southwest of Denver to meet water needs well into the next century. The Army Corps of Engineers said in March 1989 it would grant a permit to dam the river, subject to EPA review.

Conservationists opposed the project because it called for flooding 30 miles of scenic river and ruining 14 miles of top trout fishing.

CTU purchased the Spinney Mountain Ranch in 1990, key land along the “Dream Stream” section below Spinney Mountain Reservoir to help maintain public fishing access.

The land was then turned over to Colorado Division of Wildlife to ensure permanent public access at what is now known as the Charlie Meyers State Wildlife Area.



RARE CUTTHROATS PROTECTED

The Roan Plateau, northeast of Grand Junction, is a relatively isolated and unspoiled part of Colorado, with good populations of game and other animals, streams with fish, and very little industrial development. It’s easy to find a little solitude there. Grand Valley Anglers (GVA) Chapter’s involvement with protecting the Roan Plateau dates back to the early 1990s, when the chapter became aware of the existence of a rare strain of cutthroat trout in some of the plateau’s small streams. With the Bureau of Land Management and the Division of Wildlife’s help, they planted willows, cottonwoods and some shrubs on Trapper Creek, built drop structures and repaired fences, partly financed by an Embrace A Stream grant from TU.

During this time, interest in drilling for hydrocarbons on the plateau began. Colorado TU organized resistance to this notion, and GVA members helped with letters to agencies. As of today, no drilling is being done on public land on the plateau, although some wells have been drilled on private land.

Eventually, Colorado TU became more involved with the Roan Plateau cutthroats, and obtained funds to extend protection for the endangered fish to other streams on the plateau. That work continues today.



1990

“ROW VS. WADE”

A MODEL FOR RIVERS ACROSS THE WEST

TU sued the Bureau of Reclamation for failing to conduct an environmental impact study before augmenting late summer flows on the Arkansas River, an issue that set boating and fishing interests at odds. The lawsuit was later dismissed, but it effectively brought several stakeholders together to brainstorm and collaborate. The result was the Voluntary Flow Management Program, which establishes minimum flows during specific months to support both rafters and anglers and is a model for collaboration in managing instream flows.

1991

1992

CTU and previous recipients of the Silver Trout Award join to create the Silver Trout Foundation as an endowment to support TU and coldwater conservation in Colorado, funded through a generous bequest from former National TU President Steve Lundy.



1994

COLORADO’S STATE FISH



The Greenback cutthroat becomes Colorado’s state fish through House Bill 1164.

1995

CTU, TU, and member Ron Albert sue the U.S. Forest Service over permits it issued for Long Draw Reservoir in the Cache la Poudre headwaters.

CTU challenged the agency’s failure to require minimum bypass flows below the dam to “minimize damage” to fish and wildlife as required under federal law.



Because of the work done by TU, the Roan Plateau continues to support native trout populations in Trapper, Northwater, and East Fork Parachute Creeks.

ROAN PLATEAU



THE FIGHT AGAINST WHIRLING DISEASE

After nearly 13 years of often rancorous debate, the Colorado Wildlife Commission bans the stocking of fish exposed to whirling disease into trout waters. By this time, nearly all of the Division of Wildlife's hatcheries had become infected. Moving forward, CTU helps secure legislative approval of more than \$11 million to fund clean up of state hatcheries.



NO BLANK CHECKS FOR DAMS

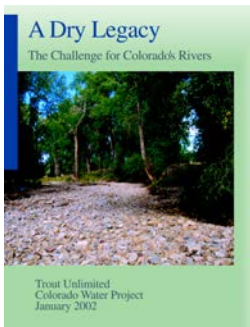
CTU helps defeat Referendum A, which would have committed \$2 billion to unspecified dams and diversions. Referendum A, after leading strongly in early polls, ultimately failed in every one of Colorado's 64 counties after a successful educational campaign against this "blank check" for dams.

1996

2000

2003

The Eagle Valley Chapter hosts their first Eagle River cleanup. Run in cooperation with the Eagle River Watershed Council, the annual clean up remains among the largest in Colorado.



2002

Senate Bill 156, which grew from TU's "A Dry Legacy — The Challenge for Colorado's Rivers" report, becomes law and allows water rights holders to donate greater quantities of water to improve stream flows, not just maintain bare minimum flows.



The Evergreen Chapter starts the O'Fallon Park restoration project. The project included vegetation plantings and the narrowing and deepening of the channel's riffle/pool structure to provide great year-round trout habitat.



RIVER CONSERVATION YOUTH CAMP

In 2006, CTU held its first River Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp, providing a week of in-depth and hands-on learning for 20 high-school age youth. With a passion for education and ensuring native and wild trout for future generations, then-CTU President Sharon Lance convinced a rancher near Parshall to host the first ever youth camp. In addition to fishing and fly tying, campers receive instruction in botany, wader safety, angling ethics, and more. They also participate in a watershed project to repair local stream habitat. Fourteen camps later and the program is going strong - more than 250 youth have taken part in CTU's annual camp.

“YOUR CAMP IS LIFE CHANGING & MOTIVATING FOR THESE KIDS.”

— PARENTS OF A 2019 CAMPER

“AN ADVERSARY IS NOT AN ENEMY”

“You can certainly make enemies of your adversaries if you want to, but if you go into a negotiation wanting to come out with a win-win, you have a great chance of getting there.”

Tom Krol, former CTU President and Founding President of the “South Platte Enhancement Board” overseeing the South Platte Protection Plan, adopted in 2004



SOUTH PLATTE RIVER

2006

2004

After much negotiation with Denver Water and other metro-area water suppliers, CTU gained a long-lasting agreement, the South Platte Protection Plan (SPPP), which improves stream flows for the fishery, protects Elevenmile and Cheesman Canyons from future water development, preserves the recreational, scenic and geological values of the area, and locks in a 20-year moratorium on any new efforts to permit Two Forks.



Colorado River Headwaters Chapter chartered.

CTU prevails in its “bypass flows” lawsuit over Long Draw Reservoir. The federal court agrees that the Forest Service must include measures in its permits for Long Draw that minimize damage to fish and wildlife resources.

CTU and the Boulder Flycasters Chapter work with Team USA Fly Fishing to host the first National Fly Fishing Championships, and go on to host the second in 2007.

CTU’s partnership with Team USA continues to this day.



“TREES FOR TROUT”

The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter (now Pikes Peak Chapter) started the “Trees for Trout” project in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Coalition for the Upper South Platte, to improve the habitat in Elevenmile by putting trees from the Hayman burn area into the stream. Results from the effort proved to be successful and improved habitat - diversifying over 50 miles of riparian habitat to date (pictured right).

A LANDMARK VICTORY

TU's Colorado Water Project secured a landmark victory in protecting flows through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in partnership with the federal government, the state and water users by which a more natural hydrograph would be protected through the Black Canyon under a reserved water right for the National Park. Drew Peternell, TU's Colorado Director of Western Water and Habitat Program, reflected on the victory saying "between the dismissal of AB Lateral hydropower water rights and the establishment of the federal reserved water rights, TU helped protect forever the Gunnison River and its world-renowned trout fishery."



GUNNISON RIVER
THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON



BEFORE



AFTER

ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM ON KERBER CREEK

Brookies return to Kerber Creek! Long impaired by abandoned mine waste in the historic Bonanza mining district, Kerber Creek is on the road to recovery thanks to restoration projects conducted through TU's Abandoned Mine Program in collaboration with state and federal agency partners and the Collegiate Peaks and San Luis Valley Chapters. Building from successful initial cleanup by state and federal agencies at the Rawley 12 mine portal, TU's collaborative reclamation projects from 2008-2016 helped take a 26-mile stream that ran orange in the mid-80s to where it can now sustain a wild brook trout population.

2009

2007



Carp Slam was started by the Denver Trout Unlimited Chapter and has directly raised over \$100,000 to date for the metro Denver South Platte River and, through grants and other conservation-oriented funds, leveraged that into restoration work several times larger.

2008



THE GREENBACKS



The Greenbacks were established as CTU's alternative engagement group to promote native fish and their habitat through the engagement and recruitment of the next generation of TU members.

1% FOR RIVERS

Boulder-based Upslope Brewing launched its long-awaited Craft Lager. The label on the can featured the CTU logo and the phrase “1% for Rivers,” reflecting the brewery’s contribution of 1% of sales in support of rivers in Colorado. It has been a great partnership built on a shared recognition of the value of healthy rivers in supporting fisheries and brewing great beer.

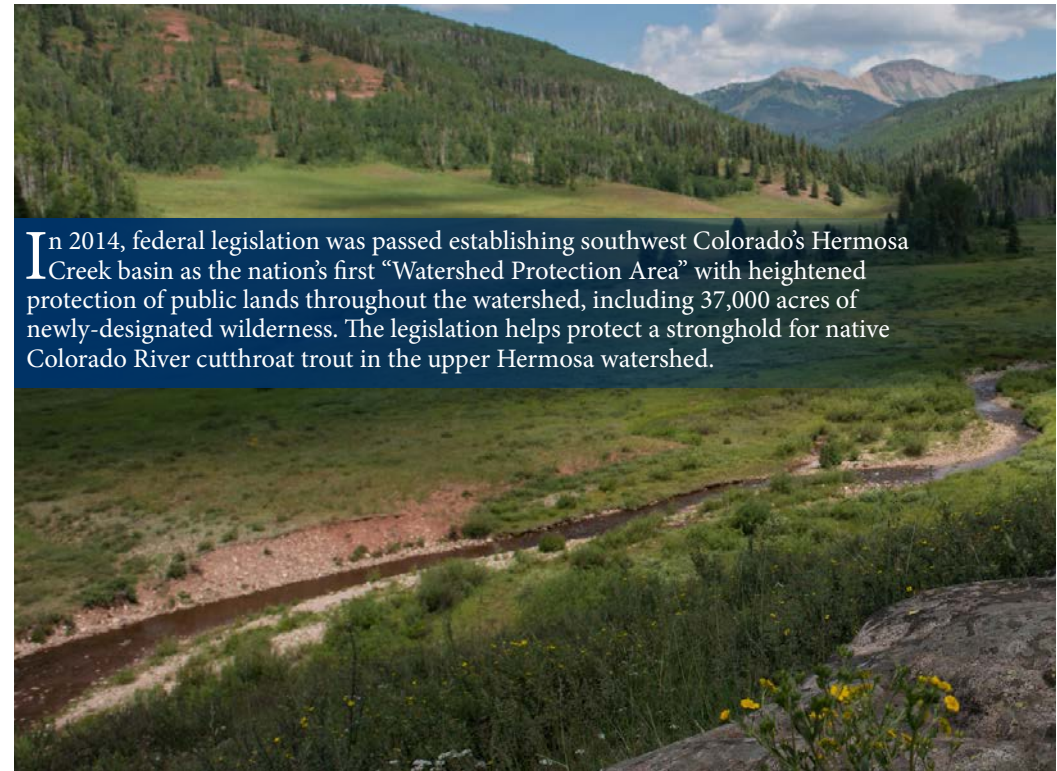
“The 1% For Rivers campaign began in 2011 and remains Upslope’s largest charitable donation each year. We believe in protecting cold water fisheries, not only because we want to keep them intact for future generations of anglers but because we believe that clean water makes for better beer.”

Henry Wood, Founder of Upslope Brewing



BARRIER-FREE FISHING ACCESS

The Cherry Creek Anglers Chapter and Freestone Aquatics completed work on the Hartsel Easy Access River Trail (“HEART”), allowing anglers of all physical abilities barrier-free access to the excellent fishing available on the Middle Fork, South Platte River within the Badger Basin State Wildlife Area.



In 2014, federal legislation was passed establishing southwest Colorado’s Hermosa Creek basin as the nation’s first “Watershed Protection Area” with heightened protection of public lands throughout the watershed, including 37,000 acres of newly-designated wilderness. The legislation helps protect a stronghold for native Colorado River cutthroat trout in the upper Hermosa watershed.

The Dolores River Anglers Chapter was chartered and launched work on an early initiative called the “Coldwater Adaptive Management Framework” (CAMEF), a scientific tool to help TU, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, federal managers, and water partners to identify watersheds that are less vulnerable to climate change and in turn prioritize conservation efforts for those strongholds.

Protect Our Rivers license plate becomes available with proceeds supporting Colorado TU’s mission to conserve, protect and restore rivers. The plate can now be seen on over 3,000 vehicles across Colorado.

2010

2011



2012

IMPROVING THE PURGATOIRE

In 2012, the Purgatoire River Anglers Chapter in Trinidad, Colorado started a river restoration project that included establishing cross vanes, j-hooks, and boulder clusters, reseeding disturbed areas, and planting willows and restocking trout.

“We saw the opportunity to reconnect the Purgatoire River with the residents of Trinidad,” said then-chapter president Jim Muzzulin, “We’ve helped turn it into a place where children can play and tourists can visit.”



2013

1,000-YEAR RAIN, 100-YEAR FLOOD

In September, Colorado’s northern Front Range was devastated by over 17 inches of rain in just six days. It was tragic, but it allowed the conservation community to achieve new levels of collaboration.

The recovery effort known as “Restore the Range” included Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter, St. Vrain Anglers Chapter, Boulder Flycasters Chapter, City of Longmont, Boulder County Open Space, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and many others (pictured right: South Platte River 2013 flood stage on US 34 Greeley, CO).





HERMOSA CREEK BASIN

“LEARNING BY DOING”

Denver Water, TU, Colorado River Headwaters Chapter and Grand County announce a groundbreaking agreement to ensure mitigation and enhancements for Denver’s Moffat Firing Project that will improve the health of the Fraser River basin through investments in habitat improvement, water to address key base flow needs, and a collaborative “Learning by Doing” process for adaptive management.

2014



The San Luis Valley Chapter began working on a restoration project on a three-quarter mile section of the Conejos River known as the Hidden Mile. Work included repairing habitat damage from trespassing cattle, new wildlife friendly fencing, willow planting, and public fishing access.

After years of advocacy by TU and local partners in the Arkansas River basin, President Obama officially designated the Browns Canyon National Monument, protecting 22,000 acres of scenic lands along the Arkansas River – a gold medal trout fishery and the most-used rafting river in the United States. It took over 15 years of advocating by the Friends of Browns Canyon, led by Collegiate Peaks TU founding member Reed Dils, but Browns Canyon was officially dedicated as a national monument on July 18, 2015.



2015

ARKANSAS RIVER THROUGH BROWNS CANYON



POUDRE CANYON

40 MILES FOR NATIVE TROUT

CTU, the U.S. Forest Service and northern Colorado irrigators reach a final agreement in the long-standing battle over bypass flows at Long Draw Reservoir. Under the agreement, a \$1.25 million trust is established to fund restoration of native trout across the headwaters of the Cache la Poudre on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Rocky Mountain National Park.

The project will ultimately restore native trout to nearly 40 miles of connected habitat in the Poudre headwaters - the largest ever native trout restoration project in Colorado.



LEGEND

- Permanent Fish Barrier
- ★ Temporary Fish Barrier
- Proposed Recovery Area
- National Park Land
- National Forest Land

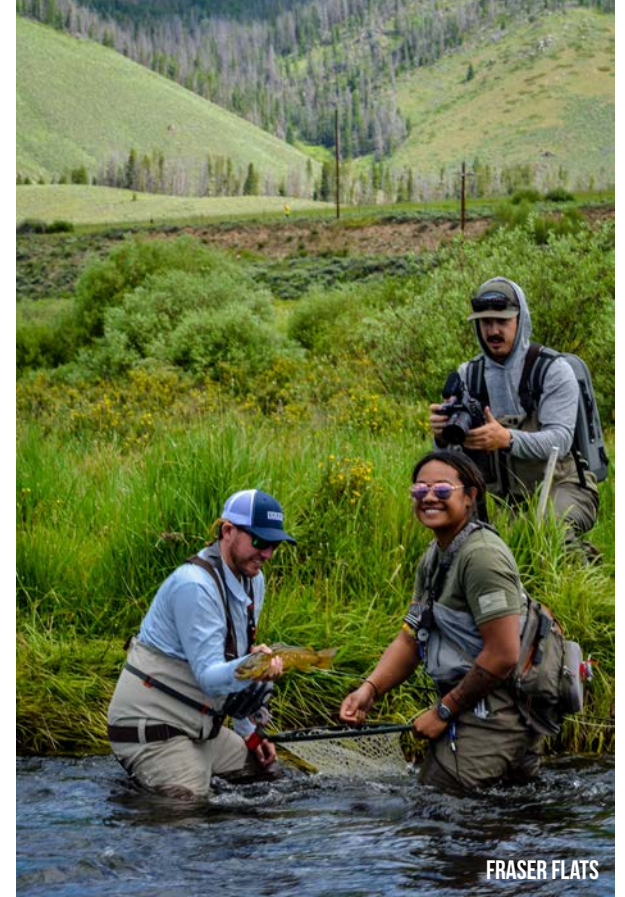
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Logos: U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service



A natural fish barrier in the upper Cache la Poudre drainage.

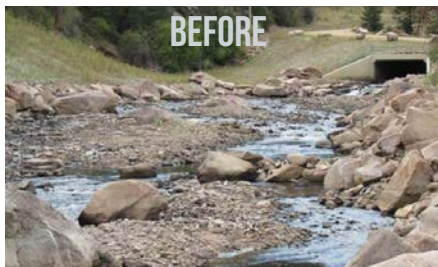
2017



FRASER FLATS

PRESENT

2016



BEFORE



AFTER

At the peak of the 2013 flood, North Saint Vrain Creek swelled from its normal flow of 30-40 cfs to an estimated 12,000 cfs, decimating Button Rock Preserve and downstream communities. The St. Vrain Anglers Chapter worked with the City of Longmont to complete instream restoration work in 2016 and 2017; phase one of the instream restoration work was completed in the Fall of 2016 and phase two in the Winter of 2017.



2019

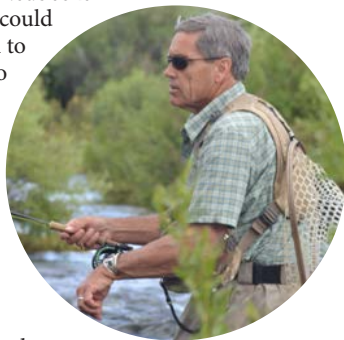
WE'RE TURNING 50!

CTU celebrates and reflects on 50 years of protecting rivers while looking to the future. As part of the celebration, we made a film featuring two Greenback members (above) as they travel across Colorado to see the amazing work that has been done by CTU and the volunteers who helped make it happen. We want to thank everyone for supporting and growing the organization to what it is today (left: The winning 50th Anniversary art poster contest design by Liz Smith).

Here's to 50 years of river conservation -- stick around, because we're just getting started.

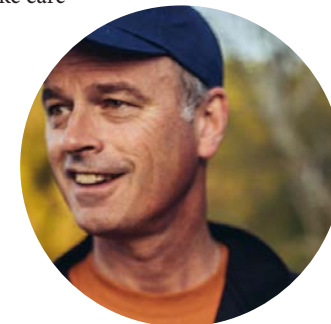
“I was working on river conservation long before I got involved with TU and seeking help from several river conservation organizations. One day, Ken Neubecker from Trout Unlimited walked into my office and asked what TU could do to help me. From this conversation I learned that TU’s approach to conservation is to roll up their sleeves and work with local people to solve local problems. This conservation concept resonates with me and has made me a dedicated Trout Unlimited volunteer since that time and for as long as I can work to protect our rivers.”

Kirk Klancke, President of Colorado River Headwaters Chapter



“One of TU’s founders, Art Neumann, famously said ‘Take care of the fish, and the fishing will take care of itself.’ For 50 years now, Colorado TU has been doing just that. The chapters, council, and national staff across Colorado are a great model of how working together across all parts of Trout Unlimited produces great results on-the-ground. Congratulations, and here’s to your next 50 years of taking care of the fish!”

Chris Wood, CEO and President of Trout Unlimited



“Trout Unlimited’s collaborative and constructive approach to restoring and protecting watersheds in Colorado sets the standard for other organizations to follow. TU has been an incredibly helpful partner in permanently authorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund, crafting Good Samaritan laws to clean up abandoned mines, and preserving our state’s public lands. Congratulations to TU on 50 years of working for bipartisan solutions to conserve Colorado’s great fishing heritage.”

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)



“Throughout my 20+ years working at the Attorney General’s Office and at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) on instream flow issues, TU has been a constructive and helpful partner to the Instream Flow Program. TU participated in several In-stream Flows (ISF) rulemaking proceedings over the years, making helpful substantive suggestions and supporting CWCB staff and attorneys. TU has helped increase streamflow protection by recommending ISF appropriations to the CWCB and partnering on temporary loans of water for ISF use, and through innovative projects like the Windy Gap Connectivity Channel and the Abrams Creek Project. I highly value TU’s partnership on and contributions to the ISF Program, and am reminded of it daily by the 2008 CTU Trout Conservation Award hanging on my office wall – that means a lot to me!”

Linda J. Bassi, Chief of Stream and Lake Protection Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board

“We want to wish Colorado Trout Unlimited a huge congratulations on their 50th anniversary. We chose to partner with Colorado Trout Unlimited back in 2012 as the first of our conservation partners because we truly believe in the work that they do. The education, lobbying and boots on the ground work from Colorado Trout Unlimited is paramount to keeping our rivers, lakes and streams here in Colorado healthy, viable and of course, fishable. Thank you CTU for all the hard work and cheers to 50 years! Here’s to a great future ahead!”

Garrison and Corinne Doctor, Co-Founders of RepYourWater



“AND WE’RE JUST GETTING STARTED”



“Colorado Parks and Wildlife is extremely grateful for the partnership of Trout Unlimited over the years in native cutthroat conservation, habitat improvement, angler recruitment and an overall passion for the fisheries of Colorado. CTU members are often our most reliable volunteers on many of our projects and without their help it would be extremely difficult if not impossible to accomplish many of these essential projects. Furthermore through fund raising efforts of Trout Unlimited chapters across the state, CPW is able to have the resources necessary to accomplish many projects that might otherwise not be possible.”

Matt Nicholl, Aquatic Section Manager of Colorado Parks and Wildlife



“Denver Water appreciates its long and productive relationship with our partners at Trout Unlimited. In the wake of the struggle over Two Forks, we spent a decade working together on the South Platte Protection Plan. That landmark agreement protected flows and fish while creating the conditions, understanding and relationships necessary to the eventual development of the historic Colorado River Cooperative Agreement and the related Learning By Doing. Our collaboration wasn’t always easy; there were difficult moments. But we shared a common purpose, to protect Colorado’s natural resources. Our success together has contributed to broader cooperation in how the water community addresses our many challenges in Colorado and across the West.”

Jim Lochhead, CEO of Denver Water



“50 years protecting rivers, and we’re just getting started.”
coloradotu.org

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