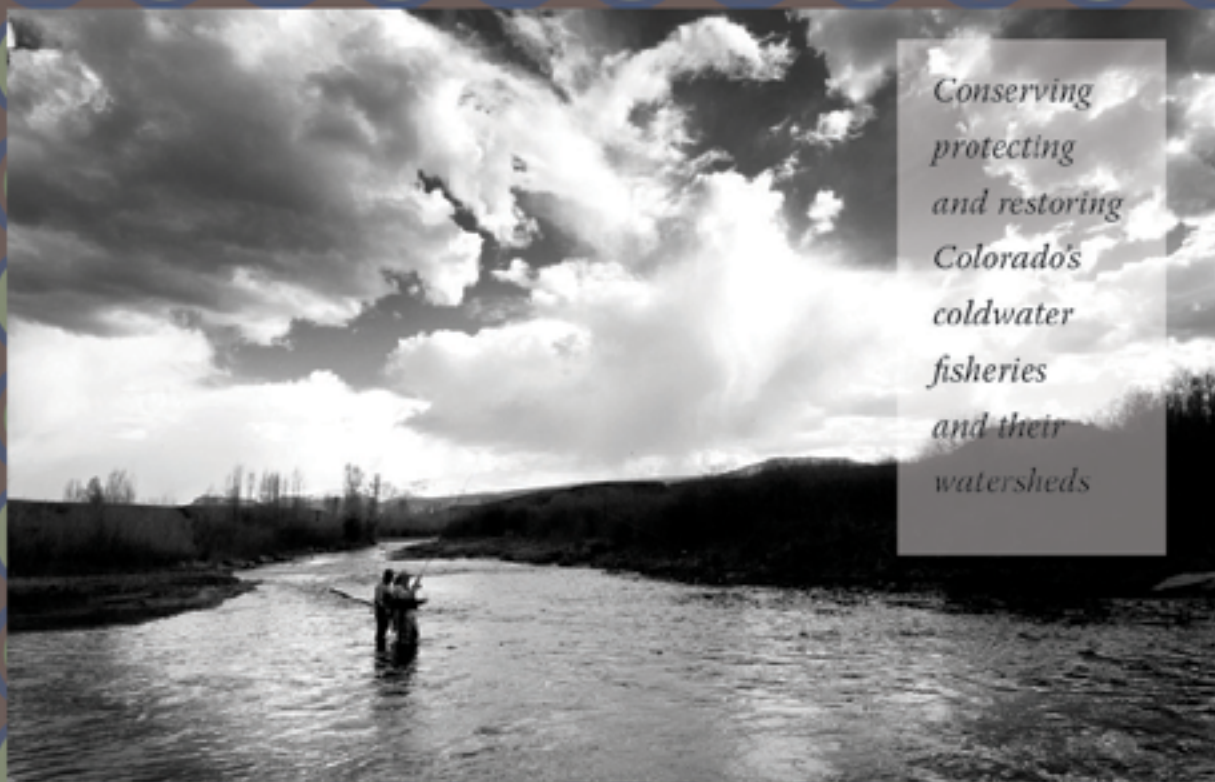


Trout Unlimited - Colorado

Y E A R I N R E V I E W 2 0 1 3



*Conserving
protecting
and restoring
Colorado's
coldwater
fisheries
and their
watersheds*



From the President

Our Mission

Trout Unlimited works to conserve, protect and restore Colorado's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Through cooperation, collaboration, grassroots advocacy and education Trout Unlimited seeks to ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive across Colorado, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

An organization that is able to execute against its strategic plan is generally a successful organization. It's about accountability.

With this in mind, I'd like to share what I personally set out to achieve as President of Colorado TU when I was elected in April 2013. Here is an excerpt from my first column for High Country Angler:

"...my vision for the next two years is to focus on the sustainability of Colorado TU as a stronger and more professional conservation organization. The health of our organization is just as important as our work for the health of our rivers. We need to look internally for ways to be more disciplined about the business of non-profit conservation. We need to look externally for more varied and more consistent sources of funding. And with a more sustainable Colorado TU, we can ensure that our mission will continue to advance for years to come."

Here are some examples of how we've improved the sustainability of Colorado TU over the past year:

- **Protect Our Rivers license plate.** We took 256 donations for nearly \$7,000 in the first two months the plate was available.
- **River Stewardship Council and Coldwater Conservation Fund.** Thanks in no small part to the efforts of Chris Herrman, our relatively new fundraising director, we have seen over 20% growth in membership in Colorado's River Stewardship Council donor program.
- **Corporate Sponsorship.** The Protect Our Rivers corporate sponsorship program now includes Dvorak Expeditions and the river-friendly H2O Car Wash, and strong and growing support from our existing partners at Freestone Outfitters, Rep Your Waters and Upslope Brewing Company.



- **Non-Profit Governance.** We began the process of reviewing and formalizing policies (e.g., Conflict of Interest, Code of Ethics) and reference documents (e.g., Committee Charters, Job Descriptions) to ensure that we are applying non-profit best practices.

I think you'll agree that at least by this measure of accountability, Colorado TU has had a successful year. We've made ourselves stronger and more professional, we're more disciplined about the business of non-profit conservation, and as a result we've ensured that our mission will continue to advance for years to come. As you look through this report and see some of our results, I hope you'll agree that our efforts are paying off for our mission – from river restoration to youth education.

And we're not done. While we have terrific organizational momentum today, true sustainability is about much more than today or even this past year. It's about whether programs and processes are established in ways that the organization continues to achieve long into the future. Your support as a member and donor are the cornerstone of sustaining Colorado TU today and tomorrow, and I thank you for helping us to make a true difference for Colorado's rivers and watersheds.

Rick Matsumoto
Colorado TU President

Colorado TU Chapters & Projects

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- 24 **Yampa Valley Flyfishers** – Steamboat Springs

Making Partnerships Happen

"Consistent with our commitment to sustainable development principles in our global mining activities and as operator of the Henderson and Climax molybdenum mines in Colorado, we identified opportunities to address environmental issues associated with abandoned hard-rock mine sites in Central Colorado, where neither our company nor its predecessors had any past involvement," says Richard Adkerson, President and CEO of Freeport-McMoRan. "Because we are not legally responsible for these abandoned sites and considering the significant internal resources we have to devote for remediation of sites where our companies conducted historical operations, we decided to partner with Trout Unlimited, a group that has the expertise to get things done on the ground. TU shares our vision for what can be done to restore habitat that had been adversely impacted by these old mines. We are pleased with the initial work accomplished by TU assisted by our financial support and expect great things going forward."

Richard Adkerson, President and CEO of **Freeport-McMoRan**



Abandoned Mines, R Restoring Rivers from Le



Abandoned hard rock mines impact 40% of headwater streams in the western United States, and are a major threat to some of our most iconic fisheries. Cleaning up these sites can be expensive and technically difficult, and liability issues discourage concerned communities and organizations from tackling Good Samaritan cleanup projects.

TU initiated our Western Abandoned Hard Rock Mine Restoration Program in 2004 to both clean up problem mine sites and to draw attention to the challenges associated with these efforts. In 2013, these efforts benefited from a new partnership with Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold. The mining corporation operates the Henderson and Climax molybdenum mines in central Colorado and is committed to improving fish habitat impacted by historic hardrock mining. With Freeport's support, we were able to conduct three large restoration projects in 2013 in the Clear Creek, Kerber Creek, and Lake Fork of the Arkansas watersheds. Freeport's support has been vital to our success and we look forward to continued accomplishments working with the company.



Mine tailings in the wetland along the West Fork of Clear Creek at the Doctor Mine prior to TU's 2013 restoration project.

The Doctor Mine

Clear Creek has long had the dubious distinction of being one of the most visible and egregious examples of environmental abuse in the West. The stream parallels Interstate 70 as it flows out of Colorado's Rocky Mountains towards Denver, and has suffered a long and destructive legacy of hard rock mining dating back to the last century. In 2013 TU completed our second project to restore water quality and habitat in Clear Creek – this time at the Doctor Mine, located approximately 42 miles west of Denver. Mine tailings

Reclaimed Streams

Legacy Mining Impacts

left behind from historic mining polluted a wetland area and leached heavy metals into the creek. In 2006 the U.S. Forest Service conducted a partial cleanup, but a limited budget did not allow them to address the chronic long-term pollution problems stemming from tailings piles wetlands adjacent to the stream. Using Freeport and U.S. Forest Service funding, TU addressed the remaining water quality impacts by reclaiming tailings materials with limestone and organic material (“phytostabilization”) and planting native vegetation to stabilize the site and bind the remaining toxic metals in place. The project also included the installation of a mine drainage diversion, maintenance of existing channel liners, and stream bank restoration.

Kerber Creek

Kerber Creek, located at the northeast end of the San Juan Mountains in the Rio Grande basin, runs through the Bonanza Mining District where hard rock mining occurred from the late 1880's to the mid 1970's. During that time, hundreds of thousands of tons of mine waste containing copper, cadmium, and zinc were produced, and multiple dams were built along the creek to contain the large volume of mine tailings being generated. Over the years these dams eroded, impairing water quality, aquatic life, and streamside and upland vegetation. By the end of mining activities, nearly 200 acres of mine tailings lay along 19 miles of Kerber Creek.

Through the efforts of federal, state, and private partners, more than \$1.7 million in restoration work has taken place along with over 13,000 hours of volunteer service. The main focus has been phytostabilization – using vegetation and amendments, such as limestone and organic compost, to reduce metal and sediment loading in the creek. In-stream bank stabilization and fishery habitat projects have also been installed, improving a once-struggling wild brook trout fishery.

In 2013 TU extended the project on John and Carol Wagner's property. They are the largest land owner in the watershed and were originally skeptical of participating. However, past on-the-ground successes and the trust that TU built with neighboring landowners convinced them to participate. In 2013 we reclaimed 13.1 acres of mine tailings on the Kerber Creek floodplain, installed 115 rock structures for bank stabilization and fish habitat, stabilized 2,500 feet of stream bank to reduce erosion, and planted nearly 200 willows.



What a difference a year makes! These are before and after photos of a restoration site along Kerber Creek. The mine tailings along the left bank were treated with amendments and revegetated with native seed. The success of TU's work is evident in the lower photo.



Voices of the Divide



"Each year when I first get up to the Thompson Divide and hear the elk bugle and hear the cows call and you

know, even this morning coming in I saw a big bull on the ridge and heard him screaming and bugling and your adrenaline starts pumping and you climb 500 feet straight up a hillside to get there. You're not thinking about how hard you're working to get up that hill, you're chasing those animals and it's just a really visceral experience to see them. To get a chance to get close to them to be around them, for me, that's Thompson Divide is elk..."

"Thompson Divide is just one of those great wild places in Western Colorado. It has incredible wildlife and native cutthroat trout. It's a critical watershed that lies in a gorgeous and unaffected part of the world. There just aren't very many of those anymore, which is why I think it's a gem. It's one of those places definitely worth preserving."

Nate Simmons/Backbone Media



"The Thompson Divide is one of those places where you can go and get away from everything. You want to get back up into nature and reconnect with what

it is in these areas that are open and pristine and really well maintained by nature itself."

Kara Armano/Angler



Ene Thom

Efforts to withdraw the Thompson Divide from oil and gas development have continued to move forward as sportsmen's support for the area has grown over the past year.

This vast mid-elevation landscape boasts many qualities that draw sportsmen from around the globe. From backcountry cutthroat filled waters and the gold medal Roaring Fork River to prime elk habitat and rolling aspen groves, the Thompson Divide is unlike most areas under threat of development.

In October, Senator Mark Udall joined Senator Michael Bennet in cosponsoring the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act (S. 651). Governor Hickenlooper also recently lent his support to the bill and to protecting the area.

At Trout Unlimited, we truly believe in balanced solutions and the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act is a fair and pragmatic solution that respects the rights of leaseholders and keeps the area from being developed in the future.

Trout Unlimited continues to negotiate with all stakeholders on this critical issue, and believe that our persistence will pay off in the near future. We will continue to keep our members updated and look to them to write to decision makers and spread the word regarding the benefits of protecting this magnificent area.

For more information go to tu.org/tu-projects/thompson-divide.



Energy Development on the Timpson Divide



Hermosa Creek

Legislation to protect an entire watershed located just outside of Durango advanced with support of local decision makers. The Hermosa Creek watershed is home to a native Colorado River cutthroat trout reintroduction program and some of the finest elk habitat in Colorado. Bipartisan legislation introduced by Senator Michael Bennet and Representative Scott Tipton would provide a mixed bag of protections, creating some wilderness, some special management areas, and leaving some exactly as it stands today. For more information go to facebook.com/SportsmenForHermosa.



Changing

There is one thing we know about catastrophic floods like those along the northern Front Range last September. They're bound to happen again. We just don't know when, or whether they might be even worse.

Damage to infrastructure and personal property in the watersheds of the St. Vrain, Poudre and Big Thompson rivers as well as Boulder Creek will run into the hundreds of millions. Bridges, roadways and culverts, as well as irrigation structures that farmers have depended on for decades are washed out. It's harder to put a price on the loss of fish and riparian habitat, but it has been substantial. From TU's small corner of the world, projects involving thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars were obliterated. Habitat improvements on South Boulder Creek and Eldorado Canyon, a kids' fishing pond in Boulder and a handicapped access facility on the Big Thompson are all gone.

It may seem unkind after surveying such heartbreaking damage to mention the opportunities offered by rebuilding, but it makes sense if one takes a long-term view. It would be poor policy to rebuild everything just the way it was and hope for the best when those next inevitable floods return.

Recovering from any disaster requires planning and priorities. But this catastrophe warranted a handful of "first" priorities. As always, the first of the first was public safety. Close behind was infrastructure repair: roads and bridges to allow access to homes, neighborhoods and communities cut off by flooding; power lines for heating and cooking; and telephone lines for communication. Another key priority was, as St. Vrain Anglers chapter president Barbara Luneau put it, "determine where the river is going to be." In dozens of places, most notably the town of Lyons, rivers leaped their banks and charted new courses, leaving destruction and debris in their wake. There was another critical first priority with millions of dollars and a critical part of our water and food supply on the line, and that was to re-build



As part of response efforts, TUI volunteers helped with post-flood clean up along the Big Thompson at Sylvan Dale Ranch.

g the Channels

damaged or destroyed water diversions for towns and farms, some of which dated to the era of the horse and buggy.

From a TU perspective, there were opportunities in that rebuilding process to make some positive changes – by promoting more river-friendly designs and incorporating fish passage. Whether it is incorporating fish passage in a water diversion structure, or designing roads and culverts so that they can work with instead of against healthy rivers and floodplains, Colorado can rebuild better and smarter in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Times have changed. We've learned a lot about how construction affects rivers. We have better technology, greater ecological awareness. And we know how to use water more efficiently. So doesn't it seem logical to re-build in a way that keeps rivers healthier?

If mind-sets kept up with technology, that would be easy. But with irrigation for the growing season starting early and pressure to reopen roads quickly, there has been a definite rush to re-build infrastructure. So it's understandable that a new – and perhaps more costly – way of doing things would necessitate some convincing. It was also understandable that if we are to do the job of protecting our rivers, TU would get involved in the post-flood assessment and planning process from the start.

Colorado TU, and members of our chapters in communities affected by the floods – Boulder Flycasters, St. Vrain Anglers, Rocky Mountain Anglers and Alpine Anglers, waded right in.

"Our chapters have been putting their noses in the right places," says Larry Quilling, a Boulder Flycasters volunteer and member of Colorado TU's board. "We're there to listen, offer a hand, and add our voice."

In Fort Collins, Rocky Mountain Flycasters was involved in the Big Thompson Restoration Coalition before it had a name. A large group with diverse and divergent interests, Coalition stakeholders include state and federal agencies, municipalities, ditch companies, conservation groups and private landowners. "We knew we would have to wait our turn," says Dave Piske, the chapter's conservation chair, "so we showed up, indicated we were willing to help, and to championed the idea of rebuilding in a better way."

"St Vrain Anglers has been very engaged in the process," says Luneau. "We're working on relationship building - trying to be a catalyst. What really helps is that some of our members work in local government and agencies involved in the rebuilding effort."

"We're all trying to do our part," said Colorado TU Executive Director David Nickum. "At Colorado TU our focus is on state and congressional policy-makers, while our local chapters focus on the people who live and work in their communities. It's been a team effort."

Fortunately, Team TU isn't alone in our advocacy for riparian



protection. Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Water Conservation Board are both engaged in promoting river-friendly infrastructure. The CWCB has even hired a consultant to offer assistance to ditch companies and water districts. And the Colorado

Department of Transportation is developing a vision for long-term reconstruction that would pull roads out of the 100 year floodplain – leaving room for rivers to act and move as rivers do, clear of the highway.

Doing this work – and more traditional TU work in terms of direct habitat improvement and restoration of facilities like the Boulder Kids fishing pond – takes resources. In Boulder, the Boulder Flycasters Chapter has already hosted its first fundraiser for flood reconstruction. "We've got to put some skin in the game," says Quilling, "to demonstrate our commitment." The Greenbacks, a group of young go-getters within Colorado TU, are taking that commitment to the next level. Their effort, bearing a "Restore the Range" brand, is a fund-raising campaign to kick-start recovery work in drainages affected by the flooding, by providing seed money to help leverage other larger state and federal grants. The Greenbacks initial fundraisers – film showings in partnership with Confluence Films in three Colorado communities – netted more than \$8,000.

There's a sense of urgency about raising money right now, says Barbara Luneau. "We know that local chapters will stay engaged because it's in our own backyards. But people outside this region might have shorter memories."

Over time, your typical TU activist has needed to adapt and become a policy-wonk and a fundraiser as much as a rock-roller, but the underlying goal remains the same: To conserve, protect and restore.

College Outreach

In an effort to inspire the next generation of conservationists, Trout Unlimited is working to promote our mission on college and university campuses throughout the country through the 5 Rivers College Outreach Program. Here in Colorado, a budding partnership between the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter and students at Colorado College (CC) is showing great promise. With the help of TU and Angler's Covey Fly Shop, several students have started a campus organization with the goal of attracting, educating, and uniting fly fishermen at CC. The CC Fly Fishing club is an official TU-affiliated college club and that comes with multiple benefits: deals with manufacturers, stickers and banners with their logo printed by TU, the chance to connect with and receive support from their local chapter, and connection with other college clubs in Colorado and throughout the country. The CC Fly Fishing club hosts weekend fishing trips, casting clinics, movie nights and other events. Former club president Brooks Pinnick said, "As a new club we need as much support as possible. The guidance provided by TU was helpful as we develop a successful campus organization. Also, being a part of TU will help us get more involved in conservation in addition to fly fishing." Other schools with active clubs in Colorado include the University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado Mountain College-Steamboat Springs, Adams State and Western State Colorado University.



Connecting Children with Nature

Fishing for bluegill with dad on a local pond ... walking through the woods with mom ... for most sportsmen and women, their first experiences with the great outdoors involve a mentor of some kind – parent, grandparent, family friend. They were lucky enough to have an adult in their lives who shared a passion for the natural world with them – but many kids are not so lucky.

A growing problem affecting today's youth is nature deficit disorder. Simply put, kids today spend an inordinate amount of time engaged with electronic media, much of this at the expense of time outdoors. Research shows that today's youth spend an average of seven hours a day engrossed in various forms of electronic media. Children who are alienated from nature are more likely to suffer attention and mood disorders, lower grades and obesity. In addition, people with no connection to nature place little value on its protection. In short, nature deficit disorder is bad for kids, bad for society, and bad for nature.

Spearheaded by Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU), the Colorado Outdoor Mentors Initiative seeks to battle nature deficit disorder by building a coalition of conservation organizations, state agencies, and youth development organizations to provide outdoor education to non-traditional audiences. By partnering with youth mentoring organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Denver Kids Inc., and others, we can

give more children the chance to learn how to fish, hunt, camp and experience Colorado's great outdoors – alongside a trusted mentor who can help them continue to enjoy outdoor experiences together.

On Saturday, September 28, Colorado Outdoor Mentors had its



official "kick-off" event with several organizations coming together for an outdoor skills festival at Barr Lake State Park. With help from Colorado TU, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Pheasants Forever, Environmental Learning for Kids, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, the Wildlife Experience, the American Canoe Association, Denver Big Brothers Big Sisters and Denver Kids Inc., more than 200 people had the chance to try their hand at a wealth of outdoor activities and learn about native wildlife.

Every child deserves the sense of wonder and connectedness that spending time in nature provides. Through Outdoor Mentors, Colorado TU is providing that opportunity to more kids who otherwise might never have that chance.

On Armstrong Creek, a grand vision of restoration

Armstrong Creek

On the banks of Armstrong Creek, high in the mountains of northwest Colorado, a group of gung-ho volunteers from Shell have made the long trek on bumpy forest roads to this remote, spectacular valley, called California Park. They listen as biologists from Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Forest Service explain how to plant willows, sedges and other native plants along the muddy banks. The workday unfolds, amid laughter, a flurry of activity planting plugs in the muddy banks, and aching backs.

Armstrong Creek doesn't look like much – it's small enough to step across. But it's a key part of a much larger restoration vision coming together in the upper Elkhead watershed. TU and its partners are trying to solve a complex puzzle: How to put the pieces of a 30-mile watershed back together? How to restore an entire functioning, interconnected landscape?

"A common shortcoming of restoration projects is that the scale of treatment is too small to produce the desired effect," said biologist Brian Hodge, TU's Colorado Water Project manager for northwest Colorado. At the reach scale, restoration may improve habitat and result in localized increases in fish abundance, but it will not necessarily increase the total fish population. By working at the watershed scale, here and elsewhere in the West, TU and partners hope to restore healthy habitat and create "metapopulations": large, interconnected and interbreeding populations of fish that can better withstand the assaults of nature and humans, from drought and development to climate change.

Humans are inescapably part of the landscape here in California Park. Settlers discovered this area in the late 1800s – there were homesteads, logging camps, and stock driveways. In more recent years, livestock, elk, and herbicide application influenced the riparian landscape. Over decades, a variety of impacts resulted in soil and plant loss, eroded upland slopes, and widened, shallow stream channels – on this stretch of Armstrong, the channel flattened out to 12 feet wide and a few inches deep. That doesn't offer good habitat for fish. By narrowing the channel and revegetating along the banks, TU and its partners are working to help restore a healthy fishery.

There had been talk, on and off in recent years, of restoring the Elkhead drainage. But the task seemed daunting, and bigger than any one group. A few years ago, TU, the Forest



Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife agreed to make a run at it. Additional partners and contributors include the Routt County Conservation District, Shell, Tri-State, the City of Craig, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Yampa-White Basin Roundtable, and the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

"This project illustrates the effectiveness of partnerships," said Hodge. "We've come a long way in a relatively short amount of time." On this reach, they plotted meanders and riffle-pool sequences that mimicked the upstream stretch. They brought in a trackhoe to reroute the creek away from eroding hillsides, stabilize failing stream banks, and narrow the channel. And through the volunteer day, they finished replanting along the newly restored stream channel. The vegetation – sedges, willows, and alders – will anchor stream banks, reduce water velocity, and provide cover and cooling shade for trout and other native fishes.



Today, Colorado River cutthroat inhabit only 14 percent of their historical range. But they are survivors. Trout Unlimited would like to see them thrive again. California Park can be a central part in making it happen.

"In 20 years, if I can fish with my son up here, that would be great," says Jackie Brown, a project partner with the Routt County Conservation District.

The work of healing at Armstrong Creek gives hope.

Our Colorado River: Cooperation, not conflict

In Colorado, TU's field staff live and work in each of the major West Slope river basins that comprise the upper Colorado River drainage. They partner with ranchers, farmers and other stakeholders on projects that improve habitat, increase flows and help keep western Colorado streams and rivers healthy and productive. To help tell this story of cooperation, and take it to a new level, TU's Colorado Water Project in summer 2013 launched the Our Colorado River program (www.ourcolorriver.com), which has three primary goals:

- 1) Highlight TU's successful partnerships with agriculture in restoring habitat, upgrading irrigation infrastructure, and other efforts to boost healthy flows in our West Slope streams and rivers.
- 2) Promote cooperation between agriculture and recreation-tourism interests to protect the water resources that are the lifeblood of our West Slope communities.
- 3) Encourage collaboration by asking West Slope residents, businesses, elected officials and organizations, to endorse some common "core values" on water, including cooperation, not conflict; modernizing irrigation; and maintaining open spaces.

In 2013, TU made important progress in promoting dialogue on these common water values. Program coordinator Richard Van Gytenbeek presented to scores of civic groups, including county commissions and city officials, agriculture groups, and other stakeholders. Many of them have expressed their support for these core water values.

"I'm finding a receptive audience for the idea of working collaboratively on water solutions," said Van Gytenbeek. "People understand that we have to make the best use of a limited and priceless resource."

Businesses Help Protect Our Rivers

River-minded businesses can help Colorado's rivers through their generous contributions under Colorado TU's "Protect Our Rivers" program. The program offers businesses recognition in Colorado TU's outreach to 11,000 members, the ability to integrate the program into their own marketing and let customers know that they care about rivers, and of course, makes a difference for the rivers that benefit all Coloradoans and our economy. We would like to recognize our current Protect Our Rivers sponsors:



Upslope Brewing Company, an award-winning Colorado brewery, knows that healthy rivers brew the best beer. Upslope contributes 1% of the sales of its craft lager to Colorado TU through the Protect Our Rivers program. www.upslopebrewing.com

Freestone Outfitters is a premier Orvis-endorsed outfitter operating out of Littleton and offering outstanding walk/wade and float fishing trips on both public and private waters. Through a "round up for rivers" program, Freestone offers its customers the chance to add a \$25 donation in support of TU to their trips – and matches those contributions as part of its commitment to conservation 720-448-5621. www.flyfishfreestone.com.



Rep Your Water offers creatively-designed gear that allows you to show your love for your home waters. They not only celebrate those waters, they give back to them – 1% of sales of Colorado merchandise is contributed to Colorado TU. www.repyourwater.com

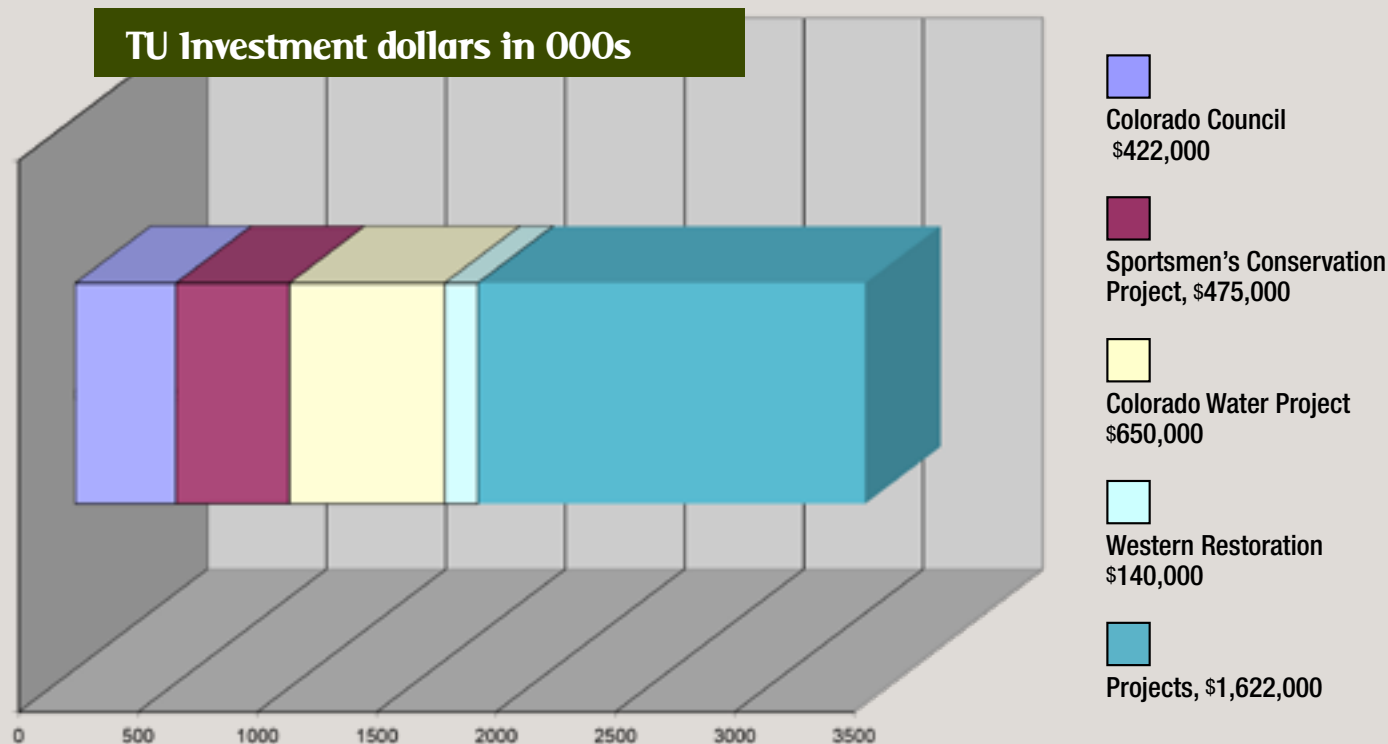
Fishpond is a Colorado based company that designs and manufactures products for fishing and outdoor enthusiasts. Fishpond was created with the philosophy that innovation, design and a responsibility towards the environment from which they draw inspiration is critical to success. Fishpond is dedicated to conservation and a proud supporter of Colorado TU. www.fishpondusa.com



Dvorak Expeditions, Colorado's first licensed outfitter, has been providing quality river experiences since 1969. Dvorak offers TU members a 10% discount – plus donates 10% of the purchase price to Colorado TU – on three-day backcountry float fishing trips through the spectacular Gunnison Gorge and full-day float fishing trips on the Arkansas River 1-800-824-3795. www.dvorakexpeditions.com

Investing in Colorado

Over the past year, Trout Unlimited invested more than \$3.3 million in projects and programs in Colorado. These dollars were leveraged by the contributions of our volunteers, who donated more than 60,000 hours of service – the equivalent of 30 additional full time employees.



Taking Rivers On the Road

Thanks to legislation promoted by Colorado Trout Unlimited, Colorado drivers can now show their love of rivers everywhere they drive with a new “Protect Our Rivers” license plate. Under a bipartisan 2013 bill, Colorado now gives motorists the chance to support rivers through a specialty license plate that features a river flowing down from the classic mountain backdrop and the message, “Protect Our Rivers.” To qualify to obtain the plate, drivers make a secure online \$25 contribution for river conservation through Colorado TU at www.protectourrivers.net. Plates became available starting in January 2014. Colorado TU is grateful to the bill sponsors, Senators **Randy**

Baumgardner and **Andy Kerr**, and Representatives **Millie Hamner** and **Jared Wright**.



Make a Difference

You can support the work of Trout Unlimited in Colorado through contributions for unrestricted support or for specific programs, projects, or basins. Century Club donors contribute \$100 or more each year; through a contribution of \$1,200 or more per year you can join our River Stewardship Council and take part in special RSC tours where you can interact with other dedicated conservationists, enjoy outstanding fishing, and see first-hand the difference your support is making on the ground. Colorado TU's Protect Our Rivers program also allows businesses to contribute to conservation in Colorado while enjoying a range of promotional benefits.

Thanks to a new partnership between the Colorado Council and National TU, you can also direct individual contributions (of \$1,000 or more) for Colorado programs and projects through the national Coldwater Conservation Fund, enabling access to benefits including exclusive trips beyond Colorado and special gear – while still enjoying the benefits of Colorado's own River Stewardship Council and supporting efforts on your "home waters" in Colorado. Of course, you can still support the Council or National directly through the familiar existing channels. The partnership is designed to better coordinate our work and communication with supporters across Colorado, and to avoid confusion between our 23 Colorado staff and more than 10,000 members.

To learn more about how you can support the work of TU in Colorado, visit www.coloradotu.org.

Colorado TU Donors

Thank you

Trout Unlimited thanks the generous individuals, businesses, and foundations whose support – along with yours – makes our successes possible.

River Stewardship Council & Colorado Coldwater Conservation Fund Donors

Jerry Arnold
Marshall Whiting & Richard Arnold
William Bartels
Matthew Bates
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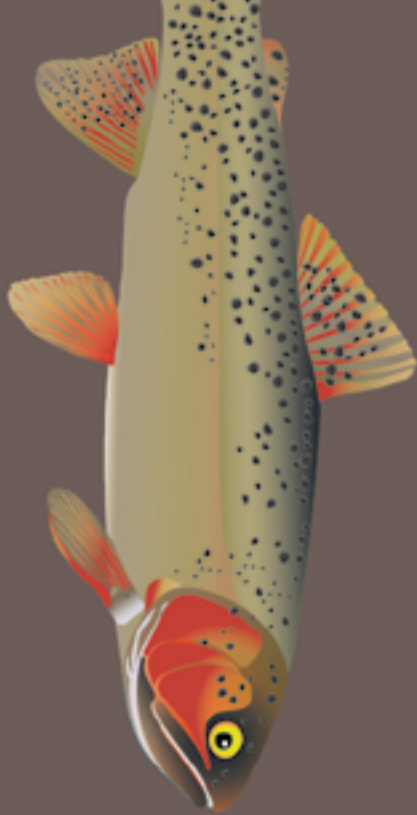
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