



**Annual Report
2009**



A Voice for Colorado's Rivers

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Executive Offices

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Mission

Colorado Trout Unlimited works to conserve, protect, and restore Colorado's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. As the grassroots arm of our parent organization, Trout Unlimited, we use cooperation, collaboration, advocacy, and education to promote conservation.

Colorado TU Officers:

Sinjin Eberle, *President*
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Randy Kittelson, *Secretary*
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Ken Neubecker, *Past President*

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Erica Stock, *Outreach Director*
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Jen Boulton, *Legislative Liaison*
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Dr. John Woodling, *Water Quality Consultant*

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Drew Peterzell, *Colorado Water Project Director*
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David Stillwell, *Office Manager*
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TU Sportsmen's Conservation Project Staff:

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Corey Fisher, *Energy Field Coordinator*
Ty Churchwell, *Backcountry Coordinator,*
Alpine Triangle
Greg Moore, *Communications Specialist*

TU Watershed Restoration Staff:

Elizabeth Russell, *Mine Restoration Project Manager*



Jane Tollett, *Executive Director, Grand County Water Information Network (L)*. Erica Stock, *Outreach Director, Colorado Trout Unlimited (R)*.



Dear Friends.

In Colorado, the health and enjoyment of our natural surroundings are paramount. Most people who live here cite something about the outdoors as one of the primary reasons they are here – it's a great place to live. But no natural habitat can exist without clean and plentiful water, and in 2009 Colorado Trout Unlimited once again fulfilled the role of being the best sportsman and conservation group focused on protecting and restoring Colorado's rivers. It's what we know, it's what we are passionate about, and it's what we do.

2009 was a great year for CTU. We continued the fight to protect native cutthroat trout habitat on the Roan Plateau, while striving to forge a working model for oil and gas development that can satisfy all interests and protect vital natural places. Collaboration with the Governor's office to craft a more desirable Roadless Rule was another important effort, and the results are promising. We also supported on-the-ground stream restoration projects like those on Middle Boulder Creek and the Animas River. Local volunteers are the true strength of CTU and the primary reason we are the most effective organization for the protection and improvement of Colorado's streams.

At the State Capitol, with the guidance and diligence of our Legislative Advocate, CTU essentially "batted a thousand" – getting the bills we wanted passed and beating back the threats to Colorado's rivers that are as common as mosquitoes on a summer night. With increasing budgetary constraints, the ability to effectively advocate for and pass important bills that make a difference is critical. Once again, we have proven that a sound conservation strategy that strikes a balance is more effective than one that is out on the fringes.

Our 2009 strategy was so successful that we will continue to use it through 2010, but we're turning up the heat. We are committed to driving the important river conservation strategy that we all care about – essential when it comes to critical rivers like the Fraser and the Upper Colorado. We will be working harder to protect the Colorado River's imperiled habitat and demanding the attention and respect that the state's namesake river deserves. This effort will require all of us, more than ever, to participate, collaborate, and invest our resources, wherever they are needed.

Nothing in Colorado is more important than water, and Colorado Trout Unlimited is here to ensure that Colorado's rivers have a fighting chance to thrive. Together we can make it happen!



Sincerely,

C. Sinjin Eberle

Sinjin Eberle, President - Colorado Trout Unlimited

A Strategic Approach to Fish and River Conservation

Founded in 1969, CTU is Colorado's leading non-profit, non-partisan organization providing a voice for Colorado's rivers. As the financially self-sustaining, grassroots, Colorado-based arm of the national organization Trout Unlimited, CTU is independently governed by a 37 member volunteer board.

Colorado Trout Unlimited leverages the power of its 10,000 members from 22 chapters across Colorado who contribute approximately 44,000 volunteer hours annually to restoration, education, and other local conservation projects, equivalent to the power of 22 full-time employees.

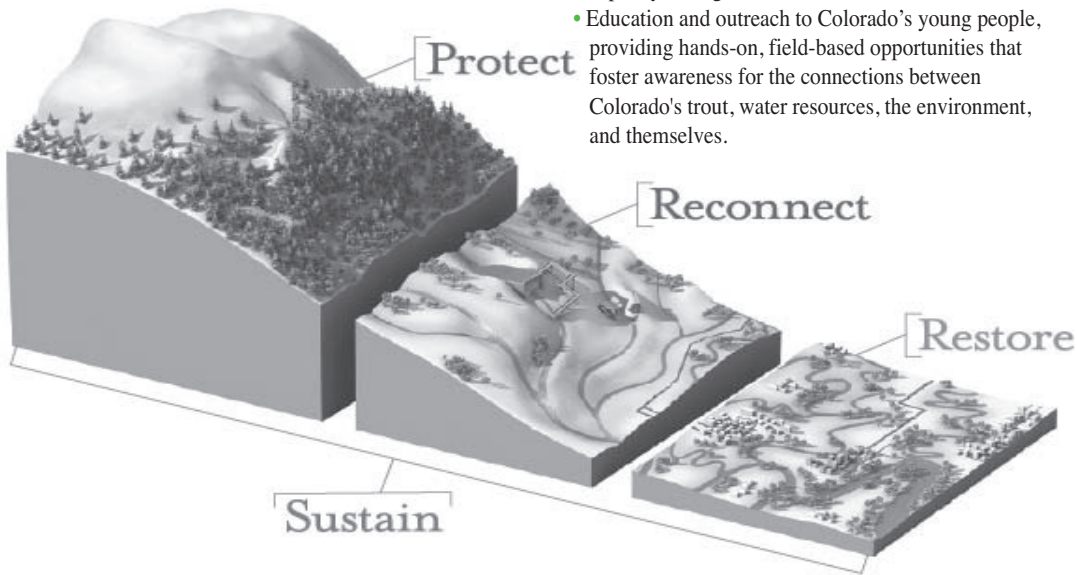
Our vision is simple — by the next generation, CTU will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their original Colorado range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.

CTU works to:

- **Protect** high quality habitat for native and wild coldwater fish and to maintain free flowing rivers;
- **Reconnect** fragmented fish populations and habitats by restoring flows to dewatered rivers and re-opening fish passage;
- **Restore** watersheds by working in collaboration with other conservation and governmental organizations, as well as private landowners, to preserve and improve the quality of habitats that support coldwater fish;
- **Sustain** the efforts of our volunteers and supporters by inspiring a strong conservation ethic in the next generation of river stewards.

CTU's Strategies:

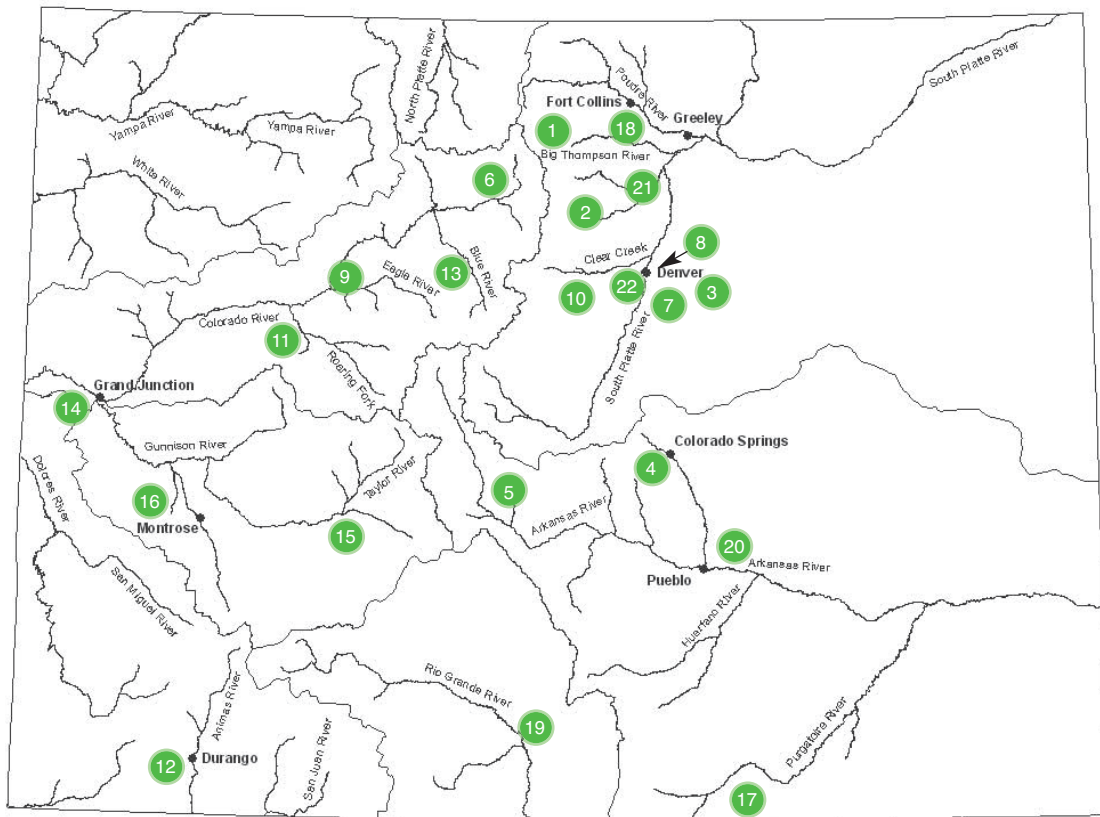
- Grassroots engagement;
- Support for on-the-ground community-led projects and initiatives;
- Advocacy at the national, state and local levels;
- Collaboration and partnerships with private landowners, state, federal, and local agencies, and other key stakeholders;
- Use of local knowledge as well as science-based tools like TU's Conservation Success Index to help develop, prioritize and initiate conservation efforts and advocacy;
- Leverage resources committed by donors and increase capacity through the efforts of our volunteers;
- Education and outreach to Colorado's young people, providing hands-on, field-based opportunities that foster awareness for the connections between Colorado's trout, water resources, the environment, and themselves.





Colorado TU chapters provide a voice for rivers and watersheds across the state.

- (1) Alpine Anglers, *Estes Park*
- (2) Boulder Flycasters, *Boulder*
- (3) Cherry Creek Anglers, *Aurora*
- (4) Cheyenne Mountain, *Colorado Springs*
- (5) Collegiate Peaks Anglers, *Salida/Buena Vista*
- (6) Colorado River Headwaters, *Grand County*
- (7) Cutthroat, *Littleton*
- (8) Denver, *Denver*
- (9) Eagle Valley, *Eagle*
- (10) Evergreen, *Evergreen*
- (11) Ferdinand Hayden, *Aspen/Glenwood Springs*
- (12) Five Rivers, *Durango/Cortez*
- (13) Gore Range, *Summit County*
- (14) Grand Valley Anglers, *Grand Junction*
- (15) Gunnison Angling Society, *Gunnison*
- (16) Gunnison Gorge Anglers, *Delta/Montrose*
- (17) Purgatoire River Anglers, *Trinidad*
- (18) Rocky Mountain Flycasters, *Ft. Collins/Greeley*
- (19) San Luis Valley, *Alamosa*
- (20) Southern Colorado Greenbacks, *Pueblo*
- (21) St. Vrain Anglers, *Longmont*
- (22) West Denver, *Golden*



Cartography by David Stillwell

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In Colorado, water is our most precious natural resource. Water sustains fish, wildlife, and rural and urban communities through healthy lakes and free-flowing rivers, and provides many opportunities for recreation and a sense of place for all Coloradans.

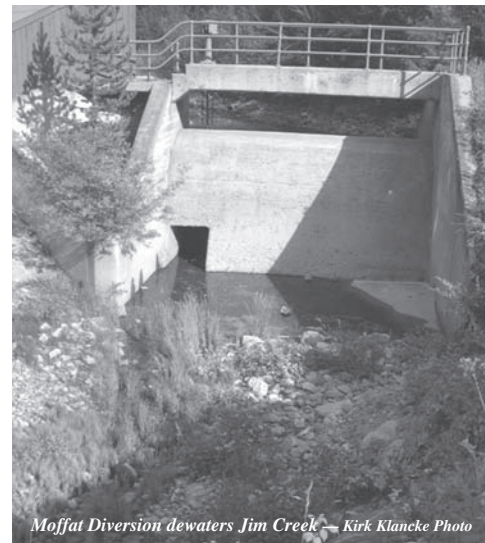
Unfortunately, due in part to outdated policies and rules that govern the use and management of our water resources, many rivers and streams in Colorado are heavily depleted and lack the flows necessary to sustain healthy populations of fish and wildlife. Colorado Trout Unlimited believes we can both meet our water needs and sustain healthy river ecosystems, but to do so we must strike a balance between development and protection. To this end, CTU and National TU's Western Water Project advocate for sensible policies that keep water in Colorado's rivers, while ensuring a reliable water supply to farms, ranches, homes, and businesses across our state.

Key Partners

- Colorado Environmental Coalition
- Colorado River Water Conservation District
- Educational Foundation of America
- Grand County
- Hewlett Foundation
- High Country Citizens Alliance
- Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
- San Juan Citizens Alliance
- Western Resource Advocates

Results

- The proposed expansion of the Moffat Tunnel and Windy Gap water diversion projects threatens to leave the Upper Colorado River and Fraser River with only 25% of their native flows. Through grassroots advocacy and organizing during the projects' permitting processes, CTU and its local chapters successfully mobilized over 3,000 citizens who voiced their concerns over the potential impacts of these projects on fish, wildlife, and local recreation-based economies. The Colorado River Headwaters Chapter has generated widespread community involvement in protecting their "home waters" – from educational public meetings to inform residents about the projects and their impacts, to a "RiverStock" music festival in Fraser to raise community awareness and engagement. With support and expertise from TU's Western Water Project, CTU and the chapter will continue to play a part in negotiating and advocating protections for these rivers as the Army Corps of Engineers and other state and federal agencies evaluate the proposed projects throughout 2010.



Moffat Diversion dewateres Jim Creek — Kirk Klancke Photo

- Trout Unlimited has been actively engaged in the Southern Delivery System (SDS) proposal to build a large pipeline 43 miles north from Pueblo Dam to serve Colorado Springs, Security and Fountain. TU's Western Water Project pressured the Bureau of Reclamation to acknowledge the impacts of the proposed project on fish in the Arkansas River, and help secure adequate mitigation and management options to maintain higher flows and water quality throughout the basin.

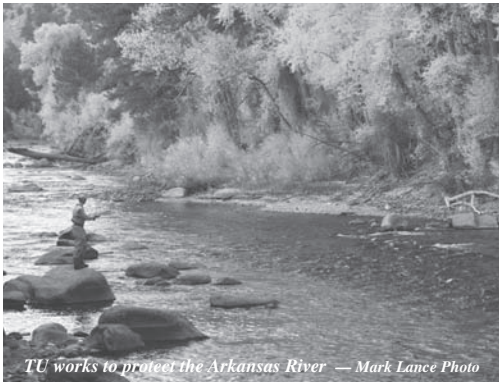


- Through the efforts of TU's Western Water Project, the Colorado Supreme Court decided in favor of keeping more water in the San Juan River, striking down an attempt by Pagosa Springs to remove more water than was necessary for the city's future needs through its Dry Gulch project. TU's groundbreaking litigation challenging this speculative reservoir project secured new, restrictive standards for public utilities seeking water rights to serve future growth, preventing potentially harmful, excessive diversion projects from moving forward. The ruling is the second time Trout Unlimited has challenged the district water court's decrees in the so-called Dry Gulch case — and the second time it has won.



Black Canyon of the Gunnison River — Mark Lance Photo

- Thanks to advocacy by Trout Unlimited at national, state and local levels, the Gunnison River experienced its first flushing flows in more than a decade, reducing heavy loads of accumulated sediment and algae throughout the Gunnison Gorge. Such flushes will become more common in the future thanks to a legal settlement negotiated by TU and its allies to secure meaningful water rights for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.



TU works to protect the Arkansas River — Mark Lance Photo

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Kirk Klancke,
Colorado River Headwaters Chapter President

"I have lived almost my entire life in Grand County at the headwaters of the Upper Colorado River along the Fraser River. It has been a lifetime of intimate contact with the river and the environment that it sustains. I want my grandchildren to feel this same connection. To me there is nothing more important."



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The benefits of CTU's conservation efforts and restoration work can be undone in a single generation if future stewards fail to understand the value of healthy river ecosystems. To ensure healthy rivers and watersheds are sustained for future generations, CTU's Youth Conservation Education Programs focus on cultivating a strong, life-long conservation ethic in Colorado's young people by providing them hands-on, field-based opportunities that foster awareness of the connections between Colorado's trout, water resources, the environment, and themselves.

Key Partners

- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Local School Districts Statewide
- The Peace Ranch



Youth campers learn Colorado water law — Mark Lance Photo

Results

- CTU, in partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Cutthroat Chapter, launched Colorado's first Trout in the Classroom program at Thompson Valley High School in Loveland. Students raised trout from eggs to fry, engaged in water quality and habitat studies, and released them into state-approved waters near their school in spring 2010. Because of early success, Trout in the Classroom has been approved to expand into additional schools in fall 2010, including schools in Boulder, Durango, Ft. Collins, and Colorado Springs.
- With scholarships from local chapters, students ages 14-18 from across Colorado participated in CTU's Annual Youth Conservation Camp at the Peace Ranch in Basalt. From snorkel surveys to water quality sampling, campers were instructed on the principles of ecology and the importance of coldwater conservation while also learning the basics of flyfishing.
- Our 22 chapters statewide volunteer regularly with youth. They conduct flyfishing workshops, field days and in-school programs to teach students about their home watersheds. For example, the West Denver and Evergreen chapters, as part of Jefferson County's Outdoor

Education Laboratory Schools program, instructed 6th grade students on the basics of fly-tying and flyfishing. Boulder Flycasters Chapter volunteers introduced at-risk teens to fly fishing and taught them to monitor water quality in their local streams.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Shawn Bratt,
Volunteer Camp Counselor

"It's important for our young people to understand the value of healthy streams and clean water and how they relate to our everyday lives. The Youth Camp curriculum has been structured to provide the necessary foundation for that education. Our hope is that kids who attend our camp today will become the conservation leaders of tomorrow."





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Over the past century, traditional oil, gas, and coal extraction has taken a toll on Colorado's rivers, wildlife, and landscapes. Today, with one of the largest oil shale reserves in the world, Colorado remains a hotbed for oil and gas exploration and development. Even as our state moves toward more renewable sources of energy like wind, solar, hydropower, and geothermal, threats to native trout ecosystems remain. CTU, in partnership with TU's Sportsmen's Conservation Project, works with energy development companies, state and federal agencies, elected officials, and local stakeholder groups to advocate for balanced energy solutions — those that allow Colorado to meet its energy needs while protecting native fish, irreplaceable river ecosystems and human health.

Key Partners

- Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Environmental Coalition
- Colorado Wildlife Federation
- Earthjustice
- Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development

Results

- CTU continues to fight for the permanent protection of the Roan Plateau — an important habitat for big game and populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout — and made significant headway this year toward meeting that goal. Through lawsuit settlement negotiations, CTU with legal support from Earthjustice secured suspension of oil and gas leases on the Roan so that the area remains protected while legal issues are addressed. Had the leases proceeded, 3,000 additional oil and gas wells could have been added to this sensitive area, including in watersheds where TU volunteers from the Grand Valley Anglers Chapter have invested hundreds of hours in native trout conservation projects.
- In 2009, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed oil and gas leases in many drainages throughout Colorado that contain important populations of native cutthroat trout or are suitable for species recovery efforts. CTU, in coordination with TU's Sportsmen's Conservation Project, protested 89 leases that lacked adequate protections for these important streams. The BLM deferred 39 of those leases for further study and is considering stronger protections for native trout fisheries. TU remains engaged in efforts to identify where oil and gas development is appropriate, and where protecting sensitive habitat deserves a higher priority.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Corey Fisher,
*Energy Field Coordinator,
 TU's Sportsmen's Conservation Project*

“Responsible oil and gas development is about striking the right balance between extraction and protection. There are places like Trapper Creek on the Roan Plateau that are extremely sensitive where drilling is 100% incompatible, but over the vast majority of the Intermountain West both oil and gas development and great hunting and fishing can coexist. The majority of my work is not focused on opposing drilling, but rather promoting solutions that allow for both healthy trout populations and energy development.”

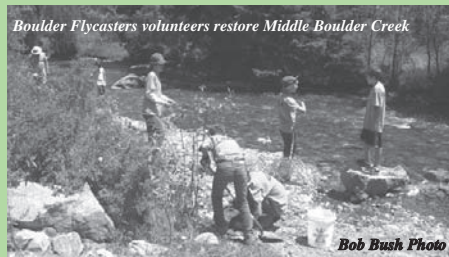


PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Due to a long history of mining, overgrazing, and other activities that have damaged water quality and habitat, many of Colorado's rivers and lakes are polluted, overdeveloped and degraded, requiring a range of interventions to restore healthy habitat. Fortunately, CTU possesses an extraordinary resource: nearly 10,000 members across the state who donate over 40,000 volunteer hours annually to restore and improve the streams and rivers in their backyards.

Key Partners

- Boulder County Open Space
- Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- National Park Service
- Trout and Salmon Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service



Boulder Flycasters volunteers restore Middle Boulder Creek

Bob Bush Photo

Results

- The Boulder Flycasters Chapter completed an award-winning stream habitat restoration project along a half-mile stretch of Middle Boulder Creek. The combination of over 3,000 volunteer hours, 1,000 tons of boulders and cobble, 450 native shrubs and trees, 3,000 native grass plugs, and planning and construction by Ecological Resource Consultants and Tezak Construction made this project a success, winning the 2009 Boulder County Pinnacle Award for Stewardship and Sustainability. An additional sign of success; in December 2009, a park ranger reported the presence of trout along the restored reach where none had been before.
- Also known as the “Greenback Backers,” volunteers from the Alpine Angers Chapter partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service to monitor trout populations in Rocky Mountain National Park and to educate visitors on catch-and-release and the importance of greenback recovery through the volunteer Lily Lake Patrol.
- Building upon the success of the “Greenback Backers,” CTU is working with the Alpine Anglers and Rocky Mountain Flycasters to launch a large-scale restoration project along 40 miles of the Cache la Poudre River headwaters, the largest native trout restoration effort in Colorado history.
- The Five Rivers Chapter partnered with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the City of Durango, Animas Riverkeepers, and the Animas River Task Force to successfully restore the stretch of the Animas River between 9th Street and the Highway 160 bridge in Durango. The project was completed in August of 2009 with the help of Western Stream Works from Ridgeway. Massive boulders were installed to push the current away from the bank. Scour holes were used to create deep pools and runs. The stream bank was stabilized by planting and protecting important cottonwoods within the riparian area. The project resulted in improved habitat for trout and expanded recreation opportunities for the Durango community.
- CTU contributed thousands of dollars to local chapter projects through the Leo Gomolchak Conservation Minigrants Program. Recipients of this year's awards included the Alpine Anglers Chapter Greenback Backers Program; Cheyenne Mountain Chapter's Shryver Pond Project; and the design phase of the Cherry Creek Anglers Chapter's project to improve habitat and handicapped access along the South Platte River.
- CTU staff and chapter volunteer leaders are currently working to develop restoration projects for Colorado River and Rio Grande cutthroat trout in their historic habitats.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Headwater streams and intact wilderness areas on public lands are quite literally the last refuges for many native trout populations. They sustain rare fish populations, while providing a reliable source of cold, clean water to improve conditions throughout our rivers, a function that becomes even more important during periods of warming. CTU and local chapters work together with TU's Sportsmen's Conservation Project and other partners to maintain protection for Colorado's valuable network of public forests, wilderness, and parks — places that provide some of the best hunting, fishing, hiking and camping in the country.

Key Partners

- Animas River Stakeholder's Group
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado's Third Congressional District staff
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Southwestern Water Conservation District
- Grazing permittees
- La Plata Board of County Commissioners
- Motorized and mechanized advocates
- Recreation advocates
- San Juan Citizen's Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- U.S. Forest Service

Results

- CTU, as part of a coalition of partners, worked with Congress to pass legislation establishing protected areas and wilderness for Dominguez-Escalante and Rocky Mountain National Park.
- With the strong backing of CTU and partners, Rep. John Salazar introduced the San Juan Mountains Wilderness proposal to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- The best fish and game habitat in the West is found on land that hasn't been developed or degraded by human activity. Classified as "roadless" areas, these large backcountry tracts remain some of the best to hunt and fish. CTU mobilized citizens through a public comment process and meetings with resource managers and elected representatives to help secure major improvements in the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule. The new proposal strikes a more appropriate balance in protecting backcountry habitat while allowing roads and timber removal to reduce wildfire risks near communities. Unfortunately, the proposal still falls short of adequately protecting some of the best cutthroat trout and big game habitats in Colorado's roadless areas. CTU continues to work with the State and the U.S. Forest Service to seek a stronger rule.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Ty Churchwell,
Backcountry Coordinator, TU's Sportsmen's Conservation Project

"Management of our public lands for multiple uses is a daunting task. As part of TU's Sportsmen's Conservation Project, I work with agencies and other stakeholder groups with an eye toward preserving important trout and wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities in the backcountry. Simply, it's an obligation I feel as a Colorado native and a trout conservationist."



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Water quality is one of the most basic indicators of watershed health. The availability of cold, clean water is essential for trout, wildlife, and human health. Unfortunately, water quality in many of Colorado's river basins has declined due to widespread development — from water diversion projects that reduce flows, to streamside mining and urban runoff. CTU works to improve water quality in Colorado's rivers and streams by advocating for water quality standards that sustain diverse aquatic life in the Arkansas, Rio Grande, Colorado, Yampa, Platte, Gunnison, and San Juan basins.

In order to ensure water quality standards are being met, CTU and local chapters also invest hundreds of on-the-ground volunteer hours to monitoring their home waters, yielding valuable data used by state agencies to inform ongoing management of those rivers and streams.

Key Partners

- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Watershed Network
- High Country Citizens Alliance
- Kenney Brothers Foundation
- San Juan Citizens Alliance
- U.S. Forest Service

Results

- The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission is responsible for establishing water quality standards for waters around the state. While the work of the Commission is of critical importance to protecting Colorado's water, CTU has been the only consistent conservation participant in the Commission's basin hearings. Represented by a former Division of Wildlife water quality expert, Dr. John Woodling, CTU has participated as an official "party" each year in these important public policy hearings, helping to bring a much-needed counterbalance against proposals from powerful polluters.
- Through RiverWatch, a collaborative effort between the Colorado Watershed Network and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, members from five Trout Unlimited chapters help collect baseline data on streams and rivers across the state. The Five Rivers Chapter, Cheyenne Mountain Chapter, Collegiate Peaks Chapter, Cutthroat Chapter, and West Denver Chapter all participate in this program, logging hundreds of volunteer hours monitoring their home waters. RiverWatch is designed to provide policy-makers and agencies with high quality water ecosystem data to guide informed decisions.

- West Denver RiverWatch volunteers collected samples on numerous streams in the Clear Creek watershed, helping the U.S. Forest Service determine sites with the potential to support native trout restoration.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Gil Hassinger,

RiverWatch Committee Chair

"We often discuss the quality of Colorado's rivers and streams, but the RiverWatch Program gives us the opportunity to do something about it. RiverWatch water sampling provides resource managers with useful water quality data from sites throughout the state. In fact, the data from our chapter's RiverWatch sampling program was instrumental in efforts to restore Greenback Cutthroat trout in Clear Creek. I would like to see all Colorado TU chapters get involved in RiverWatch and support the program any way they can."



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

While the State Capitol may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think about river conservation, the legislature is a critical forum where laws are made that affect our rivers. Colorado Trout Unlimited works to conserve, protect and restore watersheds throughout the state, and a single bad law can counter the benefits of dozens of on-the-ground efforts. Similarly, a good law can open countless doors of opportunity for river conservation.

Colorado Trout Unlimited is one of the few conservation organizations that maintains a legislative advocate at the Capitol full-time during the General Assembly. Combined with the power of our grassroots membership — activists who contact their legislators on critical issues — CTU provides a respected and effective voice for river and watershed protection at the legislature. In 2009, key legislative priorities included securing passage of rules to enhance water and wildlife conservation in oil and gas development, renewing Colorado’s “habitat stamp” as a means of funding habitat acquisition and conservation, and establishing a tax credit for donations of water rights to instream flows.

Key Partners

- Alliance for Sustainable Colorado
- Audubon Society Colorado
- Colorado Bowhunters Association
- Colorado Environmental Coalition
- Colorado Wildlife Federation
- Environmental Defense
- Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
- Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
- Western Resource Advocates

Results

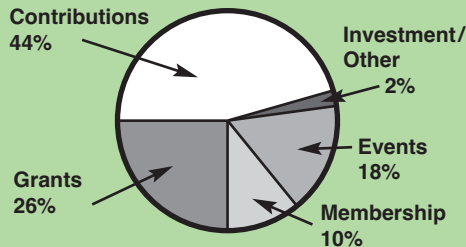
CTU and our conservation allies scored important victories on our top legislative priorities, making 2009 a highly successful session for river and watershed conservation.

- **Oil & gas issues.** The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) adopted new rules to help protect wildlife and water as oil and gas development takes place in Colorado. The rules required approval by the State Legislature and became one of the signature battles of the 2009 session. The “rules review” bill (HB 09-1292) — approving the COGCC (and other agency) rules — was opposed by oil and gas lobbyists and spawned a series of bills designed to roll back protections for wildlife. CTU and our allies successfully blocked multiple bills that would have gutted the new rules and then secured passage of the rules review bill. These efforts concluded a nearly three-year effort to promote responsible oil and gas development with appropriate safeguards for water and wildlife. While some issues remain, the rules represent a major step forward in establishing an appropriate balance that allows energy development to proceed while protecting Colorado’s fish and wildlife heritage.

- **Habitat stamp.** The Habitat Stamp was established in 2005 as an additional stamp for purchase by hunters and anglers, with proceeds dedicated to protecting habitat and providing access through, among other means, purchasing land. CTU’s Collegiate Peaks Chapter was involved in the very first Habitat Stamp acquisition — securing public access along 1.25 miles of the Arkansas River. In 2009, continuing the program required reauthorization by the legislature. In securing passage of the reauthorization, CTU successfully defeated efforts by some big game interests to lock in a 60% earmark of funds for big game projects. The bill also increased the cost of the stamp to make more funds available for conservation and included language (sponsored by Senator Penry) making Habitat Stamp funds available to help to buy water and put it back into our rivers and streams.
- **Instream flow tax credit.** While landowners have long enjoyed the ability to obtain a tax credit on conservation easements for land protection, there was no similar tax credit for owners of water rights who donated water to the State to keep our rivers and streams flowing. Working with our partners at Environmental Defense and bill sponsors Rep. Pommer and Sen. White, we were able to establish a new tax credit for up to 50% of the value of water donated for instream flows. While the program had notable limits (including an annual cap of \$2 million in total credits), it was a valuable first step in creating tax incentives to encourage water donations that benefit Colorado’s rivers.

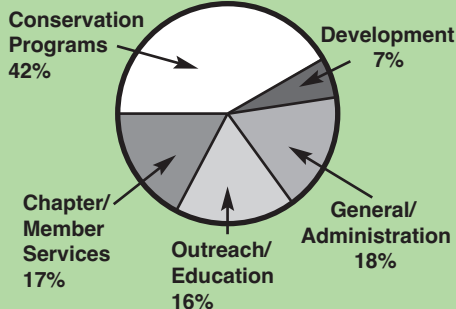
2009 INCOME

Total Income
\$220,494



2009 EXPENSES

Total Expenses
\$236,005



Sweat equity stretches every dollar.
Through volunteer efforts by CTU's 10,000 members,
every \$1 contributed generates \$2.81 in value.

Thank You! *Colorado Trout Unlimited wishes to express our deepest appreciation to our supporters, who through their continued generosity allow us to conserve, protect, and restore Colorado's rivers and watersheds.*

River Stewardship Council

- Mr. Jerry Arnold
- Mr. RA Beattie
- Mr. Robert Bush
- Mr. Robert Collins
- Mr. Michael Delaney
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Photo by Mark Lance



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