



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP

WESTERN
NATIVE
TROUT
INITIATIVE



THE CAMPAIGN FOR
WESTERN NATIVE
TROUT

—SUSTAINING OUR WESTERN HERITAGE THROUGH NATIVE TROUT CONSERVATION—

Our fish, our future

RESTORING OUR WATERS, PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

Wild, native trout evolved over millennia alongside buffalo, lynx, grizzly and grouse. They flourished and thrived across untamed landscapes that continue to define the American West - from high mountain lakes and dry desert plateaus to grassy, expansive plains and lush coastal estuaries. But with the advent of modern technologies and widespread development we have altered native ecosystems faster than we have repaired, creating a cascade of consequences our forefathers could not have imagined. We have changed forever a once balanced and biologically rich landscape, sending native trout and other keystone species into decline.

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) seeks to reverse centuries of habitat degradation and native trout declines by bringing together private and public sector leaders to collaboratively restore, rebuild, and permanently protect the last remaining rivers, lakes, streams, and wildlands that provide cold, clean water to cities, suburbs, farms and ranches, and of course, support

wild, native trout. By combining, focusing, and leveraging our collective resources and passion for the West, we can measurably improve the health of western watersheds and ensure a future where fish, wildlife, and people continue to thrive.


SUPPORTING AND SUSTAINING WESTERN ECONOMIES

In addition to providing water for ranches, farms, families, and fish, healthy, free-flowing native trout streams also draw hunters, anglers, kayakers and campers to rural areas, generating valuable revenue to local communities across the West. Lured by the promise of a once-in-a-lifetime catch, a trophy buck, or epic rapids, recreationists spend money on equipment, lodging, restaurants, and professional guide and outfitting services. Money injected into local economies via recreation and tourism is shared with every corner of western communities, propping up banks, family-owned shops and restaurants. Compared to other forms of revenue generated by natural resources, recreation has the longevity and predictability to sustain communities

over the long-haul. As the profitability of agriculture, oil and gas fluctuate according to world markets, many communities are turning to recreation to make ends meet. By supporting native trout restoration projects in these places, we improve habitat and recreation opportunities, drawing more resources to communities working to diversify their economies.

PROVIDING THE BEST CONSERVATION VALUE

The best long-term conservation strategies involve investing in the protection and restoration of relatively intact, pristine habitats because such investments are less expensive and more reliable than restoring those places that are severely degraded and disconnected. The western U.S. is home to more varieties of living native cutthroat trout than anywhere else in the nation. Projects funded by Western Native Trout Initiative are located in these last, best places, creating lasting benefits not only for western native trout, but also for other associated fish, wildlife, and surrounding communities.



*We don't let other
pieces of our heritage
slip away. Why
should trout be any
different?*

—TED TURNER



A strategy for success

The Western Native Trout Initiative is 1.75 million square miles of public and privately managed lands, and crosses the borders of 12 western states. We work cooperatively to restore and recover the last remaining western native trout species across their historic range by funding efforts to raise public awareness, and by investing limited private and public resources toward completing the highest-impact, on-the-ground projects led by local communities and resource agencies across the western United States. The following are the strategies and values that guide our organization's success.

SUPPORT SCIENCE-BASED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ACTION

Western native trout face challenges and opportunities unique to their geographic range and life history. Projects funded by the Western Native Trout Initiative are proposed by local communities and agencies, and result from ongoing collaboration between private landowners, businesses, regional and state fishery managers, tribes, and community groups with local knowledge, expertise and interest in conserving the rivers and trout in their homewaters. Projects are selected by our Steering Committee of highly respected resource managers and conservation groups according to the prioritized needs of each trout species. Projects must address the real and unique threats to each western native trout population according to the best available science.

MAXIMIZE OUR COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT

Donors get the most bang for their buck by investing in Western Native Trout Initiative projects because each dollar is leveraged with state, local, and federal funds dedicated to native trout restoration. For every dollar invested by private donors, an average of \$3 in matching funds are provided by the public sector entities. Thus, a \$20,000 contribution has an \$80,000 impact. Our administrative expenses are also kept to a minimum and supported by federal sources, so every dollar goes to fund on-the-ground projects that benefit western native trout.

ACHIEVE REAL MEASURABLE RESULTS

Since 2006, the Western Native Trout Initiative and our partners have directed investments of over \$14 million in private and public funding toward 110 on-the-ground, community-based priority conservation projects that have reconnected, restored and enhanced over 466 stream miles of habitat for western native trout. Additionally, we have helped complete over 600 native trout population assessments to guide collaborative watershed planning, prioritization, and management. We utilize our relationships with teams of volunteers and agency biologists to continuously monitor the watersheds where we work, ensuring that projects we fund are improving the status of native trout and water quality in the most important rivers across the west.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The future of native trout conservation depends directly on the generosity of individuals like you who care about sustaining healthy western watersheds. When you give to WNTI, 100% of your donation is tax deductible and leveraged to support on-the-ground, locally led projects. Please consider one or more of the giving options below.

DONATE DIRECTLY TO OUR

CAUSE To donate to WNTI online, please visit westernnativetrout.org or send a check to 134 Union Blvd., Ste. 675, Lakewood, CO 80228. Please make checks payable to Foundation for Western Fish and Wildlife, our 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

LEAVE A LEGACY Gift planning options range from simple will bequests to more complicated trust and annuity arrangements, but they all share the same basic benefit: they enable you to help secure the future for the people, places, fish, and wildlife that matter to you most. You can discuss planned giving with your financial advisor or call us at (303) 618-1975.

BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

From fly shops to forestry, your business, large or small, can serve as a steward in the local community where you operate. Please contact us to discuss projects needing funding in the watersheds where you operate.

LEVERAGE YOUR GIFT Employer matching gifts programs are an easy way to increase the impact of your donation. Simply contact your employer (or former employer, if you're retired), to request a matching gift form, and send it to the address listed on the back of this document.

HONOR A LOVED ONE To celebrate a special occasion like a birthday, or to honor the life of a loved one, consider giving a timeless and meaningful gift – the gift of native trout conservation. You can make a donation in the name of a friend or relative on our website westernnativetrout.org.

Ready to give or have questions about giving? Please contact Therese Thompson, Director of Strategic Partnerships, at (303) 618-1975 or tthompson@westernnativetrout.org.



WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE



OUR MISSION

To serve as a key catalyst for the conservation and recovery of western native trout for the purpose of improving recreation opportunities for native trout anglers and others who appreciate and enjoy healthy watersheds.



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