

## Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited



### Who We Are

*Founded in 1959, Trout Unlimited today is a national non-profit organization with over 4,000 members in Georgia, dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring Georgia's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.*

### How We Work

*TU has a basic approach to its conservation strategy. We use the best available science to: **protect** headwaters and spawning habitat for trout; **reconnect** tributaries with their rivers to ensure resilience; **restore** waters where development has impacted trout and the opportunity to fish for them; and then **sustain** our work by promoting and maintaining a strong legal and regulatory framework to protect fish and angling opportunity.*

*Importantly, we connect passionate, conservation minded anglers who want to give back to the resource they value so much.*

# Cold, Clean, Fishable Water

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It's all about the water. Cold, clean fishable water provides quality fishing but it goes well beyond recreation. It also provides for healthy communities and strong economies. Protecting, reconnecting, restoring and sustaining the coldwater fisheries that flow through our communities and lives leads to healthy communities and strong economies. Trout exist only in cold, clean fishable water. They are a proverbial "canary in the coal mine", indicating how well our rivers and streams are being maintained.

### *Cold Water...*

Trout exist only in cool, clear water. Sustained warm temperatures are lethal. Temperature spikes can stress and weaken, even kill fish. Factors that affect stream temperatures include:

- *Storm water runoff* from parking lots, rooftops, streets and driveways that have been heated by the sun.
- *Sedimentation* from erosion that holds in heat.
- *Thermal discharges* from waste water and commercial facilities that can raise a stream's temperature.
- *Reservoirs* that create tailwater fisheries which are dependent upon consistent, minimum cold water discharges.
- *Small ponds* on trout streams built without bottom fed cold water discharges.
- *Climate change* during periods of drought or unusually warm temperatures.

### *Clean Water...*

*Natural water quality can be impaired by chemicals from industrial and residential runoff and discharges, helped by stream buffer areas and needs to be actively protected.*

- *Water quality factors:*
  - Stormwater management
  - Dissolved oxygen content
  - Acid rain deposition
  - Wastewater and commercial discharge permits
- *Stream buffers provide:*
  - Filtering of stormwater runoff
  - Cooling effect through shade
  - Reduction in surface erosion
  - Stream bank stabilization
- *Protection*
  - Permitting
  - Monitoring
  - Emergency response
  - Enforcement

## Mission

*To conserve, protect and restore Georgia's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.*

## Vision

*By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.*

## *Fishable Water...*

Although the "fishable" sounds like it only describes waters clean enough to support fish to catch, it refers more broadly to water quality that is good enough for a healthy balanced population of aquatic life. Fishable water supports agriculture, industry, clean drinking water and recreation. It is an essential part of a strong economy's foundation. Fishable water is dependent on habitat conservation, water quantity and fishery management. Factors that affect fishable water:

### *Habitat conservation*

- Public land acquisition
- Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Fish passage
- Riparian rights
- Off Road Vehicles (ORV)

### *Water quantity*

- Water conservation measures
- Instream flows
- Interbasin transfers
- Water withdrawal permits

### *Fishery management*

- Water management plans
- Wildlife management plans
- Land use management plans
- Public land safeguards
- Fishing regulations
- Conservation funding
- Safety
- Economic impact

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*"Every TU member I know loves to fish. But to say that TU is about fishing is like saying that fishing is only about catching fish. Our love of the sport compels us to understand the relationship between healthy habitat, sufficient stream flows and quality fishing."*

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