



CLEAN WATER HEALTHY FISH THRIVING COMMUNITIES



At Trout Unlimited, “infrastructure” means fixing rivers.

Thanks to more than \$230 million in federal investments, we are scaling up our efforts to restore rivers and streams, recover fisheries, and make communities healthier and economically stronger.

We are restoring and reconnecting rivers on national forests, Bureau of Land Management holdings and other key landscapes alongside the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, the Bureau of Reclamation, and our partners – from tribes, farmers, ranchers and landowners to local communities, state and local governments, and conservation allies.

Our approach translates into cleaner water, healthier fisheries, and thriving local economies. We help towns recover from wildfires and floods. We help farmers improve operations and look after rivers running across their land. This work creates family-wage jobs for our restoration crews and the local contractors who work with us, many of them in rural communities.

With these historic investments in conservation, we are working at a scale that matches the challenges America’s rivers, and fisheries and communities face.

TROUT UNLIMITED PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS: WEST VIRGINIA

POTOMAC HEADWATERS:

Trout Unlimited has extensive projects underway to restore streams in the headwaters of the “Nation’s River” and the Chesapeake Bay. Over nearly two decades, TU has helped more than 400 farmers and private landowners in West Virginia, installing over 1.5 million feet of agricultural exclusion fencing and dozens of water trough systems, improving more than two dozen road stream crossings, and restoring habitat on more than 100 miles of stream.

Leveraging federal funding and conservation partnerships, we work with local contractors in rural West Virginia communities to improve road infrastructure on private lands and the Monongahela National Forest. This work benefits trout and other aquatic species, while making communities more resilient to floods.



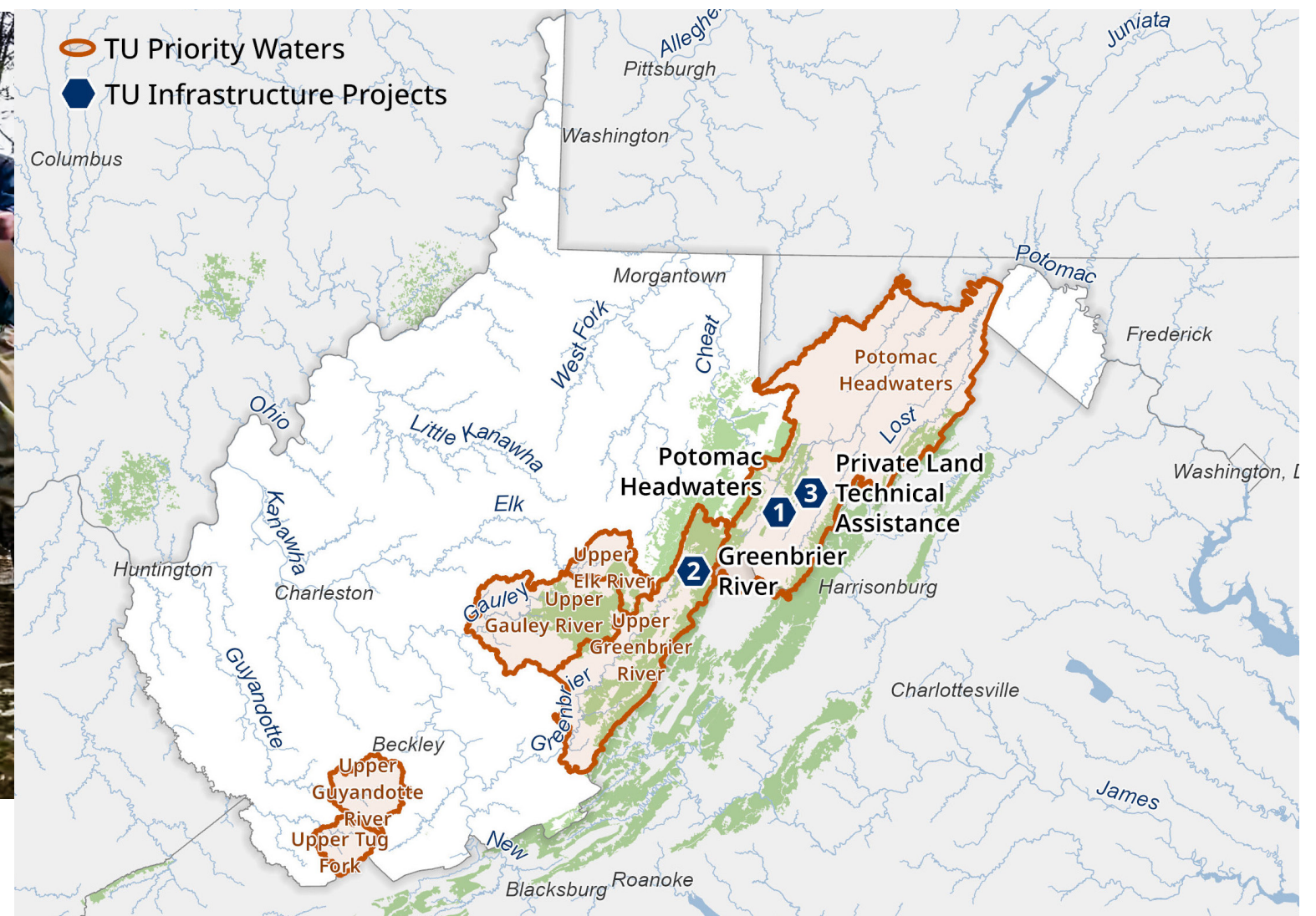
GREENBRIER RIVER WATERSHED:

Restoration work in the Greenbrier’s headwaters helps farmers preserve their lands for the production of healthy and sustainable food products. Those efforts are not only making a marked improvement in water quality and land preservation, but are also contributing to the quality of trout populations. TU restoration crews and contractors are also mitigating barriers to reconnect streams and improving habitat within the streams themselves by adding large wood habitat that has been absent for generations due to past industrial-scale logging operations.



PRIVATE LAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Working hand-in-hand with the National Resource Conservation Service, Trout Unlimited is helping private landowners tackle stream protection and restoration projects across the state. Our technical assistance program helps landowners prioritize and plan work to address stream erosion and in-stream barriers while also restoring degraded riparian corridors with extensive tree-plantings and revegetation.



“The partnership between USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and Trout Unlimited in West Virginia has achieved remarkable success by implementing whole-farm conservation planning on hundreds of farms across the state, leading to significant improvements in water quality and the restoration of hundreds of miles of streams.”

Jon Bourdon, West Virginia State Conservationist, on TU’s collaboration with the NRCS



Trout Unlimited’s Priority Waters are the 200+ rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds where we are directing our energies to care for and recover wild and native trout and salmon watersheds. Rooted in science and developed in collaboration with our supporters and trusted partners, these shared Priority Waters are the foundation of an ambitious strategic roadmap.



PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

Forest Service: We are working on a \$40 million, five-year initiative that is increasing the pace and scale of watershed restoration on national forests, including the Monongahela and Greenbrier national forests in West Virginia. These forests are home to many of America's most important trout and salmon species, including West Virginia's state fish, the brook trout.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: In every corner of trout and salmon country, we work with the National Fish Passage Program to reconnect streams and reduce flood risks.

NOAA: The long-running fish passage program at NOAA Fisheries supports our work to restore trout, salmon and steelhead populations across the country, including addressing barriers in West Virginia.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: By providing technical assistance to the NRCS, TU helps landowners identify and prioritize critical conservation needs that can be addressed through several programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), all of which engage landowners as investment partners.

“Our partnership is not just about cleaning a stream or increasing fish populations. It’s life-sustaining work that is as vital to aquatic species as it is to people and communities. When our natural resources are healthy, we are healthy as a nation and as individuals.”

– Randy Moore, chief of the U.S. Forest Service,
on its TU partnership

TROUT  UNLIMITED