



"TROUT LINES"

October 2013



Government Dysfunction a Slow-Motion

Disaster for Fish Resources

In addition to the estimated \$760 million in daily income lost by communities and businesses bordering federal parks, the halt in collection of license fees and taxes that feed directly into wildlife restoration and protection, and the immediate human impact of work lost by guides and outfitters, the U.S. government shut-down that began Tuesday morning may also have lasting effects on conservation.

Take Trout Unlimited, for example. In a conference call hosted by TU's Keith Curley, Zach Cochrum, Chris Hunt, and Steve Moyer, vice president of government affairs, it became clear that there are both immediate and time-sensitive impacts. The following examples were mentioned:

- This week's Wild Trout Symposium in West Yellowstone, MT, where scientists and researchers meet to share information and plan projects and is scheduled once every three years, has been cancelled.
- TU's flood response efforts after the devastation of recent weeks on Colorado's front range have been put on hold.
- Tens of thousand of dollars of telemetry equipment used to track trout species in Yellowstone National Park is inaccessible and in danger of being lost.
- Dozens if not hundred of other "boots-on-the-ground" projects like mine cleanup, stream restoration, and even fencing streams to keep cows out are halted, since in many cases TU leverages government

funding to help offset the costs.

- And as TU's Steve Moyer pointed out, "There's the potential that the contractors who are on hand to do the major lifting in larger projects will move on to more predictable work."

There are, of course, other impacts that may not be measurable in the short term: loss of license fees and taxes—which feed directly into resource management at the national, state and local level, and the loss of "eyes and ears" in parks and wilderness areas where visitors are often the first to report violations of park regulations.

And what happens at federally funded hatcheries, which supply a large portion of stocked trout—which in turn will feed the fishing "economy" of 2014?

Ironically, it was just over a week ago that Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was proposing to expand fishing and hunting opportunities throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System.



Phil Smith is set to be the speaker for our November meeting. There is some consternation from all sides on the benefits pro and con of this. Phil's presence will allow everyone to ask questions, *Dennis*



West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited Support for the Birthplace of Rivers National Monument

The West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited is dedicated to the mission to conserve, protect and restore our coldwater fisheries. In light of this context, we support the proposal to designate the following areas of the Monongahela National Forest as The Birthplace of Rivers National Monument. We believe that the area in question is one of West Virginia's greatest assets for trout, particularly for our state fish, the native brook trout, and we believe that a Monument designation would provide needed protection from degradation activities for this important resource and symbol of our sporting heritage.



This support is contingent upon the following requirements:

1. That the National Monument continues to be managed by the United States Forest Service.
2. The management strategy is consistent with the current Monongahela National Forest Management Plan in regards to watershed and fisheries management.
3. WVTU supports continued management of the trout fisheries by the WVDNR and USFS as partnering agencies. While TU strives for the health and sustainability of native and wild fisheries through management and habitat restoration, TU also supports the stocking of hatchery trout where appropriate. WVTU's focus and wishes for this Monument is for fisheries and watershed management plans that result in more sustainable populations of native and wild trout.
4. No additional wilderness area management is created and restoration activities as they exist currently be permitted under the National Monument.

MARCUS PATRICK TO BE OCTOBER SPEAKER AT KVCTU MEMBERSHIP

will be there also.

(editor's note: I can't officially refer to it as the Ernie Nester Chapter till after the October board meeting, but feel free to use it now if you please)



Marcus Patrick, a good friend and fishing buddy of Ernie Nester, will be the speaker for this month's chapter meeting and will give us his reflection of his and Ernie's trip to Rocky Mountain National Park in

Colorado in August, 2012. They fished many lakes and streams in the nearly 2 weeks they were there and walked over 40 miles in doing so. This will undoubtedly be a special trip Marcus will remember for the rest of his life and we are fortunate he plans to share that experience at the first official chapter meeting of the Ernie Nester Chapter. Susan Nester

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DEP COLLECTS STREAM, LAKE WATER QUALITY DATA

State regulators are compiling lake and stream water quality data for a report required by the Clean Water Act. The Department of Environmental Protection submits the report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency every two years. It includes a list of impaired waters that don't meet water quality standards. The DEP says the Division of Water and waste Management is collecting data for the 2014 report. The report also will include data collected by other state agencies federal agencies, watershed associations, permitted facilities and others. Anyone who has collected water quality data in WV from July 1, 2008 through June 30 can submit it to the DEP. Oct. 18 is the deadline to submit data. Submission forms can be downloaded from the DEP's website. KVCTU has been performing stream analysis on Loop Creek for several years now and the info is available on the web site.

(from the Charleston Gazette)



Aquatic Resource Survey tracks stream health

fish were here. Their size, their weights. That included all the non-game species plus all the trout species.”

The crew also collected data on the shape and size of the stream and the wilderness surrounding the

water.

“We looked at water depths, average depths,” Ruth said. “What kind of unit is it? Is it a ripple? Is it a glide? Is it a pool. Then what types of cover are there? What wood is in the stream naturally?”

District Ranger Jack Tribble explained that the project will assist with future projects on the ecosystem of the stream.

“Information from surveying and monitoring efforts conducted under this agreement will aid in assessing the need and opportunity for future aquatic ecosystem enhance-

ment projects,” Tribble said.

For the survey, 30 stream temperature monitoring devices were deployed across the Monongahela Forest, assessing approximately 20 stream reaches.

The survey will include evaluation of water quality, stream geomorphology, channel substrate, in-stream habitat, in-stream cover, aquatic biota, riparian habitats, aquatic organism passage and modified conditions associated with aquatic ecosystem enhancements.

With the woody material project modifications, the ecosystem of the stream will change drastically and for the betterment of the wildlife. The baseline survey will be used for comparison of the before and after health of the stream.

Suzanne Stewart may be contacted at sastewart@pocahontastimes.com



Members of the Trout Unlimited Watershed Crew collect data for the Aquatic Resource Survey in the East Fork of the Greenbrier River. From left: Drew Reynolds, Emma Ruth and Nathan Heavener (behind tree) take measurements in the Poca Run at Island Campground near Thornwood. Photo by: Suzanne Stewart

The Greenbrier Ranger Station in Bartow partnered with Trout Unlimited, Inc. to conduct an aquatic resource survey of the East Fork of the Greenbrier River.

The survey is in correlation with the recent Large Woody Material Project on the same stream. Three members of the TU Watershed Crew – Emma Ruth, Nathan Heavener and Drew Reynolds – collected data on the habitat and structure of the stream.

“We came through all of Poca [Run] and all of East Fork, and did a baseline survey so they can see later on in a couple of years how the habitats have changed,” Ruth said. “We took an inventory of what

UPCOMING KVCTU EVENTS

Oct. 5th, Loop Creek S.O.S. no time yet, Coordinator Larry Orr, email: edhorse@suddenlink.net

Oct. 8th, membership meeting, So. Chas. Public Library, 7:00PM-9:00PM. Guest speaker will be Marcus Patrick who will speak of his tour and fishing trip of Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado.

Oct. 26th, Egg Day for all T.I.C. schools and TU volunteers.

Oct. 12th, Fall council meeting WVCTU, Coopers Rock

Oct. 22nd, KVCTU board meeting, 6:30PM-8:30PM, So. Chas. Public Library

CORRECTION

I must make a correction to last months upcoming events calendar. The September 20th stocking of the East Fork of the Greenbrier (Abe's Run) and the stocking of the Laurel Fork wilderness areas are West Virginia DNR projects and not the local chapters. I inadvertently implied KVCTU supports it as one of our projects.

In the past the local chapter played a greater role but, it was conflicting with the state and national wishes as to when and where we should stock Brown trout fingerlings.

That being said, many members felt it was the proper thing to do after working many years building a good working relationship with the WVDNR to continue to help with their efforts, hence the reference to being supported by KVCTU. My apologies for any confusion it may have caused.

Dennis Cottrill

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