



# NATIONAL CONSERVATION AGENDA

## *Trout Unlimited Canada*

### **BRIEF #2 – PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

#### **Program Structure of the National Conservation Agenda (Substantive)**

**September 26, 2006**

Trout Unlimited Canada has a clear mission statement to, “*Conserve, Protect and Restore Canada’s Freshwater Ecosystems and Coldwater Resources for Present and Future Generations*”. As discussed in Brief #1, this is to be achieved through development of policy and supporting programs around the four (4) substantive strategic themes: water quality; water quantity; habitat management and fish community management.

Clear policy statements were developed in relation to the four substantive themes. At this higher level, these policy statements can be also viewed as goals we wish to strive for in order to fulfill our mission. For each substantive theme, key focus areas are identified, specific policy needs listed and suggested programs are identified that can help guide all levels of the organization towards achieving the intent of our mission statement and substantive themes.

Key tools or delivery approaches fall into five major areas:

- Research/Monitoring
- Management
- Education
- Advocacy
- Planning

Brief #4 will discuss a framework for the development of specific programs and the importance of the relationship between programmatic development and organizational development.

This brief identifies the focus and program areas to be developed along with their objectives.

#### **WATER QUALITY**

**Policy/Goal:**        ***Conserve and Protect Clean, Cold Water***

- A. Policy Development in relation Point Source AND Non-point Source Pollution from major landuse activities (e.g. Resource Industries; Production Industries; Agriculture; as well as Long Range Transport of Atmospheric Pollutants (LRTAP); Pharmaceuticals in water)

Objective: Clearly identify our position and recommended approaches, tools and practices to protect and improve water quality for coldwater resources.

- B. Building Watershed Capacity to Cope with Climate Change  
Objective: Improve the capacity and capability of our watersheds to hold and manage water to offset changes in water flow, quality and temperature for coldwater resources.
- C. Home Waters Initiative**  
Objective: Implement a Home Waters Program for TUC, a cooperative, science-based watershed protection and restoration designed to focus community energy into coldwater resource conservation.
- D. Acid Neutralization Initiatives  
Objective: To promote the expansion of Federal Research and Actions to resolve Acid Precipitation's impact on regionally vulnerable aquatic ecosystems and to identify and implement practical approaches to restore acid affected rivers and streams.
- E. Cows and Fish  
Objective: To promote and expand the successful community and science-based Cows and Fish Program across Canada
- F. Yellow Fish Road**  
Objective: To promote and expand the successful youth-based Yellow Fish Road program across Canada.
- G. Yellow Fish Lane/4H**  
Objective: In partnership with Agricultural Organizations, develop a recognition and educational program for rural landowners and farmers promoting the management of water quality and aquatic environments on their land. Develop a syllabus on stream corridor management and health for 4H across Canada to engage rural children in environmentally sound farming practices.

## **WATER QUANTITY**

**Policy/Goal:** *Sufficient water and flow patterns to protect the health and integrity of aquatic communities*

- A. Policy Development in order to address our position and approach on key issues (e.g. Floods and Droughts; Climate Change; Allocation/Re Allocation – Transfers; Groundwater/Surface Water Interactions; Flow Regime)  
Objective: Clearly identify our position on guaranteeing sufficient flows in rivers and streams to protect aquatic health and coldwater resources. To be done through White Papers, Position Statements, Policy and recommended tools.
- B. Managing within the Watershed Budget (i.e. managing watersheds)**  
Objective: Work with local agencies to ensure that aquatic environments and coldwater resources are protected through science-based watershed planning processes that maintain a healthy water budget..

- C. Instream Flow Management and Recovery  
Objective: Work with partners to develop tools, methods, standards AND management plans for instream flow targets to protect ecological functions and coldwater communities.
- D. Small Dam Removal/Modification  
Objective: Restore aquatic connectivity and coldwater habitat through the selective removal or modification of small uneconomical dams

## HABITAT MANAGEMENT

**Policy/Goal:** *Conserve and Protect Coldwater Habitats and their watersheds*

- A. Policy Development in order to address issues related to Watershed landuse, Landuse change, Riparian/Floodplain characteristics, Channel Health and Stability, Channel Alteration (e.g. channelization/agricultural drainage), River Corridor Alterations, Wetlands, Estuary changes  
Objective: Develop policy and new science-based tools that focus on physical management of stream corridors, stream channels and riparian systems for protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems and coldwater habitats.
- B. Watershed Renewal**  
Objective: To restore healthy aquatic ecosystems and coldwater resources through promotion and development of watershed-based, community-engaged watershed conservation and restoration programs for local Home Waters.
- C. Exceptional Waters Approach  
Objective: Expand the Exceptional Waters Program through development of tools and materials to aid local chapters and interested communities. The Exceptional Waters Approach is a community-based stewardship process that engages local communities to protect, manage and restore waters of exceptional quality and productivity.
- D. Stream Corridor Restoration  
Objective: Restore the health of the riparian and floodplain system and channel structure of rivers in order to restore habitat for coldwater communities.

## FISH COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

**Policy/Goal:** *Protect Existing Coldwater Fish Species*

- A. Policy and Tool Development in order to address our position on Exotic Species management, Harvest issues, Population Assessment, Connectivity, Native Species, Compliance, and Enhancement  
Objective: Develop policies and technical tools that support the protection and restoration of coldwater fish species and policies and tools for the re-establishment of coldwater fish species to their native environments.

**B. Restoring Wild Trout**

Objective: Develop a program designed to focus scientific and volunteer activities on restoring wild trout populations in local waters.

**C. Coastal Cutthroat Research**

Objective: Help to develop the science on the life history characteristics and habitat use of Coastal Cutthroat Trout in British Columbia

**D. Recovery Planning for Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout**

Objective: Work with partners to determine the population status and health of westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout populations along the Rocky Mountains.

**E. Coaster Brook Trout Recovery (Binational)**

Objective: Identification of critical habitats necessary for the production of Coaster Brook Trout and the development of tools and outreach materials for the restoration of historical coaster brook trout habitats and stocks.

**F. Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration (Binational?)**

Objective: With partners, implement a program to restore Atlantic salmon to three targeted watersheds that flow into Lake Ontario.

**G. Sea Run Brook Trout Restoration**

Objective: With partners, develop the science on the life history characteristics and habitat use of Sea Run Brook Trout populations in the Maritimes and use this information to develop tools for the restoration of historical sea run brook trout habitat and stocks.

**H. National Digital Angler Diary Program**

Objective: Work with partners to develop a National Digital Angler Diary Program that will engage anglers in the collection of information (fish species, fish communities and habitat within our watersheds) that will enhance management of Canada's recreational fisheries