



STATE COUNCIL
ARIZONA

Trout Unlimited Arizona Council Members Receive Conservationist of the Year Award

Phoenix, AZ, February 4, 2011

Three members of the Trout Unlimited Arizona State Council were awarded the Conservationist of the Year Award by the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for their leadership role in developing and conducting the 1st Annual Arizona Native Trout Workshop. The award was presented at the 44th Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society held in Pinetop, AZ. The members recognized were Phil Fernandez, Jim Walker and Bob Youtz who serve as volunteers in leadership roles with the Arizona Trout Unlimited (TU) Council and Arizona TU chapters.

The award was presented by AZ/NM Chapter President Julie Meka Carter who provided background on the nomination and selection of the award recipients.

“In January 2010, the vision of a workshop to gather Trout Unlimited (TU) National and Arizona Council and Chapter members, along with key people (e.g. biologists, native fish specialists, land managers) from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Federation of Fly Fishers and others interested in native trout recovery in Arizona was achieved.

The objectives for the workshop were to present timely information on native trout recovery projects in Arizona, as well as the broader perspective of native trout recovery from TU National scientists. In addition, an emphasis on expanding trout recovery to include other species co-existing with trout was highlighted, with a presentation on chub restoration in Arizona as well as a presentation about a project by TU National that included the recovery of multiple native fish species in addition to native trout. For half of the meeting, two groups were formed to discuss the issues involved with reestablishing native trout populations in Arizona and to brainstorm solutions.

Given the success of the workshop as expressed by the participants, the organizers committed to making the workshop an annual event. This type of venue provided a highly productive means of networking among attending participants, all of whom are interested in and passionate about native trout recovery.”

Information on the 2nd Annual Arizona Native Trout Workshop scheduled for April 7, 2011 can be found at www.az-tu.org.

About Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is a national organization founded in 1959 with the stated mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

The Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited carries forward the national mission within the State of Arizona through the efforts of dedicated volunteers working through TU chapters and conservation organizations throughout the state.

About American Fisheries Society

Since 1870, the mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.