

Please Support Rocky Mountain Flycasters



Northern Colorado-based Rocky Mountain Flycasters Trout Unlimited (RMFTU) is the local chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU). RMFTU, established in 1983, was the tenth chapter in the nation authorized by TU — and in 2022 was named "Exemplary Chapter in Colorado" by TU.

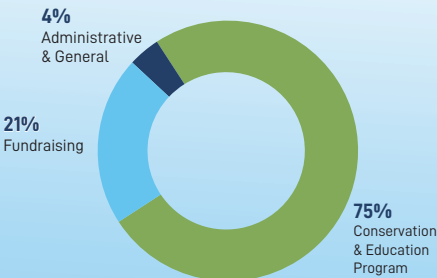
TU is the nation's largest coldwater conservation organization, with the mission to **conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds**. Our chapter fulfills this mission through work on the Big Thompson River (Thompson), Cache la Poudre River (Poudre) and North Platte River (Platte) watersheds in Northern Colorado.

RMFTU is an all-volunteer organization with more than 1,100 members who dedicate their time (approximately 6,000 volunteer hours annually) to local coldwater conservation to protect our rivers, lakes and fisheries for future generations.

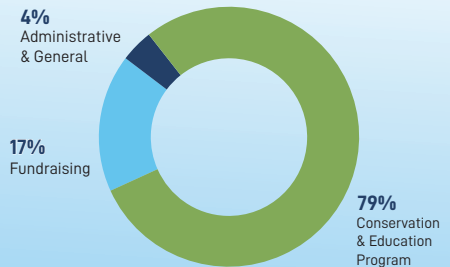
RMFTU needs your financial support to continue to strengthen our mission. We are a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our most-recent IRS 990 report is available for review. **Highly effective use of our resources in fulfilling our mission is illustrated below.**



FY 2022-23 ACTUAL EXPENSES*



FY 2023-24 BUDGETED EXPENSES



* The COVID pandemic continued to disrupt many programs during FY2022-2023. Fundraising expenses increased, compared with an average year, to prepare for boosted program activity in FY 2023-2024 and beyond.

Current Initiatives in RMFTU's Conservation Program

- Our signature conservation initiative, the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP), continues progress towards restoring Colorado's State Fish, the Greenback Cutthroat Trout. When completed, PHP will have restored the Greenback to its native habitat spanning nearly 40 miles of connected streams and lakes (including Long Draw Reservoir) in the Poudre headwaters. Online resources describe the importance of the project, and near and long-term goals for creating this stronghold for Greenbacks. PHP became more urgent in 2020 because the headwaters reside at the doorstep of the Cameron Peak Fire, the largest recorded fire in Colorado history. Individuals, organizations and foundations are asked to contribute directly to RMFTU's Greenback restoration program, reducing the overall shortfall of funds needed to complete this ambitious project.
- RMFTU's stream temperature monitoring program, initiated in 2018 on tributaries and the main Poudre, is being expanded to collect critical data for our State and Federal research partners to identify suitable waters for restocking a sustainable population of the native Greenbacks in the upper reaches of the Poudre watershed.
- Macro invertebrate sampling is being done to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the 2013 Big Thompson flood restoration efforts.
- RMFTU is involved in technical analyses and input to help guide the adaptive management programs for planned large-scale water projects in Northern Colorado.
- Stream and riparian rehabilitation are ongoing to improve degraded sections of the Poudre watershed.
- Fish bypass (fish "ladders") construction continues to reconnect stream habitat and invigorate fish populations.

These initiatives are bringing together people who are passionate about coldwater conservation.

Our current conservation, education, and veterans programs drive our overall TU conservation mission and build on decades of success protecting and restoring riverways and habitats in Northern Colorado.

DECADES OF SUCCESS

1 CONSERVATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Our conservation efforts range from the stream to the boardroom. RMFTU volunteers complete approximately 6,000 hours of field work annually in Northern Colorado.

A few examples include:

- Supporting the designation of a section of the Thompson as 'Catch and Release' to protect and sustain a stream that receives heavy fishing pressure.
- Restoring riparian habitat along sections of the Thompson following the devastating 2013 flood.
- Rebuilding a stream access point and fishing pier on the Thompson following the most-recent flood.
- Maintaining a network of water temperature monitors for native trout restoration in the Poudre headwaters.
- Collecting and tagging non-native fish under the guidance of US Forest Service and Colorado State University (CSU) researchers in the Poudre headwaters in support of native trout restoration.
- Removing trash from the Poudre and Thompson watersheds.



- Repairing culverts to address deleterious sediment flow into the North Fork of the Poudre.
- Supporting construction of a fish passage on a key section of the lower Poudre to reconnect the river around the State of Colorado's Bellvue-Watson Fish Hatchery.
- Providing financial support to CSU's Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology undergraduate and graduate programs to support new leaders and interdisciplinary scientists.
- Serving on the boards of the Poudre and Thompson watershed coalitions, and their committees to develop strategic plans and data collection and sharing networks for both watersheds.
- Participating in the regulatory and adaptive management processes for large-scale water storage projects proposed in the Poudre watershed.

2 EDUCATION & YOUTH PROGRAM

RMFTU's Youth program provides outdoor experiences and classes to help youth become more aware of and connected with nature, conservation, and fly fishing.

During the past decade these programs have reached approximately 880 total participants each year.

Youth educational programming — including Trout in the Classroom and Children's Water Festival — is conducted in classrooms and at RMFTU's annual Fly Fishing Youth Day Camp. RMFTU member volunteers donate an average of 1,700 hours per year, and work with approximately 115 total partners (e.g., teachers and community organizations) each year to implement these programs.



3 VETERANS SUPPORT PROGRAM

RMFTU is dedicated to bringing the healing power of streams and lakes to those who have served our nation so boldly. Our chapter supports local military veterans through Platte Rivers Veterans Fly Fishing (PRVFF), a non-profit organization that regularly meets in Fort Collins/Loveland and Greeley, Colorado, and in Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming.

PRVFF serves more than 350 northeast Colorado veterans. More than 50 veterans meet each winter in Greeley and Loveland to make their first fly rod, and 45 attend weekly fly tying classes, all at no cost to the veterans.

RMFTU provides financial support, a majority of the mentors, and some supplies for local fly tying and rod making classes, and fishing trips. Tying classes were via videoconference during the COVID pandemic.

Annually, PRVFF conducts 8-10 free overnight fishing trips, including its signature Honor Float for combat veterans, and dozens of day trips for veterans.



Visit <https://rmftu.org/donate> to support RMFTU's important mission.

If you are not already a member of RMFTU,
please visit <https://rmftu.org/membership> to join.



MEETING FUTURE NEEDS



Our chapter's legacy of success in Northern Colorado is visible and impactful. We are respected leaders in the conservation community. As such, we maintain highly effective Conservation & Advocacy, Education & Youth, and Veterans Support programs.

Building upon decades of success, we aspire to create more informed and inclusive collaborations embracing coldwater conservation with our Northern Colorado partners. This includes strengthening current relationships and expanding our mission to new audiences and activities.

With your financial support, we will continue to protect, restore, and advocate for Northern Colorado's coldwater streams, lakes and fisheries through volunteer programs and community engagement — and sharing the fishing experience with others. With strong community support, RMFTU will be positioned to achieve its mission in our local watersheds.

Advocating and maintaining high-quality coldwater fisheries is especially important considering Northern Colorado's projected population growth. Healthy coldwater fisheries equate to high-quality water for Northern Colorado's human population!



PLEASE SUPPORT RMFTU

Online: rmftu.org/donate

Via Email: treasurer@rmftu.org

Write and Donate to: RMFTU, P.O. Box 1694,
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524-1694



Revised April 2023