

Nebraska Chapter Receives \$5,000 Embrace-A-Stream Grant

Funds will be used to restore Dry Spotted Tail Creek West of Mitchell

Lincoln – March 15, 2016 - The Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited has received a grant of \$5,000 through the Trout Unlimited national Embrace-A-Stream grant program. Volunteers from the chapter, working in cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), Platte River Basin Environments (PRBE) and Ducks Unlimited, will use the funds to complete the planning stage of a restoration project on Dry Spotted Tail Creek where it flows into the North Platte River in Scotts Bluff County. The project will improve trout habitat in the stream running through land owned by PRBE and in the process raise the water table, recharge a nearby wetland and restore an overgrazed section of prairie. In addition to providing trout habitat and improving water quality, the project will improve conditions for resident wildlife and migratory birds.

“We’re thrilled to be able to work with our partners to do more great work restoring and improving Spotted Tail Creek thanks to this Embrace-A-Stream grant,” said Mark van Roojen, TU Chapter 710 President. “With this grant, we will engage dozens of volunteers from across Nebraska to work on a trout-supporting tributary of the North Platte.” The work will be done in the heart of Nebraska’s panhandle where Nebraska is forming its second Trout Unlimited Chapter, but will engage members from as far away as Omaha. “Our members are serious about conservation and trout fishing, and will go a long ways to experience, preserve and protect the relatively few trout supporting waters we have in the state.”

Embrace-A-Stream is a matching grant program administered by Trout Unlimited that awards funds to local chapters and councils for coldwater fisheries conservation. Since its inception in 1975, the grant program has funded more than 1,000 individual projects for a total of \$4.4 million in direct cash grants. Local chapters and councils contributed an additional \$13 million in cash and in-kind services to EAS funded projects, for a total investment of more than \$17 million.

This year, a total of \$132,394 was awarded to 26 chapters and councils, for projects restoring stream habitat, improving fish passage, and protecting water quality in 18 different states from coast to coast. The grant program is funded almost entirely by individual donations from Trout Unlimited members and conservation-minded individuals who know that local restoration projects, led by local volunteers, can make a big difference in improving the health and habitat in our nation’s rivers and streams.

“We’re thrilled to support the Nebraska Chapter in its efforts to improve such an important local trout stream,” said Russ Meyer, chair of the Embrace-A-Stream grants committee, a group of Trout Unlimited volunteer leaders from across the country. “This year’s grant applications were extremely competitive, but the proposal for Dry Spotted Tail Creek stood out in our committee

About Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is the nation’s largest coldwater conservation organization, with more than 150,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America’s trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Visit us online at tu.org.

About the Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited serves more than 400 members throughout the state. The chapter works with partners to restore and protect local streams, engage hundreds of youth in outdoor education and Trout in the Classroom (sponsored by NGPC and the Nebraska Environmental Trust). It also has a program to aid disabled veterans to engage in fishing and related activities such as fly tying and rod building. Come June our statewide chapter will spin off a second chapter centered in Scottsbluff. The two chapters will work together to support this project.