

The NYSCTU Conservation Fund is a matching grant program administered by the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited that awards funds to TU chapters in New York State for coldwater fisheries conservation projects. A NYS TU chapter must be the primary applicant, but government agencies, non-profits, and other groups are strongly encouraged to partner with TU. There must be significant TU involvement in the planning, design, and execution of the project to warrant funding. NYSCTU will not make grants to individuals or non-TU projects. The maximum grant award for Conservation Fund projects is \$4,000.

The maximum grant award that any one chapter can request in a single year shall also be limited to \$4000 and can be broken up any way a chapter wishes (i.e. a \$3000 request for a stream restoration project in June and a \$1000 request for a TIC program in September). Please bear in mind that Conservation Fund grants are not intended to completely fund projects, but rather to "bridge the gap" with funding for Chapters that have good projects but little to no funds in which to carry them through to realization. In addition, this source of funding is intended for the early stages of projects, not as a multi-year funding mechanism for long term or continuing projects.

Applicants must match, on a one-to-two basis, the NYSCTU grant request. For example, for a total project budget of \$6,000, the applicant can request up to \$4,000 and must match the balance of \$2,000. Matching sources can include cash gifts, in-kind donations of materials, and/or volunteer labor. General volunteer labor may be valued according to the most recent determination of the value of volunteer time by Independent Sector which is currently \$19.51/hour (2008).

All applications must address one of TU's National Conservation Agenda/Strategic Plan issues (a. salmonid conservation, protection and restoration, b. water quality issues and c. instream flow issues) or meet the new "Protect, Reconnect, Restore, and Sustain" conservation model. This mirrors TU's Embrace-a-Stream grants.

The "Terms & Conditions" of the grant, which must be agreed upon by the applicant chapter, states:

- **All grant recipients must submit to NYSCTU a final report, including evaluation results, within 6 months of project completion. For continuations, a progress report must be submitted, including a brief description of the delays and work plan.**
- **Changes or amendments to a Conservation Fund project must be submitted to NYSCTU and are subject to review and approval by the Conservation Fund Chairman and committee.**
- **Unexpended project funds must be returned to NYSCTU at the conclusion of the project. Such funds will be used for future projects.**

Applications are evaluated based on 4 criteria: Conservation Impact, Strengthening TU Impact, Public Education and Outreach, and Technical Merit. This also mirrors TU's EAS grants.