

**SPOKANE • WA**  
- TROUT UNLIMITED -  
**2023**




**COMMUNITY, COLDWATER AND CONSERVATION**



**PROGRAM OF EVENTS**



A man with a beard, wearing a grey cap and a brown long-sleeved shirt, is standing in a river, casting a fly fishing line. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow on the water. The background shows a rocky riverbank with some greenery.

Eric Crawford, TU North Idaho Field Coordinator, casts a spey rod for steelhead on the Grande Ronde River, a stronghold of wild steelhead in the Snake River basin. The basin represents the coldest, most undisturbed habitat in the Lower 48 and will continue to be the last, best place for steelhead and salmon in the face of climate change.

**Thank you. We are so glad you are here with us in Spokane to share in this celebration of our coldwater conservation community. This year’s event promises an array of engaging activities all aimed at deepening our connection to our shared conservation mission and to each other. Get ready to immerse yourself in the world of trout and salmon as we embark on an unforgettable few days together.**

**A special thanks to our hosts, the Washington Council and Spokane Falls Chapter, the hosts of our evening hospitality suites (the Three Rivers Chapter, North Sound Chapter, Spokane Falls Chapter, the TU Northwest Fly Fishing Youth Academy and the WA Council Barrier Assessment Team,) and the following volunteers who worked tirelessly over the last year to make this event a success:**

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Pat Hesselgesser – Co-chair | Bruce Kinhead   |
| Scott Noble – Co-chair      | Penny Mabie     |
| Dean Campbell               | Bruce Merighi   |
| Dannon Engquist             | Harvey Morrison |
| Scott Goddard               | Lindy Orozco    |
| Samantha Hinrichs           | Jule Schultz    |
| Otto Klein                  | Elizabeth Smith |







Thank you CX3 Sponsors.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors to CX3. We are proud to have these businesses as partners in caring for and recovering our precious fisheries. Don't forget to grab your SWAG bag, check out these sponsors' offerings, and remember to do business with businesses like these that share our conservation values!



CASSIDY | ASSOCIATES



# Wednesday, Sept. 27 Program

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Registration – Centennial Hotel | Pre-function area**

7:00 am – 8:00 am

**Anglers Breakfast – Centennial Hotel | Audubon Room**

Breakfast and coffee provided for all those that have registered for the Wednesday fishing day and the fishing hosts. Anglers will pick up boxed-lunches for the day at the breakfast. Separate registration for the Wednesday fishing day required.

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Pre-registered Hosted Fishing with Local TU Volunteers**

## Spokane River (Float Fishing)

A true 'urban fishery gem', the Spokane runs right through the heart of the city. Many anglers from the area travel great distances to the mountains of Idaho to fish and overlook this amazing river! While the primary quarry is the river's beautiful Redband Rainbow Trout, Brown and Cutthroat Trout are present as well. When conditions hold steady, the fall fishing on the Spokane can be extremely good. The Spokane is in Washington and requires a WA state Fishing License.

## North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene (Wade Fishing)

This is a Westslope cutthroat fishery with few peers. With prolific hatches, low elevation and spectacular habitat the 'North Fork' grows the fish large and healthy. The river corridor and surrounding area is about as picturesque as a westslope fishery can be, and elk, moose, deer, and the occasional bear can be seen on the banks of this spectacular river. The North Fork is in Idaho and requires an Idaho state Fishing License.

## St. Joe River (Wade Fishing)

Roughly an hour and a half drive from Spokane, the St. Joe is a near-perfect Cutthroat stream. The "Joe" cascades through the Idaho Panhandle for over 80 miles offering anglers plenty of fishable water. In the fall if weather conditions allow, the Joe produces great hatches of western freestone fall favorites such as Mahogonies, October Caddis, and Baetis. If the weather stays mild, the hopper-dropper/attractor fishing will remain spectacular. The St. Joe is in Idaho and requires an Idaho state Fishing License.

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Happy Hour Reception sponsored by NRS, Hardy and Greys – Amplify | 1003 East Trent Ave.**

Meet up with fellow anglers and conservationists at Amplify, 1003 East Trent Ave., directly next door to Spokane's famed NoLi Brewery. On the big, stream-side lawn we will have rods available to cast and demo, and local leaders will treat us to stories of some of their work right there along the Spokane River. Beer and wine donated by our generous partners will be available and the event will be catered, with local hand-made empanadas to hold you over before heading next door for a no-host dinner at NoLi.

This event is sponsored by NRS and Pure Fishing who will have staff on hand displaying some of their new rafts and fly rods, respectively.





# Thursday, Sept. 28 Program

Day at a glance	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
Registration																
Breakfast Buffet																
Load Buses																
Hosted Fishing																
Conservation Tour																
Partners & Posters																
Welcome Reception																
Brewery Tour / Dinner																
Hospitality Suite																



Photo: Sean Visintainer





# Thursday, Sept. 28 Program

## Program events in detail

7:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Registration – Centennial Hotel | Pre-function area**

7:00 am – 8:45 am

**Conservation Tour Breakfast Buffet – Centennial Hotel | Riverfront B & C**

All registered guests are welcome to sit-down for a hearty breakfast and coffee anytime between 7 and 8:45 am. For those headed out fishing, boxed lunches will be provided at the breakfast. For those headed out on the conservation tour to the Lower Granite dam, lunch will be packed in the buses for you.

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Pre-registered hosted fishing with local TU volunteers**

Spokane River (Float Fishing)

North Fork of the Coeur D'Alene (Wade Fishing)

St. Joe River (Wade Fishing)

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Lower Granite Dam / Snake River Conservation Tour**

Buses will load for the Tour between 8 and 8:30 a.m.

The Snake River Basin represents the coldest, most undisturbed habitat in the Lower 48 for salmon and steelhead. The time is now for the Snake. Removing the four lower Snake River dams would return 140 miles of habitat to a free-flowing river and recover wild salmon and steelhead in the basin. Unless we take bold action to change the current trajectory, these fish will continue to decline – and eventually go extinct.

During your visit to Spokane for CX3, join Trout Unlimited staff on a trip to Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River to learn about the impacts of the dams in-person. The trip will include a guided tour of the dam from the Army Corp of Engineers, with stops at the fish ladder, fish counting station, smolt bypass system, and the earthen portion of the dam. Trout Unlimited staff will provide insight into how each of these components impact returns of salmon and steelhead and dive into the details of dam removal.

Before we return to Spokane, we'll also visit the McCoy Rail Terminal to learn about rail as a transportation alternative for shipping of grain throughout the region. To learn more about the lower Snake before your tour, visit <https://www.tu.org/lowersnake/>.

Please wear long pants, closed toe walking shoes/boots, and shirts with sleeves.



Lower Granite Dam



# Thursday, Sept. 28 Program

## Program events in detail

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

### Welcome Reception – Centennial Hotel | Pre-function area

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar with TU supporters and visit tables/ booths set-up in the room by our partners.

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

### Brewery Tour/ No-Host Dinner – Spokane Ale Trail

It's no secret that the craft beer scene is hopping in Spokane, with some of the best beer in the Inland Northwest! Many Spokane breweries source local ingredients to create their concoctions and share their love of craft beer with both locals and visitors alike. The famous Spokane Ale Trail is a great way to discover all the unique breweries found in the city. Many of the breweries are located west of downtown and most don't require reservations. Leave from the pre-function area together to walk or take an Uber and start anywhere along this handy Spokane Brewery Tour list and map!

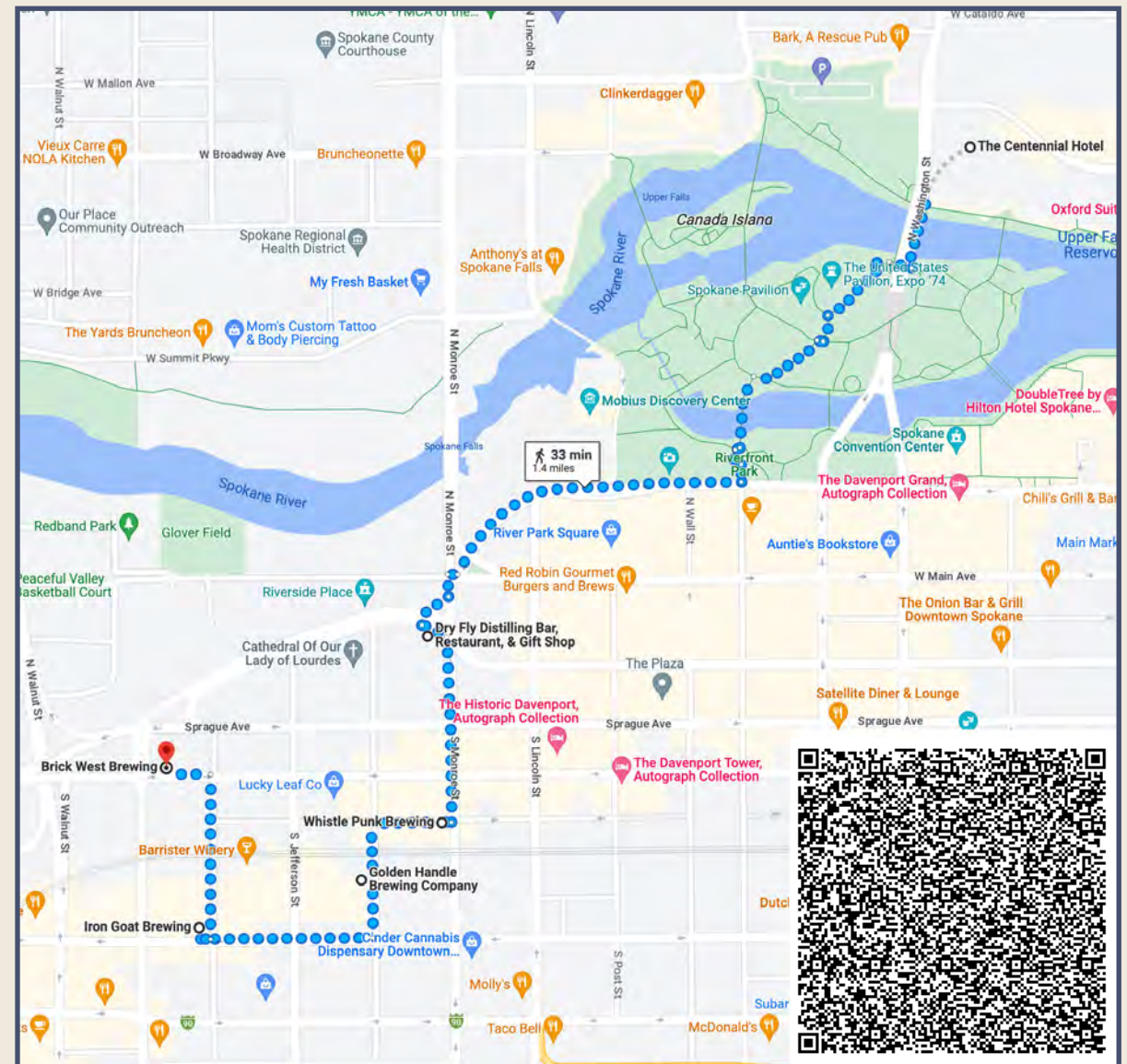
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

### Cocktails and Conservation: Hospitality Suite – Centennial Hotel | Skyline Ballroom

Talk late into the night with anglers and conservationists who share your passion for cold, clean rivers and streams at our nightly hospitality suite open to all registered guests. Enjoy Washington beer and wine and browse posters and other displays showcasing from local chapters, the Washington council and our partners. Event open only to participants 21 years of age or older.



## Brewery tour walking map





# Friday, Sept. 29 Program

Day at a glance

	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
Registration																
5K Run/Walk																
Welcome Breakfast																
Costal Cutthroat																
The Mayfly Project																
Communications																
Grassroots																
Land Conservancy																
Climate Change																
Restoring Urban Watersheds																
Diversity & Inclusion																
New Initiatives																
Luncheon Featuring Dr. Rene Henry																
Project Healing Waters																
Council Chair Roundtable																
Responsible Mining																
Youth Education																
Great Lakes																

Friday program continued



# Friday, Sept. 29 Program

## Day at a glance (cont.)

	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
The Salmon Way																
NLC Annual Meeting																
Leadership Council																
Cocktail Reception																
Annual Awards Banquet																
Hospitality Suite																

## Program events in detail

7:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Registration – Centennial Hotel | Pre-function area**

7:00 am – 8:00 am

**5K: Run (or Walk) The Riverfront Park Loop – Centennial Hotel | Pre-function meeting area**

The Riverfront Loop takes you on a scenic tour of Spokane's central attraction and is easily accessed from downtown hotels. The loop extends for 2.7 miles around the park, crossing the Centennial Trail onto the grounds of Gonzaga University, then heading back west on the north bank of the river to reach the park's pedestrian bridges. For added distance, continue on the Centennial Trail or loop in the paths around Gonzaga.

Interested runners or walkers are encouraged to meet in the pre-function area at 7 am to run or walk together. We will ensure that folks are back and at breakfast in time to listen to our welcome and blessing from a local Spokane Tribal Representative at 8:15 a.m.

7:00 am – 9:00 am

**CX3 Welcoming Breakfast – Centennial Hotel | Riverfront Rooms B & C**

CX3 participants will be welcomed by a local Spokane Tribal Representative, and students from the Salish School of Spokane will treat us to a short musical performance.





# Friday, Sept. 29 Program

## Program events in detail

9:15 am – 10:30 am

### **The Healing Sport of Fly Fishing: Serving Children in Foster Care with The Mayfly Project** **Centennial Hotel | Riverfront D**

Join this inspiring session with Kayla Lockhart and Kaitlin Barnhart as they cover all of the benefits of the sport of fly fishing for foster children, discuss what the Mayfly Project does, and talk about the bonuses of being a mentor to the next generation of anglers.

Kayla Lockhart first discovered fly fishing to help cope with her depression and anxiety from a difficult upbringing. Today fly fishing has not only given her the tools to help heal on the water, but has taken her to some stunning places in pursuit of some of the most exotic species of fish. In between these trips, Kayla assists with conservation efforts, advocating for a more inclusive space within the sport, and organizations like TU, the Native Fish Society and the Mayfly Project.

Kaitlin Barnhart is the Co-Founder and National Program Director of The Mayfly Project, and lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She has worked in the mental health field, specifically with the foster care population, and has been fly fishing, for over 20 years. Beyond her work with TMP, Kaitlin is a mother to three, an outdoor writer, and is known for hauling her family outdoors year-around.

9:15 am – 10:30 am

### **A Coastal Cutthroat Trout Case Study in Native Trout Conservation with Kitty Griswold** **Centennial Hotel | Audubon Room**

Native trout populations are important ecologically, socially, and economically. The streams and rivers they occupy are important sources of clean water, recreation, and provide habitat for myriad animals. To thrive and fully express their life histories, trout need connected habitats and cold, clean water. In this workshop we will use Coastal Cutthroat Trout, a native trout with a geographic range from Northern California to Southeast Alaska, as a case study to explore these issues and, when possible, draw parallels with other Trout and Char subspecies in North America. We will explore the key role partnerships can play in these efforts.

Kitty Griswold is a Fisheries Scientist with a keen interest in conserving Native Trout and their habitats. She grew up in the Great Basin region of the Western United States and was fortunate enough to explore the streams and rivers that shape those arid landscapes. She attended Oregon State University for her MS and PhD degrees and learned about the richness of marine systems through the study of migratory trout and salmon. She is currently allied faculty at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho in the Biological Sciences Department. Aware of the increasing challenges that coldwater fish populations face, her current work (and much of her personal time) focuses on creating opportunities for research and partnerships to help us better understand and address these challenges.

This session is brought to you by the NLC Native Trout Workgroup.



Kayla Lockhart



Kaitlin Barnhart

9:15 am – 10:30 am

### **Grassroots Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | The Pavilion Room**

The mission of the Grassroots workgroup of the National Leadership Council is to continuously assess and assist effectiveness of our chapters and councils and to develop tools and resources for improvement. The workgroup helps develop new charter models to meet TU needs.

9:15 am – 10:30 am

### **Land Conservancy Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | Willow A**

The Land Conservancy of the NLC works to develop TU's Land Conservancy Fund, akin to TU's Embrace A Stream program, to assist land trusts and other conservancy groups in acquiring land and easements to protect coldwater resources and access to them.

9:15 am – 10:30 am

### **Communications Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | Willow B**

The Communications Workgroup seeks to clarify and communicate the role and function of the National Leadership Council to all parts of TU, facilitate communications within the NLC and its workgroups and encourage and foster communications to and from the NLC to chapters, councils, members, trustees & staff.



# Friday, Sept. 29 Program

## Program events in detail

10:30 am – 11:00 pm

### **Break – Centennial Hotel | Pre-function area**

Enjoy cold drinks, coffee, tea refreshments and snacks while networking and meeting many of our local chapters, volunteers, supporters and partners who will have informational tables and displays set throughout the pre-function space.



11:00 am – 12:15 pm

### **Climate Change Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | Audubon**

What effects will a changing climate have on the coldwater resources we all respect and enjoy? Climate change, and the extent to which it is human-caused, is a divisive issue; the Climate Change Workgroup respects that. Our goal is to develop an education and awareness program based upon the scientific background provided by TU staff and others. With adequate scientific understanding, we all should be concerned about the impacts to our coldwater fishery resources. How much risk should we accept? Can we afford to risk the future of trout and salmon? The Workgroup will host a panel featuring Helen Neville, TU's Senior Scientist, Lindsay Slater, TU's VP for Government Affairs, Andrew Eyerly, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Bob Inglis, Energy and Enterprise Initiative to explore this important topic from multiple perspectives.

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

### **Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | The Pavilion Room**

The Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup strives to create effective strategies and programs to recruit a more diverse membership profile in TU; encourage diversity within leadership at the chapter, state and national levels; and to ensure every chapter creates a welcoming environment for TU members of different genders, ethnicities, ages, and cultures to achieve the TU conservation mission. Stefan Jackson of Natural Difference Consulting will facilitate this practice circle session.

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

### **New Initiatives Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | Willow B**

The New Initiatives Workgroup receives and evaluates proposals for changes to the National Conservation Agenda; evaluates major issues facing TU and explores potential solutions to those issues; solicits, evaluates and nominates new grassroots members of the Board of Trustees (for election by TU members); and nominates NLC officers and Embrace A Stream committee members (for election by NLC representatives). This session is open to all event attendees, though voting will be limited to committee members, as proscribed by TU's bylaws.



11:00 am – 12:15 pm

### **Restoring Urban Watersheds and Fostering Tomorrow's Conservationists Centennial Hotel | Riverfront D**

In the most densely populated and diverse area of Washington, TU is working to connect urban dwellers with nature, inspire stewardship of our shared watersheds, and improve habitat and water quality for native fish – in particular, Lake Sammamish Kokanee Salmon. At the heart of King County, the Lake Washington Basin is made up of Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Cedar River, and Sammamish River. With Seattle just a few miles away and major population centers lining the lake shores and river fronts, the basin faces the significant challenges AND opportunities associated with urban growth: a changing ecology, diversifying population, commercial and residential development, increased recreation, and the amplified effects of climate change.

Spearheading TU's restoration and science activities in the basin, David Kyle is working to improve habitat, restore connectivity, and advance research on aquatic weeds, predators, and disease. Bringing together non-profit, city, county, federal, and community partners, Alix Lee-Tigner is leading TU's efforts to expand community engagement by stewarding the Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership (UWRP). The UWRP's mission is to work together to connect diverse local communities in the Seattle Metro area to nature and inspire people to care for the lake Sammamish watershed.

During this session, David and Alix will share about their work building relationships among partners and community members, highlight on the ground projects, and how they are moving the dial on neglected and forgotten environmental causes that are critical to salmon recovery in the watershed.



# Friday, Sept. 29 Program

## Program events in detail



Dr. Rene Henery

12:15 pm – 1:45 pm

### **Luncheon Featuring Rene Henery – Centennial Hotel | Riverfront Rooms B & C**

Deep Restoration: Tending Nature Within and Without TU's California Science Director Dr. Rene Henery discusses the state of aquatic ecosystems, the state of people, and the importance of tending to both in order for conservation to succeed in the era of climate change.

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

### **Council Chair Roundtable – Centennial Hotel | Riverfront D**

Listen in as the leaders of our state councils gather to discuss issues of common concern, opportunities for cross-border collaboration and resources that will help them drive conservation forward in their home state. These annual business meetings offer a unique perspective on the strength of our organization as a community of volunteers working to care for and recover cold, clean rivers and streams. This session is open to all event attendees.

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

### **The Healing Sport of Fly Fishing: Serving Veterans with Project Healing Waters Centennial Hotel | Audubon Room**

Longtime TU partner, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, will join us to share updates on their new vision and approach to partnership with TU chapters and councils in order to serve more veterans through our community. The PHWFF CEO and Board Chair will be on hand as well as some other special guests!

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

### **Responsible Mining and Energy Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | Willow A**

The Responsible Mining and Energy Workgroup focuses on efforts to protect coldwater fisheries from the various modes of energy production: coal and hard rock mining, oil and gas drilling, wind, solar and nuclear. The goals of this workgroup are:

1) Provide a set of useful tools from chapters and councils that find themselves confronted by an extraction or energy project that could have a negative impact on coldwater resources.

2) Work with all stakeholders and interested parties to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to avoid or mitigate the impacts that extraction and energy project may have on coldwater resources.

3) Act as a conduit between TU staff and grassroots membership to provide information and guidance on local and national extraction and every developments. This session is open to all event attendees.

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

### **Great Lakes Workgroup – Centennial Hotel | Willow B**

The Great Lakes NLC Workgroup (GLWG) is bringing to light the many complex issues affecting the Great Lakes Region. In doing so, the GLWG is seeking to provide scientific input and leadership into the resolution of the many problems in front of the Great Lakes Region. It is paramount that recognition and attention is given to the single largest source of coldwater in the United States.

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

### **Youth Education Workgroup Centennial Hotel | The Pavilion Room**

The Youth Education NLC Workgroup engages young people in activities that will foster in them the values to carry on the mission of TU and to secure for future generations TU's vision.





# Friday, Sept. 29 Program

## Program events in detail

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

### **The Salmon Way: An Alaska State of Mind with Amy Gulick & Nelli Williams** **Centennial Hotel | Audubon**

Intrigued that there is still a place in the world where the lives of people and salmon are linked, photographer and author Amy Gulick traveled throughout Alaska to explore the web of human relationships that revolve around these extraordinary fish. Commercial fishermen took her on as crew; Alaska Native families taught her the art of preserving fish and culture; and sport fishing guides showed her where to cast her line as well as her mind. Alaskans everywhere shared their salmon riches with her in their kitchens, cabins, and fish camps—it's the salmon way. Gulick's book, *The Salmon Way: An Alaska State of Mind*, is the winner of an Independent Publisher Book Award, a Nautilus Book Award, an INDIES Book of the Year Award, and has been named a Best Indie Book by Kirkus Reviews.

Gulick will share stories and images from her book, together with the lessons we can all learn from Alaska's salmon people. She'll be joined by Nelli Williams, the Alaska Director of Trout Unlimited, who will discuss the conservation achievements and ongoing work to protect salmon habitat in the waters of Alaska, including Bristol Bay, the Tongass National Forest, and the transboundary rivers of Alaska and British Columbia.

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

### **National Leadership Council Business Meeting – Centennial Hotel | Riverfront D**

The annual business meeting of our National Leadership Council brings together some of the most active and dedicated volunteers in TU to make decisions about the direction of our organization. From discussing and voting on the National Conservation Agenda to nominating new grassroots members to the TU national Board of Trustees, this business meeting showcases the volunteer-led decisions that make a big impact on our mission and work. This session is open to all event attendees.

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

### **Cocktail Reception – Riverfront Park Pavilion**

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

### **Annual Awards Banquet – Riverfront Park Pavilion**

Join us for a fun-filled evening on the banks of the Spokane River as TU recognizes and celebrates the volunteers and partners who make TU tick. You'll be inspired by the passion and dedication of these amazing volunteers and conservation professionals and see the magic behind the mission as they share their stories of how volunteering with TU has impacted their life.

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

### **Cocktails and Conservation: Hospitality Suite – Centennial Hotel | Skyline Ballroom**

Event open only to participants 21 years of age or older.



Annual Awards Banquet







# Saturday, Sept. 30 Program

Day at a glance

	7am	8am	9am	10am	11 am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
Breakfast Buffet																
State of TU & Annual Meeting																
STREAM Girls																
Film Showing & Panel																
Luncheon																
Women’s Fly Casting																
Regional TU Films																
Naturalist Tour																
Hilary Hutchinson & Heather Hodson																
Nez Perce Chairman Wheeler Banquet Dinner																
Hospitality Suite																

Program events in detail

7:00 am – 8:30 am  
**Breakfast Buffet – Centennial Hotel | Riverfront Rooms B & C**  
A hearty breakfast and coffee between 7 and 8:30 am.  
Buses to the Bing Crosby Theater load beginning at 8:20.





# Saturday, Sept. 30 Program

## Program events in detail

8:45 am – 10:45 am

### **State of TU: Celebrating Community & Conservation with Chris Wood, TU President and CEO** **Bing Crosby Theater**

Join Chris Wood, TU's President & CEO, for an inspiring and powerful look at the incredible work you made possible through your tireless dedication and commitment to TU. From projects opening hundreds and thousands of miles of river to spawning trout, steelhead and salmon to local level work restoring degraded streams or engaging kids in outdoor education, the scope and scale of our shared efforts will leave you in awe and arm you with ideas for making a bigger impact. The State of TU and the State of the Grassroots are not-to-miss events and are free and open to all meeting attendees and the general public.

State of TU Address: Chris Wood, President and CEO

State of Grassroots Address National Leadership Council: Rich Thomas, Chair of the NLC

Board Business & Elections: Terry Hyman, Chair of the Board of Trustees



9:00 am – 3:00 pm

### **STREAM Girls – St George's School**

STREAM Girls is Trout Unlimited's watershed STEM program for girls that builds confidence and breaks down barriers in science and the outdoors. Through the eyes of a scientist, artist and angler, girls make a personal connection to their home waters. As part of CX3, TU staff and volunteers will work with Scouts from the Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho Council. STREAM Girls will be held at Saint George's School.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

### **Covenant of the Salmon People Film Showing and Film Maker / Producer Panel** **Bing Crosby Theater**

Covenant of the Salmon People expands on the creation story of the Nimiipuu, where before humans were created animals could speak. The salmon was the first to give of themselves to provide nourishment for the people, in return the people would always protect and speak on their behalf. Today, the Tribe is at a pivotal point in their fight to protect and restore several species of salmon that are near extinction.

"Genetically salmon has imprinted on our DNA," said Nakia Williamson, Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resources Director. "Now we are only left with a handful of places that have the numbers of salmon that we can actually fish and continue that way of life."

The homelands of the Nimiipuu span across modern day Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana. This includes major waterways and tributaries, including the Snake River; where four dams threaten the future of salmon and the tribe. From the beginning, the Nimiipuu contested the construction of the dams, yet despite their cries of concern the dams were built. Today, mere single digit percentages of salmon return to their natural spawning grounds, after having to pass through eight dams including the four dams on the Lower Snake River.

Today, the Tribe continues to speak and fight for salmon by leading the effort to breach the four Lower Snake River Dams. The Tribe is prepared to do the work that needs to be done to make this a reality; putting the salmon first and making all affected parties whole by doing things differently and working toward a stronger Northwest.

"This film will cover the perspectives of all our people, not just us as policy makers and staff, but also our tribal elders, men, women and children. After all, this is a fight for the Nez Perce Tribe and each individual tribal member who is at risk of losing a part of their culture, and a part of their identity," said Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee member, Samuel Penney. "Our method of fighting to protect the salmon has evolved over the years, but the work has never stopped, and never will, until we can ensure the protection of these species and the return of their historical numbers."

Covenant of the Salmon People will share perspectives and stories from the Nimiipuu and expand into the modern-day "wars" that continue in order to uphold their covenant.

"I have to say, when is enough, enough? We have turned as many dials for salmon recovery as we are capable of doing," said Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman, Shannon Wheeler. "Our back is against the wall. We need to turn some of the larger dials, and some of the larger dials include dam breaching. Now, more than ever our voice needs to be amplified for salmon and for the rest of the environment," continued Chairman Wheeler. "We will never forget our covenant with the salmon."



# Saturday, Sept. 30 Program

## Program events in detail

10:45 am – 11:00 pm

### Break – Centennial Hotel | Pre-function area

Coffee, snacks served in the theater lobby.

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

### Theater Luncheon – Bing Crosby Theater

Lunch will be catered for all registered guests at the Bing! Food will be served in the Theater lobby and guests can enjoy spreading out across the historic theater and into the upstairs bar and loft.

1:15 pm – 3:15 pm

### Women’s Fly Casting Practice – Riverfront Park, under the clock tower

Spokane Women on the Fly and TU will teach walk-up beginners the fly casting fundamentals and basic fly casts needed in most fishing situations. Join us and learn the basics of casting a fly rod or test your skills with a few fun casting challenges. This event is all about empowering women in the world of fly fishing while extending a warm welcome to enthusiasts of all gender identities. Everyone is welcome. If you have a rod and want to bring it, great, but we will have plenty to borrow. We will be casting on grass and with no hooks, so no fishing license is required. You need only bring your enthusiasm for learning to cast and forging connections with fellow conservation minded anglers.

1:45 pm – 4:45 pm

### Regional TU Films – Bing Crosby Theater

Join us at the Bing Theatre for an afternoon screening of new and recent films celebrating the work and advocacy of TU’s grassroots and staff in the region, including the inspiring new film “School of Fish” on Alaska’s Bristol Bay Guide Academy and a recent video highlighting a unique restoration partnership on Northeast Oregon’s Wallowa River. We will debut a brand-new film documenting the amazing TU volunteers of the Washington Council’s Barrier Assessment Team.

We’ll also watch films celebrating the resurgence of summer steelhead on the Elwha River following dam removal, a favorite film from the Grande Ronde River pointing to the urgent need to breach the four dams on the Lower Snake River, and a hilarious film about a ground-breaking citizen science effort led by TU’s North Sound Chapter – featuring the hunt for Sasquatch – along the beautiful headwaters of the Nooksac River in Washington’s Cascade Mountains.



3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### Naturalist Tour of the Spokane River – The People’s Park

Local naturalist extraordinaire, Jack Nisbet, will lead a hike/walk from People’s Park for two to three miles round-trip. The hike is along gravel trails but there is some uneven footing. Transportation to People’s Park will be available from the Centennial.

Spokane-based writer Jack Nisbet is the author of several collections of essays that explore the human and natural history of the Columbia Plateau. He has also written award-winning biographies of fur agent David Thompson (Sources of the River) and naturalist David Douglas (The Collector). These two early visitors to the region provided original information about the variety and tribal management of fish populations in the Columbia and Snake River drainages. For more information visit [www.jacknisbet.com](http://www.jacknisbet.com)



Hilary Hutchinson



Heather Hodson

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

### Becoming a Conservation and Community Leader with Hilary Hutchinson and Heather Hodson – The Centennial Hotel | Audubon

In the world of conservation and community, Hilary Hutchinson and Heather Hodson stand as exemplary leaders who have translated their deep-seated passion into purposeful action. Their inspiring journey is a testament to the power of aligning one’s personal mission with a broader cause. They have not only become leaders but have also embraced the role of mentors, turning fellow enthusiasts into empowered advocates. Through their work, they encourage us all to use our voices, channel our passions, and embark on a mission to purpose. They remind us that leadership is not merely about being at the helm; it’s about nurturing the path for others and fostering a legacy of positive change in conservation and community endeavors.



# Saturday, Sept. 30 Program

## Program events in detail

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**From the Snake to the Sea: An Evening Celebrating Our Shared Work, and Supporting Washington TU – Featuring Keynote Speaker, Nez Perce Chairman Shannon Wheeler**  
**Centennial Hotel | Riverfront Rooms B & C**

Connect with hundreds of dedicated conservationists and partners at the Washington TU banquet and fundraiser. We'll start the night off with a cocktail reception, appetizers, networking and prize perusal, followed by dinner featuring our keynote speaker, Nez Perce Chairman Shannon Wheeler.

Wheeler, an affable and extremely capable leader, is the seventh of 11 children raised to hard-working parents in Lapwai, Idaho. After a successful entrepreneurial and business career spanning everything from owning multiple convenience stores in the region, to graphic design and screen printing, at 56, Wheeler has risen as the voice for salmon and for his people.

Wheeler's perspective is an angler's perspective. He grew up on the rivers and streams, fishing with his family. The Selway, the South Fork Salmon River, Big Creek, the Seesch, Rapid River.

Today he is one of the leading advocates for the opportunity that Representative Mike Simpson's "Northwest in Transition" proposal presents for his tribe, as well as the other tribes of the Columbia Basin. But he also believes that great opportunity lies ahead for the agricultural community, transporters and river communities in the Snake River Basin. But the fish need to come back and they can only come back if the dams come down. All four of the Lower Snake Dams.

Later in the evening the volunteer Embrace A Stream Committee will share the results of their annual grant awards meeting that day and celebrate the local chapters conservation projects receiving funding.

A hybrid in-person and online auction and sweepstakes will help raise funds for important TU work done by volunteers from the Washington Council, local Washington TU chapters and the Northwest Youth Conservation Fly Fishing Academy.

This event requires "all inclusive" registration, Saturday registration or separate meal purchase.

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**Cocktails and Conservation: Hospitality Suite – Centennial Hotel | Skyline Ballroom**

Event open only to participants 21 years of age or older.



Shannon Wheeler

## The time is now for the lower Snake.

Wild Snake River salmon and steelhead are holding on by a thread. Over the past 25 years, the Snake basin has averaged less than two returning adults for every 100 smolt.

Despite the billions of dollars invested in the hydropower system and fish recovery, the Northwest is left with a fraction of what was once the greatest run of salmon and steelhead in the Lower 48.

Breaching the four lower Snake River dams is the single most important step we can take to recover Snake River salmon and steelhead. It is time for the federal government to invest in a comprehensive solution that upholds Tribal treaty rights, restores wild fish populations, and propels the region forward. Scan and send your message to Congress today:





# Sunday, Oct. 1 Program

7:30 am – 9:30 pm

**Breakfast – Centennial Hotel | Audubon**

Coffee & Pastries for Anglers

10:00 am – 11:30 am

**Stream Clean-Up with the Spokane Riverkeeper**

**Meet at on the river side of the Centennial Hotel**

Help cleanup up the Spokane River! On Sunday morning we will be gathering for cleanup with our partners at the Spokane Riverkeeper. We will provide gloves, pickers, bags and disposal. Just show up with good walking shoes, ready to clean up the river. Prizes and free swag for all volunteers provided by our generous event sponsors Patagonia and OnX Maps.





