



Save The Date!

Conservancies and Coldwaters A Strategic Summit

April 18 – 9:30 – 3 p.m. Waynesboro, Virginia

Call to Action: *Obtain the tools to reduce pollution, improve agricultural production, strengthen local economies, and enhance recreational angling through use of conservation easements and related programs to restore and protect mountain streams and spring creeks in the I-81 corridor. Conserve Virginia's coldwater resources and accelerate Governor Kaine's initiative to safeguard an additional 400,000 acres by 2010.*

Conservation of the headwaters of Virginia's rivers requires public understanding and support, habitat improvement, and long-term protection. Trout Unlimited recently initiated a long-term campaign to conserve, restore, and protect spring creeks and mountain streams in the I-81 corridor stretching from the West Virginia line north of Winchester to the Tennessee border at Bristol. The campaign is called the Interstate 81 Coldwaters Area Restoration Effort (I-CARE).

The success of I-CARE depends on collaboration among governmental agencies and elected officials, non-profit organizations committed to land and water conservation, the business community, and willing landowners.

Conservancies and Coldwaters: A Strategic Summit will focus specifically on strategies to protect mountain headwaters and spring creeks in the I-81 corridor from the West Virginia line North of Winchester to the southern edge of the James River watershed at Roanoke.

Conservancies and Coldwaters A Strategic Summit

Issues to be addressed:

- Identification of coldwater stream priorities
- Available tools for protecting mountain streams and spring creeks on private land
- Economic benefits for landowners and local governments

Summit goal:

Create a campaign to accelerate the amount of stream-side acreage placed under easement or other protection.

Among barriers to achieving that goal:

- Few organizations are available to hold smaller easements
- High up-front cost to owners of small parcels who want to protect their land and waters
- Need for funding to defend legal challenges to land under easement
- Lack of examples of how conservation easements and other long-term protections have benefited landowners, served the needs of local governments, and protected important streams

Participants in the Conservancies and Coldwaters Summit will:

- Learn about and receive access to GIS-based mapping systems that rate quality of coldwater streams and the potential for their restoration
- Gain insight into how to apply state and federal programs for long-term protection of coldwater resources
- Form a collaboration of stake-holders in coldwater conservation, establish objectives for 2008-2009, and create a process to meet them

Sponsors include:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Valley Conservation Council, Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program, Trout Unlimited, The Trust for Public Land, City of Waynesboro, and the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival.

Details:

- Location: Best Western Inn and Conference Center - 109 Apple Tree Lane
Waynesboro, VA 22980
- Date: April 18, 2008
- Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Cost: \$15 registration (lunch included)

To register, contact:

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