



Trout Unlimited
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MAR 13 2017

**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

March 2, 2017

Tracie Sales
Rivers Coordinator
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Re: The Nomination of the Warner River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Ms. Sales,

The Trout Unlimited Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter enthusiastically supports the nomination of the Warner River to into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). This collective effort by five riverside communities is in line with Trout Unlimited's mission to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Since 2011, our chapter has worked with New Hampshire Fish & Game biologists, local conservation commissions, and numerous local volunteers to study and assess trout streams within the Warner River Watershed and encourage their protection. Two thirds of the streams surveyed are inhabited by wild brook trout, a Species of Concern in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan. These results, together with other measurements showing high water quality, demonstrate that this watershed is well worth preserving.

Our work in this watershed led the Warner Conservation Commission to initiate this nomination process and we greatly appreciate their efforts. Two chapter members have been members of the Warner River Nomination Committee since its formation. The communities in the watershed are forecasted to undergo future development pressure and loss of privately-owned riparian forest; they are already coping with warmer temperatures, increased drought, drinking water shortages, storm intensity and severe flooding. We therefore strongly encourage the Department of Environmental Services, the Legislature, and the Governor to support this proactive effort to preserve this treasured resource.

A Local Advisory Committee will be a key factor in promoting awareness, education, outreach and support. The Rivers Management Plan will provide a community-driven, scientifically-based, watershed approach to help reduce land and water-based impacts that degrade water quality and harm fragile ecosystems. Designation will not only encourage collaboration between these communities but also enhance partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, as well as nonprofits such as Trout Unlimited.

We thank you for your consideration in honoring these communities' choice to nominate the Warner River into the RMPP program.

Respectfully,

March McCubrey, President
Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited