



Chris Wood
President and CEO

March 15, 2013

The Honorable Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bishop:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited, its 150,000 members nationwide and thousands of members in Utah, I write to thank you for initiating a process to develop federal legislation that addresses public land management in eastern Utah, and for soliciting our input. I enjoyed our recent discussion, and I offer my personal support in making this initiative a success. At your convenience, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to have a more detailed conversation about the future of this initiative and how Trout Unlimited can play a constructive role.

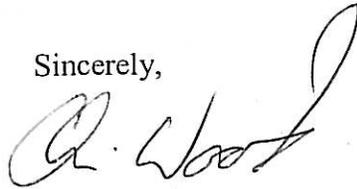
Your letter requested a “written, prioritized list of public lands designations.” In response, we have identified four landscapes (see Attachment A and associated Maps 1 and 2) where high quality fish and wildlife habitats exist, and we have engaged our members, other sportsmen, and local communities in a dialogue about how to best protect them. We respectfully request that the protection of these four locations be included as part of your legislation. In addition to these four specific locations, Map 2 identifies several streams with stronghold populations of native trout. As part of this initiative, Trout Unlimited would like to determine a pragmatic approach to ensure the long-term protection of these resources.

Over the last decade, Trout Unlimited has partnered with private landowners and local communities in Utah to protect and restore trout fisheries in places like the Bear River and Strawberry River and Reservoir. These partnerships have been successful because our volunteers and staff live and recreate in the affected communities, and have been able to bring stakeholders together to find mutually beneficial solutions. In addition, as a sportsmen’s organization Trout Unlimited is well positioned to bring people together around a shared passion for hunting and angling—people who do not consider themselves “environmentalists”, but who care deeply about conserving high quality hunting and fishing habitats.

From the Penobscot River in Maine to the backcountry of Idaho, Trout Unlimited has experienced what is possible when diverse stakeholders come together to address challenging natural resource management decisions. For such efforts to succeed there must be a true commitment on the part of the stakeholders to engage constructively, and strong leadership to bring participants together. I pledge Trout Unlimited's commitment to engage in the process you have initiated for eastern Utah, and applaud your leadership.

Per your request we will provide our list of priorities to your staff. In the meantime, I look forward to further discussion with you about this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Chris Wood

Attachment A

Trout Unlimited Priority Landscapes

1. Book Cliffs Roadless Area

This area contains roughly 57,000 acres of state land, and boasts a blue ribbon trout fishery in Willow Creek, and some of the largest trophy elk in the state. Trout Unlimited, with support from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, and the Mule Deer Foundation, proposes to develop a "Sportsmen's Conservation Area," or similarly named designation. The purpose of this designation would be to conserve, protect and restore fish and game habitat and, more broadly, to perpetuate Utah's strong sporting heritage. Ideally, this area would be transferred from the state to the appropriate federal land management agency.

2. The Green River below Flaming Gorge Reservoir

The Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam is a world renowned fishery with some of the highest fish densities in the country. Currently, approximately 31 miles of river are being managed for their scenic values under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. We propose designating the first 17 miles as "scenic" with provisions to 1) allow reasonable access to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for management purposes; 2) ensure the Bureau of Reclamation can continue to properly manage Flaming Gorge Dam; and 3) identify needs for additional oil and gas infrastructure (i.e., pipeline corridors). In addition, the "C" section of the Green River would be dropped from future designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

3. Range Creek in Desolation Canyon

Range Creek, located in Emery County, is home to strong populations of both wild and native trout. We propose designating the existing Desolation Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as wilderness. We also propose designating the Green River on the east side of the Desolation Canyon WSA as "wild," "recreational," or "scenic" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Both of these proposed designations are consistent with Emery County's current land proposal.

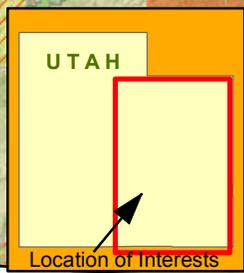
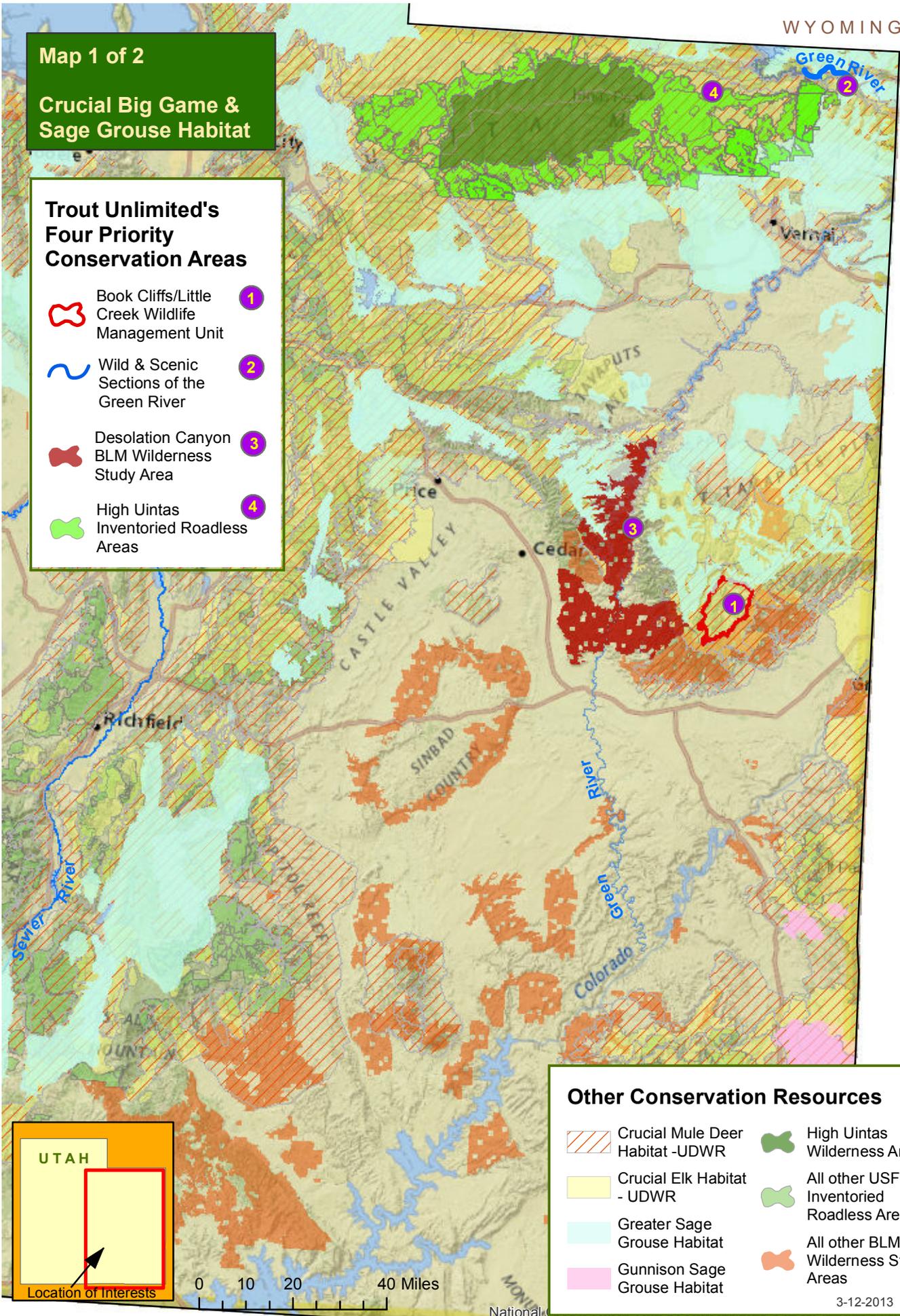
4. North Slope of the Uinta Range

Located within the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the north slope of the Uinta Range contains critical habitat for native trout, mule deer, bighorn sheep and elk. Parts of this area have been designated as wilderness. However, recommended wilderness and inventoried roadless areas require additional protections to ensure potential future oil and gas development does not impair sporting values. Trout Unlimited proposes to work with lease holders and the Forest Service to develop a common vision that includes development in appropriate locations, while applying administrative and/or legislative protections for recommended wilderness and inventoried roadless areas.

Map 1 of 2
Crucial Big Game & Sage Grouse Habitat

Trout Unlimited's Four Priority Conservation Areas

-  Book Cliffs/Little Creek Wildlife Management Unit **1**
-  Wild & Scenic Sections of the Green River **2**
-  Desolation Canyon BLM Wilderness Study Area **3**
-  High Uintas Inventoried Roadless Areas **4**



Other Conservation Resources

-  Crucial Mule Deer Habitat -UDWR
-  Crucial Elk Habitat - UDWR
-  Greater Sage Grouse Habitat
-  Gunnison Sage Grouse Habitat
-  High Uintas Wilderness Areas
-  All other USFS Inventoried Roadless Areas
-  All other BLM Wilderness Study Areas
-  All other BLM Wilderness Study Areas

3-12-2013

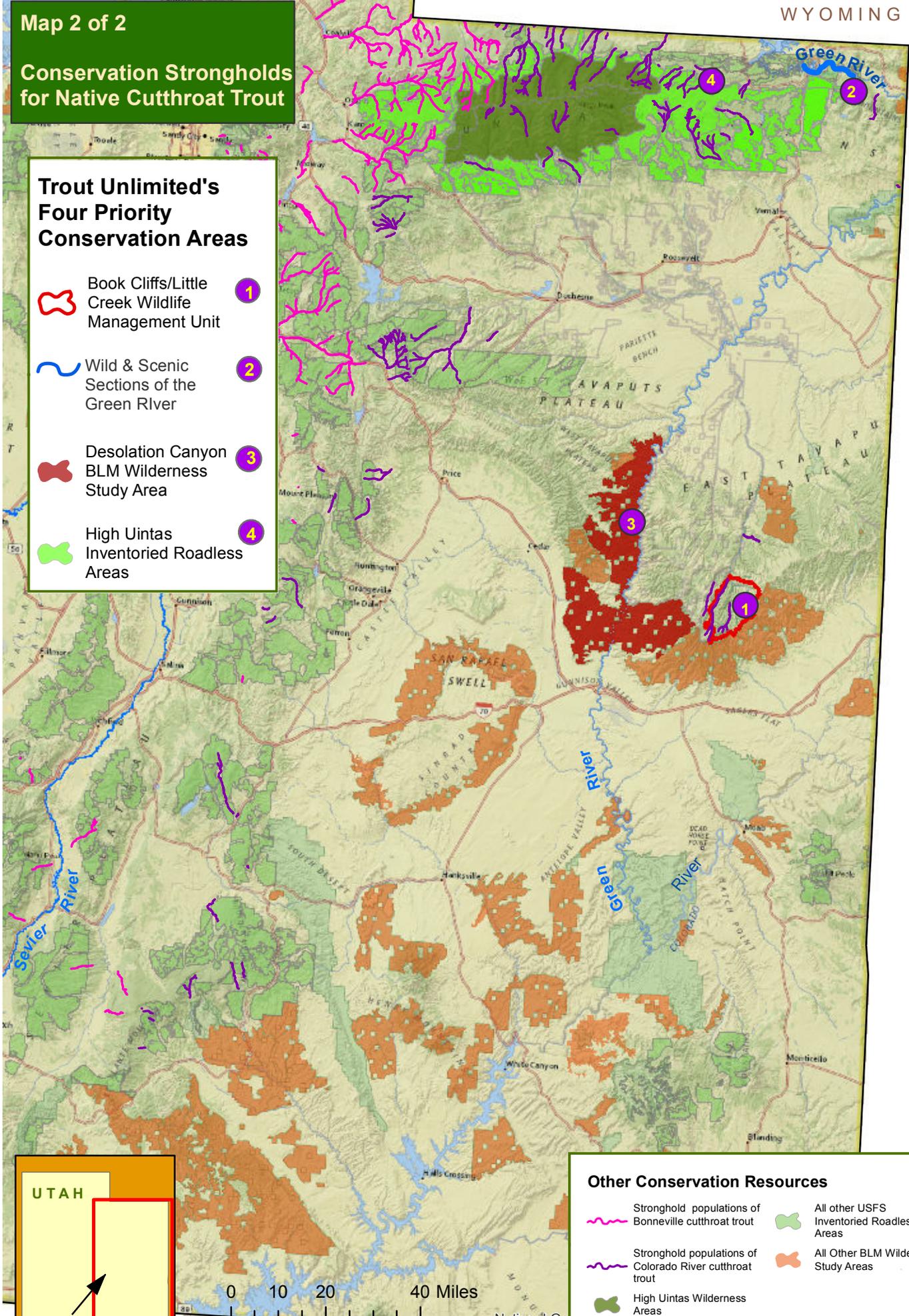


Conservation Strongholds for Native Cutthroat Trout

COLORADO

Trout Unlimited's Four Priority Conservation Areas

-  Book Cliffs/Little Creek Wildlife Management Unit 1
-  Wild & Scenic Sections of the Green River 2
-  Desolation Canyon BLM Wilderness Study Area 3
-  High Uintas Inventoried Roadless Areas 4



UTAH

Location of Interests



Other Conservation Resources

-  Stronghold populations of Bonneville cutthroat trout
-  Stronghold populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout
-  High Uintas Wilderness Areas
-  All other USFS Inventoried Roadless Areas
-  All Other BLM Wilderness Study Areas



3-12-2013