

Little Tennessee Native Fish Conservation Partnership - Goals and Objectives

Overarching goals

- *A full complement of native species are thriving and persisting in the Little Tennessee watershed*
 - *Ample funds to support the priority objectives are available*
 - *A long-term funding source exists for watershed projects*
 - *Little T NFCA will be recognized as a model for native fish conservation and other NFCAs will be established across the nation*
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Goal 1: Improve scientific understanding and knowledge of native aquatic fauna

- Objective 1a: Address gaps in knowledge of distribution, life history, and ecology of native fauna
- Objective 1b: Understand causal factors in decline of priority species
- Objective 1c: Improve our understanding for rare species propagation
- Objective 1d: Identify key conservation focal locations that allow Partnership to protect, conserve, and restore priority native species

Key Indicators of Success:

- *Number of priority research needs or data gaps addressed or being addressed*
 - *Conservation focal areas identified and prioritized*
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Goal 2: Protect and restore habitat and water quality of streams in the Little Tennessee Basin.

- Objective 2a: Assess stream integrity across the basin, identifying high quality habitats and problem areas
- Objective 2b: Identify key stressors and management strategies to abate them
- Objective 2c: Prioritize high quality habitats for protection and focal areas for restoration
- Objective 2d: Implement protection and restoration projects in prioritized areas

Key Indicators of Success:

- *A diversity of connected, high-quality habitats are present in the basin.*
 - *Federally and state listed aquatic taxa in basin have been delisted due to recovery*
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Goal 3: Protect and restore the historical assemblage of native aquatic organisms.

- Objective 3a: Identify priority species and populations for restoration
- Objective 3b: Identify priority assemblages for protection → feed into Objectives 2c and 2d
- Objective 3c: Restore priority species and populations

Key Indicators of success:

- *A full complement of native species thrive and persist in the watershed*
 - *Federally and state listed aquatic taxa in basin have been delisted due to recovery*
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Goal 4: Implement a comprehensive outreach and education program.

- Objective 4a: Develop basic Little Tennessee NFCP outreach materials
- Objective 4b: Implement a riparian buffer awareness program
- Objective 4c: Develop a stream stewardship program for faith communities
- Possible activity: host a stream stewardship workshop for faith leaders
- Objective 4d: Develop a stream education program for children and young adults
- Objective 4e: Inform and engage elected officials and policy makers in stream stewardship
- Objective 4f: Hold a Little Tennessee Native Fish Conservation Area designation event
- Objective 4g: Work on special outreach materials as issues are identified.

Key Indicators of Success:

- *Each state has a conservation education program for the Little Tennessee River basin*
 - *Outreach materials on the NFCA are available*
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Goal 5: Build and grow a sustainable and successful NFCA Partnership.

- Objective 5a: Develop a draft strategic conservation plan, naming priorities and geographic focal areas, by April 2016. The plan is upgraded and revised on a two-year cycle
- Objective 5b: Expand the partnership to include non-traditional membership (e.g., county governments, ag agencies and community, economic development entities, recreation agencies)
- Objective 5c: Secure funding, resulting in new or expanded projects
- Objective 5d: Create and compile success stories to gain credibility and breed success
- Objective 5e: Hire coordinator
- Objective 5f
- Objective 5g: Partners continue to participate and feel that the Partnership is worth their time

Key Indicators of Success:

- *The partnership has an excited and large set of stakeholders working from a science-based, evolving plan*
- *Partners are collaborating to accomplish conservation projects*