

**Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Area
Coalition Building Meeting**

**August 21, 2013
Franklin, NC**

What makes a successful coalition?

- Communication
- Common goals
- Cooperation
- Trust
- Relationships
- Action
- Mutual participation
- Open minds
- Leadership
- Expectation management

What impedes a successful coalition?

- Group size- too small, too big
- Differences in values
- Disorganization
- Turf wars
- Assumptions
- Failure to line up ideas
- Dispersed geography, difficult logistics
- Political boundaries
- Conflicting interests
- All talk no action
- Different levels of priority
- Unrealistic expectations
- Proprietary data
- Changing players
- Fatigue
- Lack of good food
- Key stakeholders not involved

Adaptive challenges facing this potential coalition

- Sustaining momentum
- Prioritization
- Becoming part of leadership, driving the direction
- Educating within an organization on the coalition
- Public engagement and support
- Taking resources away from the work on the ground
- Avoiding redundancy

Why is this important?

- Sustainable communities
- Achieve more together and build our capacity
- Preserving the ecosystem for future generations
- Creates continuity between the headwaters and the valleys
- Restoration
- We can accomplish something together so we should
- We can use the river as a capacity building and
- Provides education about resources and economic impact
- Reduces redundancy across organizations
- Conserving resources
- Opportunity to speak to the impacts of climate change happening now and coming in the future
- Increase education on the Little Tennessee River and recognize its importance

What is already happening?

- Monitoring and data collection
- Education and outreach
- Water restoration
- Regulation
- Common information sharing from a central database and individual websites
- Coordination between agencies
- Non-profit advocacy for funding
- Protecting land around water courses

Ideas generated

General ideas that the group discussed prior to breaking into small groups for SMART Goal development:

- Tie the cause of this coalition to economic development
- Take the educational programs of many of the organizations to scale
- Add a “chunk” of the Little Tennessee River to the Watershed Plan
- Stream connection work
- Small barrier studies
- Tie into leaders in Raleigh and DC

Small Group SMART Goal development:

Group 1: Ed Williams, Roger Clapp, Jim Herring, Anthony Rabern, Bob Curry, Tom Adams

- Create a central definition of terms
- Create criteria for “Native Fish Conservation Area”
- Identify current projects going on
- Outreach

Group 2: Kayla Hudson, TR Russ, Ken Brown, Janet Mizzi, Jim Mabry, John Friddell

- Develop and implement an outreach/communication plan
- Designate the Little Tennessee River Watershed as NFCA
- Enhance economic stability through enhancement of natural resources, recreation and tourism

Group 3: Fred Harris, Steve Raper, Andrea Leslie, Jake Rash, Jason Meador, Brett ?

- Form the Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Partnership with a steering committee, main body, and working groups.

Group 4: Tim Gestwicki, Bill Mahoney, Mike LaVoie, Jason Love, Paul Carlson, Becky Champion, Jason Farmer

- Maximize healthy riparian zone conditions/shade along surface waters and tributaries
- Educate in such a way as to raise awareness of habitat and biodiversity in the watershed to the
- Specific watersheds to “shade”
 - In GA: Betty Creek ☺ , Mud Creek ☹
 - In NC/Little TN: Brush Creek ☺, Watuaga Creek ☹
 - EBCI: Hornbuckle Creek ☺ , Goose Creek ☹
 - Tuck: Paris Br. ☺, Savannah/Scott ☹
- Timeline- Assess in five years?
- Tools
 - Aerial photography
 - LiDar data
 - Biomonitoring

Group 5: Damon Hearn, Mark Cantrell, Andrew Henderson, Richard Mode, Doug Basher, Doug Henderson

- Create a messaging statement
- Seek funding
- Develop online workspace
- Catalog
 - Species
 - Threats/potential projects
 - Ongoing/completed projects.

Steering Committee:

- Janet Mizzi- USFWS
- Mike LeVoie- Cherokee
- Fred Harris- NCWF
- Damon Hearne- Trout U
- Steve Fraley- WRC
- Ken Brown- WRTR
- Andrea Leslie- NHP- NC DENR
- Ben Lassiter- LTLT
- Jason Farmer- Forest Service

