

Please Note: The application, and any supporting materials such as Progress Reports, must be combined into a SINGLE DOCUMENT (e.g. one PDF). Multiple documents will not be accepted.

All applicants must complete and submit the current funding year Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Application; no substitutions are permitted. For current grant program information or obtain help completing the grant application contact the Program Ambassadors Zane Hinrichs (zaneqler@gmail.com) or Eddie Burke (epburke@hotmail.com). Please read the following sections carefully prior to completing the grant application.

I. ELIGIBILITY

The Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Program accepts applications submitted by non-profit and for-profit organizations and individuals. The applicant submitting the application must be 18 years of age or older. Applicants younger than 18 years of age must be sponsored by an adult individual whom is 18 years or older. The sponsor cannot be a consultant or contractor receiving funds from the grant award. **Note: Applicants should also consider applying for “Embrace a Stream” funds from Trout Unlimited national. Some projects may be eligible for such funding. See www.tu.org for more details.**

II. TYPES OF PROJECTS AWARDED FUNDING

The Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Program annually considers funding a variety of projects that demonstrate benefit to northern Nevada cold water fisheries, including e.g. protection, restoration and conservation projects, feasibility studies, applied research, assessments, conservation planning and education outreach activities. In addition, the Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Program considers funding for projects that propose land acquisitions, water rights, and easements, graduate student stipends and contractor salaries or consultant salaries and design, development or purchase of tools. In each instance, however, applicants must demonstrate that these are substantially required to complete project objectives. A portion of a salary and/or wages for nonprofit employees may be considered for funding by the grant committee under certain circumstances. Applicants should provide a brief description explaining how payment of any portion of a salary and/or wages is essential to the project and if salary and/or wages are already allocated to the project, to what extent other funding sources exist. The Conservation Grant Committee maintains full discretion when determining if a proposed project qualifies for payment of any portion of a salary and/or wages for nonprofit employees. Proposed projects with a funding request equal to or greater than \$1,000 are still required to provide 1:1 matching funds under this exception. Funding will only be provided to projects that will take place in the future - past projects will not be funded retroactively for work and/or materials.

III. IMPORTANT DATES & REVIEW PROCESS

Important Dates:

- Mon, Nov 3rd, 2025 – Grant applications due by midnight.
- Tues, Nov 11th, 2025 – **Applicants invited to present their projects to the chapter.**
- Tues, Jan 13th, 2026 – Annual Chapter General Meeting to Vote on Funding

Before submitting your application, the Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Program Ambassadors, Zane Hinrichs (zaneqler@gmail.com) or Eddie Burke (epburke@hotmail.com) are available at to answer any questions you may have and, if you like, review your application for completeness.

Once all applications are submitted, the Sagebrush Chapter Project Committee utilizes scoring criteria to evaluate projects in the following five (5) weighted areas:

- a) Conservation & Education impact.
- b) Strengthening TU impact.
- c) Outreach impact.
- d) Technical merit.
- e) Overall impression & discretionary points

Although a proposal may not address every weighted area completely, it is important to address the strengths of your proposals in each of these areas. The applicant should consider the following when preparing the application:

- I. CONSERVATION & EDUCATION IMPACT (40% OF POINTS):** Address conservation issues that benefit northern Nevada that may include:
 - a. Improvements for in-stream, riparian restoration, or watershed habitat, fishery health, water quality and flow regimes.
 - b. Filling in critical knowledge gaps in water and stream management, and aquatic scientific discovery.
 - c. Building or strengthening constituency for coldwater conservation.
 - d. Management of water resources.
 - e. Proposing a program that educates the general public about the importance of water quality, conservation, and coldwater fisheries.

Note: If the proposal is a classroom based educational one, please include a syllabus showing how the project ties into the classroom curriculum.
- II. STRENGTHENING TROUT UNLIMITED IMPACT (5% OF POINTS):** Provide a description of the ways the project will incorporate measures to increase the strength of the Sagebrush Chapter (e.g. Opportunities for Trout Unlimited members to participate in the project, marketing, partnering, advocacy, member recruitment, raise awareness of TU goals with the general public, attracting additional funding).
- III. PUBLIC OUTREACH (10% OF POINTS):** Consider increasing the awareness of your project's conservation impact to the broader community by:
 - a. Increasing visibility of conservation to local and regional media (e.g. radio, TV, news, interest magazines).
 - b. Speaking to audiences about how your project benefits coldwater fisheries of northern Nevada.
 - c. Inviting, when possible, a diverse set of individuals from differing community groups and non-profit and for-profit organizations to participate in your project.
- IV. TECHNICAL MERIT (35% OF POINTS):** Demonstrate the feasibility and quality of your project by:
 - a. Basing the project on good science and acceptable best practices.
 - b. Proposing an appropriate work plan for the size and scope of the project.
 - c. Providing a budget that is reasonable to achieve the project goals.
 - d. Proposing a plan to measure and evaluate project outcomes.
 - e. Listing contributions and support from experts (e.g. teachers, biologist, restoration engineer, watershed planner, policy expert, training coordinator, landowners, and government agency) needed, or have provided contributions, to successfully complete the project.
 - f. Listing and providing stakeholder's (e.g. conservation groups, local business, universities, lenders) efforts and resources needed to complete the project.
 - g. Providing letters of support from experts and stakeholders.
 - h. Defining the roles and responsibilities of the project manager and other individuals participating in the project.
 - i. Listing projects and providing details as to the size and scope of projects that the applicant, sponsor and/or principle participants have previously completed.
- V. OVERALL IMPRESSION (10% OF POINTS):** Each screening committee member has discretionary points for overall impression, importance and professionalism in preparing the application.

The Ambassador may contact the Applicant by electronic mail during the review process to clarify issues regarding the Application. Once the Sagebrush Chapter Project Committee has reviewed and ranked all submitted projects, projects are presented to the general Sagebrush Chapter membership for consideration. Although the Sagebrush Chapter may not fund all projects submitted within a single funding year, an attempt will be made to fund projects from a diverse set of project types and applicants. If a project is not funded, the applicant may elect to resubmit the project proposal in the next funding year; however, it is the applicant's responsibility to re-submit the project application using the Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Application for the respective funding year. Project funding status is provided by electronic mail and a brief description of funded projects and funding levels are published on the Sagebrush Chapter website at the end of the funding

cycle. Proposals selected for funding, require a signed Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Contract prior to the release of funds.



2026 Trout Unlimited Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant Program Application

APPLICANT'S CONTACT INFORMATION & SIGNATURE FORM

Contact Name & Title: _____
(First & Last Name) (Title)

Qualification(s) _____

Organization Name & Address & EIN : _____
(Organization Name) (Mailing Address, Street, City, State, Zip) TAX ID (EIN)

Phone / Cell Number: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Applicant's Signature: _____
(Date)

If Applicant Is Under 18 Years of Age, The Following Section Must Also Be Completed By an Adult Sponsor

Sponsor's First & Last Name & Signature*: _____
(*Adult Sponsor Must Sign & Date Application.) (Date)

Sponsor's Address: _____
(Mailing Address, Street, City, State, Zip)

Sponsor's Cell Number: _____ **Email Address:** _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: _____

Project Location: _____
(e.g. stream, river, lake, watershed, city, state, GPS coordinates)

Requested Amount: _____
(from attached budget worksheet)

Project Start Date: _____ **End Date:** _____

Please circle the conservation strategy below that best fits your project:

Protect (*Public lands policy, land trust partnership, Defense from unwise development etc.*)

Reconnect (*Passage barrier removal, In-stream flow enhancement etc.*)

Restore (*Watershed and habitat restoration projects etc.*)

Sustain (*Conservation education, trout in the classroom etc.*)

If your organization has previously received Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Grant funding, please complete the section below. (List the LAST 3 projects funded). Note: As stipulated in the funding contract, if previously funded, a project progress report for that award must have already been filed with the TU Sagebrush Chapter).

	Project Title	Year Funded	Amount Funded
1.			
2.			
3.			

PROPOSAL *(Reference and electronically append to the application any additional information, maps, pictures, diagrams, contracts and letters of intent and support. **Contract or expand each section below as needed.**)*

I. SUMMARY – *(In 350 words or less, provide a brief and concise summary that includes the name and description of the project, purpose of the project, goals, objectives, proposed actions or methods, anticipated scope of impact, partners, project exceptional merits, matching funds, and amount requested. If the proposal is a classroom based educational one, please include a syllabus showing how the project ties into the classroom curriculum.)*

II. BACKGROUND – *(Describe the issue or opportunity being addressed. If applicable describe the project location, including name of water body and, if appropriate, salmonoid species. State how this issue or opportunity has benefit to northern Nevada. If this project has received funding previously, provide a brief progress update.)*

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – *(Describe the project purpose, objectives, goals and benefit to northern Nevada.)*

IV. WORK PLAN – *(Describe in detail the activities and/or technical or scientific methods used to complete the project. Provide a project schedule detailing project activities and milestones - include timeframes for planning, obtaining permits, permission for land access, etc. Describe the role and qualifications of volunteers, consultants and contractors. Describe the role and matching efforts of partners and stakeholders. Include a methodology and indicators to objectively measure project outcomes. Provide a plan to disseminate the benefits of the project to the general public).*

SUBMITTING APPLICATION

- The applicant should review the Application Checklist (see below) to verify that the Application is complete; all supporting & reference materials attached and original signatures provided.
- Attach any supporting documents (such as Progress Reports) to the application.
- This Application and all support materials must be submitted electronically to the Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Program Ambassadors Zane Hinrichs (zanebler@gmail.com) or Eddie Burke (epburke@hotmail.com) or **by midnight Nov 3rd, 2025** (as indicated by the electronically mail time stamp).
- **Please Note: The application, and any supporting materials such as Progress Reports, must be combined into A SINGLE DOCUMENT (e.g one PDF) - multiple documents will not be accepted.**
- The Sagebrush Chapter Conservation Committee will not accept late applications.
- The Contact Information and Signatures Form (first page) can be electronically signed and e-mailed with the application.
- Upon receipt of the Application, applicants will be notified by electronic mail within three (3) days that their Application has been received.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Contact the Conservation Grant Program Ambassador if any additional information is needed.
- Complete the Applicant Contact Information & Signature Form (note: an adult sponsor must sign the application if applicant is under the age of 18 years old).
- Sign & date the Contact Information & Signature Form (this can be an electronic signature).
- Complete each section of the grant application emphasizing the qualities of your project. If the proposal is a classroom based educational one, please include a syllabus showing how the project ties into the classroom curriculum.)
- Complete the grant budget – provide realistic dollar amounts that represent the size and scope of your project.
- Combine the application, and all supporting documents, into a single document before e-mailing.

The Sagebrush Chapter of Trout Unlimited appreciates the effort and time it takes to prepare and submit an application. Projects like this make a difference both in the world we live in today and for generations to come. We look forward to reviewing your proposal and giving it the highest consideration.