



FUDR

FRIENDS OF THE UPPER DELAWARE RIVER

Annual Report

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A message from the Executive Director

This was a challenging and rewarding year for FUDR. Jeff stepped into the Angling Program lead role, I moved into the Executive Director position, federal funding went and came back, and long-standing William Penn support ended. Through it all, our commitment to the river, our partners, and our community never wavered.

In 2025, we advanced practical, on-the-ground work and strengthened the partnerships that drive it. FUDR Bill Canfield Fly Fishing Camp for Kids had a banner year with every slot filled. We launched a revitalized Angling Program that brings us back to our roots. We are developing a comprehensive Science Plan. Youth education expanded, and stream restoration and resilience projects moved forward with landowners, towns, and agencies across NY and PA. Through the Rendezvous, Riverfest, and year-round outreach, we connected the watershed community to learn, collaborate, and celebrate this remarkable place.

None of this happens without you. Donors, members, sponsors, volunteers, and partners fueled every restoration project, every student reached, and every step toward better decisions for the river. We have big plans ahead: updating our 2026–2029 strategic plan, improving impact reporting, growing sponsorships and diverse funding, and continuing to build the systems and team capacity that keep our work strong.

The Upper Delaware is more than a river. It’s home to our community, a classroom, a livelihood, and a legacy. Together, we’re ensuring cold, clean water, healthy habitats, and equitable access for generations to come. Thank you for standing with FUDR. I’m excited for all we’ll accomplish next year!

Molly Oliver
Executive Director
Friends of the Upper Delaware River

A message from the Chairman of the Board

This past year brought meaningful progress and important transitions that have positioned the organization for a strong next chapter. While leadership changes, shifting funding, and the realities of a dynamic river system created challenges, they also clarified our priorities and strengthened our path forward.

With Molly stepping into the Executive Director role and new program leadership in place, FUDR advanced its core work: launching a revitalized Angling Program under Jeff's (former Executive Director) direction that sharpens our focus on trout and stewardship, continuing key restoration, access, and community engagement efforts across the watershed, and expanding our youth education and community outreach programs. Events like the Rendezvous and Riverfest helped maintain strong connections with partners, stakeholders, and the broader river community. Your support made this progress possible and sets us up well for what comes next.

As we move into this new phase, the Board is energized. We're focused on refining a clear strategic direction, strengthening organizational capacity, and ensuring FUDR has the leadership, tools, and resources needed to grow its impact. There is real momentum, and we're committed to building on it.

Thank you for being part of this next chapter.

With appreciation,
Craig Bouslough
Chairman of the Board
Friends of the Upper Delaware River







FUDR: 2025 Angling Program Overview

Jeff Skelding, Angling Advocate

In 2025, Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) continued to serve as the leading conservation voice for anglers and river advocates throughout the nationally renowned Upper Delaware River (UDR) tailwaters wild trout fishery. FUDR employs a wide range of communication strategies including issue updates, webinars, social media outreach, media relations, and direct engagement with local stakeholders, to advance a consistent, science-based message: the long-term health of the watershed and its fishery is directly connected to the economic vitality of nearby communities.



FUDR integrates its angling advocacy with on-the-ground conservation initiatives such as stream restoration projects. These projects deliver multiple benefits, including fisheries protection, community infrastructure resilience, flood mitigation, and expanded recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

As the only full-time nonprofit organization dedicated to daily monitoring of New York City's reservoir operations in the UDR system, FUDR plays a critical role in reviewing and tracking the implementation of the Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP). This program governs the operation of the NYC Delaware River Basin reservoirs and addresses water resource needs across four states and New York City. FUDR also works to ensure that decisions made by the Decree Parties to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decree are properly applied, with a particular focus on maintaining optimal river flows and water temperatures to protect watershed habitat and sustain the nationally renowned wild trout fishery of the Upper Delaware River.



FUDR serves as a key convener for policy and advocacy efforts. The organization coordinates Trout Unlimited's (TU) most influential regional participants, including the National Trout Unlimited Delaware River Work Group, the New York and Pennsylvania State TU Councils, regional TU staff, and multiple TU chapters, to advance policy solutions related to FFMP implementation.

Throughout the year, FUDR maintained regular communication with anglers, river guides, local and state officials, federal agencies, riverside landowners, recreational groups, and flood-mitigation organizations. These ongoing interactions ensure that stakeholders remain informed about reservoir management, restoration initiatives, river conditions, and emerging policy issues.

Key Accomplishments in 2025



• Adoption of the First-Ever UDR Wild Trout Management Plan

FUDR played a leading advocacy role in the adoption of the first-ever wild trout management plan for the Upper Delaware River tailwaters, jointly developed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This historic agreement helps ensure continued scientific monitoring and long-term stewardship of the UDR wild trout fishery.



• Partnership with Cornell University on Macroinvertebrate Research

FUDR partnered with Cornell University on a landmark macroinvertebrate study designed to assess the health of key biological indicators essential to the UDR wild trout fishery. This research enhances scientific understanding of habitat conditions, aquatic insect populations, and future management options that support a healthy watershed.

• National Media Recognition Through CBS Special

FUDR brought national attention to the UDR watershed by participating in a CBS News special focusing on stream restoration and fisheries conservation. The widely viewed feature highlighted the organization's leadership in education, science-based advocacy, and protection of the UDR ecosystem. https://www.cbsnews.com/americanriver/



• Convening Leaders at the Annual FUDR Rendezvous

FUDR's annual Rendezvous conference once again brought together key decision makers whose work directly influences reservoir management and UDR fisheries protection. Participants included representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the U.S. Geological Survey's Delaware Rivermaster Office.

Invest in the Future of the Upper Delaware River!

The UDR Legacy Fund is a unique opportunity for visionary funders to directly shape the future of one of the Northeast's most treasured river systems. Managed by Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR), this high-impact donor circle is designed to drive strategic conservation, restoration, data collection, and community engagement across the Upper Delaware River Watershed.

Why Join the UDR Legacy Fund?

Have a direct impact

Each year, your $10,000 contribution funds tangible, mission-driven projects that protect and enhance the river's health and vitality—habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, river access improvements, and more.

Choice & Transparency

As a funder, you engage in conversations to define priorities and select from a curated annual slate of projects. You choose how your dollars make a difference—ensuring your values align with the outcomes.

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The UDR Legacy Fund is a partnership for a stronger, healthier river. Commit today!

For more info contact Info@fudr.org

UDR LEGACY FUND

PRESERVING THE RIVER.
PROTECTING ITS LEGACY.

