Subject: Project Report No. 3- TU-Dartmouth Trout Research Project

**Since our last report on September 12, we have had some great new developments for the project.  We are very pleased to announce that the Trout Unlimited national organization has awarded us an Embrace A Stream grant in the full amount of our grant application-$9490.  This money will be available to us this month, and is designated for equipment and for student intern field work in 2017 and 2018.  The money that each sponsor contributed earlier this year counted as the “matching funds” that were necessary to secure this grant, so every TU council or chapter, every sportsmen’s group, and every individual who contributed, had a direct role in helping us to get this money. This grant assures us that we have sufficient funds available to complete planned activities in 2017, and to begin additional planned work in Spring 2018.  In early January, we will be assessing additional financial needs for next year, but this is great news that puts us on a sound financial footing thanks to all of you.  Kudos to Glenn Booma, Dianne Timmins, and the Ammonoosuc TU chapter, which sponsored the application,  particularly Art Greene and Ron Ouellette, who all played key roles in helping Glenn and me write and submit the grant application.  Our grant application was scored as one of the 5 best applications in the country out of a total of 49 applications submitted.  We were one of only a handful of applications that received full funding.**

**Secondly, we had a great turnout of folks for a final effort at capturing and tagging fish this year, including NHFG, 12+ volunteers from 4 TU chapters in 2 states, plus students and staff from 4 universities and 1 high school in New Hampshire. After an epic 11 hour field day, with very low water conditions, the group succeeded in capturing and tagging an additional 262 fish, so that we now have a total of 597 trout tagged this year.  An updated data sheet with additional assignment of sponsors is attached.  The new fish are Numbers 336-597. Because we have been successful in capturing and tagging so many fish, each sponsor has been signed additional fish.**

**We were very excited to find such a large number of new fish entering the study site despite relatively warm temperatures and low water.  While most of these fish were small ( the largest was about 7 inches), several of the new arrivals appear to have spawned already! This suggests that fish may be arriving and spawning at the site a bit earlier than anticipated.**

**Substantial efforts will continue until freeze-up to track all the tagged fish using both fixed antenna readers and hand-held equipment.  In addition, Dartmouth PhD student Keith Fritschie will continue his exciting work on spawning site selection and its impact on the growth of wild brook trout after hatching.  Keith is being assisted on an almost full time basis for the next several weeks by Ian Glass, a Sebago TU member and board member, who is also pursuing a career path toward fisheries management at Southern Maine Community College.  Among other activities, they will be doing a lot of snorkeling, underwater video photography, obtaining temperature data, and exploring various approaches to PIT tag tracking.  We anticipate that some very interesting observations and data will be coming in as we get into cooler weather and spawning activity.**

**We also want to thank Chris Conners, from the Basil Woods TU chapter, for helping us out and writing articles on the project for the chapter’s September newsletter.  She is also planning a project update in a future issue.  Anyone interested in checking out these articles can view the newsletter at** <http://www.concordtu.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/2017_9_Newsletter_9_12_FINAL.254160105.pdf>.  **If anyone has any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above email address or at** 207-721-8512**.**