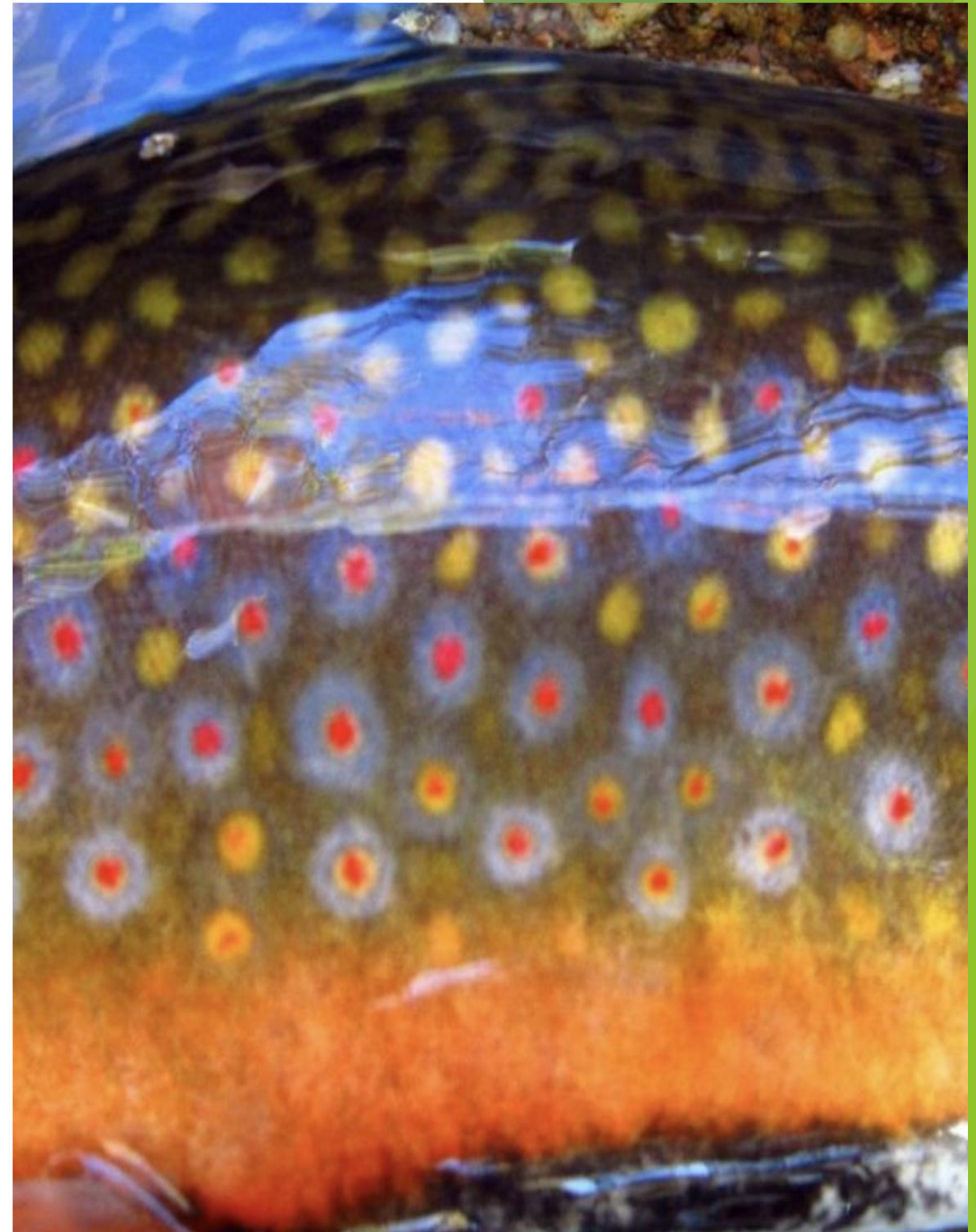


# 2026 National Conservation Agenda - Priorities Survey

Blue Ridge Trout Unlimited Input

# 2026 BRTU Conservation Priorities

- ▶ Issues/ projects of high priority to BRTU and NCTU
- ▶ May be common among other TU State Councils...  
or of National significance



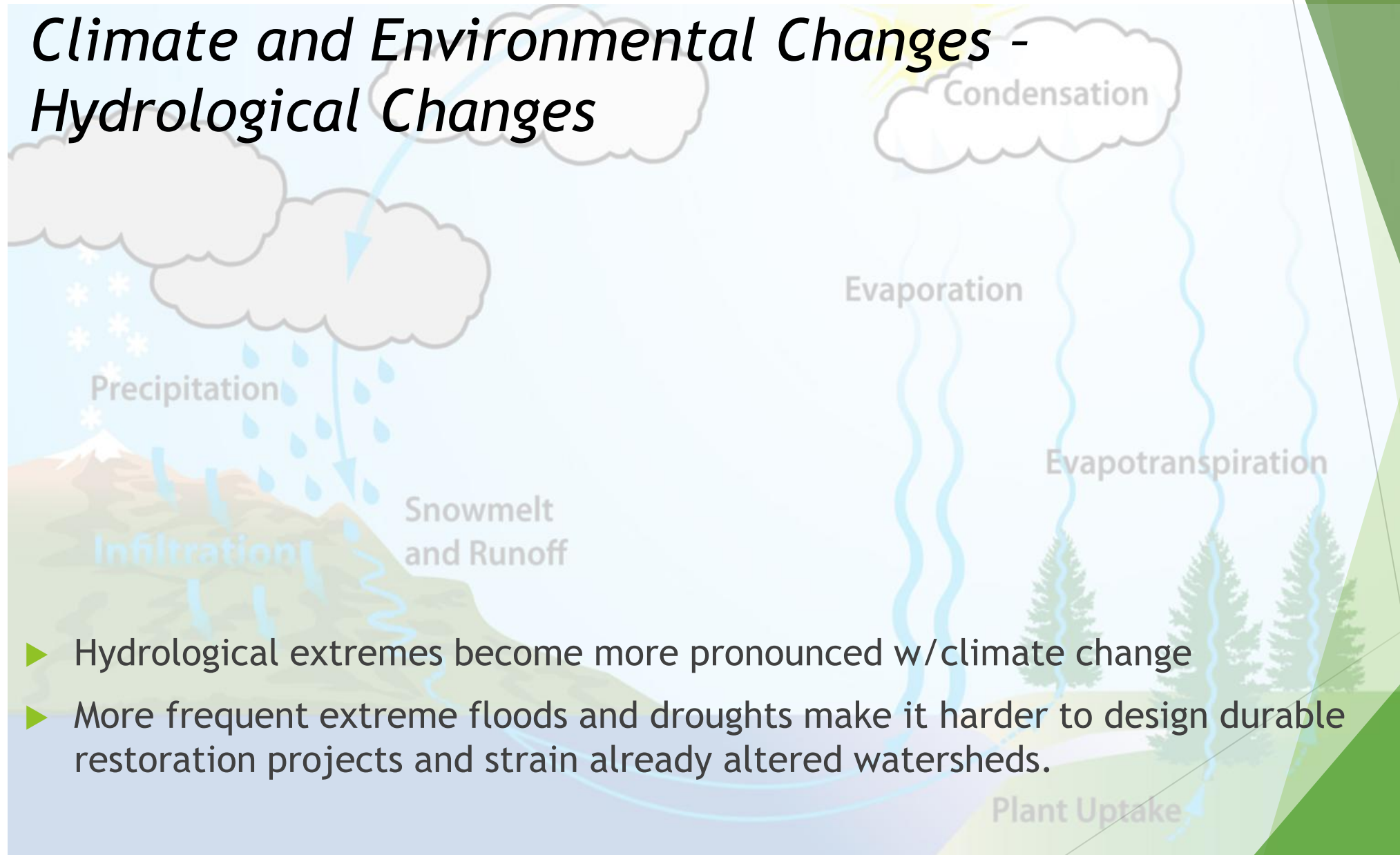
# *Habitat Degradation and Loss - Land Use Development*

- ▶ Already aligned w/ BRTU, NCTU and National TU efforts... ongoing over next 2yrs
- ▶ Forward-looking priority: AI data centers
  - ▶ Large, new water users
  - ▶ Potential to alter local hydrology, water quality, and climate pressure concurrently
  - ▶ Environmental - and community issues - align with TU's cold-water conservancy stewardship mission
  - ▶ Opportunity to enlist new members, donors and media attention
- ▶ Currently, engagement is emerging TU State Council by TU State Council (ex. MN; PA)
  - ▶ NC experiencing a boom in AI data center development, ranking 9th nationally with over 100 facilities
  - ▶ At a minimum, NCTU State Chapter should be prioritizing

# *Habitat Degradation and Loss - Riparian Vegetation Loss*

- ▶ Loss of riparian habitat reduces shade, filtration and flood storage...resulting in increased erosion and stream bank instability
- ▶ Forward looking: AI data centers can drive riparian vegetation loss through:
  - ▶ Where they are built
  - ▶ Water withdrawals and flow alterations
  - ▶ Thermal and water quality changes
  - ▶ Energy demands and pollution

# Climate and Environmental Changes - Hydrological Changes



- ▶ Hydrological extremes become more pronounced w/climate change
- ▶ More frequent extreme floods and droughts make it harder to design durable restoration projects and strain already altered watersheds.

# 2026 BRTU Organization Priorities

- ▶ Attracting and retaining new volunteers
- ▶ Continuing and improving youth education programs
- ▶ Mitigate funding risks from:
  - ▶ Federal and State policies and priorities which largely underpin TU's funding
  - ▶ Increased scrutinization of ongoing support by environmental philanthropies
  - ▶ Address risks thru a review and recalibration of National TU overhead costs (Admin, General & Fundraising)



# Appendix



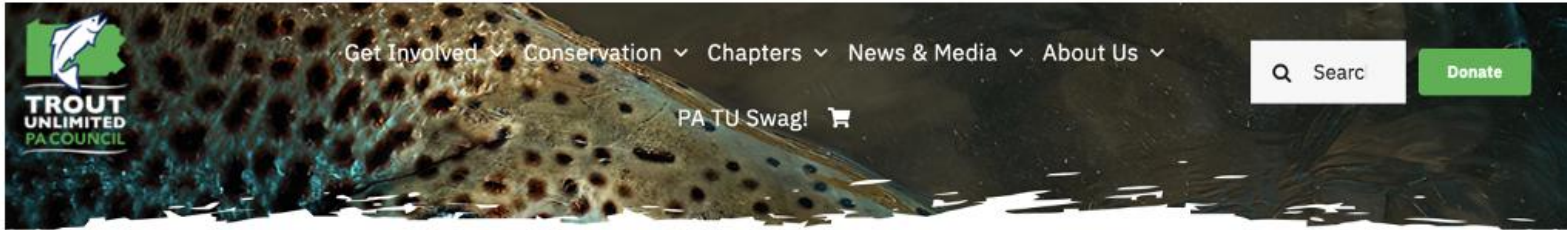
# Current AI and Cloud Data Centers in NC

- ▶ AI and general cloud data centers are already operating across NC:
  - ▶ Marble (Western NC) - *Core Scientific* operates a high-density data center designed for AI, storage, and other demanding workloads
  - ▶ Lenoir (Caldwell County) - *Google* operates a large data center that supports its cloud services, which include AI workloads
  - ▶ Charlotte area - *Charlotte is the single largest data center market in the state, with several dozen facilities and new builds driven by cloud and AI demand*
  - ▶ Raleigh-Durham / Research Triangle - *Raleigh market hosts numerous data centers, with strong links to local research universities and AI/cloud activity*

# Announced New AI and Cloud Data Centers in NC

- ▶ AI and Cloud data center projects planned or underway:
  - ▶ Amazon AI Innovation Hub - Richmond County (Hamlet area)
  - ▶ Digital Realty Charlotte Campus - Charlotte
  - ▶ PowerHouse Charlotte - Charlotte
  - ▶ Amazon Data Center Complex - Research Triangle: Separate from Richmond County
  - ▶ ImpactData facility - Greensboro area
  - ▶ Microsoft expansion - Catawba County / Hickory-Conover-Maiden corridor
  - ▶ ESS Tarboro / Kingsboro Net Zero Campus - Edgecombe County
  - ▶ ESS Fayetteville Project - Cumberland County
  - ▶ NC-1 AI campus - Madison, Rockingham County
  - ▶ Statesville Data Center - Iredell County

# Pennsylvania State Chapter Trout Unlimited



October 10, 2025

## Policy Statement On Artificial Intelligence Data Centers

The purpose of this statement is to provide general information and guidance to our chapters and members pertaining to the development of AI Data Centers in Pennsylvania in regards to potential impacts to our cold water resources. While PATU recognizes the importance and economic benefit of AI Data Centers, we are promoting responsible development thereof. PATU also recognizes that the technology driving AI Data Center development is continuously evolving in the interest of increasing environmental sustainability.

September 2025