

Trout Group Seeks Ban on Stream Dams

The Michigan Trout Unlimited Council will seek legislation to prevent indiscriminate dam building on Michigan's streams, according to Tudor ApMadoc, of Clarkston, the Council chairman.

ApMadoc stated that under present laws the Michigan Conservation Department has no authority over damming of streams, although it has the responsibility of managing the waters of the state. He said that the lack of authority to regulate dam building for the long-range benefit of Michigan is inconsistent with the responsibilities that have been assigned the department.

The present regulations governing damming streams are inadequate to insure that all water uses—present and future—be given the consideration they deserve, ApMadoc said. Because it is the conservation agency of the state, the conservation department is in the best position to decide whether damming or not damming a particular stream is in the long-range public interest.

Trout Unlimited, a national conservation organization, has 34 chapters in 15 states. Nine of these are in Michigan, with a coordinating Council to guide their efforts on the state level. Trout Unlimited was organized to protect and improve clean cool water and to insure that some streams are kept free-flowing and in a natural condition.

ApMadoc said that one of the jobs of Michigan Trout Unlimited members is to be "watch-dogs" on all streams for pollution, stream habitat destruction and proposed dams. To head these efforts, Larry Gariglio, of Saginaw has been appointed chairman of a stream protection committee.