

## **Trout Unlimited and Brian J. Johnson Biographies**

### **Trout Unlimited**

Trout Unlimited is the nation's oldest and largest coldwater conservation organization, with approximately 150,000 members nationwide and almost 15,000 in California. The group's mission is to protect, conserve, and restore North America's native trout and salmon resources.

TU has a longstanding interest and expertise in California water policy and law. The late Stan Griffin, a longtime TU volunteer, was among the first to recognize the growing problem of unauthorized dams and highlight the pernicious cumulative effects of surface water diversions on tributaries within the region. Throughout the 1990s, Mr. Griffin and others doggedly insisted that the Board account for public trust resources in its permitting decisions.

Trout Unlimited participated in the development of the DFG/NMFS Joint Guidelines, and was the chief proponent of A.B. 2121. That legislation, which was authored by Senator Kuehl and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, directed the SWRCB to develop the North Coast Instream Flow Policy. TU was one of the primary stakeholder participants in developing the final Policy, and many of the Policy's final clauses are based on TU proposals, including a large set of proposals jointly submitted by TU and the Wine Industry.

### **Brian J. Johnson**

Brian has been the director of Trout Unlimited's California Water Project since 2005. TU works to reform California water law and promote scientifically sound stream flows for trout and salmon. Trout Unlimited is working with landowners on water conservation projects in many coastal watersheds that improve water supply reliability and enhance streamflows.

Brian has become one of the state's leading conservation voices in water right permitting matters. In particular, he worked for years with the Division of Water Rights, the Wine Industry, and other stakeholders to reform the State Water Board's permitting procedures as part of the North Coast Instream Flow Policy development. The work includes participation in water right permitting as both an advocate and as an applicant. He maintains TU's file of water right protests that was started by Stan Griffin, and has had some success resolving matters with specific applicants.

Brian also leads a staff of three people who work on cooperative programs with landowners who are working to improve their diversion practices. For example, he has several projects in the pipeline that will involve new water right applications for storage of rainy season water as an alternative to summertime direct diversions. TU is working most heavily in the Mattole River, in Sonoma County Wine Country (Grape, Mill, Dutch

Bill, Green Valley, and Mark West Creeks), San Gregorio Creek (San Mateo Co.), Little Arthur Creek (Santa Clara Co.), and Chorro Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.).

Brian came to TU after five years at Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, a public interest law firm where he represented community groups and local governments in efforts to protect waterways and other natural resources. Before law school, Brian was the Communications Director at the White House environmental office from 1993-97, as well as the co-creator and manager of EPA's first "Energy Star" initiative, for energy efficient computers, from 1991-93. Brian graduated from Duke University and Stanford Law School.

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**BRIAN J. JOHNSON**


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Trout Unlimited ■ 2239 5<sup>th</sup> Street ■ Berkeley, CA 94710 ■ 510-528-4772

- EXPERIENCE**
- Trout Unlimited** Berkeley, CA  
**Director, California Water Program** 2005-present  
 Serve as Staff Attorney for Trout Unlimited and Director of TU's California Water Project, which strives to improve stream flows and water management in California. Duties include working with state and federal agencies to reform water law; partnering with individual farmers and landowners to restore and enhance streamflows, securing beneficial streamflows and fish passage at large dams through the hydropower relicensing process, and carrying out campaigns to restore streamflows to degraded rivers and streams.
- Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP** San Francisco, CA  
**Associate** 2000-2005  
 Represented nonprofit organizations and public agencies at public interest environmental law firm. Duties included litigating in state and federal court, counseling, and drafting ballot measures.
- The White House, Council on Env'tl. Quality** Washington, DC  
**Communications Director** Aug. 1993-Aug. 1997  
 Served as the primary White House communications person on environmental issues. Duties included responding to press inquiries about the administration's environmental policy, writing and editing publications on federal environmental initiatives, and preparing long term communications plans for White House senior staff.
-  **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** Washington, DC  
**Manager, Energy Star Computers** May 1991-Aug. 1993  
 Created and managed the *Energy Star Computers* initiative, the first *Energy Star* effort. Duties included naming it *Energy Star*, selecting the logo, negotiating the agreement by which computer manufacturers committed to building energy-efficient products, and recruiting companies to join the program.
- EDUCATION**
- Stanford Law School** Stanford, CA  
 Environmental Law Society, Env'tl. Law Journal J.D. 2000
- Duke University** Durham, NC  
 Public Policy Studies, Phi Beta Kappa B.A. 1991