

Trout Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Division of Habitat Management

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This document provides a broad overview of PFBC habitat initiatives benefiting coldwater resources in Pennsylvania that have occurred during the **last five years**. The increase in staff and resources associated with the establishment of the Division of Habitat Management in 2006 should significantly increase PFBC habitat activities in this program area in the future years.

Fish Passage Section

- Completed 50+ dam removal projects on wild and stocked trout waters
- Currently advancing an additional 25+ dam removal projects

Stream Section

- Completed 350 habitat enhancement projects on wild trout waters under the Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (Adopt-a-Stream) with the assistance of over 100 cooperators
- Recently developed a Technical Assistance Program to provide habitat assistance on private waters not accessible to the public
- Currently discussing with PA DEP the possibility of delegating the PFBC to review and approve all General Permit -1 for fish habitat enhancement structures throughout the Commonwealth - this will expedite obtaining necessary permits for PFBC habitat enhancement projects as well as provide information on where non-PFBC projects are being implemented

Regional Habitat Section

- Represent the PFBC in the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV)
 - Developed *Pennsylvania's Brook Trout Conservation Strategies* (attached) in conjunction with Division of Fisheries Management as part of the EBTJV
 - Obtained a \$45,000 grant through the EBTJV for habitat work in the upper Kettle Creek drainage
- Advancing amendment to the Pennsylvania's State Wildlife Action Plan to include eastern brook trout to increase public awareness on the status and threats to the species and provide enhanced opportunity to obtain grant funding to support habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement activities

- Obtained approximately \$500,000 in grant funding since July 2006 to support trout habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement activities
- Advancing major habitat initiatives in Big Spring Creek (Cumberland Co.), Conococheaque Creek (Franklin Co.), Kettle Creek (Clinton Co.), Spring Creek (Centre Co.), and Yellow Breeches Creek (Cumberland) watersheds
- Developing cooperative approaches to address protection and restoration of coldwater resources with American Rivers, Trout Unlimited, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, U. S. Forest Service, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service among others