



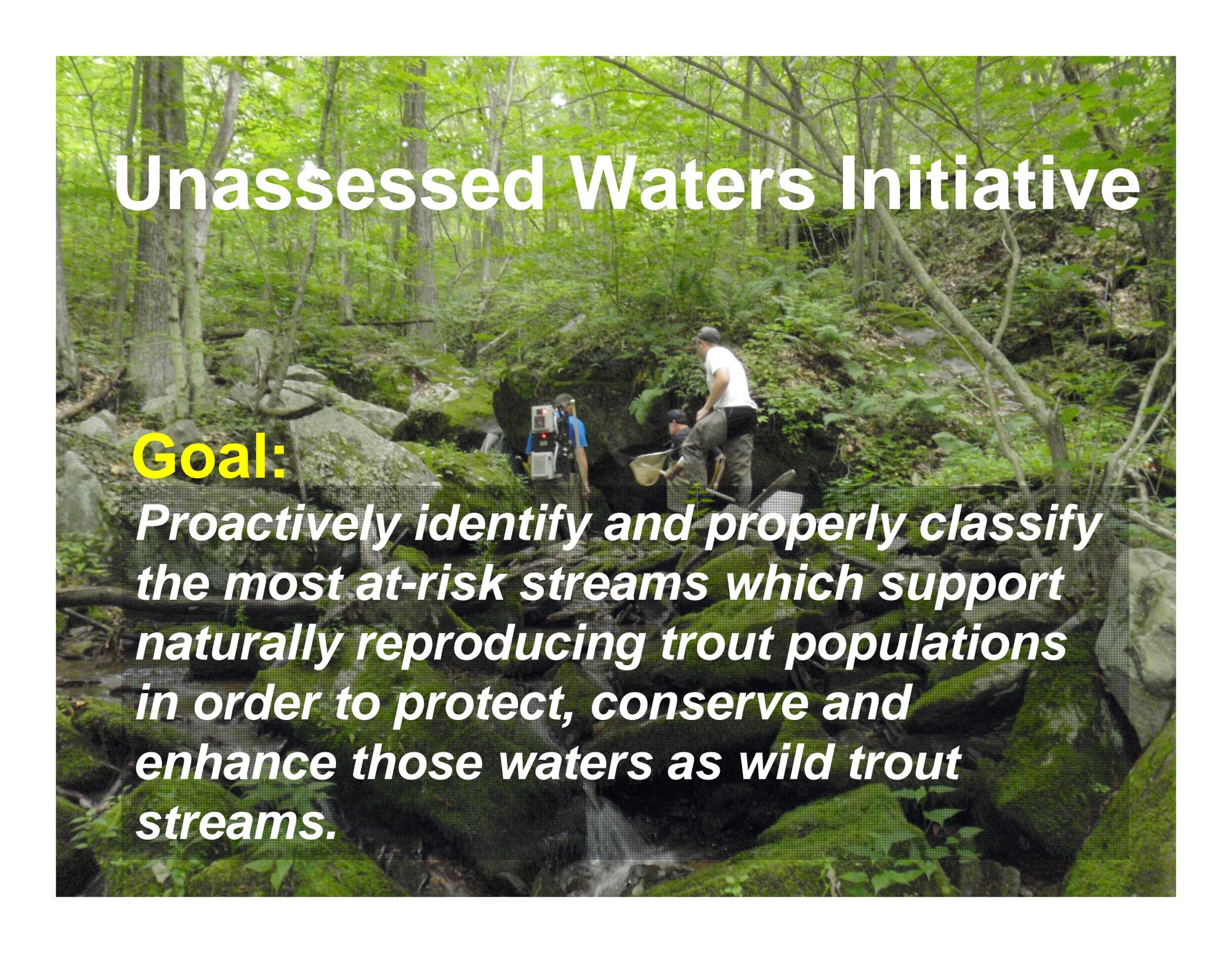
**Public Participation Program
of the
Unassessed Waters Initiative**

Renae Hodorowicz

Western PA Conservancy
Watershed Conservation Program
Fisheries Biologist

Robert Weber

PA Fish and Boat Commission
Division of Fisheries Management
Fisheries Biologist

A photograph of a forest stream with people conducting field research. The scene is a lush green forest with a stream flowing over mossy rocks. Several people are visible: one in a white shirt and khaki pants is using a net to catch something in the water, another in a blue shirt is standing nearby, and a third person is partially visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of natural beauty and scientific inquiry.

Unassessed Waters Initiative

Goal:

Proactively identify and properly classify the most at-risk streams which support naturally reproducing trout populations in order to protect, conserve and enhance those waters as wild trout streams.

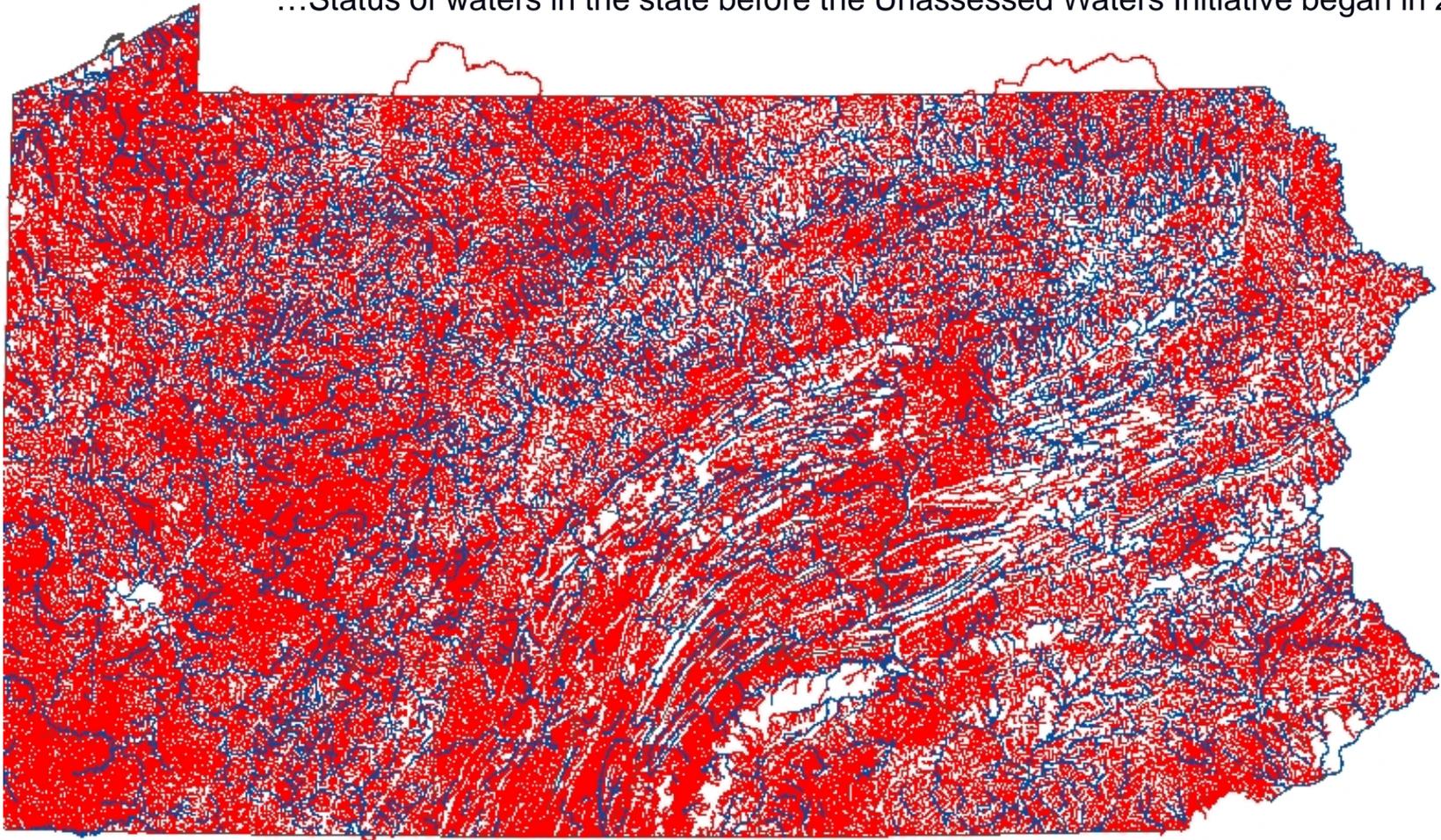
Strategies (of the Unassessed Waters Initiative)

- Send sampling crews to high priority watersheds and on waters determined to be most at risk
- **Develop a prioritized list of unassessed streams**
- Use GIS technology to identify streams and watersheds most likely to support wild trout



Pennsylvania's Flowing Water Resources - 2008

...Status of waters in the state before the Unassessed Waters Initiative began in 2010

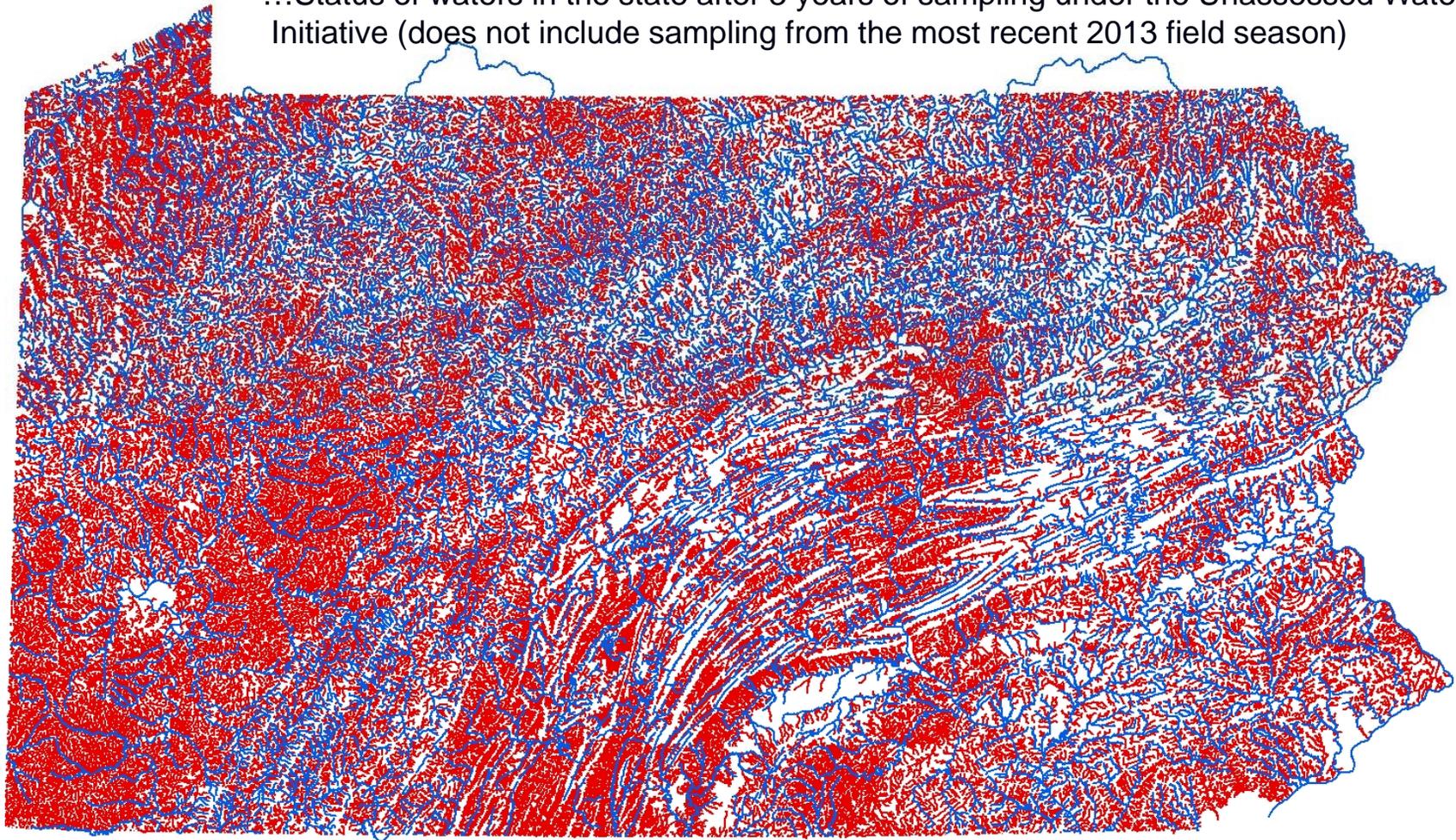


 **Surveyed Sections**

 **Unassessed Sections**

Pennsylvania's Flowing Water Resources - 2013

...Status of waters in the state after 3 years of sampling under the Unassessed Waters Initiative (does not include sampling from the most recent 2013 field season)



 **Surveyed Sections**

 **Unassessed Sections**

Number of Streams Sampled

(Data version of progress of the Unassessed Waters Initiative since project began)

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013*</u>
Partners	88	438	626	730
PFBC	217	304	261	334
Total	305 (516 mi)	742 (1,762 mi)	887 (2,057 mi)	1,064 (2,350 mi)
% Wild Trout	55%	55%	57%	50%

('% Wild Trout' is essentially the success rate of finding trout in unassessed streams... has gone down slightly over the years since all of 'low-hanging fruit' has been picked off)

**3+ Year Total – 2,998 Streams Sampled
6,685 Miles of Streams**

Since 2010, 310 new streams added to the wild trout list (1,320 miles)

* Data still being collected and summarized for 2013.

Local knowledge to the Unassessed Waters Initiative

(The sub-program of the unassessed waters initiative in which you can provide your input)

- **Involve the public's feedback into our prioritization process**
- **Goal is to increase our efficiency and productivity in finding wild trout in unassessed waters**
- **Pilot study involving two PA TU chapters** (April – Dec 2013)
 - Allegheny Mountain
 - Susquehanna



Division of Fisheries Management

On our end...

(The Unassessed Waters Initiative Coordinators (Bob and Renae) will provide you with these tools at your TU Chapter kick-off meeting in Feb or March)

- **Make unassessed waters maps and accompanying lists for the local region**
- **Provide a data form for participants that will be submitted to the unassessed waters coordinators**
- **Post everything on Coldwater Heritage Partnership website**
- **Set up online survey for data submission**



Division of Fisheries Management

MAP LEGEND



Assessed streams



Unassessed streams



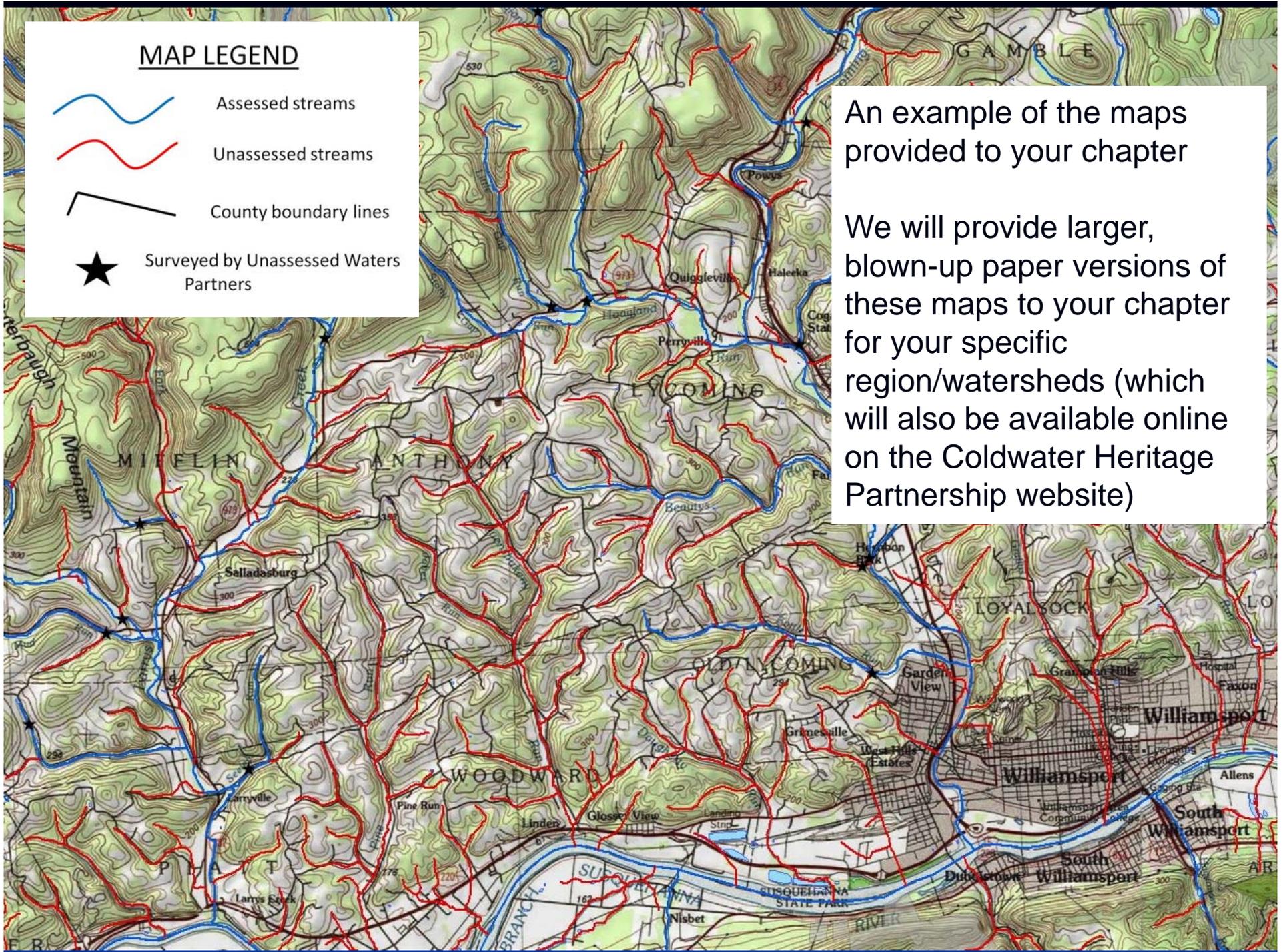
County boundary lines



Surveyed by Unassessed Waters Partners

An example of the maps provided to your chapter

We will provide larger, blown-up paper versions of these maps to your chapter for your specific region/watersheds (which will also be available online on the Coldwater Heritage Partnership website)



Please submit Unassessed Waters only (red streams on the maps)

(You can leave some fields blank if that data is unknown)

Correct site location is the most important part-please be concise

(Top half of data sheet to be filled out by TU chapter participant)

When complete, please give form to your local TU chapter or other sportsmen's group representative.

Surveyed by:

Date

County

Water name/ (Unnamed Tributary number)

Tributary to

Site latitude and longitude

Latitude:

Longitude:

Physical description of site and

nearest road name/number

Water temperature

Trout observed?

Trout caught?

General observations:

Physical description of site and
nearest road name/number

(Bottom half of data sheet to be filled
out by TU chapter participant)

Water temperature

Trout observed?

Trout caught?

General observations:

Landowner contact information:
(will be shared only with approved
unassessed waters partners.
Otherwise, kept strictly confidential)

I certify that the above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I certify that I have checked to make sure the water above is not already assessed.

Signed and date



Coldwater Heritage Partnership

(This is the website where you can find electronic versions of the information for your specific location)

Coldwater Conservation Plans

Grant Application & Guidelines

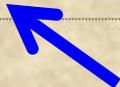
Keystone Coldwater Conference

News

Partners & Staff

Resources

Unassessed Waters Initiative



The Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) is a collaborative effort between the PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and Pennsylvania Trout.

The purpose of the Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) is to provide leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and funding support for the evaluation, conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams.

While Pennsylvania has over 83,000 miles of streams, only 25% are considered high-quality coldwater fisheries. Of that, less than 2% are designated as highly productive waters that contain naturally reproducing wild trout. The CHP's primary focus is to foster protection and improvement of these streams and their watersheds.

Goals of the program include:

- Foster a greater public understanding of watershed characteristics and how they affect coldwater ecosystems;
- Identify special areas of concern, such as areas with exceptional water quality with high potential for impacts;
- Produce conservation plans that will lead to additional planning or implementation of projects that protect and enhance our coldwater ecosystems; and
- Provide technical assistance and financial opportunities to organizations dedicated to protecting coldwater ecosystems.

CHP NEWS

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces 2012 Grant Awards

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership recently announced that over \$58,000 in grants have been awarded to local organizations to protect and conserve Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. The Coldwater Heritage Partnership is a cooperative initiative amongst Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.

This year the Coldwater Heritage Partnership awarded both planning and implementation grants. Organizations funded by a planning grant will be responsible for creating a Coldwater Conservation plan that:

- Gathers existing data about the coldwater ecosystem;
- Identifies potential impacts, threats, problems and opportunities to our coldwater streams;
- Formulates a plan of action for proposed conservation and protection strategies; and,
- Builds community awareness and support for the conservation of our coldwater streams.

Organizations that received an implementation grant will complete projects identified in previously completed coldwater conservation plans. Potential projects must enhance, conserve, or protect coldwater streams for which the original coldwater



Coldwater Heritage Partnership

The Unassessed Waters Coordinators will update the website with information for your local region for 2014 (more maps and regions will be added early this year)

UNASSESSED WATERS INITIATIVE

Coldwater Conservation Plans

Grant Application & Guidelines

Keystone Coldwater Conference

News

Partners & Staff

Resources

Unassessed Waters Initiative

Welcome to Pennsylvania's Unassessed Waters Initiative for 2013!

We are currently accepting information from the public on where there is wild trout in unassessed streams. Please take a look at the appropriate maps to see if you know of wild trout in currently unassessed streams.

Maps

Clearfield County

North East Clearfield County Central East Clearfield County South East Clearfield County
North West Clearfield County Central West Clearfield County South West Clearfield County

Elk County

North East Elk County East Elk County
North West Elk County West Elk County South Elk County

Jefferson County

North Jefferson County South Jefferson County

Lycoming County

North East Lycoming County North West Lycoming County Central Lycoming County
East Lycoming County South Lycoming County West Central Lycoming

Sullivan County

East Sullivan County West Sullivan County South Sullivan County

Union County

North Union County

Maps are clickable and printable

Sullivan County

East Sullivan County West Sullivan County South Sullivan County

Union County

North Union County

The new 2014 regions will be added and listed by watershed instead of county

Data sheet is also clickable and printable

MAP LEGEND

-  Assessed streams
-  Unassessed streams
-  County boundary lines
-  Surveyed by Unassessed Waters Partners

If you see a stream on the map that is unassessed (red streams) and you know there are wild trout in it, please print the data sheet and take it with you the next time you go fishing. Fill out the information on the sheet and give it to your local TU chapter or other sportsmen's group representative.



[Click here for a copy of the data sheet.](#)

If the stream is already assessed (blue streams), please do not report it here.

If you have a GPS unit and prefer to locate streams using it instead of the maps, below are lists of unassessed waters by county and the latitude and longitude of the stream mouth.

[Clearfield County](#) [Elk County](#) [Jefferson County](#) [Lycoming County](#) [Sullivan County](#) [Union County](#)

Your data comes directly to the unassessed waters coordinators and is used to help direct our efforts by our partners for the upcoming sampling season. Once our partners confirm the presence of wild trout, the stream will be proposed for official listing on the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Wild Trout List. With this listing comes automatic Exceptional Value wetland protection for the stream, and the potential for additional development restrictions.

We thank you for your participation in this program.

~Go Fishing!!~



NAME	MouthLat	MouthLong
Devils Run	41.053220	-78.377820
Dixon Run		
Dressler Run		
Elk Lick Run		
Emigh Run	40.916570	-78.208180
Flat Run	40.989780	-78.212660
Flegals Run	41.053940	-78.397700
Forcey Run	40.996110	-78.321240
Fox Run	41.147220	-78.513340
Goss Run	40.831090	-78.338370
Grapevine Run	41.182830	-78.619700
Grassflat Run	40.980390	-78.090430
Gravel Lick Run	41.121580	-78.717320
Grimes Run	41.128120	-78.137180
Hawk Run	40.920350	-78.192080
Heichel Run	41.143410	-78.131170
Hiles Run	40.925980	-78.587460
Horn Shanty Branch Montgomery Creek	41.047420	-78.552350
Horning Run	41.217010	-78.557230
Hout Branch	41.188820	-78.626500

This is an example of a list of unassessed waters by region
 GPS coordinates are of the stream mouth
 Unnamed streams are fair game and will be included in these lists



Division of Fisheries Management

What's involved for the Chapter

Fishermen, please go fishing for us! (and take a data sheet along with you...)

We ask for one volunteer coordinator (a TU Chapter member) to act as the coordinator for your group, and the point of contact for Renae/Bob. Responsibilities for this individual include:

- organizing the effort among your TU Chapter participants
- in charge of collecting data forms from participants
- type the filled out data sheets into the online survey by the end of the year



Division of Fisheries Management

How surveys get incorporated

(the first half of a flow chart showing how your information gets incorporated into the Unassessed Waters Initiative and ultimately how qualifying streams (ones containing wild trout) get protected)



Please submit Unassessed Waters only (red stream on the map)
(You can leave some fields blank if that data is unknown)
Correct site location is the most important part please be concise

When complete, please give form to your local TLD chapter or other sportmen's group representative.

Surveyed by: _____
Date: _____
County: _____
Water name/ (Unassessed Tributary number): _____
Tributary to: _____
Site latitude and longitude: Latitude: _____
Longitude: _____

Physical description of site and nearest road name/number: _____
Water temperature: _____
Trout observed?: _____
Trout length?: _____
General observations: _____

Landowner contact information:
(will be shared only with approved conservation water partners.
Otherwise, kept strictly confidential): _____

I certify that the above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
 I certify that I have checked to make sure the water above is not already assessed.

Signed and date: _____



(this is the online survey)

Unassessed Waters Public Input

*1. Data entered in SurveyMonkey by

*2. Do you have reason to believe this data is questionable?
 Yes
 No

3. Surveyed by:

4. Date (Please enter as MM/DD/YYYY format)

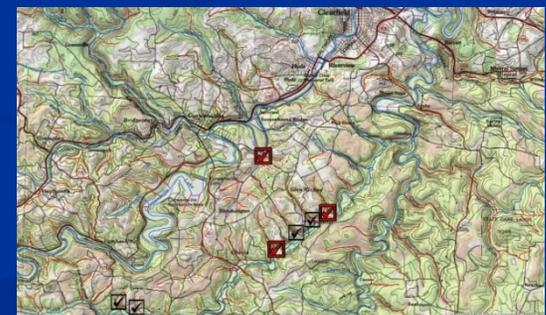
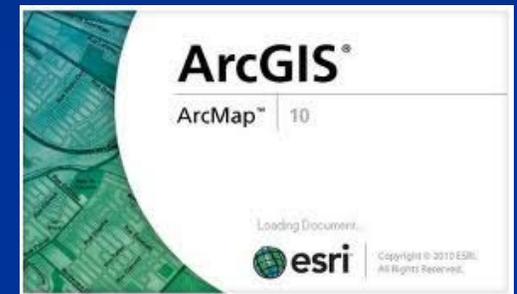
5. PA County

6. Water name/(Unnamed Tributary number)

7. Tributary to

8. Site latitude

9. Site longitude

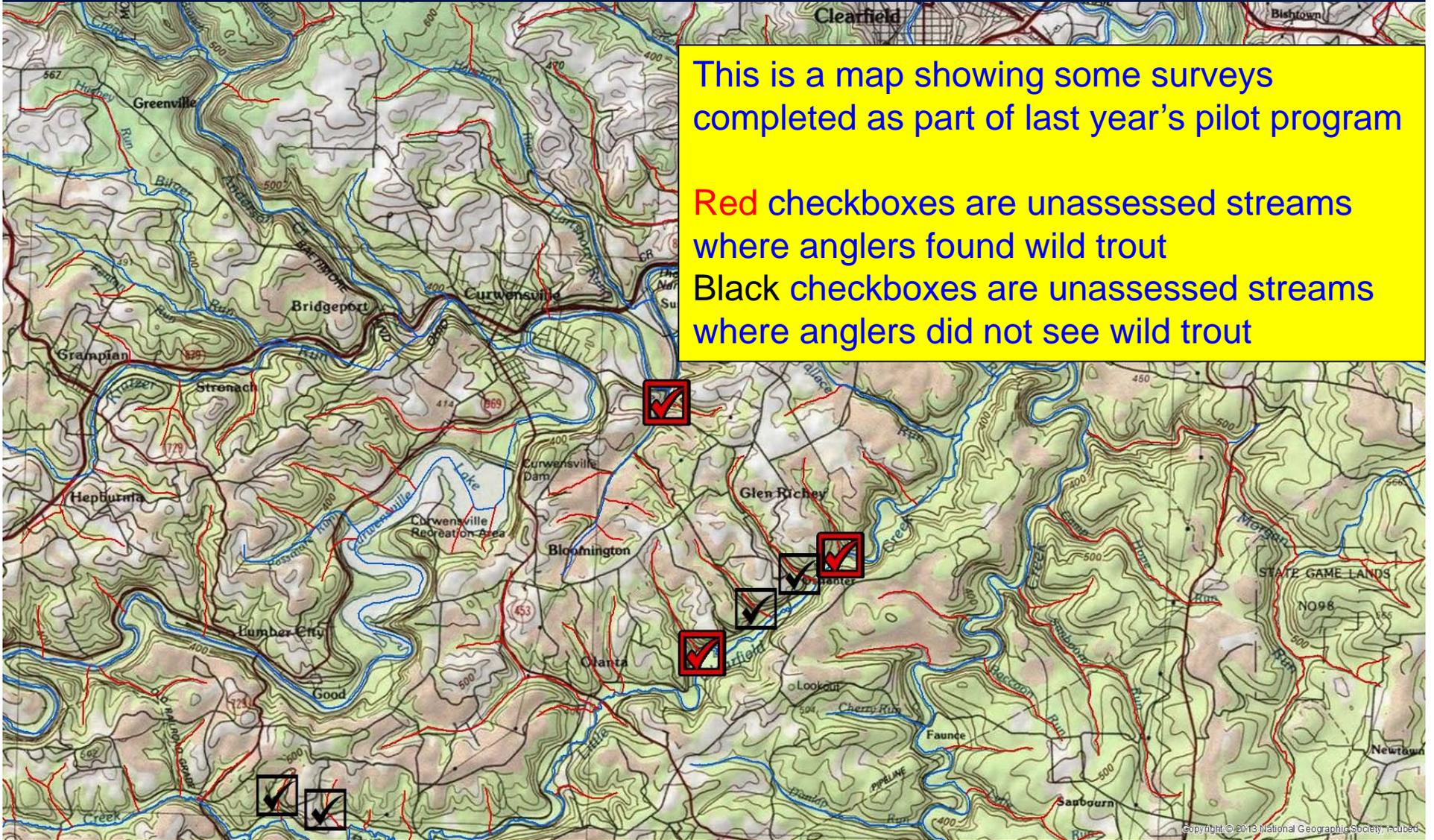


Division of Fisheries Management

This is a map showing some surveys completed as part of last year's pilot program

Red checkboxes are unassessed streams where anglers found wild trout

Black checkboxes are unassessed streams where anglers did not see wild trout

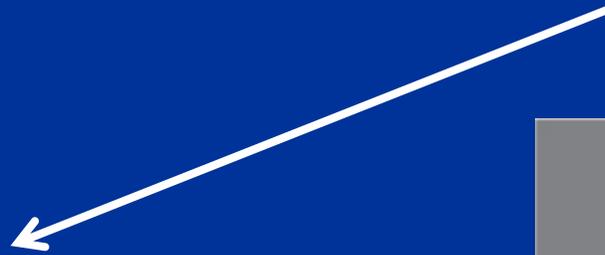


How surveys get incorporated (Part 2)

(the second half of a flow chart showing how your information gets incorporated into the Unassessed Waters Initiative and ultimately how qualifying streams (ones containing wild trout) get protected)



OR



(60 days)

Streams Being Considered for Wild Trout Designation

Step 1. Streams being Considered (current page)
 Step 2. Streams Officially Proposed for Listing
 Step 3. If approved, Streams added to Wild Trout Listings

The streams on this list have been sampled by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and cooperating partners as part of an effort to collect baseline biological information from previously un-surveyed streams. Preliminary results from these surveys indicate that these streams may be eligible for consideration for inclusion on The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's list of Stream Sections Supporting Natural Reproduction of Trout (Wild Trout on table) and may support wild trout populations sufficient to designate a stream section as a Class A wild trout stream.

Before a stream is officially presented to the PFBC board of commissioners for consideration, the public will have 30 days to provide comments. The comment period will begin at least 60 days before the PFBC takes action at a quarterly meeting.

Please complete and submit this form to comment on this listing. If you would like to submit a public comment on waters that are formally being considered for action visit our Proposed & Recent Regulations page, which lists Commission Notices.

County	Water Name	Tributary To	Survey Date	Site Latitude / Longitude	Proposed Designation	
					Class A	Wild Trout
Armstrong	Foundry Run	Mahoning Creek Lake	6/26/12	40 91106, -79 220099		X
Bedford	Bank Run	Yellow Creek	8/1/12	40 16561, -78 25008		X
Bedford	Tiger Run	Little Wills Creek	8/13/13	39 834862, -78 717225		X
Berks	Birch Creek	Little Northkill Creek	9/15/11	40 513778, -76 1835		X
Berks	Unit To Maiden Creek (m 15.71 - blue rocks)	Maiden Creek	8/7/12	40 58519, -75 8931		X
Blair	Decker Run	Bald Eagle Creek	5/30/13	40 69048, -78 23624		X
Blair	Dry Gap Run	Mill Run Reservoir	7/12/12	40 52092, -78 44643		X
Blair	Elk Run	Little Juniata River	5/27/13	40 65636, -78 22175		X
Blair	Green Spring Run	Belts Gap Run	5/22/13	40 61525, -78 43217		X
Blair	Hutchinson Run	Little Juniata River	5/23/13	40 66637, -78 27422		X
Blair	Kelso Run	Belts Gap Run	5/20/13	40 619917, -78 309306		X

+

PA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION
 COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 September 20, 2013

WATERS: Tom Run State (278), Clarion County
 EXAMINED: June 18-19, 2012
 BY: Andrew Trueser - Clarion University

Bureau Director Action: _____ Date: _____
 Division Chief Action: _____ Date: _____
 NW Unit Leader Action: _____ Date: _____
 CW Unit Leader Action: _____ Date: _____

COMMENTS:
 Pennsylvania partner Clarion University surveyed 4 tributaries to the Tom Run drainage in June 2012 as part of the unassessed waters program. These streams had never previously been surveyed. Sufficient numbers of wild trout were present in all of these streams to support their listing on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's list of waters that support natural reproduction of trout.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
 1. Add Chapel Run, Section 01, (from the headwater downstream to the mouth) to the list of stream sections that support natural reproduction of trout.
 2. Add Troney Run, Section 01, (from the headwater downstream to the mouth) to the list of stream sections that support natural reproduction of trout.
 3. Add Little Nelson Run, Section 01, (from the headwater downstream to the mouth) to the list of stream sections that support natural reproduction of trout.
 4. Add Hefers Run, Section 01, (from the headwater downstream to the mouth) to the list of stream sections that support natural reproduction of trout.

(Bob/Renae writes a report)

(The public has 60 days to comment on upcoming agenda items at next PA Fish and Boat Commissioners quarterly meeting)



(Qualifying streams get listed on PA Fish and Boat Commission's website page of "streams being considered for wild trout designation")



List of PA Stream Sections that Support Natural Reproduction of Trout

(If the PA Fish and Boat Commissioners vote to add streams to list, they get listed on this 'wild trout list')



DEP consideration for Chapter 93 upgrade

(Those streams are submitted to the DEP for their consideration to upgrade the stream's protection status)



Division of Fisheries Management

April - Dec 2013

Pilot program results

- 34 surveys completed and turned in from the 2 TU Chapters
 - Clearfield, Jefferson, Lycoming, and Sullivan Counties
- 76% of surveys were productive in providing a recommendation either for or against a partner survey on an unassessed water
 - 59% of surveys found trout in waters presently not surveyed
 - 17% of surveys found NO trout in waters presently not surveyed



Division of Fisheries Management

Future possibilities

- Other groups that have showed interest in participating in the Public Participation Program:
 - Western PA Conservancy
 - DCNR Bureau of Forestry
 - other local non-profit watershed groups



Questions?



(For questions, please contact either Renae Hodorowicz or Bob Weber.)



For Renae: c-rhodorow@pa.gov or 814-696-9356

For Bob: robweber@pa.gov or 814-359-5164

Division of Fisheries Management