

# Current Wild Trout Classification Overview and Listing Process



Pennsylvania Wild Trout Summit  
David Nihart - PFBC  
August 26, 2017



# Wild Trout Programs

- Wild Trout Waters  
(Natural Reproduction)
- **Class A Wild Trout Waters**
- Wilderness Trout Waters



# Wild Trout Programs

- **Wild Trout Waters (Natural Reproduction)**
  - Streams where the trout found there have resulted from natural reproduction.
  - Tributaries to wild trout streams are classified as wild trout streams for their function as habitat for segments of wild trout populations.



# Wild Trout Programs

- **Class A Wild Trout Waters**
  - Streams that support a population of naturally produced trout of sufficient size and abundance to support a long-term and rewarding fishery.
  - Represent of the “best of the best” of our wild trout streams.



# Wild Trout Programs

- **Wilderness Trout Waters**
  - Streams that provide a wild trout fishing experience in a remote, natural, and unspoiled environment where human induced activities are minimal.



# Wild Trout Classifications

- Operation FUTURE
  - Recreation First to Resource First
  - Categorized streams based on their wild trout biomass
    - Classes: A, B, C, and D



# Wild Trout Classifications

## Class A Biomass

### Wild Brook Trout Fisheries

- Total Brook Trout biomass  $\geq 30$  kg/ha (26.7 lbs/acre)

### Wild Brown Trout Fisheries

- Total Brown Trout biomass  $\geq 40$  kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre)

### Wild Rainbow Trout Fisheries

- Total biomass of Rainbow Trout  $< 15$  cm (5.9 inches)  $\geq 2.0$  kg/ha (1.78 lbs/acre)

### Mixed Wild Trout Fisheries

- Combined trout biomass  $\geq 40$  kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre)
- One species of trout's biomass must comprise  $< 75\%$  of the total trout biomass



# Wild Trout Classifications

- **Class B Biomass**

- Total wild Brook Trout biomass  $\geq 20$  kg/ha (17.8 lbs/acre) and  $< 30$  kg/ha (26.7 lbs/acre).
- Total wild Brown Trout or combined mixed wild trout biomass  $\geq 20$  kg/ha (17.8 lbs/acre) and  $< 40$  kg/ha (35.6 lbs/acre).

- **Class C Biomass**

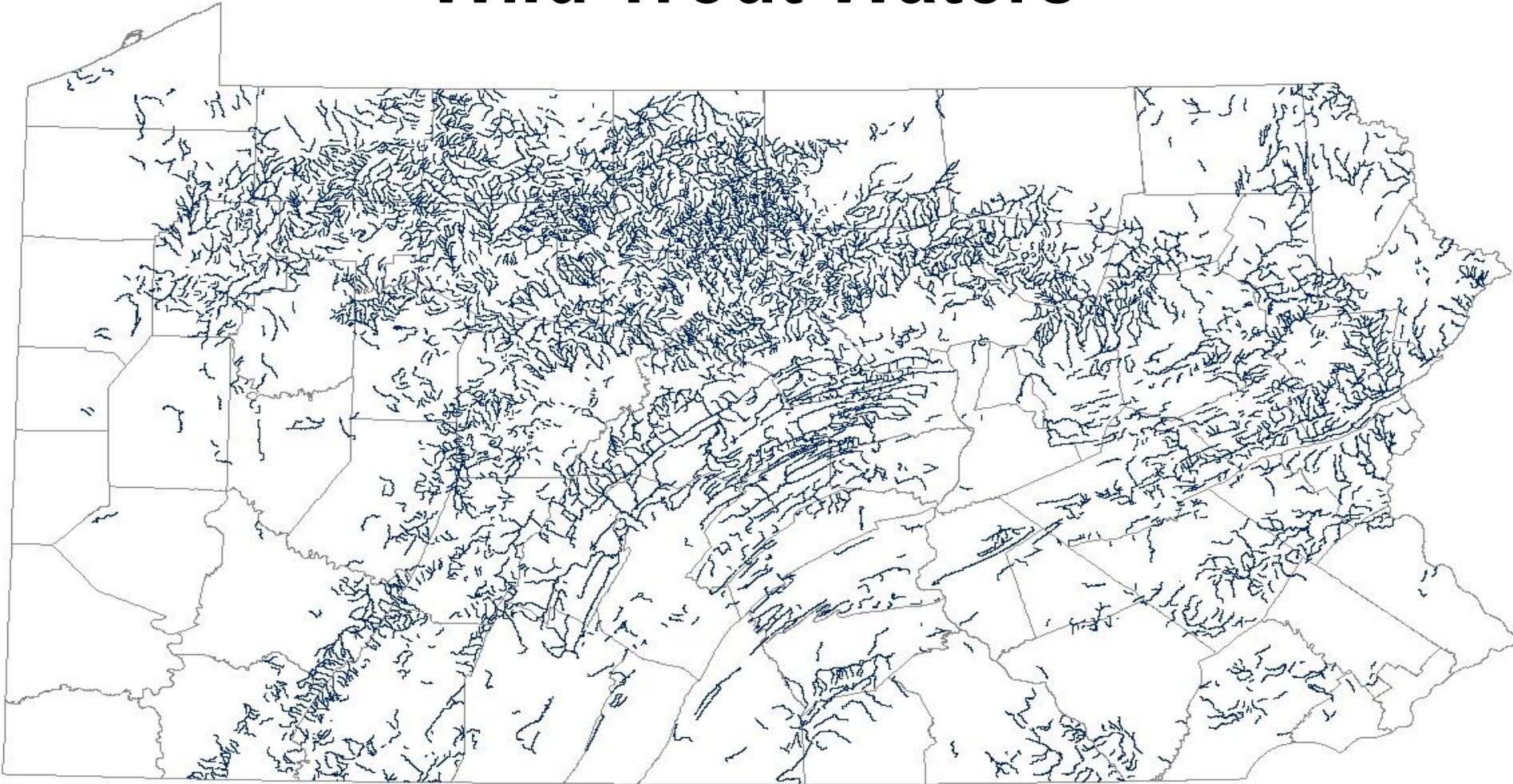
- Total wild trout biomass  $\geq 10$  kg/ha (8.9 lbs/acre) and  $< 20$  kg/ha (17.8 lbs/acre).

- **Class D Biomass**

- Total wild trout biomass  $> 0$  kg/ha (0 lbs/acre) and  $< 10$  kg/ha (8.9 lbs/acre).



# Wild Trout Waters

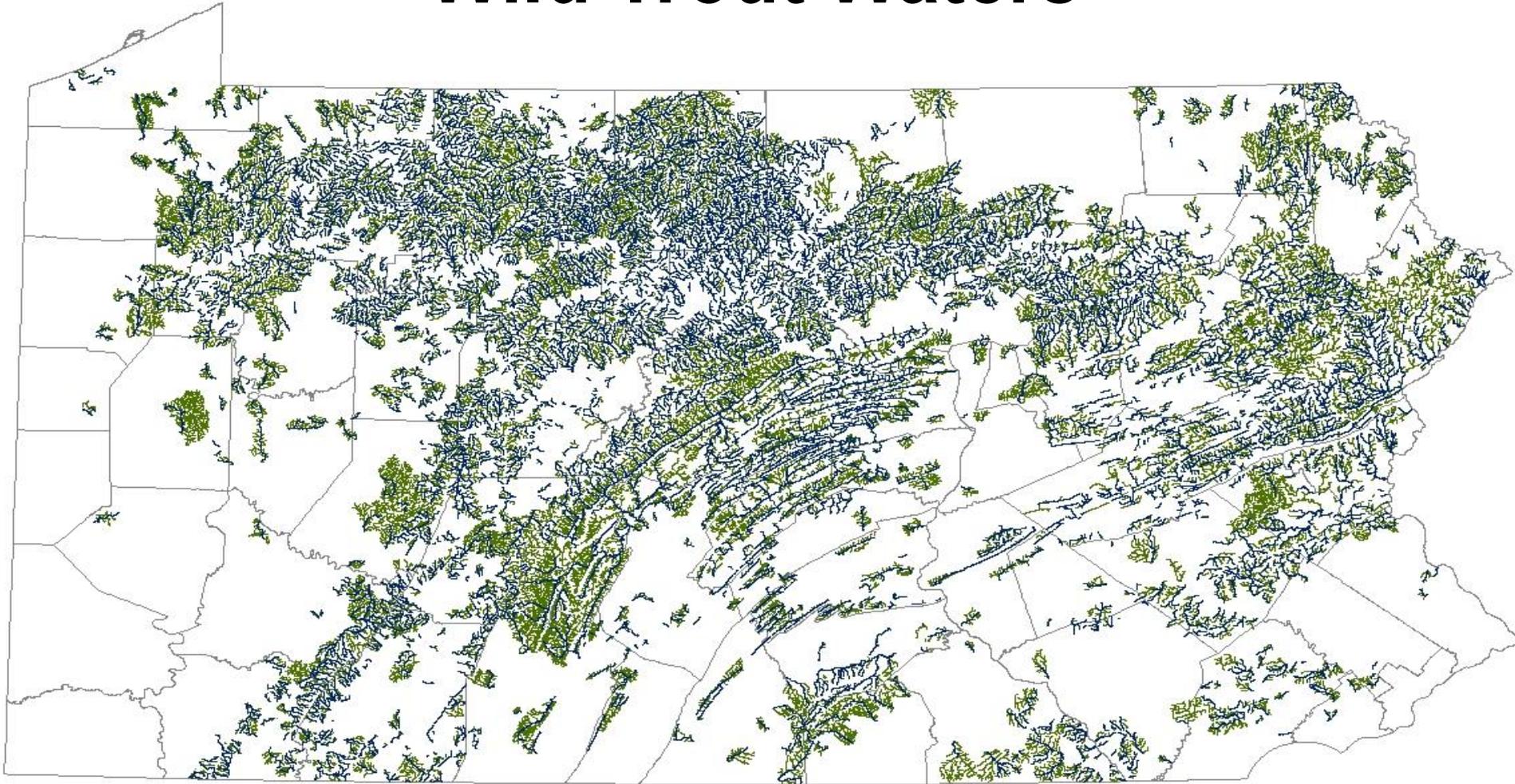


~ 4,590 waters – 15,043 miles of listed wild trout streams

There are wild trout in 63 counties



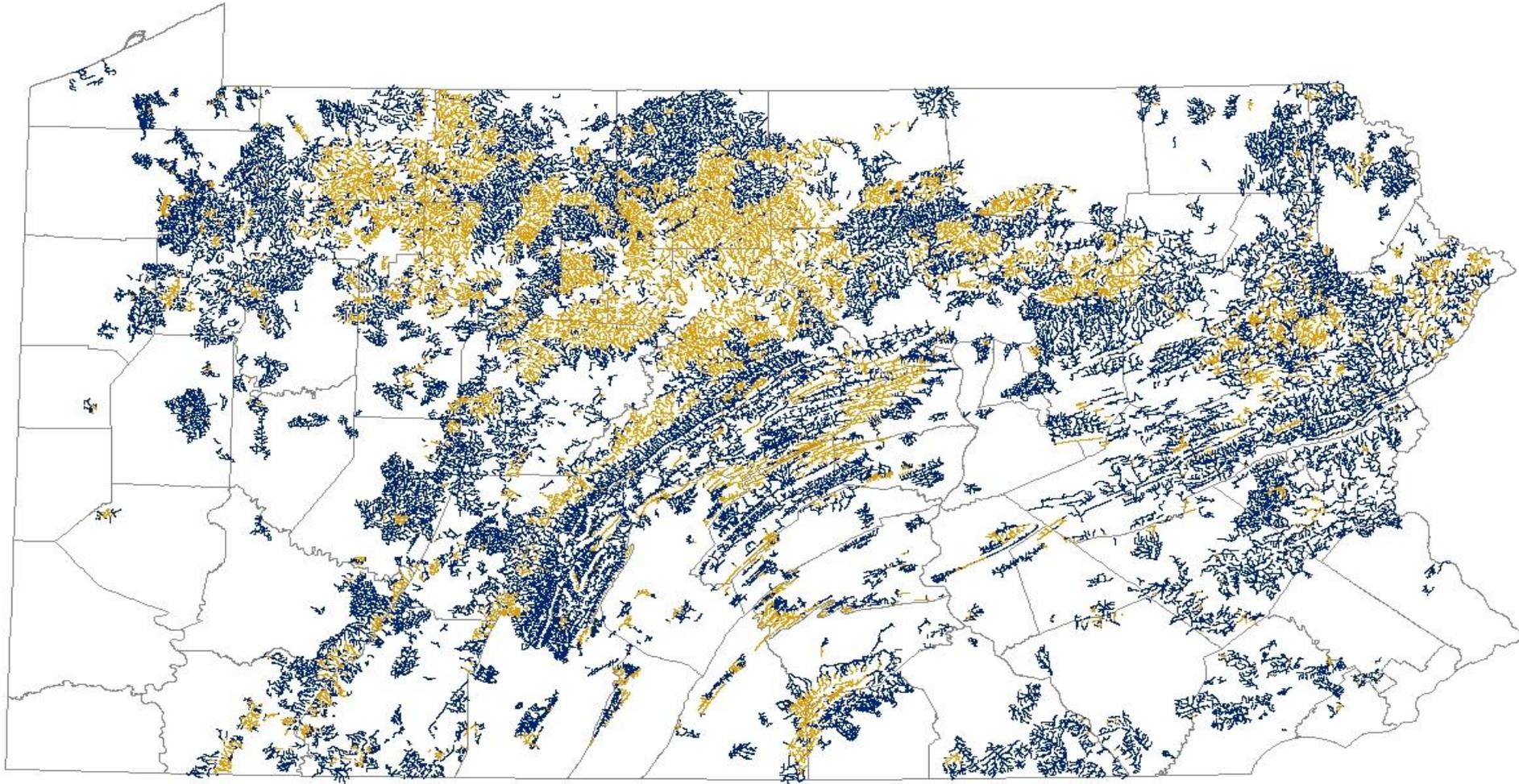
# Wild Trout Waters



- ~ 15,043 miles of listed wild trout streams
- ~ 20,273 miles of tributaries to listed wild trout streams
- 35,316 miles of streams are classified as wild trout streams



# Wild Trout Waters on Public Land

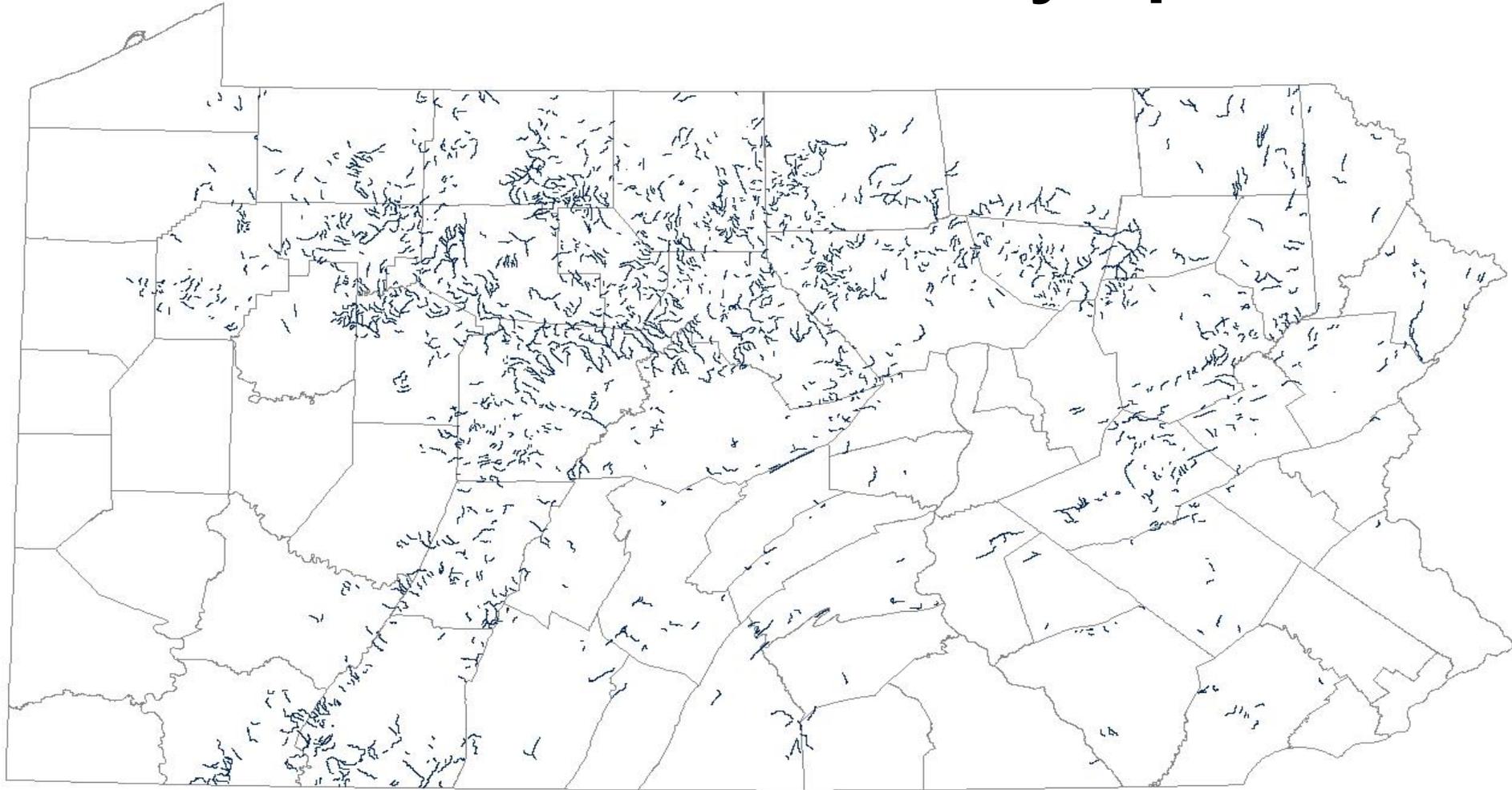


 12,362 miles of wild trout streams on public land – 35%

 22,954 miles of wild trout streams on private land – 65%



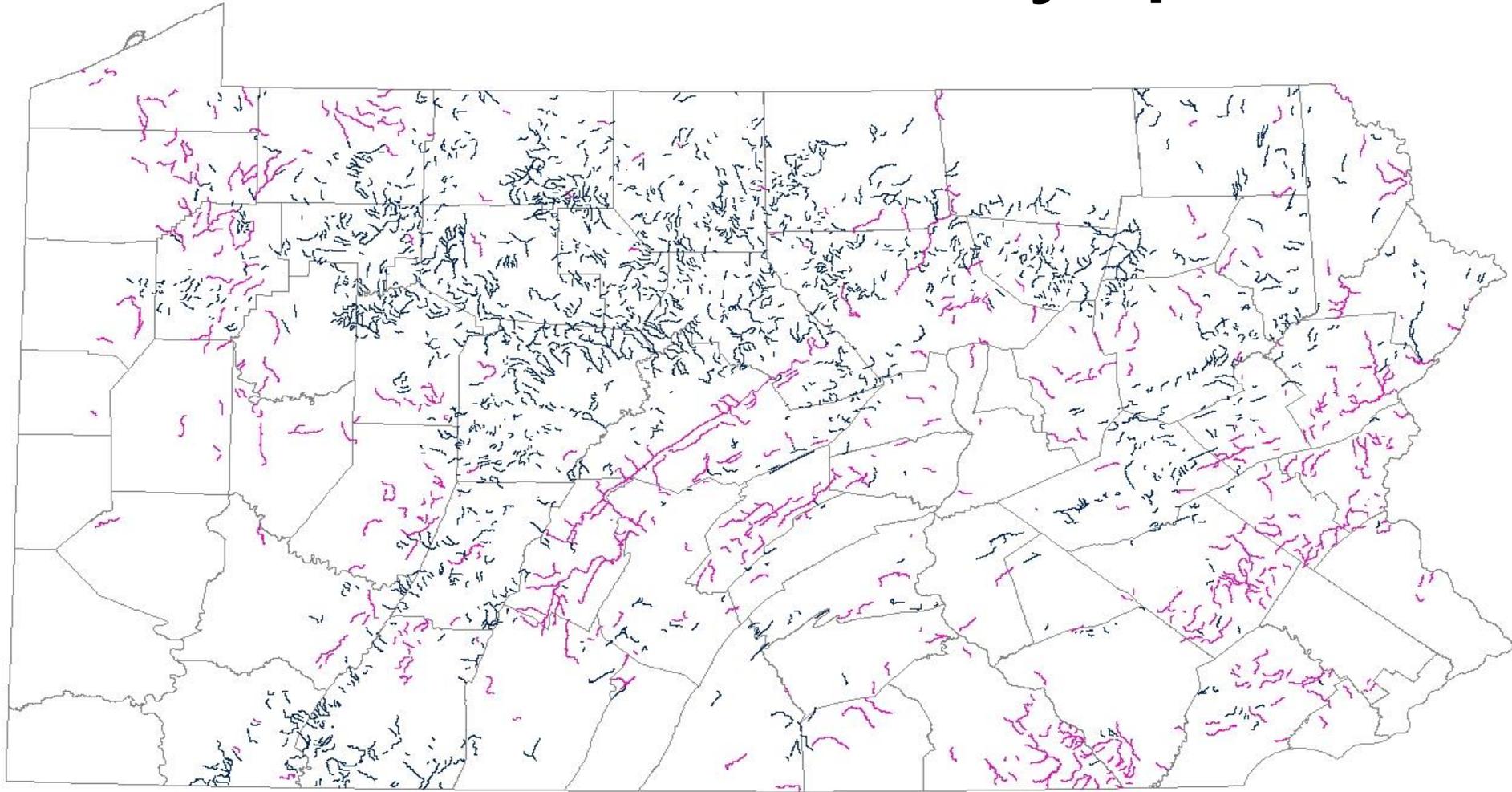
# Wild Trout Distribution by Species



~ Brook Trout – 1,812 waters/4,240 miles



# Wild Trout Distribution by Species

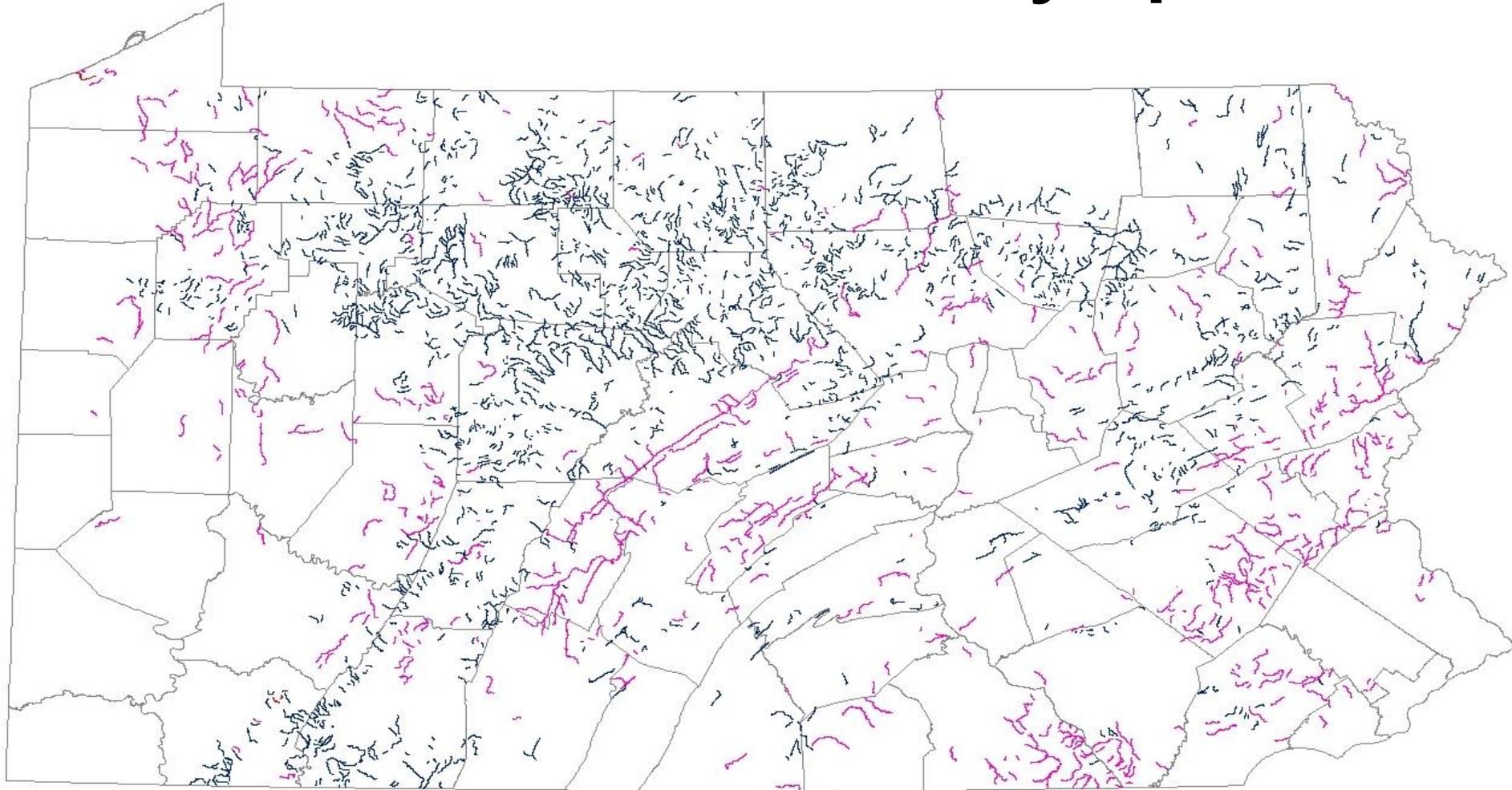


 Brook Trout – 1,812 waters/4,240 miles

 Brown Trout – 534 waters/2,425 miles



# Wild Trout Distribution by Species

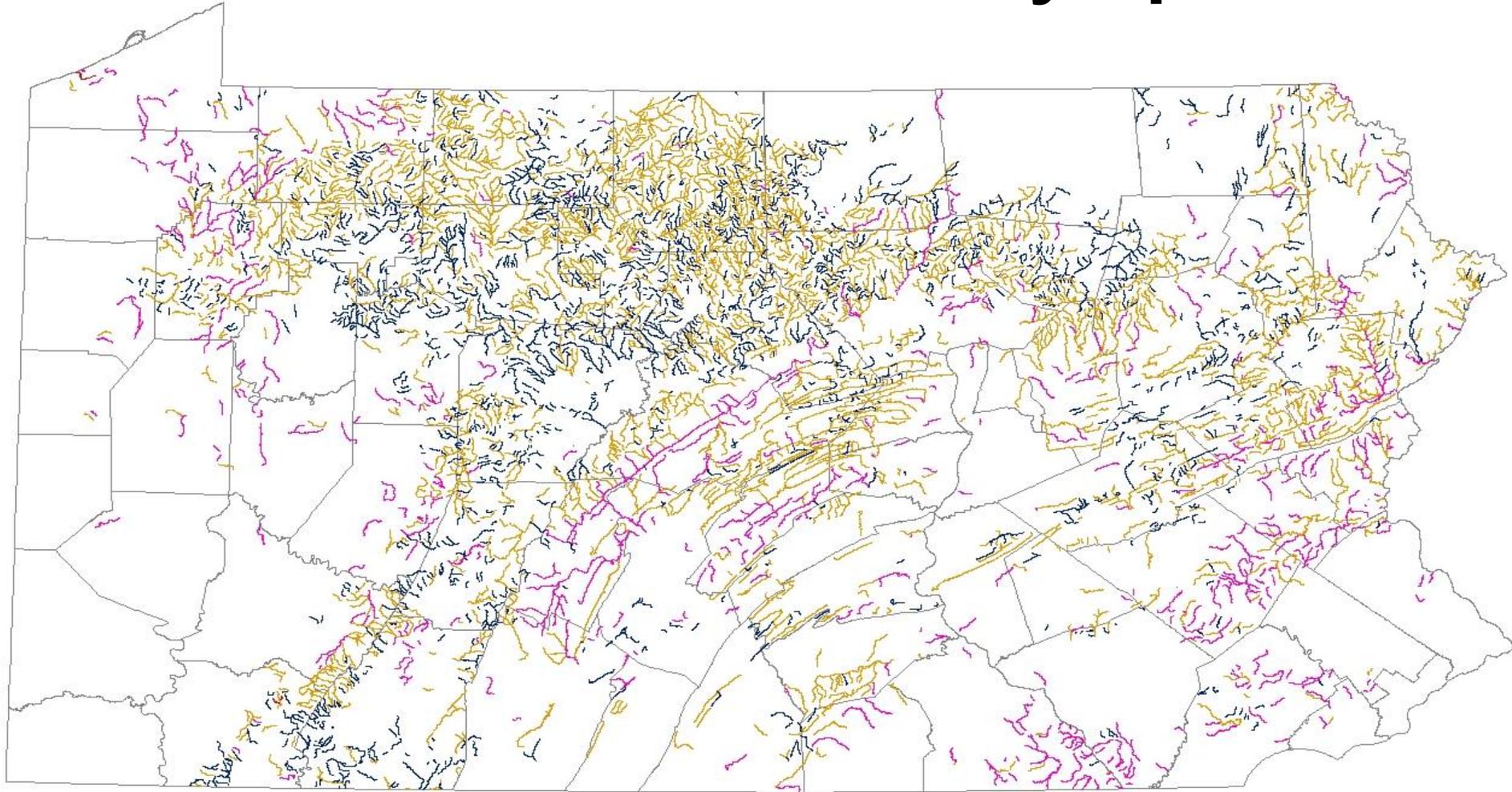


 Brook Trout – 1,812 waters/4,240 miles  Rainbow Trout – 3 waters/9 miles

 Brown Trout – 534 waters/2,425 miles



# Wild Trout Distribution by Species



— Brook Trout – 1,812 waters/4,240 miles    — Rainbow Trout – 3 waters/9 miles  
— Brown Trout – 534 waters/2,425 miles    — Mixed Species – 2,241 waters/8,369 miles



# Wild Trout Classifications

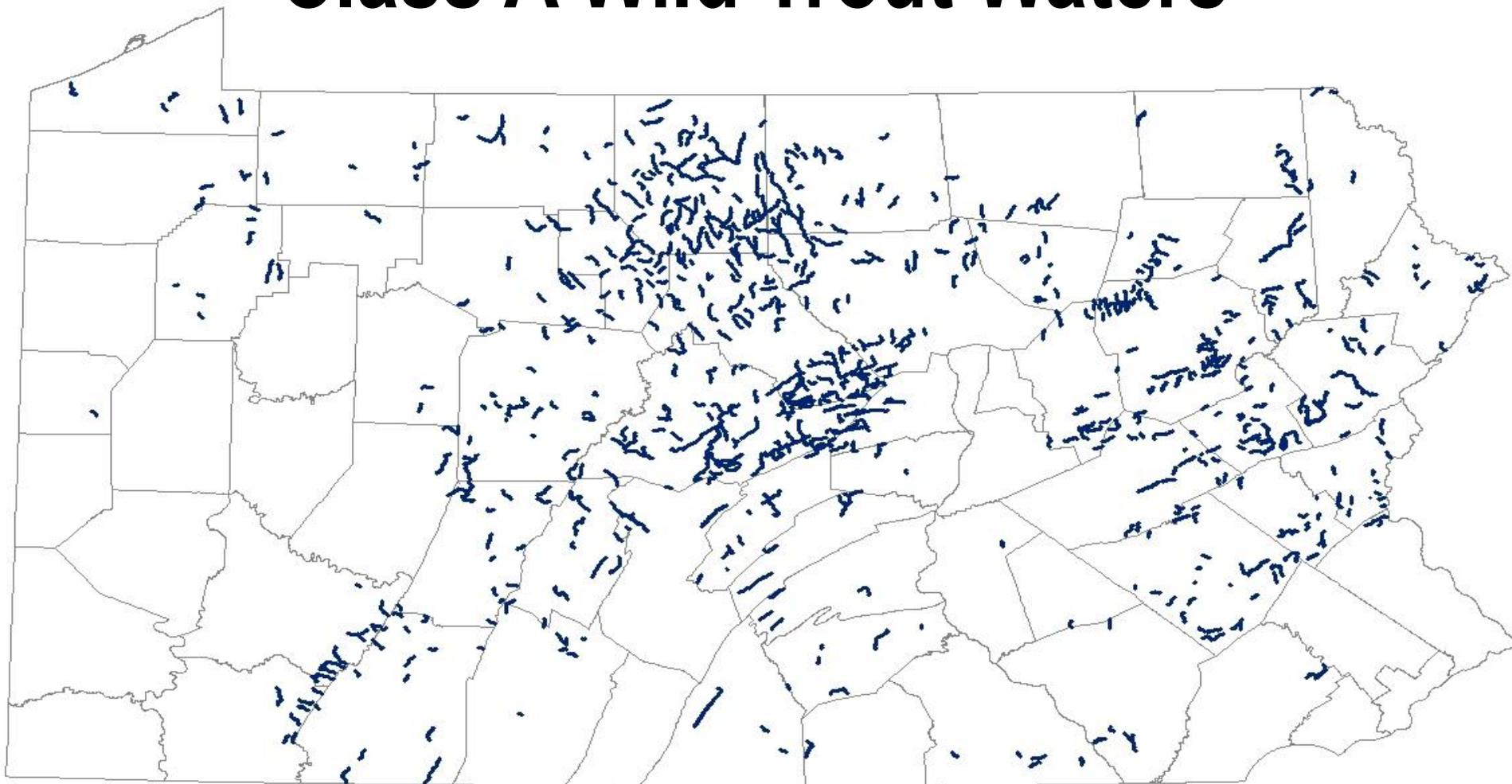
## Class A Wild Trout Waters

- These are a subset of wild trout streams that represent the best of the Commonwealth's naturally reproducing trout fisheries.
- Represent 6% of Wild Trout Waters

<b>Water</b>	<b>Trout Species</b>	<b># Adults/Mile</b>
Colorado River (CO)	Brown and Rainbow	2725
Gunnison River (CO)	Brown and Rainbow	2934
Bighorn River (MT)	Brown and Rainbow	4200
Missouri River (MT)	Brown and Rainbow	5939
Little Juniata River (PA)	Brown	3036
Spring Creek (PA)	Brown	4503



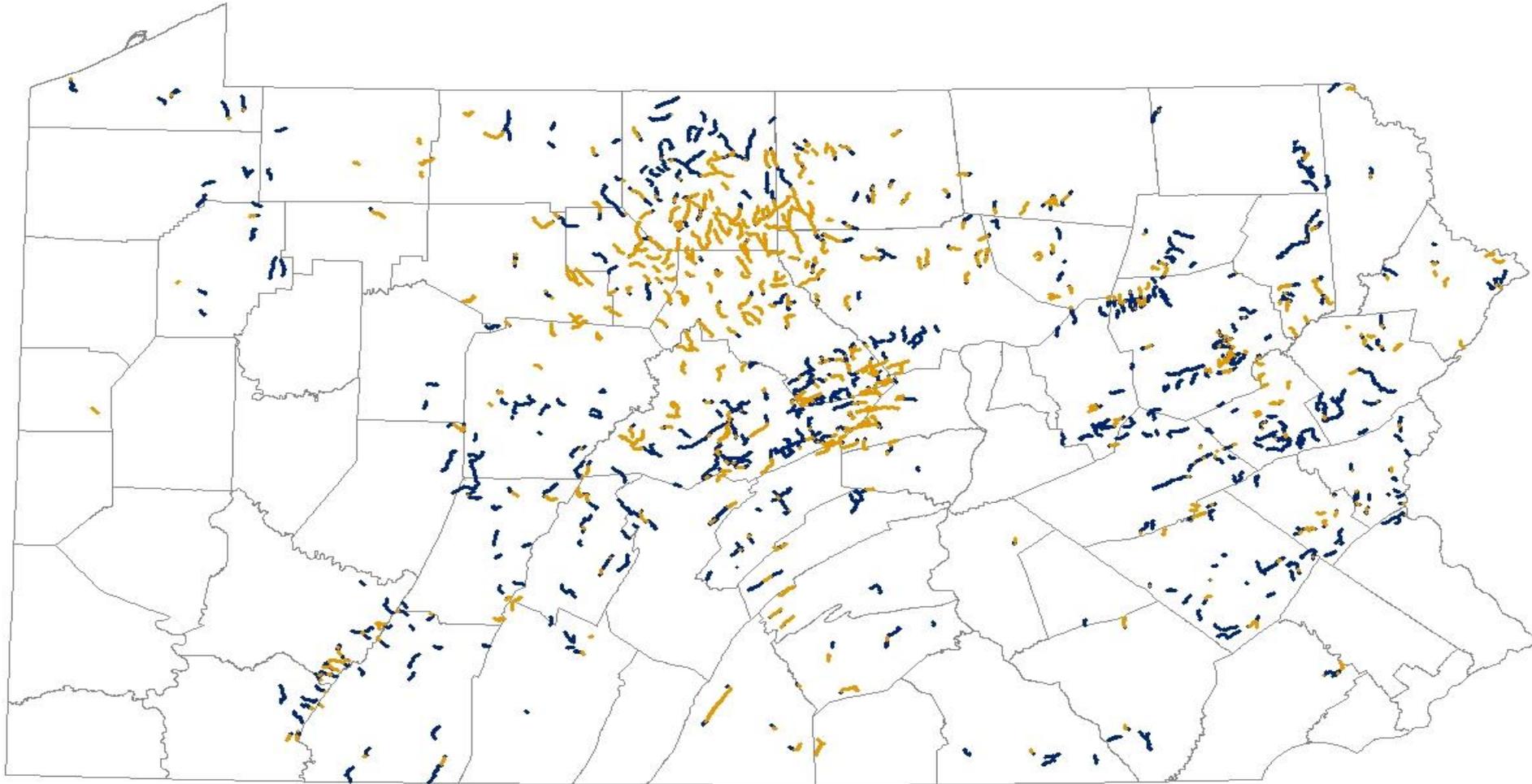
# Class A Wild Trout Waters



~ 808 sections – 2,194 miles of streams designated as Class A Wild Trout  
There are Class A waters in 55 counties



# Class A Wild Trout Waters on Public Land

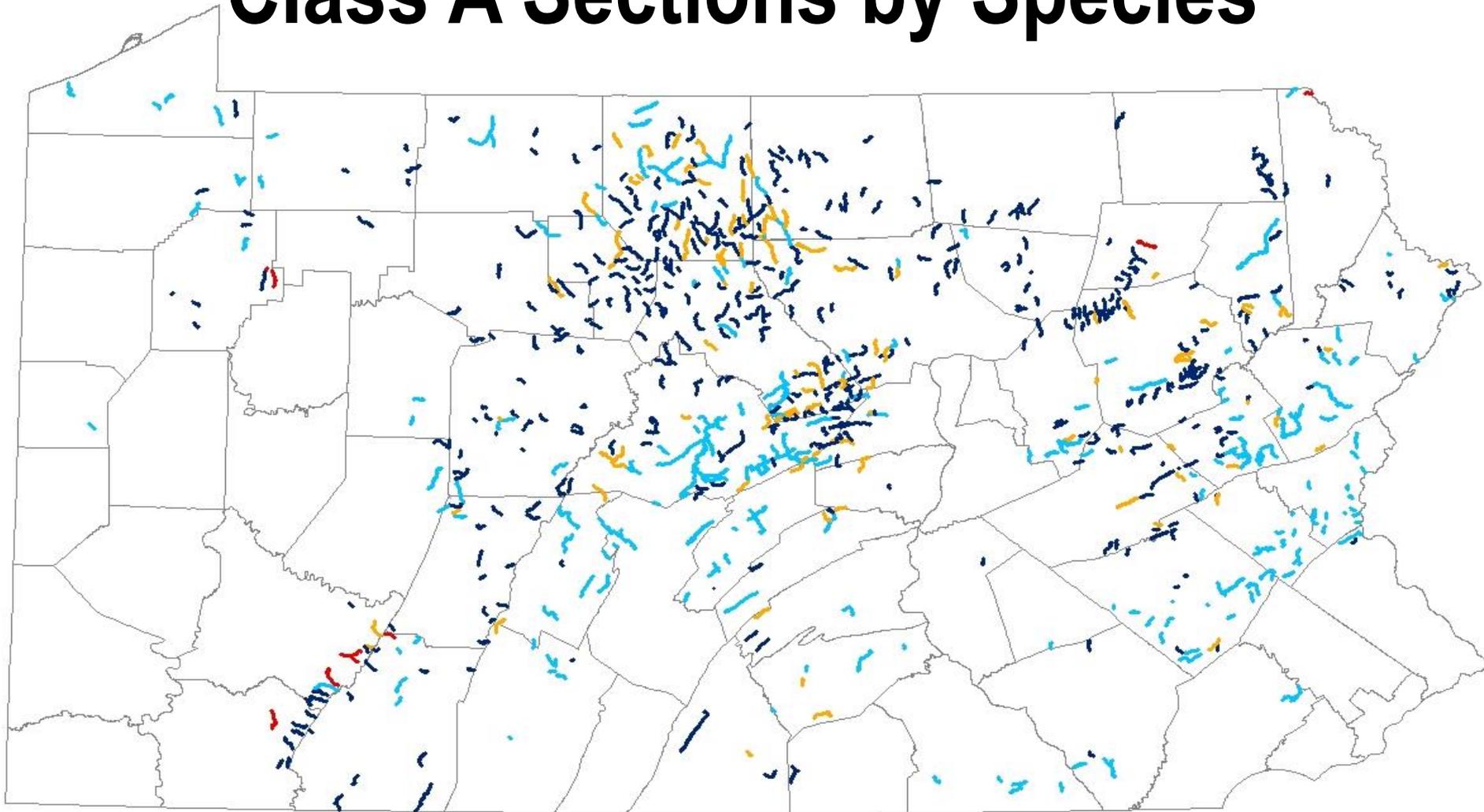


 847 miles of Class A streams on public land – 39%

 1,347 miles of Class A streams on private land – 61%



# Class A Sections by Species



 Brook Trout - 433 Sections/1,047 miles

 Rainbow Trout - 10 Sections/29 miles

 Brown Trout - 267 Sections/804 miles

 Mixed Trout Species - 95 Sections/307 miles



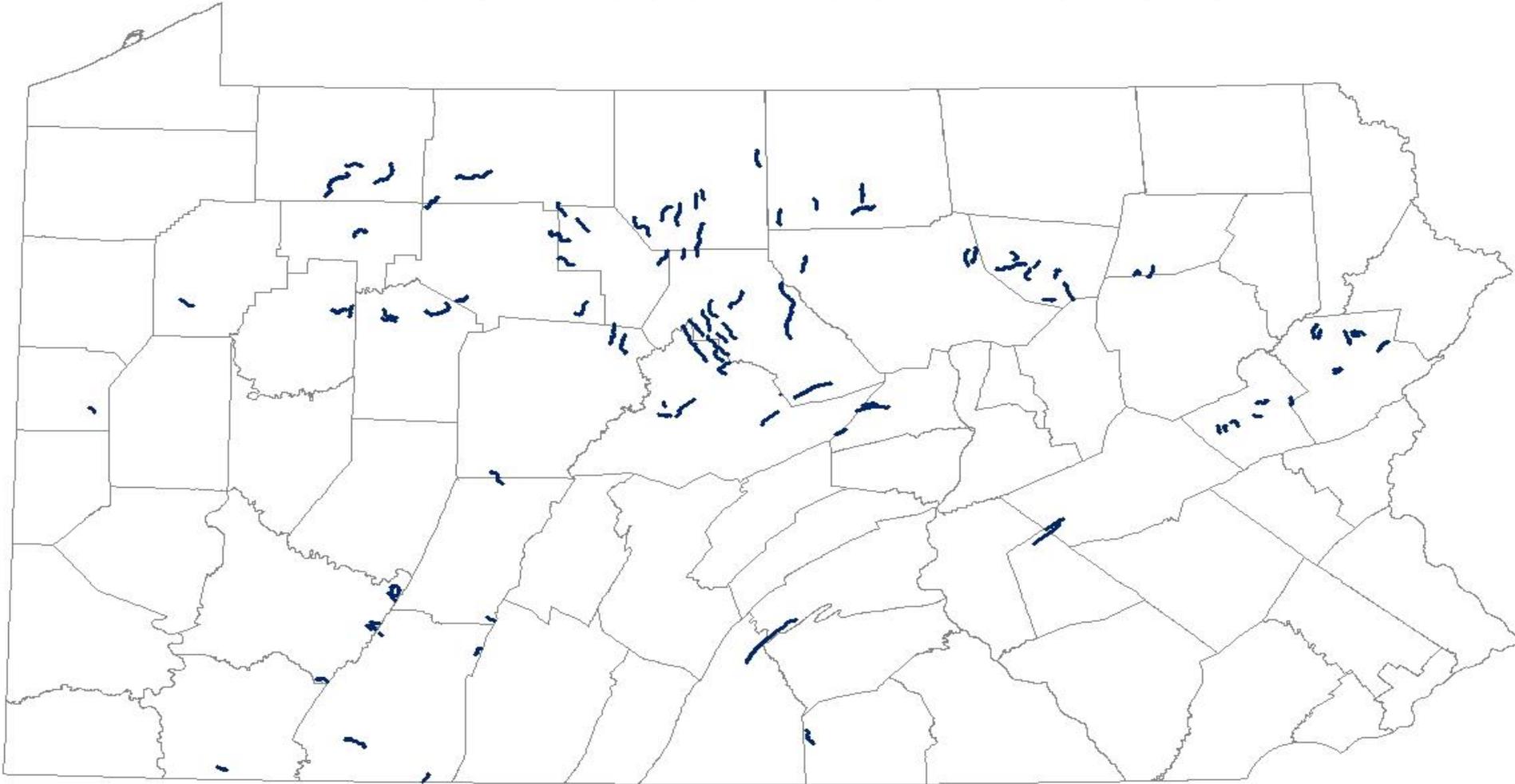
# Wild Trout Classifications

## Wilderness Trout Waters

- Must not be accessible to motorized vehicles at more than one point every two miles
- Must be two miles in length or one mile from the nearest access
- Natural reproduction sufficient to sustain a fishery
- Open to public fishing



# Wilderness Trout Waters



~ 115 sections – 382 miles of streams designated as Wilderness Trout Waters  
There are Wilderness Trout Waters in 33 counties



# Wild Trout Designation Process

What are the necessary steps to list a water for a Wild Trout Designation?



**Pennsylvania Wild Trout Waters  
(Natural Reproduction) - July 2017**

County of Mouth	Water	Trib To	Wild Trout Limits	Lower Limit Lat	Lower Limit Lon	Length (miles)
Adams	Birch Run	Long Pine Run Reservoir	Headwaters dnst to mouth	39.950279	-77.444443	3.82
Adams	Hosack Run	Conococheague Creek	Headwaters dnst to mouth	39.914780	-77.467522	2.90
Adams	Latimore Creek	Bermudian Creek	Headwaters dnst to mouth	40.003613	-77.061386	7.00
Adams	Little Marsh Creek	Marsh Creek	Headwaters dnst to T-315	39.842220	-77.372780	3.80
Adams	Marsh Creek	Monocacy River	Headwaters dnst to SR0030	39.853802	-77.288300	11.12
Adams	Opossum Creek	Conewago Creek	Headwaters dnst to mouth	39.931667	-77.185555	12.10
Adams	Stillhouse Run	Conococheague Creek	Headwaters dnst to mouth	39.915470	-77.467575	1.28
Allegheny	Allegheny River	Ohio River	Headwaters dnst to Reed Run	41.751389	-78.107498	21.80
Allegheny	Little Sewickley Creek	Ohio River	Headwaters dnst to mouth	40.554253	-80.206802	7.91
Armstrong	Birch Run	Allegheny River	Headwaters dnst to mouth	41.033300	-79.619414	1.10
Armstrong	Bullock Run	North Fork Pine Creek	Headwaters dnst to mouth	40.879723	-79.441391	1.81



# Wild Trout Designation Process

Stream is Surveyed



Listed on website as being considered for Wild Trout and/or Class A Designation

Streams Being Considered for Wild Trout Designation- July 2017

County	Water Name	Tributary To	Sample			Date Listed on Website	Class	
			Date	Latitude	Longitude		A	Wild Trout
Adams	Middle Creek	Toms Creek	6/10/2016	39.802670	-77.415100	1/9/2017		X
Adams	UNT to Middle Creek (RM 12.69)	Middle Creek	6/10/2016	39.801620	-77.418300	1/9/2017		X
Allegheny	Kilbuck Run	Ohio River	7/11/2017	40.536753	-80.125251	7/21/2017		X
Armstrong	UNT To Allegheny River (RM 76.98)	Allegheny River	7/17/2014	41.035360	-79.626450	4/9/2015		X
Bedford	Bobs Creek	Dunning Creek	8/17/2005	40.277222	-78.605553	6/20/2017	X	
Berks	Angelica Creek	Schuylkill River	12/3/2015	40.303319	-75.940103	6/20/2017	X	
Blair	Homer Gap Run	Little Juniata River	7/7/2014	40.575500	-78.423550	6/20/2017	X	X
Blair	Spring Run	Little Juniata River	7/6/2010	40.533100	-78.388210	6/20/2017	X	

Management report written and reviewed



PA FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION  
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
August 7, 2017

WATER: UNT To Double Run (RM 0.28) (310B) Sullivan County

EXAMINED: July 23, 2014

BY: Fisheries Management Coldwater Unit

Bureau Director Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Division Chief Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CW Unit Leader Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

AREA COMMENTS: UNT To Double Run (RM 0.28) flows into Double Run in Sullivan County. UNT To Double Run (RM 0.28), was surveyed in 2015 to reinventory the wild Brook Trout population. The estimated biomass of wild Brook Trout was 51.18 kg/ha and met the minimum biomass criteria for listing as a Class A wild Brook Trout stream. Ten percent of the stream length was sampled.

AREA RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Add UNT To Double Run (RM 0.28) (09C), Section 01, (headwaters downstream to the mouth) to the list of stream sections that support natural reproduction of trout.
2. Add UNT To Double Run (RM 0.28) (09C), Section 01, (headwaters downstream to the mouth) to the Commission's Class A Wild Trout Streams program.
3. Manage UNT To Double Run (RM 0.28) (09C), Section 01, as a Class A wild Trout Stream under Commonwealth Inland Waters regulations with no stocking.

Agenda written and posted in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for public comment

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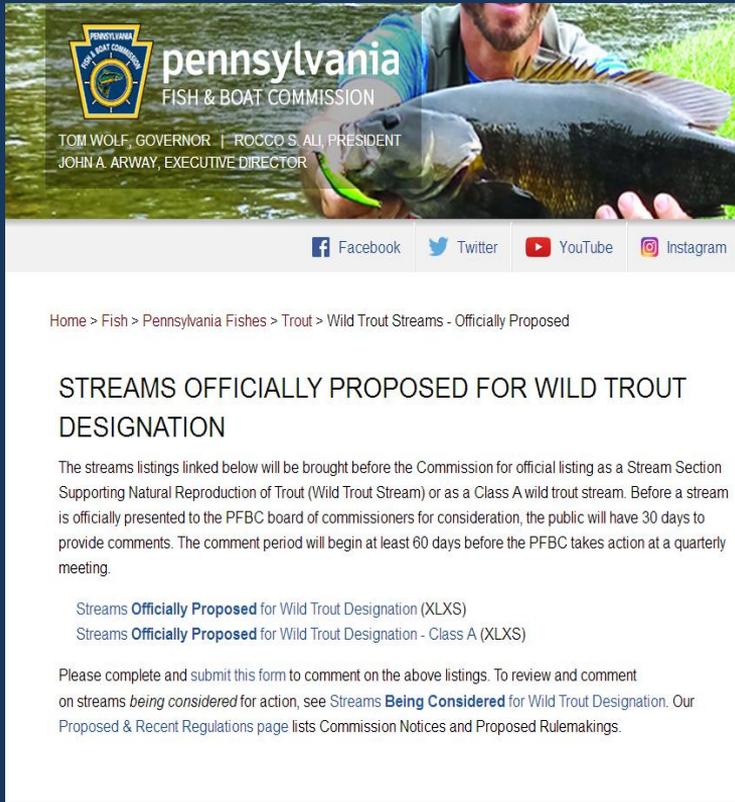
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Listed on website as being Officially Proposed for Wild Trout Designation

Proposed Wild Trout Designations voted on by the Board of Commissioners



The screenshot shows the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission website. At the top, there is a banner with the commission's logo and the text "pennsylvania FISH & BOAT COMMISSION". Below the banner, it lists the Governor (Tom Wolf), President (Rocco S. Ali), and Executive Director (John A. Arway). There are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Fish > Pennsylvania Fishes > Trout > Wild Trout Streams - Officially Proposed". The article title is "STREAMS OFFICIALLY PROPOSED FOR WILD TROUT DESIGNATION". The text of the article states: "The streams listings linked below will be brought before the Commission for official listing as a Stream Section Supporting Natural Reproduction of Trout (Wild Trout Stream) or 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." Below this, there are two links: "Streams Officially Proposed for Wild Trout Designation (XLXS)" and "Streams Officially Proposed for Wild Trout Designation - Class A (XLXS)". At the bottom, there is a note: "Please complete and submit this form to comment on the above listings. To review and comment on streams being considered for action, see Streams Being Considered for Wild Trout Designation. Our Proposed & Recent Regulations page lists Commission Notices and Proposed Rulemakings."



Agenda Item posted for the second time in the Pennsylvania Bulletin

Officially added to the list of Stream Sections that Support Natural Reproduction and/or Class A Wild Trout Waters List



# What's Next ?

- What is the PFBC doing to continue its recent progress
  - Increased the rate of listing as a result of the increased number of wild trout streams being documented
    - Developed a new report template to allow for easier reporting and reviewing of proposed wild trout waters
- Still a lot of work to be done
  - **September Commission Meeting**
    - 99 wild trout additions, two revisions, and one removal
    - Three Class A additions
  - **Waters Being Considered List**
    - 271 waters being considered
    - 61 Class A Waters documented so far in 2017

<http://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/PennsylvaniaFishes/Trout/Pages/TroutWaterClassifications.aspx>



# Questions?

