



Central PA Wild Trout Water— Fishing Pennsylvania’s Best

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photos by the author



“Pennsylvania’s Best Fishing Waters is a program established by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) to serve as a valued resource

to address anglers’ needs and to increase the accessibility of proven waters with the result of a more successful fishing trip.” www.fishandboat.com website.

With a break in the cloud cover and looming thunderstorms in the distance, we quickly waded up for some wild trout fishing in northcentral Pennsylvania on Piney Creek, Blair County. Though the drizzle was a welcome sight, my friend and I knew that the water levels were down in most of the surrounding streams. Hoping that water levels would rise as the day progressed, we chose our fly patterns and tippets for clear water conditions. I tied on a CDC Micro Caddis with a #18 Zebra Midge dropper, and my friend tried a #16 weighted Wet Ant.

After I arrived to my fishing spot, I looked downstream to see his rod bent. Since my focus was on watching him reel the fish in, I missed a flash striking at my fly. I reeled in and dropped

down to the next hole to net a 12-inch wild Brown Trout for him. As we admired the stunning colors, the Brown Trout swam out of the net and splashed back to its hiding spot.

Locating a wild trout stream, testing different fly patterns, figuring out what is working, landing a wild trout, and releasing it back into the water—this is the excitement of fly fishing for wild trout in Pennsylvania. Our state offers accessible, unpressured, and secluded wild trout water.

It is no surprise that many of Pennsylvania’s quality wild trout water is located in central Pennsylvania from Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Clinton, Union, and Centre counties. Through the “Pennsylvania’s Best Fishing Waters” program, the PFBC offers a Pennsylvania map to highlight, locate and fish these unique places in Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.PaBestFishing.com.

The PFBC Area Fisheries Managers use certain criteria to locate these designated areas. They research water systems that can sustain increased fishing pressure, have healthy fish populations, and have desired location amenities such as public access, water quantity and quality, and the ability for natural reproduction.

Along with other fish species categories, the PFBC has spotlighted Best Fishing Waters for wild trout. Anglers can access the website by visiting www.fishandboat.com/Locate/BestFishingWaters/Pages/Trout-Wild.aspx and clicking on the statewide interactive map or by choosing waters individually from the wild trout waters list. Utilizing the red lined map coupled with individual directions for each stream and tackle regulations, anglers can pinpoint where the designated Best Fishing Water is located.

With the PFBC’s emphasis on wild trout waters through the Voluntary Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit, help the PFBC protect, conserve, and enhance wild trout and its habitats by purchasing a Voluntary Permit. Visit www.fishandboat.com for more information on Voluntary Permits. ☐



Pennsylvania offers accessible, unpressured, and secluded wild trout fishing.



Bridges, such as this bridge on the Little Juniata River, provide shade and cover for wild trout.

Central Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters (Wild Trout):

For an interactive online map of Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters, visit www.PaBestFishing.com.

BLAIR COUNTY

Clover Creek

Section 3

6.3 miles from LR 07009
Bridge near Larke downstream
to mouth

BLAIR COUNTY

Piney Creek

Section 2

6.2 miles from mouth
of Poverty Hollow Run
downstream to mouth at
Gannister

CENTRE COUNTY

Spring Creek

Section 2

10.7 miles from SR 3010 bridge
at Hanson Quarry downstream
to adjacent to Stackhouse
School Pistol Range
Catch and Release All Tackle

CENTRE COUNTY

Spring Creek

Section 3

1.3 miles from adjacent to
Stackhouse School Pistol Range
downstream to lower boundary
Bellefonte Hatchery grounds
Catch and Release
Fly-Fishing Only

CENTRE COUNTY

Spring Creek

Section 4

3.6 miles from lower boundary
Bellefonte Hatchery grounds
downstream to railroad trestle
100 meters upstream dam
Catch and Release All Tackle

CENTRE COUNTY

Spring Creek

Section 6

2.6 miles from High Street
Bridge downstream to mouth
Catch and Release All Tackle

CLINTON COUNTY

Fishing Creek

Section 7

0.8 miles from private bridge
Tylersville State Fish Hatchery
downstream to 300 meters
downstream SR 2002 bridge
Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only

CLINTON COUNTY

Fishing Creek

Section 8

2.3 miles from 300 meters
downstream SR 2002 bridge
downstream to 1.3 miles
upstream lower SR 2002 bridge
Catch and Release
Artificial Lures Only

CLINTON COUNTY

Fishing Creek

Section 9

2.2 miles from 1.3 miles
upstream lower SR 2002 bridge
downstream to Fleming's Bridge
on SR 2004 Lamar
Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Little Juniata River

Section 6

6.9 miles from railroad bridge
at east (downstream) border of
Ironville downstream to mouth
of Spruce Creek
Catch and Release All Tackle

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Little Juniata River

Section 7

3.6 miles from mouth of Spruce
Creek downstream to Barree
Road Bridge (SR 4004)
Catch and Release All Tackle

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Spruce Creek

Section 3

0.1 mile from the upstream
boundary at the PFBC property
(Indian Cavern) downstream to
the downstream boundary at the
PFBC property (Indian Cavern)

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Spruce Creek

Section 5

0.5 mile from upstream
boundary Penn State
Experimental Fisheries Catch
and Release Area downstream
to lower boundary Penn State
Experimental Fisheries Catch
and Release Area
Catch and Release
Artificial Lures Only

MIFFLIN COUNTY

Penns Creek

Section 3

7.0 miles from confluence
Elk Creek downstream to 600
meters downstream Swift Run
Special Regulations

UNION COUNTY

Penns Creek

Section 4

3.6 miles from 600 meters
downstream Swift Run
downstream to 500 meters
downstream Cherry Run
Catch and Release
Artificial Lures Only