



Restoring Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout- Cross Fork Creek, Pennsylvania

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A remarkable potential exists for the successful improvement of habitat to benefit native brook trout populations within Cross Fork through the support of private and public landowners. Immediate habitat improvements can be obtained by means of low impact, habitat enhancement techniques proposed for the project. These include hand placement of log vanes, rootwads, log cross vanes, and mudsills throughout the project reach not only providing habitat, but also assisting the stream in stabilization over time (5-10 years). When complete the project will enhance approximately 3.5 miles of habitat impaired stream. Cross Fork does support a resident population of native brook trout that began showing a decrease in population in the last 6-10 years. This is attributed to the loss of quality adult trout habitat and spawning areas as noted by the PA Fish and Boat Commission reports. Recently, due to the decline in trout populations the PA Fish and Boat Commission, has changed the regulation of the stream to a stock trout fishery. It is hoped that habitat restoration efforts will return the population back to self-sustaining.



A section of exposed bank to be protected to reduce continuous erosion into the stream. (Courtesy Amidea Daniel, Trout Unlimited)

PROJECT STATISTICS

Location: Potter County, PA
Initiated: 1998
Estimated Year of Completion: 2010
Congressional District: PA05
Watershed Status: Reduced
Landownership Status: Private/Public

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Restore 3.5 miles of brook trout stream
- Use low impact techniques to complete restoration (horse and tackle)
- Stabilize stream banks
- Enhance riparian forest to improve channel shading
- Create pools for summer refuge
- Decrease channel width to depth ratio



Much of the project area is on state forest providing stable watershed habitat (Courtesy Amidea Daniel, Trout Unlimited)

PARTNERS

- *Trout Unlimited*
- *PA Fish and Boat Commission*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Fish America Foundation*
- *Boot Camp Volunteers*
- *PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources*

For more information contact:

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