



Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

A Fish Habitat Partnership

www.easternbrooktrout.net

Stephen Perry, Steering Committee Chair
11 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03301

Soliciting Projects that Target EBTJV Priorities

To be most effective at protecting and restoring fish habitat, the National Fish Habitat Action Plan established a number of principals; including being strategic rather than merely opportunistic; identifying priority needs; and, focusing resources and funding where they will make measurable differences.

In its efforts to embody these elements of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) established a process for setting its strategic priorities. The initial phase of the process encompassed completing a comprehensive status assessment for brook trout throughout its historic eastern U.S. range. The results of this status assessment then served as the foundation for developing the EBTJV's Conservation Strategy, which encompasses identifying the partnership's key priorities and strategic objectives.

Accordingly, the EBTJV's highest priority are efforts aimed at protecting the "best of the best" habitats that already support healthy, stable brook trout populations. The next highest priority is improving and reconnecting habitats adjacent to the best of the best that also have a high likelihood of supporting stable brook trout populations. The third highest priority is enhancing impacted or unstable brook trout populations by first targeting brook trout habitats that have the capacity of being enhanced to intact status.

The EBTJV Fish Habitat Partnership understands regional and state-level conservation actions will vary depending on the condition and restoration potential of brook trout habitat. However, even with this local variability, a priority focus is preserving brook trout habitat deemed critical for sustaining natural reproduction.

To aid in ranking EBTJV projects, priority subwatersheds for "protection", "enhancement" and "restoration" have been established based on scoring criteria derived from models that effectively predict subwatershed status. Higher priority scores are given to subwatersheds with high probabilities of being surrounded by intact subwatersheds.

To ensure available funding is being directed most effectively, EBTJV projects need to be geared towards meeting the partnership's key priorities and strategic objectives.