

CONSERVATION *Showcase*

AmVets Post 122: Fishing for Success Cynthia Iberg, Juniata County NRCS Earth Team Volunteer July 2013

In February of 2011, AMVETS Post 122, located in Thompsettown, Pennsylvania, near the 322/22 state highway interchange, was referred to the Mifflintown USDA NRCS Service Center in Juniata County, for assistance with funding fish /stream habitat restoration. The Post owns 3.4 acres of land along the Delaware Creek in the Doe-Run Juniata River watershed.

In August 2011, Post 122 was awarded a Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contract. The site was evaluated in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to plan the installation of several fish structures for the spring and summer of 2012. In addition to improving stream habitat for aquatic animal life, the project will also minimize stream bank erosion. The contract called for installation of five log cross vanes in the banks and channel along 475 feet of the stream, which is a native trout habitat. Fortunately, the Delaware Creek in this area already has a good forested riparian buffer.

Before construction of the cross vanes could begin, previous gabion baskets and rock dams were removed. They had been damaged in a storm the previous year and were causing even more erosion. Twelve hemlock logs were used for the cross vans, each 20-30 feet in length and all greater than 12 feet in diameter. Seventy tons of R7 rock was used for stabilization, along with 4-foot rebars, and grass seed and mulch. The butt ends of the logs were buried in a trench and stabilized with the rocks. The top log was pinned to both base logs with the rebar.



PA Fish and Boat Commission works to install log cross vanes.

The project was completed in February 2012. But success is not always measured by facts and descriptions of a project, sometimes it is measured by happiness. This year the AMVETS celebrated a 40 year sponsorship

of a fishing derby for children under 12 years of age and for people with disabilities. So far, in the 2013 trout season, 151 fish have been caught by 113 children. For three events, starting with the first day of trout season, Post 122 members provided trophies, medals, shirts, lunch, and great fishing for some mighty happy children. For 3 months the property is closed for fishing except for children under 12.

This project established and improved the location for fishing. The pools created by the cross vanes established an area for the fish, including native brook trout, to be retained in good condition. The Juniata Trout Club and the Lost Creek Trout club stock brown and rainbow trout at the beginning of the season.

This project is measured by a healthier stream, happy children, and positive community interaction!



Completed Log Cross-Vane 1