



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993



July 17, 2013

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## State Technical Committee AGENDA

- 12:30 – Welcome ..... Denise Coleman, NRCS  
           Pipeline Conservation Practices ..... John Metrick, NRCS
- 12:40 – 2013 Farm Bill Update ..... Barry Frantz, NRCS
- 1:00 – Guest Speaker..... Jason Detar, PFBC  
           Topic: Eastern Brook Trout
- 1:30 – CRP ..... Katrina Thompson, NRCS
  - Training Update
- 1:40 – Conservation Programs Progress ..... Barry Frantz, NRCS
- 1:50 – FY 2014 Rollout ..... Barry Frantz, NRCS
- 2:10 – National Water Quality Areas ..... Barry Frantz, NRCS
- 2:20 – Easements Update ..... Hathaway Jones, NRCS
- 2:30 – Subcommittee Reports ..... Barry Frantz, NRCS
  - Forestry .....Andy Duncan, DCNR
  - Wildlife and Fisheries .....Mike Pruss, PA Game Commission
  - Nutrients .....Mark Goodson, NRCS
  - Organic .....Lee Rhinehardt, PA Organic
  - Grazing (GLCI) .....Susan Beal, PASA
  - Civil Rights .....Joe Kraft, NRCS
- 3:15 – Closing .....Denise Coleman, NRCS

# Next Meeting October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



## PA State Technical Committee Meeting – 17 Jul 2013

### Denise Coleman: (See attached Handout)

Denise announced that in order to encourage participation in the STC meetings, a separate phone line (a toll-free number) will be made available for use during future STC meetings. Realizing that in addition to high fuel costs and that all members are busy with other duties, they will now be able to call in and participate in the meetings. A letter concerning this is being prepared and will be distributed prior to the next meeting.

She also announced the publishing of a new brochure entitled, “Concerning Natural Resources in Pennsylvania”. Included in the brochure is information concerning:

Pennsylvania Conservation Partnership Training Opportunities (Jul thru Dec 2013)  
Pennsylvania NRCS Strategic Plan covering FY 2011 thru 2015  
2014 Priority Watersheds

She also announced the formation of a team to study long term strategies for cost share programs for the next 5 years. She extended an invitation to those interested in serving on that team to see her after the meeting.

John Metrick was introduced and spoke about a series of publications pertaining to Marcellus Shale well drilling and how producers can be affected. (See attached handouts) John is the “go to” guy if they have questions as to how their land can possibly be impacted. Discussion was had concerning Bentonite, a material which drillers are looking for a way to dispose of after their use and want to make it available to producers for use as a supplement to the soil. He noted that Bentonite is traditionally considered a sealant and that its’ effects on soil is unknown at this time. It has been used successfully as a soil supplement in the state of Texas, however their soil has different properties than ours, therefore Bentonite may not perform agreeably here in Pennsylvania.

Barry Frantz presented an update on the 2013 Farm Bill. He indicated that perhaps we are further behind than last year at this time in relation to the Farm Bill. Bottom line is that there is no quick resolution in site. Denise added that she had been able to review a “side by side” of the House and Senate versions and they appear to be pretty much the same, e.g. Joint Easements, EQIP. Ag Water Program, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Program and CPPI have been merged into one large national water quality program. Although funding levels have changed, the programs remain basically the same. The Wildlife program “set-aside” is proposed to be from 5-7%. There is question as to how much money will be given to producers to start any of the programs.

Jason Detar, of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Guest Speaker for the day, delivered a presentation concerning the Eastern Brook Trout. His remarks were based on the two attached handouts.

Katrina Thompson, NRCS, presented a report concerning “CREP – NRCS Update”. (See *attached copy of her report.*)

Chrystal Fetzer, FSA, reported on the Delaware River Basin CREP Proposal. (See *attached copy of her report.*)

Barry Frantz, NRCS, reported on the Conservation Programs progress, FY 2014 Rollout and the National Water Quality Areas. (See *attached copies of his report.*)

Hathaway Jones, NRCS, reported on Easement Updates. (See *attached copy of her report.*)

#### Subcommittee Reports:

Andy Duncan, DCNR, reported a very successful Forestry training was held in June for Somerset and Clarion Counties. It was a combined effort of his organization and NRCS to help landowners understand state Forestry programs and their availability.

Michael Pruss, PA Game Commission, reported on Wildlife Subcommittee activities. (See *attached copy of his report.*)

Mark Goodson, NRCS, reported on Nutrient Management events and activities. (See *attached copy of his report.*)

Lee Rhinehardt, PA Organic, reported on PA Organic outreach programs. He stated that a video had been filmed that focused on Organic Transition and use of Conservation Practices which introduced dairy producers to the best management practices for their farm. He noted that the video has won several awards in script development. He also directed attention to different upcoming events planned by the Pennsylvania Organic. (See *the attached handout entitled “Pennsylvania Organic Farmfest”.*)

Susan Beal, PASA, briefly reported on the meeting of the PA Forest and Grazing Lands coalition which was held immediately prior to this meeting. Some of the items touched on were improving methods of getting information out to the public. She mentioned anticipated participation in Ag Progress Days. Also discussed was the review of planned events for next year.

She also mentioned the Planned Grazing and Biological Monitoring session being conducted on August 13, 2013. (See *the attached handout.*)

Joe Kraft, NRCS, presented an update on Civil Rights. He noted the importance of Civil Rights within the Department and the Agency. In addition, he explained the role that Denise plays in her role as Deputy Equal Opportunity Officer and the CRAC. He explained that discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin in programs

and activities receiving federal funds is prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Our goal is to increase participation of minority, underserved and Limited Resource Producers on various boards and committees that NRCS participates in. To encourage participants to actively seek out and encourage minority, underserved and Limited Resource Producers to serve on the State Technical Committee, local work groups, District Boards and other committees that have an interest in Agricultural and Natural Resource concerns. Diversity on the various boards will result in increased marketing opportunities, new networks and a broader perspective relating to environmental issues. (*See attached notes.*)

Denise Coleman, NRCS, concluded the meeting reminding everyone of the Soil Health workshop at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. Also on the 26<sup>th</sup> at the Eli Weaver farm in Leola, PA. Mark Goodson is the point of contact for these events.

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 www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

## New Marcellus and Utica Shale Publications

In recent months, NRCS and its conservation partners have received numerous questions from agricultural producers, forestry landowners, and other private landowners about the impacts of the Marcellus shale drilling on wildlife, water sources, crop and pasture fields, etc. NRCS is in the process of completing a series of fact sheets to distribute to producers in response to these questions. To date, three fact sheets have been developed: **Conservation Practices for Pipelines, Compression Stations, and Well Pad sites**, and a brochure: **Seeding Mixtures for Areas Disturbed by Natural Gas Activities**, with more anticipated in the upcoming months. Copies of these materials will be provided to NRCS offices for public distribution. However, if you or the conservation district staff would like copies of these publications, please contact Molly McDonough at [molly.mcdonough@pa.usda.gov](mailto:molly.mcdonough@pa.usda.gov).



*Chris and Debbie Smith run "Fields of Adventure," which is part of their 65-acre farm that has recently been permanently protected from development through USDA's Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program and the Adams County Green Space Grant Program.*

## Protected Farmland Provides Family Agritainment

Chris and Debbie Smith are life-long farmers that understand and appreciate the importance of agriculture and conserving natural resources. Since 2005, they have owned and operated Smithfield Farms, a 65-acre farm situated in the scenic, rolling countryside of Adams County, Pennsylvania, near the historical town of Gettysburg.

The Smith's produce corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, oats, hay and alfalfa, and raise beef cattle that are fed crops raised on the farm.

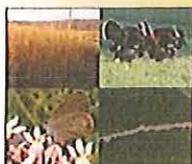
Between their planting, baling and harvesting times, the Smith's enjoy family outings with their three children. However, they found it difficult to find quality attractions nearby and created "Fields of Adventure," an agritainment business with a 7 1/2 acre corn maze, zip-line, pumpkin patch, and catch-and-release fishing. Chris Smith says that the driving factor for creating "Fields of Adventure" has been his desire to educate people about where their food comes from.

The Smith's enjoy their country life and decided in 2011 to ensure its agricultural, scenic, and open space condition by permanently protecting their land from future development or conversion to other non-agricultural land uses. The Smith's applied, and received, a conservation easement in 2012 to permanently preserve their farm through the USDA NRCS's Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP), and the Adams County Green Space Grant Program.

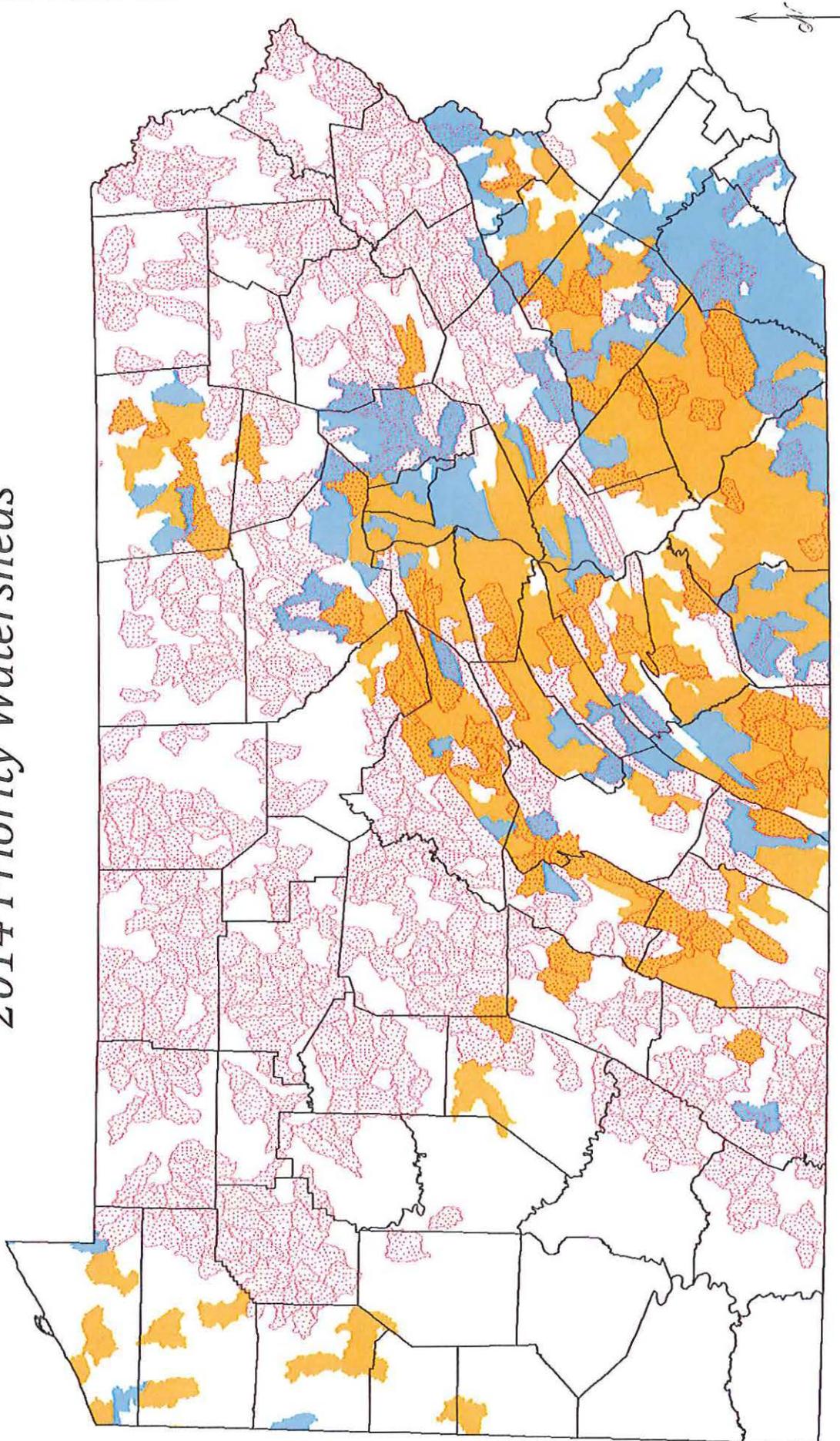
Since an adjoining farm to the west has also been preserved, the addition of Smithfield Farms protects over 300 contiguous acres, helping to ensure the persistence of a 'critical mass' of farmland. According to Chris, "the clusters help keep the development away from us."

In addition to preserving the farm, the Smith's have a lot of plans for implementing conservation practices in the near future. This fall, a manure storage will be installed, and plans are underway for a grassed waterway to control erosion near the cattle walkway, as well as a chemical fertilizer storage facility and irrigation system. The Smith's also intend to expand "Fields of Adventure" to include pick your own apples and popcorn.

### Seeding Mixtures For Areas Disturbed by Natural Gas Activities



# 2014 Priority Watersheds



- High Priority Watershed
- Medium Priority Watersheds
- Brook Trout Greatly Reduced
- County Boundary

## NRCS Continues Strategic Watershed Action Teams (SWAT)

In FY 2013, PA NRCS continued its SWAT cooperative agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to jointly fund technical staff in conservation district offices. NRCS also continued its SWAT cooperative agreement with PACD for their Engineering Technical Assistance Program.

Funding for Conservation District staff was targeted at counties with large Farm Bill conservation program workloads in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Over the past two fiscal years PA NRCS has provided funding to DEP for ten different conservation districts for SWAT employees. These conservation districts included Adams, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, and Perry.

For the period July 2012 through March 2013, NRCS and partners contributed approximately \$354,000 for 6 full-time equivalent SWAT staff that completed 669 different conservation practice engineering components for 205 agricultural producers. Since its inception, PA NRCS has provided more than \$500,000 through the SWAT program to PACD and to DEP for conservation districts.

## New Farm Bill and FY 2014 Federal Budget Still Under Negotiation

Although the 2008 Farm Bill was set to expire in 2012, Congress extended it last year when agreement was not reached on a new bill. The continuing resolution for the 2008 Farm Bill will expire on September 30, 2013 unless Congress passes a new Farm Bill or another continuing resolution.

Earlier this spring, the Senate passed their version of a new Farm Bill which is similar to the version passed last year. After extensive debate over many possible amendments, the House voted but did not approve their version of the Farm Bill. However, on July 11th, the House split the Farm Bill and approved a Farm Bill without food stamps (SNAP). This will allow a conference with the Senate-passed version of the Farm Bill. Whether a new Farm Bill will be agreed upon, or there will be another extension of the current Farm Bill is still unknown. However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said recently that the Senate would not agree to another short-term extension of the current farm bill.

The federal budget for fiscal year (FY) 2014 is still under consideration in Congress. The House and Senate committees have conducted their markups of the President's Budget request. A comparison of proposed funding for NRCS for FY 2014 in the House and Senate as of June 26, 2013 is shown in the table below. The current federal budget for fiscal year (FY) 2013 ends on September 30, 2013.

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY 2013 Actual*</i>	<i>FY 2014 President's Budget Request</i>	<i>House Markup</i>	<i>Senate Markup</i>
Conservation Operations	766,834	807,937	810,115	818,400
Watershed Rehab	13,547	0	12,000	**
EWP ***	234,681	0	0	**
Total	1,015,062	807,937	822,115	818,400

\* Net of sequester reductions and rescissions.

\*\* Unclear if Senate mark is only Conservation Operations or includes Watershed Rehabilitation and/or Emergency Watershed Protection.

\*\*\* Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) includes \$171 million for Hurricane Sandy restoration.

## Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) Assistance Projects Assist Communities

PA NRCS is providing financial, technical, and planning assistance to communities and individual property owners through the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP). This assistance through the EWP is possible because Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee caused severe flooding and extensive property damage in September 2011. PA NRCS is almost completed with helping to restore streams and protect properties in 20 central and eastern Pennsylvania counties.

With the help of our partners, county conservation districts, PA Department of Environmental Protection, municipalities, boroughs, and townships, over 350 assistance requests were received, reviewed, and ranked. Nine sites were deemed urgent and fast tracked for quick restoration and stabilization.

Overall there were approximately 147 eligible sites restored under the EWP. PA NRCS is paying approximately 75% of the estimated \$5,520,000 required to restore the streams and protect buildings.

Construction has been completed on 145 of the sites and the construction work on the last 2 sites is expected to be completed in early July. EWP project dedications were held in Wyoming County during the fall of 2012 and also in Luzerne County in June 2013.



# NRCS Easement Programs Conserve Important Landscapes

NRCS's Easement Programs include:

## Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP)



The FRPP provides funding for the purchase of conservation easements or other interests in land for the purpose of protecting the agricultural use and related conservation values by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land. Working through partners, NRCS provides funds to pay for up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the easement. Although there are several eligibility requirements to participate in this program, the land must be privately owned and contain at least 50 percent prime, unique, statewide or locally important soils or historical or archeological resources, or land that furthers a State or local policy that is consistent with the purpose of FRPP.

## Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The WRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts.



The goal of the WRP is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection through 10-year restoration contracts, 30-year easements and permanent easements. Through the WRP, PA NRCS is partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to both restore and permanently protect habitat for the federally threatened eastern bog turtle. PA NRCS is also partnering with agencies to restore and protect habitat for the eastern Massasauga rattlesnake in identified priority areas.

## Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

The GRP is a voluntary program that assists landowners and operators conserve and restore grassland resources on eligible

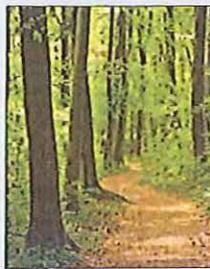


private lands through rental contracts, easements, and restoration agreements. GRP emphasizes supporting haying and grazing operations, maintaining and improving plant and animal biodiversity and protecting grasslands from the

threat of conversion to other uses. Although Pennsylvania has previously received program funding, this program is not funded in Pennsylvania in FY 2013.

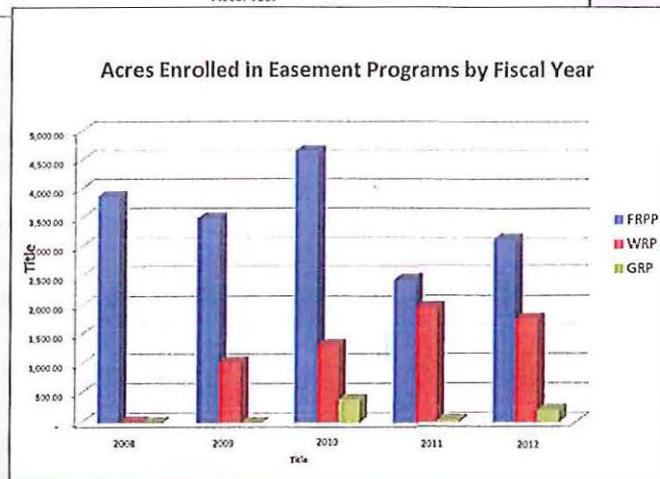
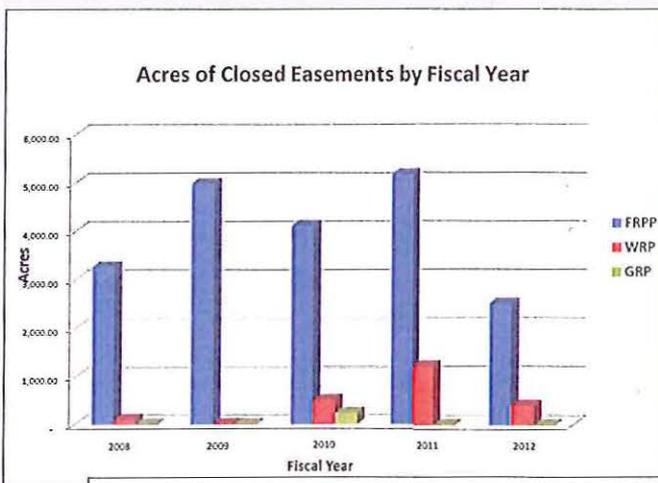
## Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

The HFRP is a voluntary program to assist private forest landowners in restoring, enhancing, and protecting forestland resources on private lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and 10-year cost-share agreements. In Pennsylvania, HFRP funding is utilized to protect and improve critical habitat



for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), through the acquisition of conservation easements and/or habitat improvement through the implementation of selected conservation practices and supporting activities. The land must be capable of supporting Indiana bat habitat, and must be located in a county where known Indiana bat hibernacula and maternity colonies exist. Easement applicants must also be able to convey clear title to the land. Although this program has previously received funding in Pennsylvania, this program is currently not accepting applications in Pennsylvania.

Since FY 2010, PA NRCS has worked diligently to increase enrollment into all easement programs. In addition, PA NRCS has also worked with landowners and partners to close on easements, especially in the FRPP. The accompanying bar charts illustrate the easement program applications (enrollments) and easements that were closed over the past five years. In FY 2011, a large backlog of FRPP easements were closed and recorded. Increased numbers of easement closings in WRP and GRP are expected in FY 2013, as PA NRCS finalizes surveying contracts that will allow NRCS to address the backlog of WRP and GRP enrollments and bring those easements to closing. To date, no HFRP easements have been closed, but PA NRCS expects two HFRP enrollments (about 900 acres) to close by the end of FY 2013.



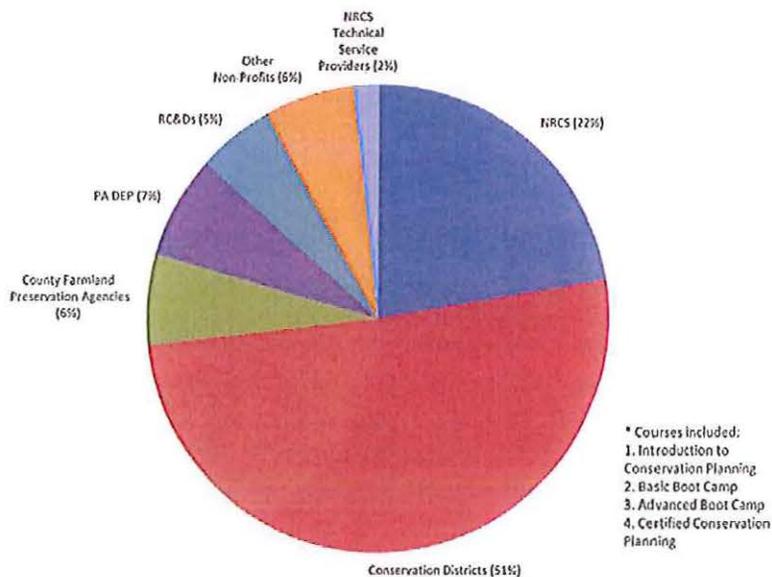
## CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP TRAINING TASK FORCE WORKING TO IDENTIFY TRAINING NEEDS

As the state and federal government continue to re-evaluate programs and staff requirements, the conservation partnership finds itself in a position to identify more effective and efficient training for its staff. In January 2013, conservation partners recognized a need to conduct an analysis and identification of needed changes to the current training offerings for agricultural conservation staff. It was also recognized that there was a need to identify more effective mechanisms to coordinate and communicate information about training opportunities to the targeted audiences. Staff that required training needed easy access to information about what training is available to meet their need, prerequisite requirements, as well as logistical and registration information. As a result, the conservation partners decided that a small group of partners needed to address these issues.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service agreed to coordinate the group which was entitled the Conservation Partnership Training Task Force (Task Force). The agreed-upon purpose of the Task Force is to develop a plan to address the short and long term training needs for agricultural conservation staff in Pennsylvania. Although it was recognized that there are many excellent training opportunities and established certification programs for conservation staff in Pennsylvania such as Agricultural Conservation Training (Boot Camps), NRCS Conservation Planning Certification, and the PA Nutrient Management Specialist Certification Program, etc., it was not the intention, nor the purview of the Task Force to spend time and resources to re-create existing conservation training/certification programs, some of which are established by law or regulation. However, there may be a need to streamline some trainings in the future and this effort will help identify duplicates and/or changes that may be needed. The target audiences identified for training needs analysis included NRCS Staff, Conservation District Staff, Farmland Preservation Staff, State Agency Staff, and others.

As of July 2013, the Task Force has identified different agricultural conservation staff positions in Pennsylvania and has developed an extensive list of competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) needed for these various agricultural conservation staff. Partners are currently in the process of matching the competencies with staff positions in order to identify the training needs of each position. The next step will be to match these needs with the current available trainings to determine overlap and gaps in training.

**FY 2013 Attendees at Conservation Planning Training\***



### LINCPASS REQUIRED TO ACCESS USDA SYSTEMS

For those individuals that have access to government systems and/or records, "Two Factor Authentication" is required. This term means that USDA must ensure that individuals have authorization to access government systems and/or records.

Two authentication factors are:

1. LincPass, representing "what you have" (this is an ID card)
2. A Personal Identification Number (PIN), representing "what you know."

A PIN is needed to gain access to the system rather than Control/ALT/Delete to access the system. LincPass is USDA's Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card. As an affiliate of NRCS with authority to access federal government computer systems and/or government records, Conservation District employees and other partners are required to have a LincPass. NRCS will be in contact with all partners that do not have a LincPass within the next few weeks.

**PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP**  
**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**  
**(July 11, 2013 – December 3, 2013)**

Several annually occurring events provide NRCS field employees, partners, Technical Service Providers, and other consultants the opportunity to acquire knowledge and competencies about planning and implementing conservation systems. Certified Conservation Planners (CCP) can obtain their continuing education credit requirements in the no-till/cover crop, nutrient management, grazing, wildlife/buffers, and optional categories by attending the preapproved events listed below. The number of CCP credit hours available for each event is shown in parentheses ( ). Scheduled prerequisite courses, necessary to become a CCP, as well as other training opportunities for non-category subjects are also listed below.

**7/11/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Managing Your Insect Allies: Conservation of Native Pollinators and Predators  
Webinar  
Contact: Holli Kuykendall; [holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov](mailto:holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov)  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc>

**7/11/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Farming for Beneficial Insects: Pollinators, Predators, and Parasitoids  
Webinar  
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

**7/16/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Penn State Agronomic Field Diagnostic Clinic  
Rock Springs Agronomy Farm, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA  
Contact: Dwight Lingenfelter, 814-865-2242  
<http://www.cvent.com/events/agronomic-field-diagnostic-clinic-2013-rock-springs/event-summary-ca13b3db62264fd4b7405287628c45db.aspx>

**7/16/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

PA No-Till Alliance Field Day  
13 Radcliff Road, Willow Street PA  
Contact: 717-635-2320  
[www.PANoTill.org](http://www.PANoTill.org)

**7/16/2013 (1 Grazing)**

What are Forage Suitability Groups, Why do I need them, and How can they help?  
Webinar  
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

**7/17/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Environmental Evaluation Series - Planning for Floodplain and Riparian Area Special  
Environmental Concerns  
Webinar  
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

**7/17/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

PA No-Till Alliance Field Day  
6229 Col. John Kelly Road, Lewisburg PA  
Contact: 717-635-2320  
[www.PANoTill.org](http://www.PANoTill.org)

**7/17/2013 (4 Optional - Specialty Crop)**

Fruit Research and Extension Center Grower Field Day  
 Biglerville, PA  
 Contact: Deanne Bailey; 717-677-6116 x 1

**7/18/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

PA No-Till Alliance Field Day  
 37105 Route 66 Crown PA  
 Contact: 717-635-2320  
[www.PANoTill.org](http://www.PANoTill.org)

**7/23/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Soil Health Workshop  
 Berks Co. PA  
 Contact: Mark Goodson; [mark.goodson@pa.usda.gov](mailto:mark.goodson@pa.usda.gov)

**7/25/2013 (1 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

USDA Cover Crop Termination Guidelines  
 Webinar  
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

**7/25/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Indiana Bats and the White Nose Syndrome  
 Webinar  
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

**7/25/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Conservation and Management of Declining Bat Populations in Eastern Forests  
 Webinar  
<http://www.forestrywebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

**7/31/2013 (4 Optional - Energy)**

Perennial Biomass Energy Workshop  
 Big Flats Plant Material Center, Big Flats NY  
 Contact: Paul Salon; 607-562-8404

**7/31/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Lessons Learned from Natural Stream Restoration/Enhancement  
 Webinar  
<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>

**8/1/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Dragonfly Conservation: Habitat Needs, WRP, Mosquito Control, and Migratory Species  
 Webinar  
 Contact: William Hohman; [william.hohman@ftw.usda.gov](mailto:william.hohman@ftw.usda.gov)

**8/2/2013 (4 Optional - Specialty Crop)**

Summer in the Organic Orchard  
 Beaver County, PA  
 Contact:  
<http://www.pasafarming.org/events/farm-based-education>

**8/6/2013 (1 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Crop Rotations for Diversified Farms

Webinar

Contact: Holli Kuykendall; [holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov](mailto:holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov)<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc>**8/8/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Managing Wildlife Habitat Connectivity to Reduce Negative Impacts

Webinar

Contact: Holli Kuykendall; [holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov](mailto:holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov)<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc>**8/13/2013 (4 Grazing)**

Planned Grazing and Biological Monitoring

Kutztown PA

Contact: Lee Reinhart; 814-470-9734

<http://www.paorganic.org/calendar>**8/14/2013 (4 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Pollinator Conservation Planning Short Course

State College, PA

Contact: Ashley Minnerath; [shortcourses@xerces.org](mailto:shortcourses@xerces.org)<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e7a96xb019d5c988&llr=tnjebhdab>**8/20/2013 (4 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Farming for Clean Water: Managing Forested Stream Buffers While Grazing Livestock

Orangeville PA

Contact: <http://pasafarming.org/farmbasededucation><http://buffers-aug20.eventbrite.com/>**8/21/2013 (1 Optional - Energy)**

Where Will Dedicated Bioenergy Crops Be Grown? Potential Land-use Change Associated with Bioenergy Feedstocks

Webinar

<http://www.forestrywebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>**8/21/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Environmental Evaluation Series - Planning for Wetlands and Clean Water Act Special

Environmental Concerns

Webinar

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/upcoming-webinars-1>**8/29/2013 (1 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Pollinator Pesticide Risk Reduction

Webinar

Contact: William Hohman; [william.hohman@ftw.usda.gov](mailto:william.hohman@ftw.usda.gov)**9/11/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Cocktails &amp; Crimpers: Cover Crop Innovations for Low-Input Soy, Corn, and Wheat Production

Penn State Research Center @ Rock Springs PA

<http://www.pasafarming.org/events/farm-based-education>**9/19/2013 (4 Wildlife/Buffer)**

Riparian Forest Buffer Workshop

Big Flats Plant Material Center, Big Flats NY

Contact: Paul Salon; 607-562-8404

**9/25/2013 (1 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Conservation Crop Rotations in Vegetable Production Systems  
Webinar

Contact: Holli Kuykendall; [holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov](mailto:holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov)  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc>

**10/1/2013 (4 Grazing)**

ACA & Manure Storage Workshop  
Berks Co. PA

Contact: Mike Aucoin, 717-772-5218  
[http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/pdf/ct\\_Training\\_List\\_Spring2013.pdf](http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/pdf/ct_Training_List_Spring2013.pdf)

**10/1/2013 (1 Grazing)**

Pastured Poultry and Conservation Planning  
Webinar

Contact: Holli Kuykendall; [holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov](mailto:holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov)  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc>

**10/7/2013 (Prerequisite)**

Stormwater & P Index Workshop  
Spring Mills, Centre County, PA  
Contact: Mike Aucoin, 717-772-5218  
<http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/>

**10/9/2013 (Prerequisite)**

Stormwater & P Index Workshop  
Spring Mills, Centre County, PA  
Contact: Mike Aucoin, 717-772-5218  
<http://panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/>

**10/17/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Organic Cover Cropping Workshop  
Big Flats Plant Material Center, Big Flats NY  
Contact: Paul Salon; 607-562-8404

**11/14/2013 (4 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Cover Cropping for Soil Health, Nutrient Management, and Water Quality  
Big Flats Plant Material Center, Big Flats NY  
Contact: Paul Salon; 607-562-8404

**11/20/2013 (1 Optional - Energy)**

Addressing Energy Resource Concerns in Conservation Planning  
Webinar

Contact: Holli Kuykendall; [holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov](mailto:holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov)  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc>

**12/3/2013 (1 No-Till/Cover Crops)**

Sustainable Production Using Year-Round High Tunnels  
Webinar

Contact: Holli Kuykendall; [holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov](mailto:holli.kuykendall@gnb.usda.gov)  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/entsc>



# PENNSYLVANIA NRCS Strategic Plan FY 2011–2015

NRCS's strategic plan focuses on major agricultural and forestry activities affecting Pennsylvania's natural resources. Each major land use is described, identifying the many different types of activities and their typical resource concerns. This strategic plan covers the five-year period from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2015. NRCS will prioritize its efforts on five major land uses within the Commonwealth, as identified below. By focusing on these activities and resource concerns, NRCS will achieve its goal of creating and enhancing sustainable protected landscapes.

## Livestock Production Areas

This section addresses areas on a livestock farm where animals are confined and/or fed. It also includes other heavy-use areas where feed, manure, dead animals, and other agricultural material is handled, stored, or transferred. Livestock typically produced in Pennsylvania includes, but is not limited to, dairy and beef cattle, horses and other equine, sheep, goats, poultry, and swine.

Pennsylvania is also the nation's largest producer of mushroom. Mushroom production that utilizes compost is also addressed in this section.

### **A. Protect and improve water and air resources**

- Increase the number of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) written and applied.
- Reduce the number of areas where livestock have unrestricted access to streams.
- Increase the implementation of conservation practices to improve water and air quality.

### **B. Conserve energy**

- Increase the energy efficiency of equipment and facilities on farmsteads.

## Cropland

This section addresses land used to grow crops in rotation including hay grown in short rotations. Hay grown without a crop rotation, except for reseeding purposes, is addressed in the Grazing and Forage Lands section.

### **A. Improve soil health and productivity**

- Increase vegetative cover, crop rotations, and residue and tillage management.
- Install structural practices to control runoff and reduce soil erosion.
- Reduce the loss of prime farmland at risk for development.

### **B. Reduce pesticide risks on specialty cropland**

- Increase adoption of integrated pest management (IPM).

### **C. Protect and improve water and air resources**

- Increase the number of farmers who apply nutrients in the right amount from the right source in the right place at the right time.
- Increase the use of edge of field practices to reduce nutrient and sediment transport.

## D. Conserve water resources

- Conserve and improve efficient use of irrigation water by specialty crop producers.

## E. Increase energy efficiency of field operations

- Increase energy efficiency of field operations.

## Grazing and Forage Lands

---

This section addresses lands used to grow crops not rotated except for reseeding purposes which includes the following categories: forage land, permanent pasture, and grazing lands.

### A. Protect and improve water and air resources

- Encourage livestock operations to utilize sustainable grazing systems.
- Convert vulnerable cropland to prescribed grazing systems.

### B. Improve the health of grazing land plant communities

- Increase the application of prescribed grazing on permanent pastures.

### C. Improve the health of permanent grasslands

- Maintain existing perennial grassland plant communities.
- Restore and protect additional native cool and warm season grassland communities.

## Streams and Wetlands

---

There are several threats to natural resources associated with streams and wetlands. These include the lack of forest buffers along streams, legacy sediments, loss of stream and wetland habitat for species of concern, and loss of wetland functions.

### A. Protect and improve streams in cropland and pasture areas

- Increase establishment and maintain existing riparian forested buffers.

- Stabilize severely eroded streams whose flow is disrupted by natural disaster.
- Reduce the negative impact of legacy sediment.
- Improve stream habitat and stream corridor conditions for eastern brook trout.

### B. Protect and improve wetlands in cropland and pasture areas

- Create, enhance, and protect known and potential wetlands targeting bog turtle and eastern massasauga rattlesnake.
- Restore degraded wetlands and adjacent plant communities.

### C. Watershed Operations, Rehab, and Emergency Streams Restoration

- Assist project sponsors in securing funds.
- Increase outreach efforts to encourage the protection and sustainable uses of watersheds' natural resources.

## Forests

---

This section addresses woodlands, shrub lands, and forests.

### A. Increase habitat for at risk and declining wildlife species

- Increase adequate size habitat and connected corridors for Golden-winged Warblers and other at-risk species.
- Create, enhance, and protect woodland habitat for the Indiana Bat.

### B. Improve the health of forests and woodlands

- Increase the implementation of forest management plans that minimize invasive species, increase populations of declining species, and address water quality issues.
- Demonstrate the multiple benefits of agroforestry practices in Pennsylvania.

## SEEDING MIXTURE FOR WELL PADS, HIGHLY-DISTURBED AREAS, AND SURROUNDING INCIDENTAL AREAS



Name	Seeding Rate (lbs. per acre)
Switchgrass	3
Partridge Pea	4
Deertongue	5
Autumn Bentgrass	1
Alkakli saltgrass	2
Canada Wildrye	10

Rate: 25 lbs. per acre



Partridge Pea

## SEEDING MIXTURE FOR BIRDS, BEES, AND BUTTERFLIES

A colorful variety of pollen  
and nectar-producing plants.



Purple Coneflower

Name	Seeding Rate (lbs. per acre)
Blue false indigo	0.25
Golden Alexanders	0.25
Ohio spiderwort	0.25
Tall white beardtongue	0.75
Eastern Columbine	0.25
Purple Coneflower	2.25
Wild bergamot	0.25
Blackeyed Susan	0.25
Partridge pea	1.25
Cup Plant	1
Narrowleaf Mountain- mint	0.2
Virginia Mountainmint	0.2
Marsh (Dense) Blasing Star (Spike Gayfeather)	0.25
New England Aster	0.1
Little Bluestem	1.5
Big Bluestem	1
Indiangrass	1

Rate: 11 lbs. per acre

## PLANT ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE

All seeding mixtures and rates may need to be  
adjusted by a local consultant or technical advisor  
for your site conditions.

Plant a quick-growing cover crop to provide  
immediate erosion protection until the seed  
mixture can become well established.

**Fall Seedings:** Include Rye - 56 pounds Pure Live  
Seed per acre

**Spring Seedings:** Include Oats - 32 pounds Pure  
Live Seed per acre

Lime and fertilize according to soil test results.

In lieu of soil test, apply:

- 3 tons of lime/acre
- 1000 lbs. of 10-10-10/acre

The seeding rates listed are for use with a drill.  
Broadcast seedings may require a higher rate.

\*\*\*\*\*

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
Service is a federal agency that assists farmers  
and landowners with the voluntary installation of  
conservation measures that protect and restore  
our nation's natural resources.

[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)

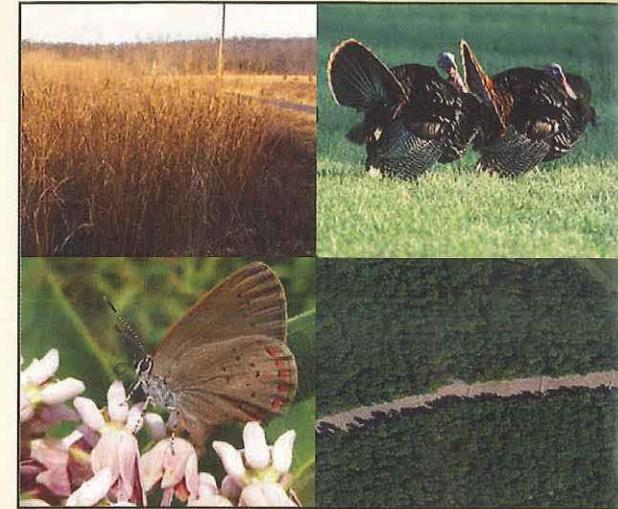
\*\*\*\*\*

*Special thanks to the PA Game Commission,  
Ernst Seed Company, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry,  
The Xerces Society, Pennsylvania State University,  
and NRCS Big Flats Plant Material Center for their  
contributions in developing this informational  
brochure.*

June 2013

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# Seeding Mixtures For Areas Disturbed by Natural Gas Activities



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)

## WETLAND/MEADOW SEEDING MIXTURE

Provides food and cover for wildlife in poorly drained areas while stabilizing the soil surface.



*Great Blue Lobelia*

Name	Seeding Rate (lbs. per acre)
Boneset	0.25
Cosmos Sedge	0.5
Flat Topped White Aster	0.5
Fox Sedge	5
Giant Ironweed	0.25
Golden Alexanders,	0.5
Great Blue Lobelia	0.25
Green Bulrush	1
Hop Sedge	2.5
Lurid Sedge	2.5
Oxeye Sunflower	1.25
Purplestem Aster	0.5
Soft Rush	0.5
Swamp Milkweed	0.25
Virginia Wildrye	5
Woolgrass	0.25
Zigzag Aster	0.5

Rate: 21.5 lbs. per acre

## SEEDING MIXTURE FOR SLOPING LAND

Protects the soil from erosion, provides food and cover for wildlife and birds, and native flowers.

Name	Less than 15% Slope Seed-ing Rate (lbs. per acre)	More than 15% Slope Seed-ing Rate (lbs. per acre)
Big Bluestem	2	3
Blackeyed Susan	0.5	0.5
Deertongue	2	3
Dutch White Clover	8	8
Indiangrass	0	3
Little Bluestem	2	3
Oxeye Sunflower	0.25	0.25
Partridge Pea	1	1
Purple Coneflower	0.25	0.25
Switchgrass	2	2
Timothy	4	6
Virginia Wildrye	6	6
<b>Total Pounds of Pure Live Seed (PLS)</b>	<b>28 lbs./acre</b>	<b>36 lbs./acre</b>



*Blackeyed Susan*

## SEEDING RIGHT-OF-WAYS AND PIPELINES IN PASTURES



Name	Seeding Rate (lbs. per acre)
Alsike Clover	4.5
Annual Ryegrass	3.5
Dutch White Clover	1.5
Festulolium	3
Ladino White Clover	1.5
Redtop	4
Tall Fescue (endophyte-free)	4.5
Timothy	7.5

Rate: 30 pounds per acre



*Dutch White Clover*

## SEEDING MIXTURE FOR RIGHT-OF-WAYS AND PIPELINES IN WOODLAND

Protects the soil from erosion while providing food.



### Shady Areas

Name	Seeding Rate (lbs. per acre)
Chewing Fescue	45
Creeping Red Fescue	45
Annual Ryegrass	30
Kentucky Bluegrass	15
Rough Bluegrass	15

Rate: 150 lbs. per acre

### Sunny Areas - little or no mowing

Name	Seeding Rate (lbs. per acre)
Alsike Clover	2
Annual Ryegrass	7
Creeping Red Fescue	10
Redtop	1.25
Switchgrass	13
Timothy	6.75

Rate: 40 lbs. per acre

# Conservation Practices For Well Pad Sites

**P**rotecting natural resources around well pad sites that are actively working can require the installation of one or more conservation practice. Conservation practices will help protect the soil from erosion, control water runoff, protect streams, ponds, and wetlands, and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

**If concerned about water runoff, consider installing these conservation practices\*:**

- Grass Diversion or cropland terrace
- Structure for Water Control
- Underground Tile Outlet
- Grassed Waterway
- Stone-lined Waterway

**If concerned about soil erosion, consider installing these conservation practices\*:**

- Grass Diversion
- Grassed Waterway
- Stone-lined Waterway
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Plant appropriate grass seed mixture for slope of land

**If concerned about providing food and shelter for wildlife, consider these conservation practices:**

- Pollinator Planting
- Wildlife Seed Mixture
- Hedgerow Planting
- Windbreak
- Watering facility

**If concerned about protecting a stream, pond, and/or wetland, consider installing these conservation practices:**

- Riparian Buffer Planting
- Filter Strip
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Wetland Enhancement

\*These conservation practices should be sized appropriately to control a 10-year, 24-hour rainfall event.



**For more information or to contact your local USDA NRCS Field office, visit**  
[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)

# Conservation Practices For Pipelines

**P**rotecting natural resources during and after the installation of a Pipeline can require the installation of one or more conservation practices. Conservation practices will help protect the soil from erosion, control water runoff, protect streams, ponds, and wetlands, and provide food and shelter for wildlife.



If concerned about soil erosion, consider installing these conservation practices\*:

- Critical Area Planting
- Establish Native Grasses
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Vegetated Treatment Area

If concerned about protecting a stream, pond, and/or wetland, consider installing these conservation practices:

- Riparian Buffer Planting
- Filter Strip
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Stream Crossing
- Wetland Enhancement/Restoration

If concerned about providing food and shelter for wildlife, consider these conservation practices:

- Pollinator Habitat Planting
- Establish Native Grasses
- Buffer Strips
- Shrub Establishment
- Watering facility
- Stream Crossing
- Wetland Creation/Enhancement/Restoration

If concerned about water runoff, consider installing these conservation practices\*:

- Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Structure for Water Control
- Underground Tile Outlet
- Grassed Waterway
- Stone-lined Waterway
- Grassed Diversion

\*These conservation practices should be sized appropriately to control a 10-year, 24-hour rainfall event.

For more information or to contact your local USDA NRCS Field office, visit  
[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)

# Conservation Practices For Compression Stations



**P**rotecting natural resources around Compression Stations that are actively working can require the installation of one or more conservation practices. Conservation practices will help protect the soil from erosion, control water runoff, protect streams, ponds, and wetlands, and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

**If concerned about soil erosion, consider installing these conservation practices\*:**

- Critical Area Planting
- Establish Native Grasses
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Vegetated Treatment Area

**If concerned about water runoff, consider installing these conservation practices\*:**

- Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Structure for Water Control
- Underground Tile Outlet
- Grassed Waterway
- Stone-lined Waterway
- Grassed Diversion

**If concerned about protecting a stream, pond, and/or wetland, consider installing these conservation practices:**

- Riparian Buffer Planting
- Filter Strip
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Wetland Enhancement

**If concerned about providing food and shelter for wildlife, consider these conservation practices:**

- Pollinator Habitat Planting
- Wildlife Seed Mixture
- Hedgerow Planting
- Windbreak
- Watering facility
- Wetland Creation/Enhancement/Restoration

\*These conservation practices should be sized appropriately to control a 10-year, 24-hour rainfall event.

**For more information or to contact your local USDA NRCS Field office, visit**

[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)

# Range-Wide Goals & Objectives

## Conservation Goals

**T**he Joint Venture's Conservation Strategy is directed by range-wide conservation goals to guide conservation efforts across the eastern range of brook trout.

**Conserve, enhance or restore brook trout populations** that have been impacted by habitat modification, non-native species and other population level threats.

**Encourage partnerships among management agencies and stakeholders** to seek solutions to regional environmental and ecological threats.

**Develop and implement outreach and educational programs** to ensure public awareness of the challenges that face brook trout populations.

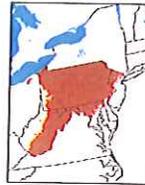
**Develop support for program implementation** to perpetuate and restore brook trout populations throughout their historical range.

*All of us have the opportunity to meet the vision of healthy, fishable brook trout populations throughout their historical range. To learn more about how you can help support eastern brook trout and for contact information, go to the Joint Venture website, [www.easternbrooktrout.net](http://www.easternbrooktrout.net).*



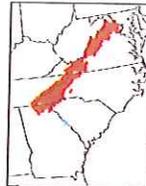
### Northern Region Management Priorities:

- Protect intact (green) populations
- Determine status of "predicted" watersheds
- Reduce habitat fragmentation
- Improve water quality
- Build partnerships



### Mid-Atlantic Region Management Priorities:

- Protect the 23 intact watersheds remaining
- Improve water quality
- Promote and restore riparian forest
- Remove and prevent exotic fish



### Southern Region Management Priorities:

- Protect existing brook trout from exotic competition
- Improve existing brook trout habitat
- Minimize land use impacts

## Primary Objectives:

*Range-wide objectives are broad statements of expected performance by the year 2025.*

### I. Maintain the current number of intact watersheds.

- Maintain watersheds as Healthy

### II. Establish self sustaining brook trout populations in 10 % of the known extirpated watersheds.

- By 2012, establish 44 self sustaining populations in watersheds where none existed in 2005

### III. Change the classification of 30% of the watersheds.

- By 2012, change 45 Reduced/Greatly Reduced watersheds to Healthy

### IV. Maintain and improve 70% of watersheds.

- By 2012, strengthen Healthy watersheds range-wide
- By 2012, strengthen 45 Greatly Reduced watersheds
- By 2012, maintain 70% Greatly Reduced watersheds in existing condition

### V. Determine status of unknown watersheds to validate the model used to predict unknown watersheds.

- By 2012, assess 50% of predicted watersheds to validate model

# Eastern Brook Trout: Roadmap to Restoration

## The Eastern Brook Trout Conservation Strategy

**T**he Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture's Conservation Strategy is directed by range-wide objectives to guide conservation efforts across the eastern range of brook trout. Range-wide objectives are broad statements of expected performance by the year 2025.



**Eastern Brook Trout  
JOINT VENTURE**  
A Fish Habitat Partnership

The Joint Venture partners divided the 17 states into three distinct regions defined by common conservation challenges and priorities. Each region will be led by a regional fishery team, which will pursue regional objectives in support of the broader range-wide goals. The regional objectives represent expectations to be achieved by 2012.

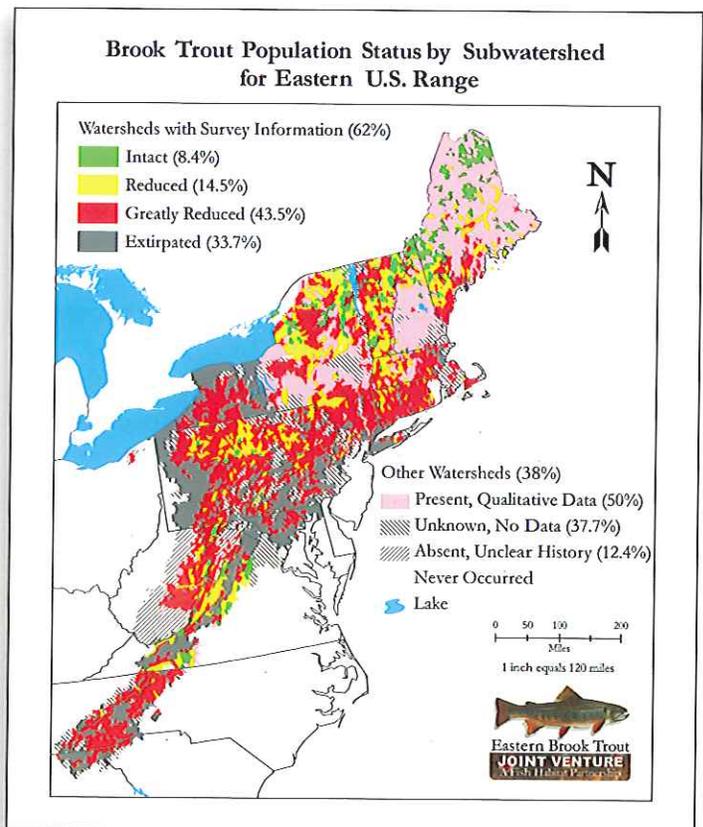
The regional approach offers several advantages. Its scale supports localized science and technology gains. In addition, the shorter five-year time horizon for goal completion provides a midterm report card. Furthermore, the regional objectives are closely tied to state conservation strategies, creating linkages between the states' practices and the Joint Venture's objectives. The regional scale introduces the idea of 'Healthy' watersheds as a planning component, which combines the Intact (green) and the Reduced (yellow) categories.

Success in meeting these objectives will be a significant stride toward meeting the vision of the Joint Venture. Success will require widespread cooperation among focused efforts on priority watersheds, and will require large resource infusions through public and private sources. The Joint Venture, working with the National Habitat Plan, will use the Conservation Strategy as its blueprint for raising and using resources at the state level. Its success will be measured against the baseline status of brook trout, defined in the 2005 assessment work.

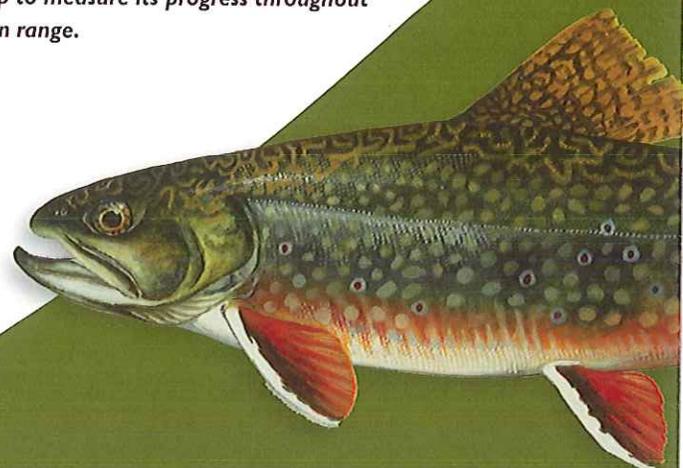


Funded by a Multistate Conservation  
Grant from the U.S. Fish  
and Wildlife Service

Building from its landmark assessment work, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture has developed a Conservation Strategy that provides the blueprint for brook trout conservation and restoration priorities range-wide. As it moves forward, the Joint Venture and its partners have a roadmap for the conservation and restoration of brook trout based on historical range, population integrity, habitat quality (including water quality) and vulnerabilities.



The condition of brook trout within each watershed is conveyed using the colors on the map above, which indicates the current status of brook trout by watershed. This is our starting point. The Joint Venture uses the color coded map to measure its progress throughout the eastern range.

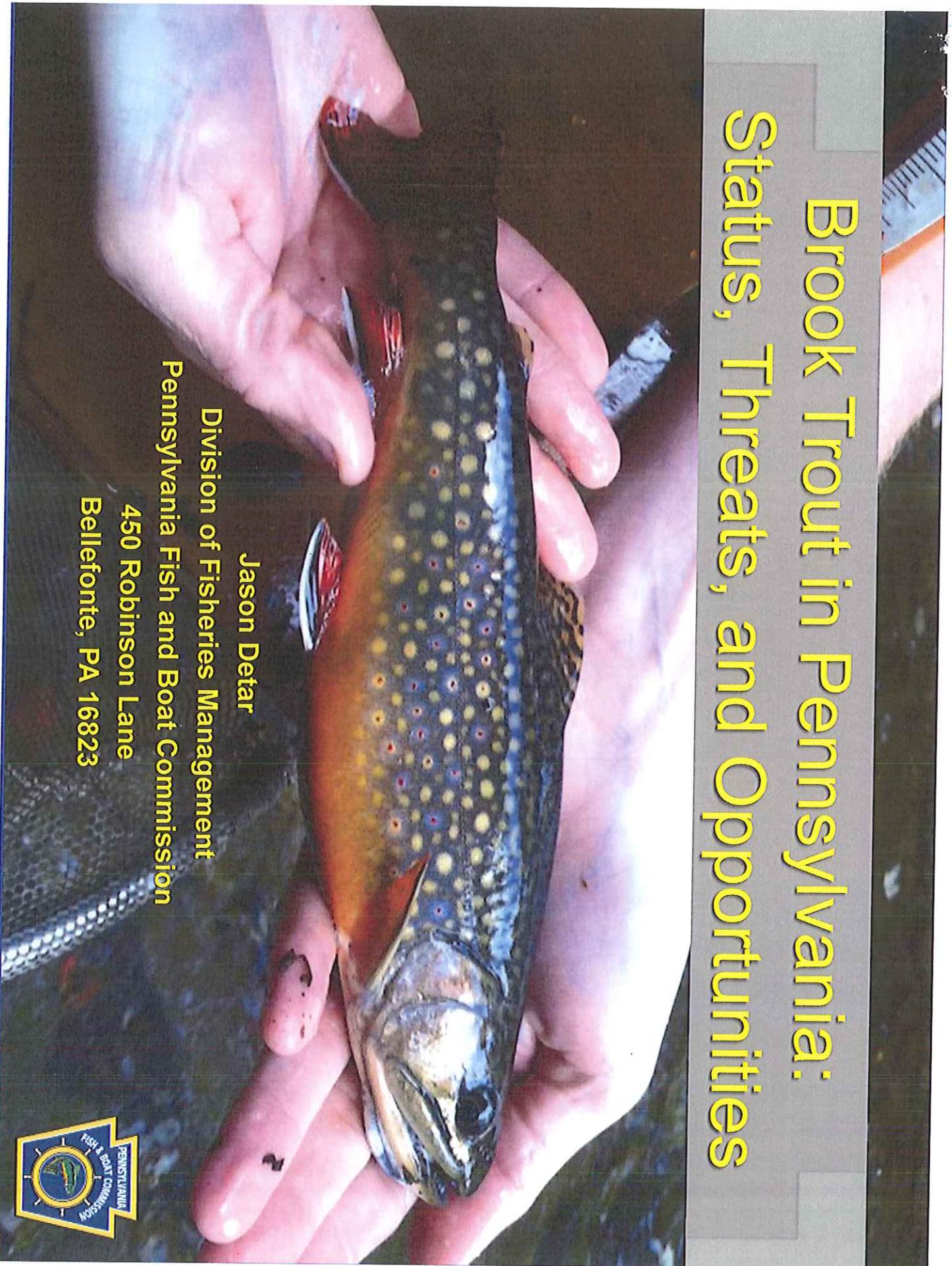


# Brook Trout in Pennsylvania: Status, Threats, and Opportunities

Jason Detar

Division of Fisheries Management  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823



# Outline

- Background
- Biology / distribution
- Threats / conservation
- Summary / discussion



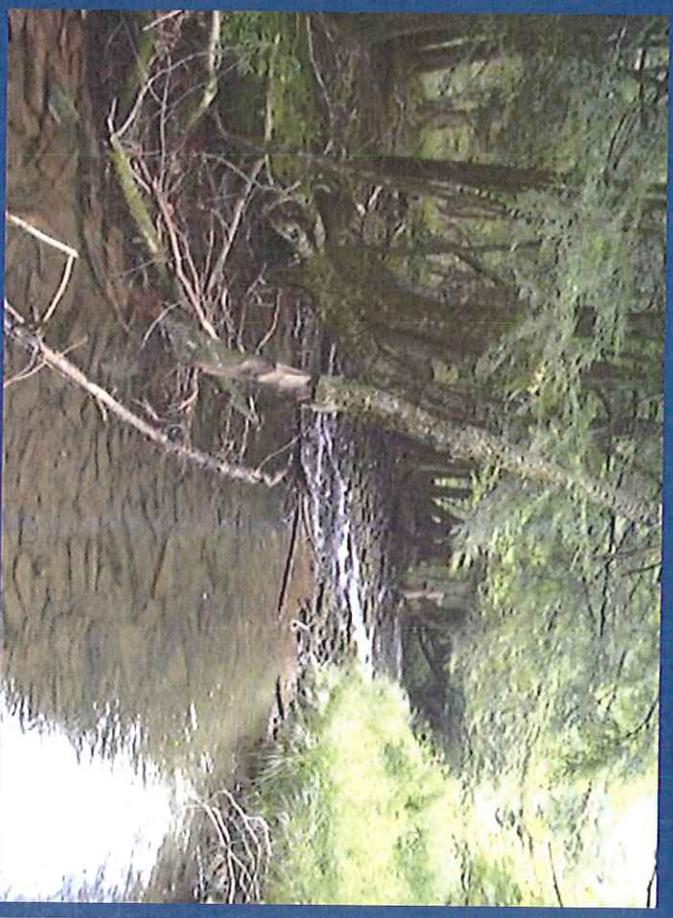
# Why are brook trout important?

- Only trout native to PA
- Indicators of cold clean water
- Economically and recreationally important



# Biology / Habitat

- Spawn in the fall
- Life span 3 - 6 years
- Max length 10"
- Year-round cold water (< 68°F)
- Intolerant of sediment
- Prefer pool habitat



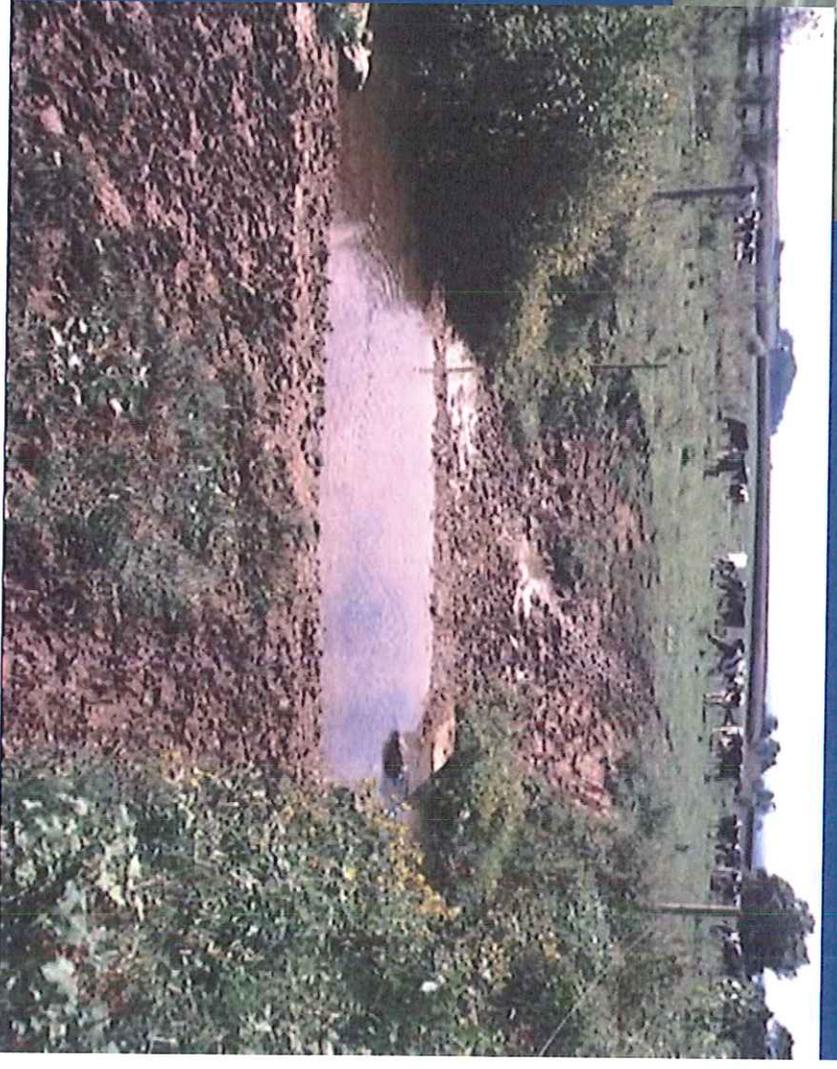
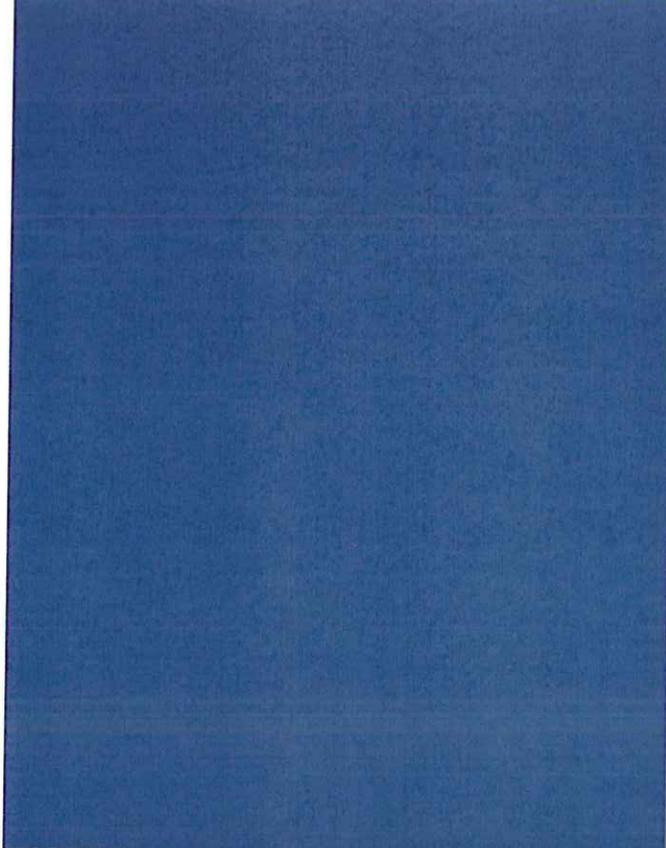
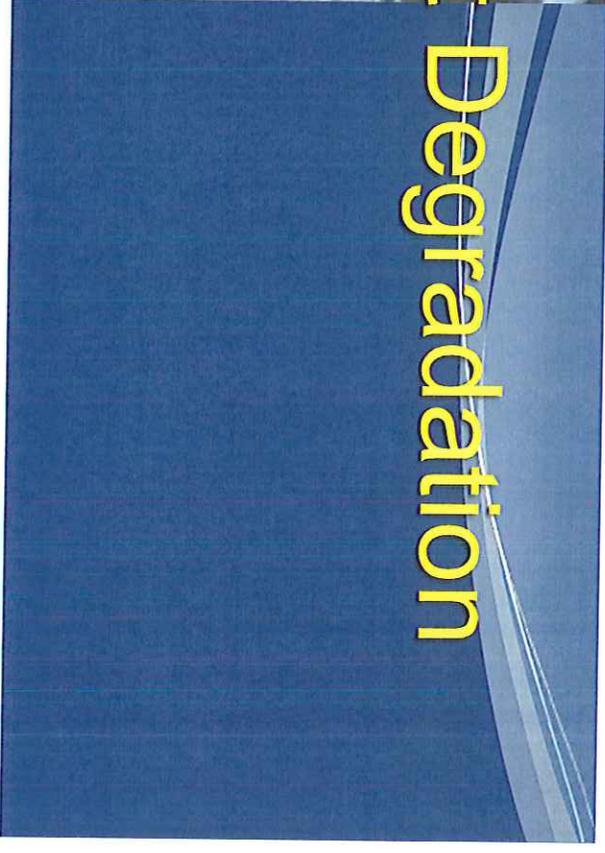
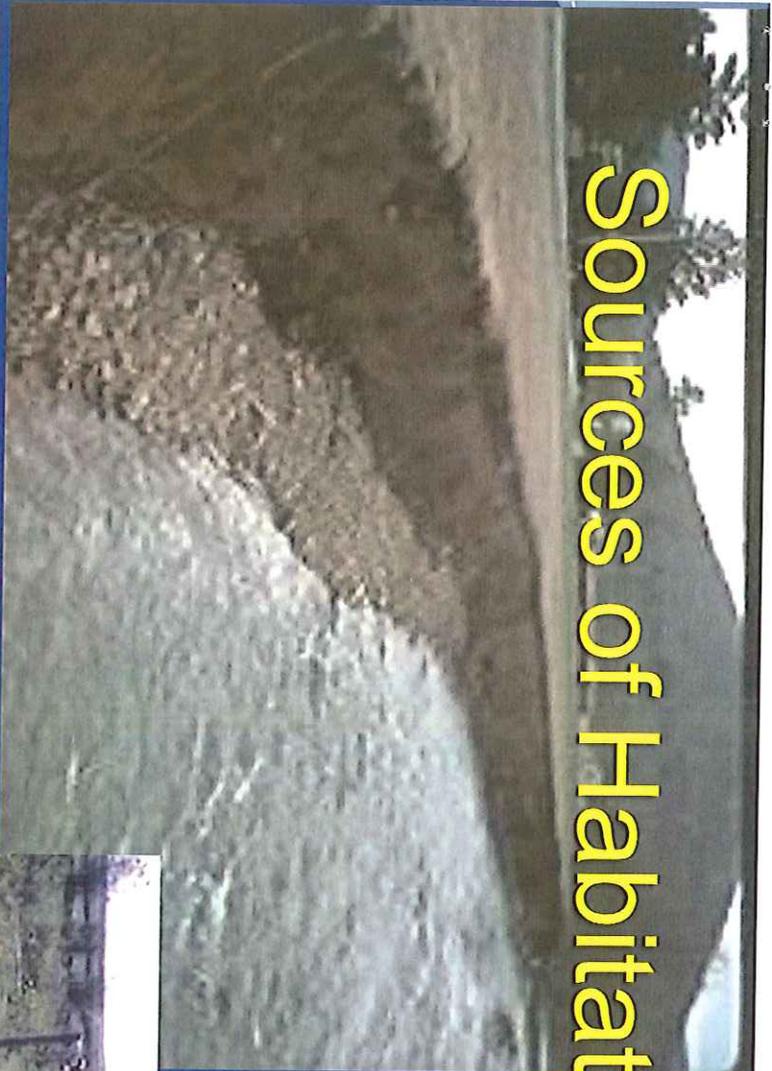
# Major Limitations to Brook Trout in Pennsylvania

## Habitat

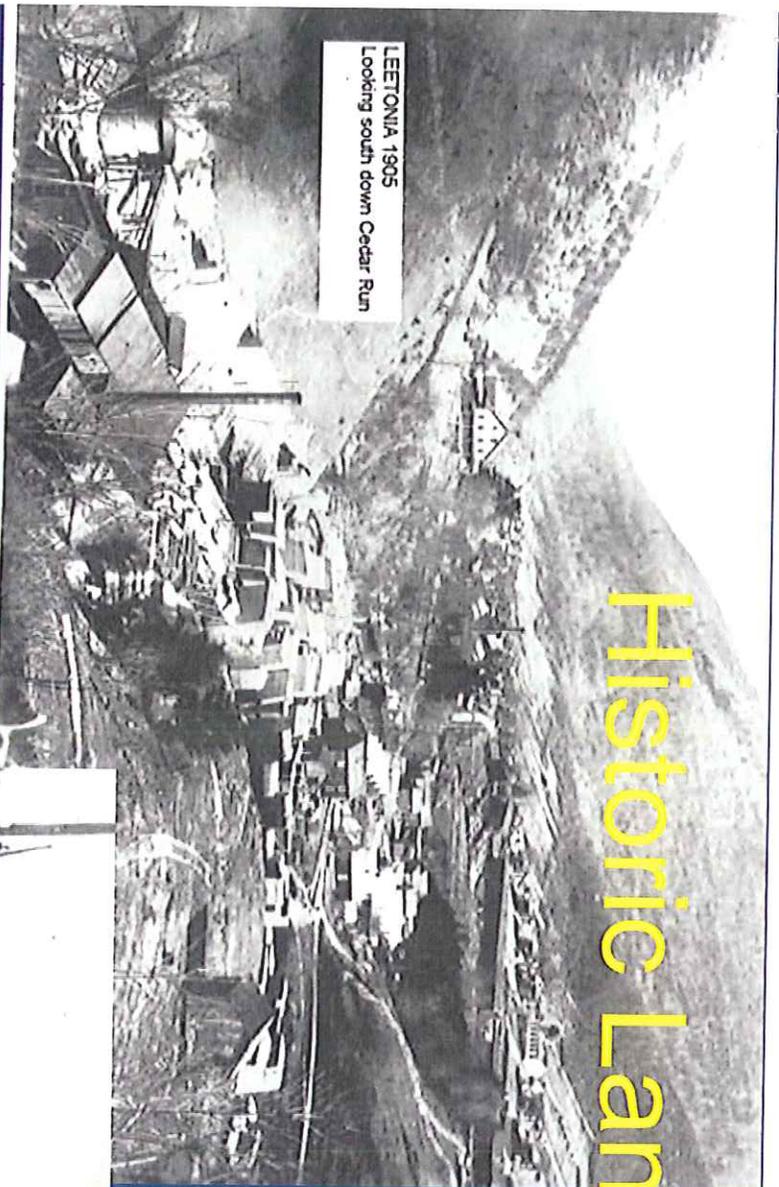
- Water quality – temperature and pollution (e.g., AMD)
- Water quantity – too much / too little
- Sedimentation
- Quality pool habitat
- Overhead cover



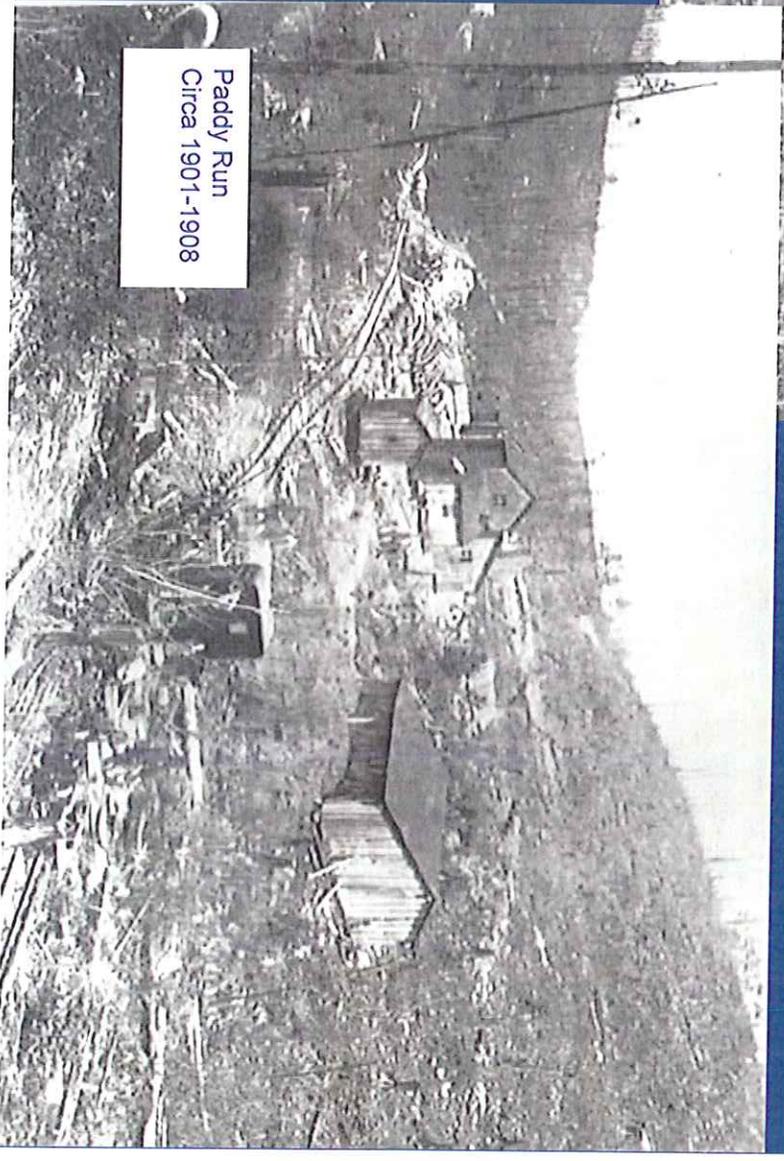
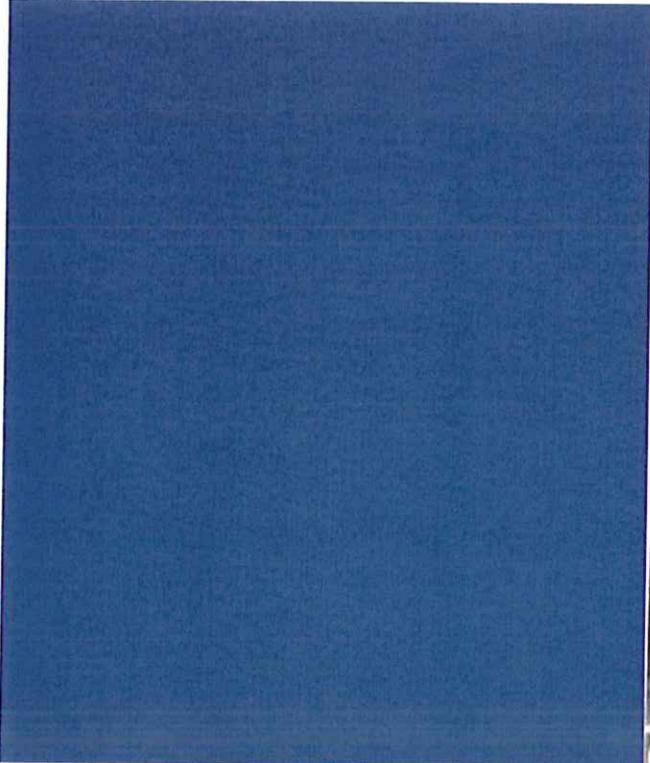
# Sources of Habitat Degradation



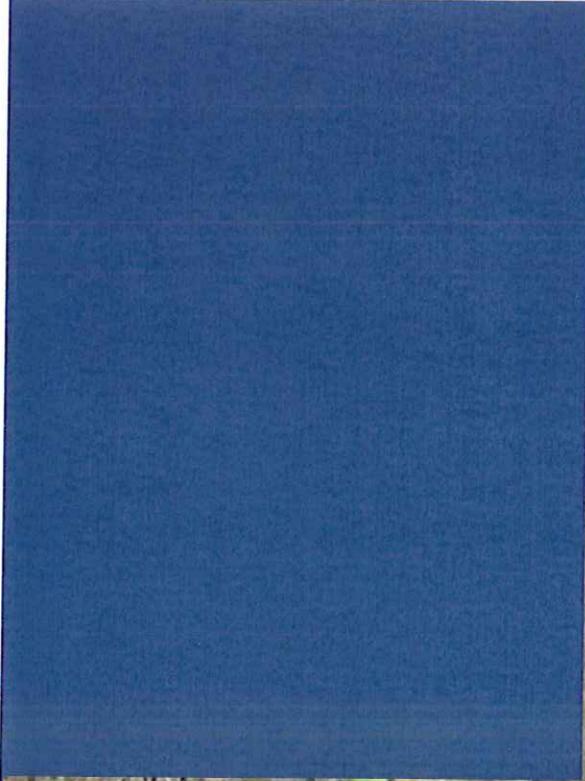
# Historic Land Use



LEETONIA 1905  
Looking south down Cedar Run



Paddy Run  
Circa 1901-1908



# Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture

- The nation's first pilot project under the National Fish Habitat Initiative
- Partnership driven – 17 states, 4 federal agencies, numerous NGOs, academics
- 2006 – Rangewide status and threats assessment



Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats

PRODUCED BY TROUT COLLABORATION FOR THE EASTERN BROOK TROUT JOINT VENTURE



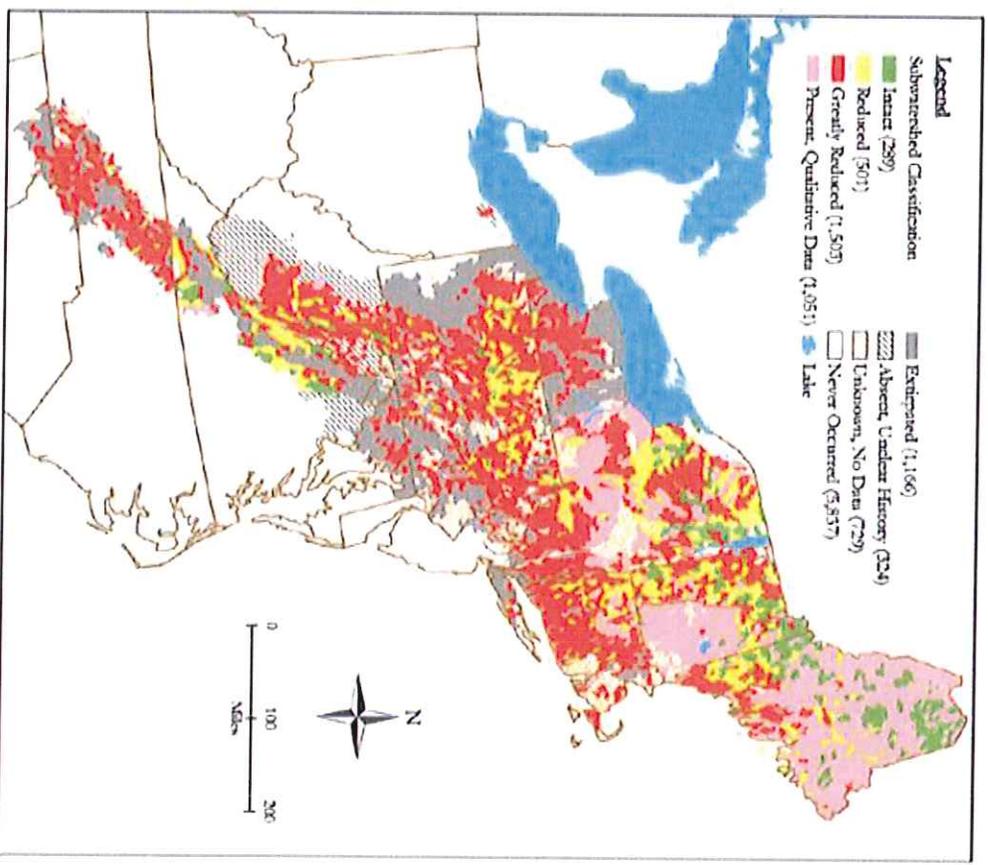
# Status and Distribution - Rangelowide

## Brook Trout Assessment - Key Findings

- Intact stream populations of brook trout exist in only 5% of subwatersheds.
- Brook trout have vanished or are greatly reduced in nearly half of subwatersheds.
- The vast majority of historically occupied large rivers no longer support self-reproducing populations of brook trout.
- Brook trout survive almost exclusively as fragmented populations in headwater streams.
- Poor land management associated with agriculture ranks as the most widely distributed impact to brook trout across the eastern range.
- Non-native fish rank as the largest biological threat to brook trout.

## **Brook Trout Population Status in the Eastern U.S. Range by Subwatershed**

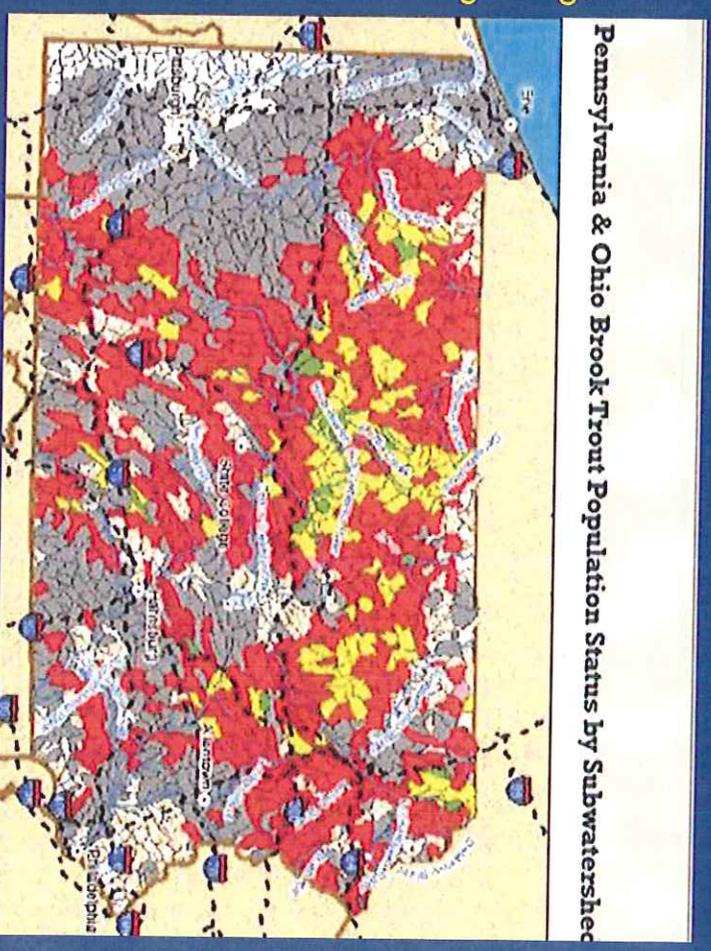
(See pages 18-19 for a larger map)



# Status and Distribution - PA

## Brook Trout Classifications – Subwatersheds

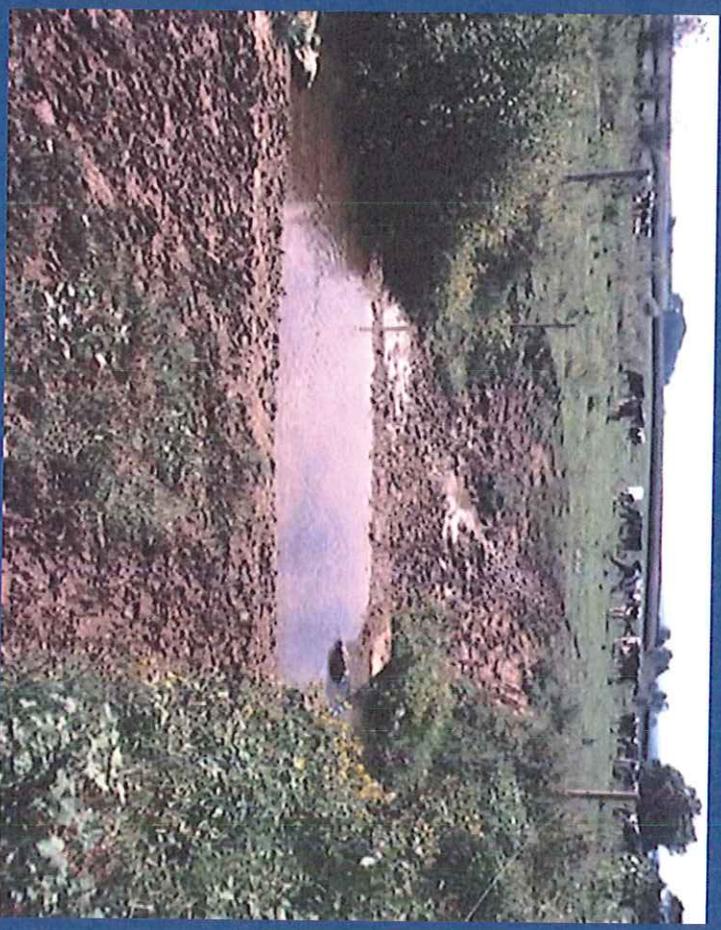
- Intact (>90% habitat occupied): 16 1%
- Reduced (50-90% habitat occupied): 118 9%
- Greatly Reduced (<50% occupied): 507 39%
- Present, Qualitative Data Only: 5 <1%
- Extirpated: 449 34%
- Absent, Unclear History: 0 0%
- Unknown, No Data: 218 17%
- Total: 1,313 100%



# Threats - PA

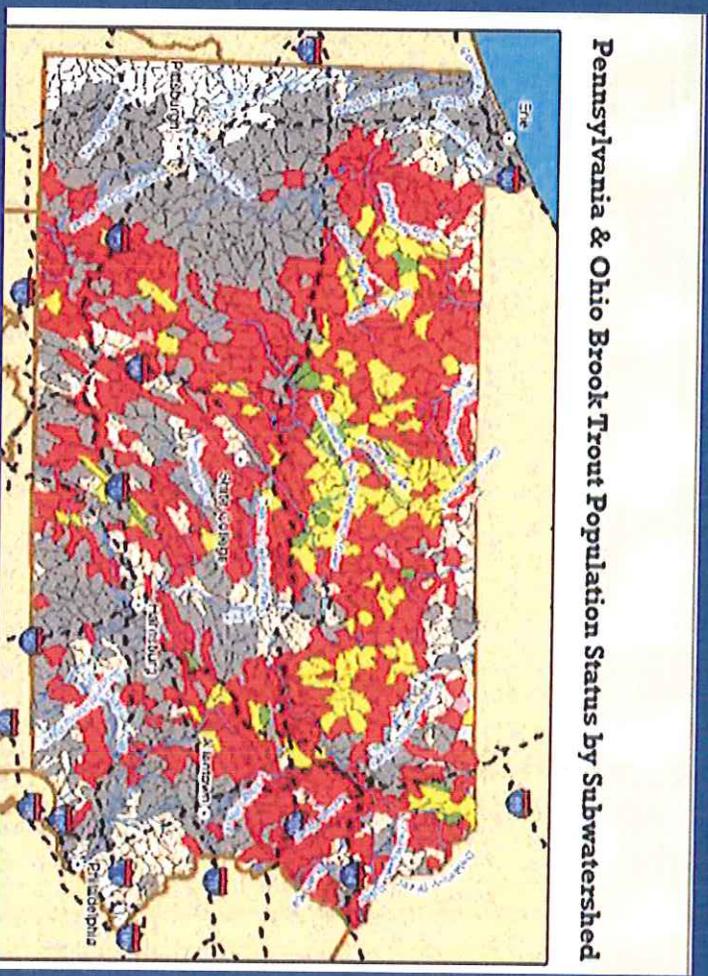
## Disturbances - Subwatersheds

- Poor Land Management: 532 49%
- High Water Temperature: 463 42%
- Brown Trout: 296 27%
- Sedimentation (Roads): 248 23%
- Urbanization: 233 21%



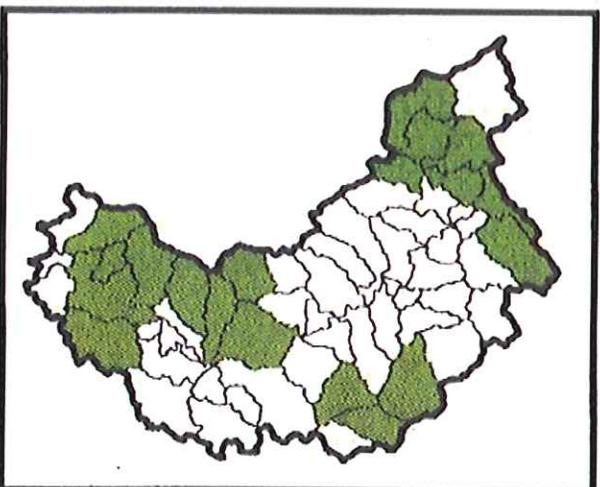
# New Tools

- Updated rangewide assessment
- Prioritization
- Riparian buffer plantings
- Interactive mapping



# 2006 Assessment Scale

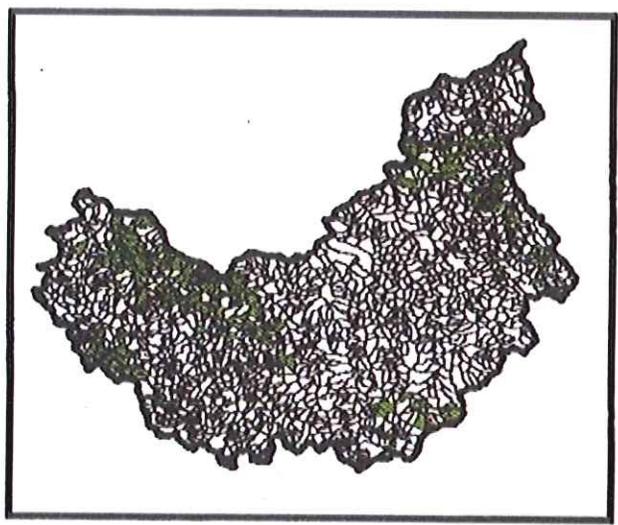
Subwatersheds (6<sup>th</sup> HUC)  
33%



N = 6,833 (avg size = 8,879 ha)

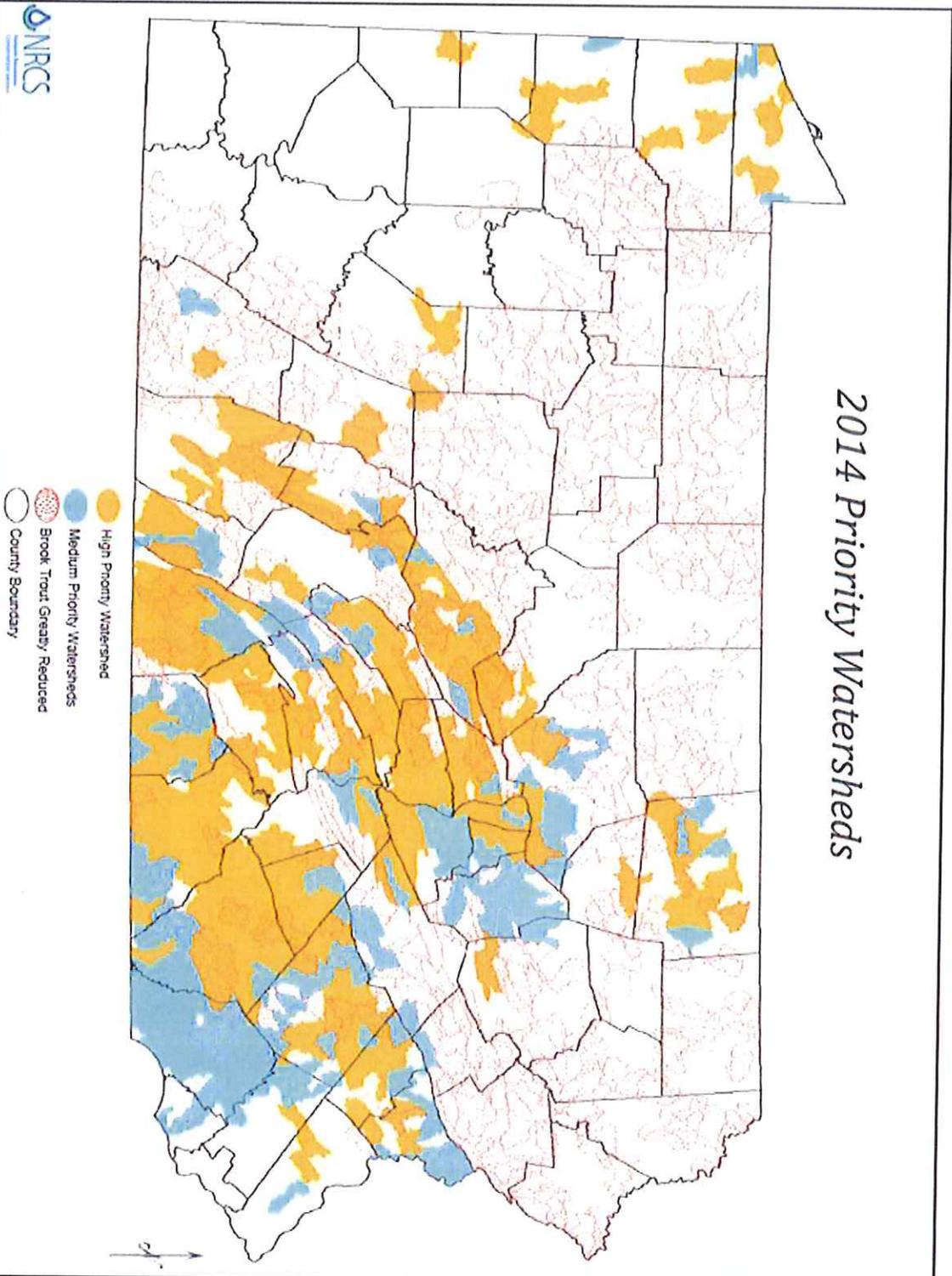
# Updated Assessment Scale

Catchments  
11%



N = 243,874 (avg size = 237 ha)

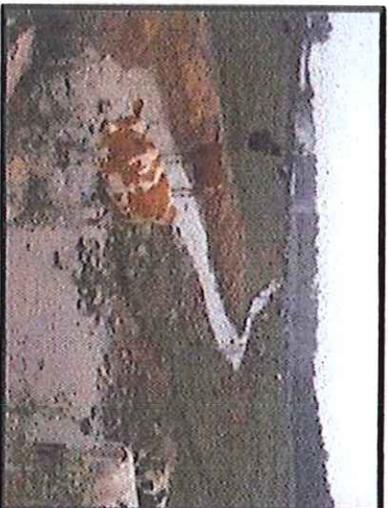
# 2014 Priority Watersheds



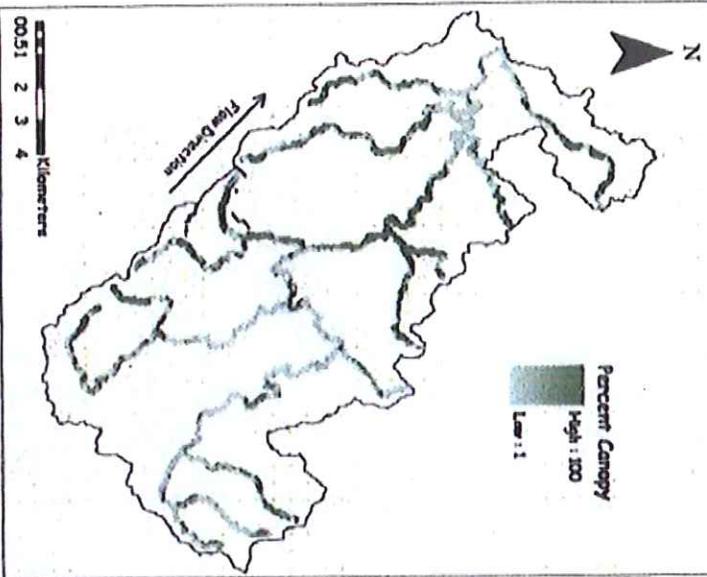
# Riparian Buffer Tool

Solar Gain - 30 meter pixel

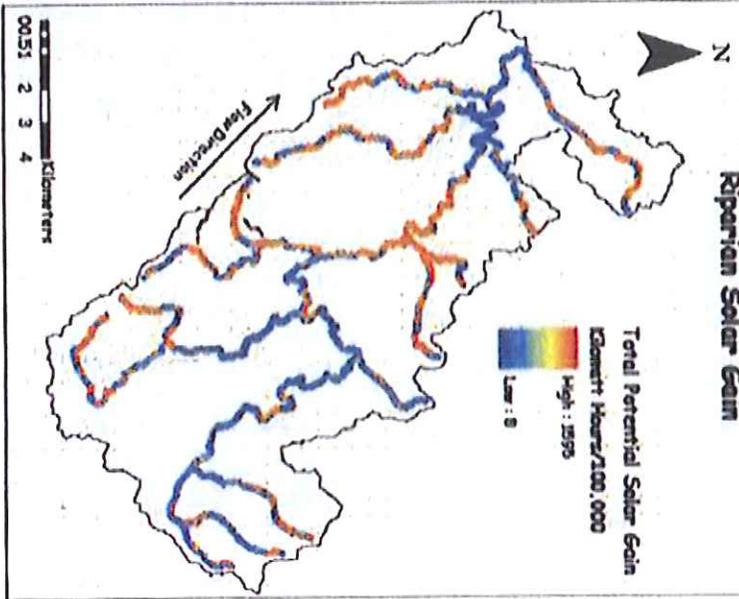
- Topography
- Aspect
- Elevation
- Latitude
- Longitude
- Riparian cover

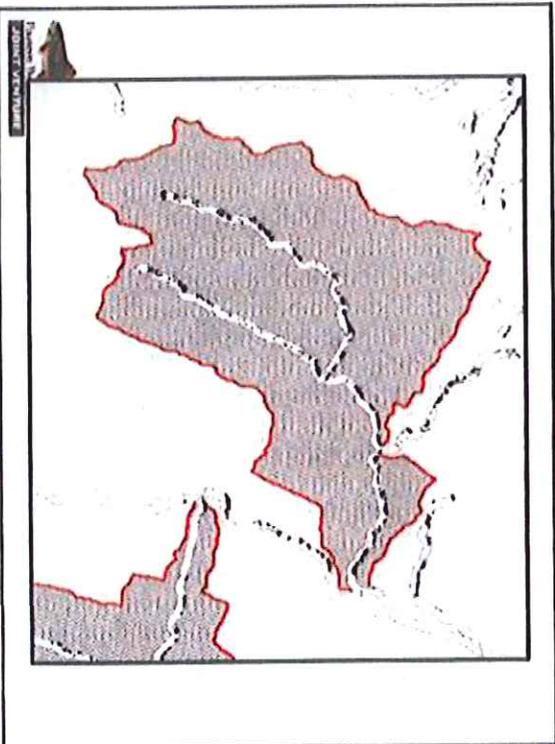
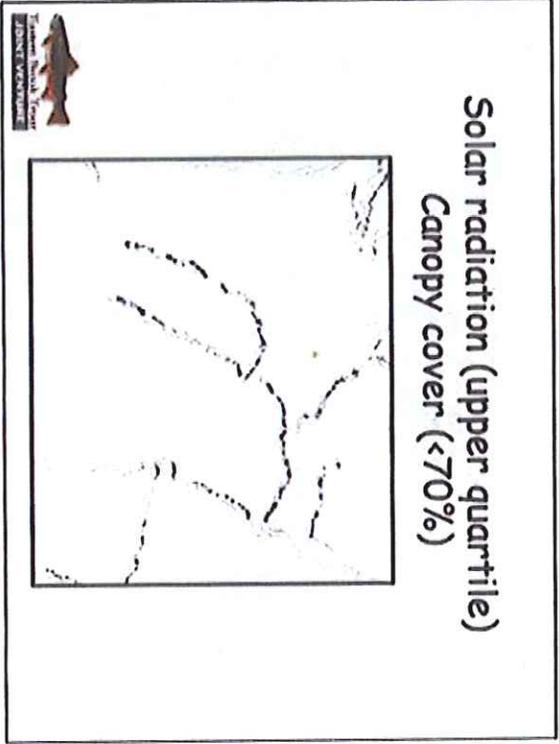


### Crooked Creek Riparian Percent Canopy



### Crooked Creek Total Potential Riparian Solar Gain





# Moving Forward

- Identify and align priorities
- Protect “best of the best” watersheds
- Focus enhancement / restoration efforts where we can get our best return on investment



# Questions



**July 17, 2013**

## **State Technical Committee Meeting**

### **CREP – NRCS Update- Katrina Thompson**

**CREP report** – FSA has taken approximately 245 new (including re-enrollment) applications since May.

**Outreach efforts Post cards** – Joint effort between FSA, NRCS and Game Commission

Why? – To encourage participants to keep land in CRP cover for both upland birds, game and riparian area wildlife.

2013 expiring contracts - Postcard was sent to all CRP and CREP participants with contracts expiring in 2013. Approximately 540 postcards were sent out. There are over 600 contracts expiring this year. 13% returned. 75% are re-enrolling if the conservation cover meets minimum threshold for re-enrollment.

2014, 2015 & 2016 CP-22 (buffers) - Postcards were sent out to 650 CREP participants with expiring contracts. Goal is to work with the participants on maintenance issues and encourage them to re-enroll the buffers when the CREP contract expires. 10% returned 60% are re-enrolling if the conservation cover meets the threshold for re-enrollment.

Goal – to send out postcards earlier in the year, next year to kick off the annual outreach efforts

**CREP website** – Currently updating the material on the website. There are several people working on the updated materials.

**Buffer outreach** – Ongoing efforts from not only NRCS and FSA but several other groups interested in the resource benefit of installing and maintaining healthy buffers.

**Training – CRP readiness team** (WI and Penn state Extension service) provided 2 trainings recently. Dauphin County – CRP planning start to finish and Plant ID. Both courses were well attended by partner employees who are working on CREP through agreements. The Readiness team has offered to host 2 more training events by June 2014. I will be working with Laurie Schoohoven to identify training needs and schedule the training. All FSA and NRCS employees are invited along with partners and TSP employees who have taken the Core training from the CRP Readiness Team.

## Delaware River Basin CREP Proposal

DRB draft agreement includes:

- 7 remaining Agricultural Counties in PA that are not currently in either the Ohio River CREP or the Chesapeake Bay CREP ( Bucks; Delaware; Lehigh; Monroe; Montgomery; Northampton; and Pike)
- Enroll up to 20,000 acres of eligible farmland (the area has 331,000 acres in Agricultural production)
- Restore up to 16,000 acres of highly erodible land to protect water quality and create wildlife grassland habitat for song and ground nesting birds and restore up to 4,00 acres of riparian buffers and wetlands which will reduce flooding, improve stream water quality, stabilize stream banks, reduce water temperature, and provide a host of other benefits for humans and wildlife.
- Some of the Environmental risk factors addressed: sediment and nutrient loss from erodible cropland; riparian zone stabilization; wetland restoration protection; and wildlife habitat restoration
- DRB CREP is patterned according to the other 2 existing PA CREP's – same practices which include highly erodible practices such as seedings and also buffer and wetland practices and will follow same rules as other CREP's
- Both Federal and State dollars will be invested in the establishment of the practices on the ground. FSA also pays an annual rental to contract holders each October for the life of the contract. FSA contracts with NRCS to provide Technical Assistance for CREP's.
- Environmental Assessment was completed by the A.D. Marble and Company from Conshohocken, PA. A public meeting was held by the contractor in April.
- FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) was signed recently by Bill Wehry, SED at FSA.
- There is a lot of work still remaining before the DRB CREP can be implemented in the field, but I wanted to share with the State Tech. Comm. that good progress is being made and we are moving forward.

FY 2013 Allocations and Obligations  
AMA-CBWI-CSP-EQIP-WHIP

Revised July 16 2013	Active Applications	Applications w/ Cost Estimate	Initial Allocation	Current Allocation	Contracts	Obligated Funds	Acres in contracts
AMA - All Categories			\$168,000	\$159,400	4	138,830	88
CBWI			\$0	\$8,400,000	70	\$6,896,607	8,181
CSP 2013-1	141	72	0		0	\$0	
CSP 2013-1 Ag Land	112				0		
CSP 2013-1 NIPF	8				0		
EQIP - All Categories			\$26,649,980	\$21,449,980	688	\$17,076,230	67,002
EQIP Air Quality - National			\$4,215,264	\$4,215,264	91	\$3,004,022	
EQIP Advanced Technology							
EQIP Forestry					56	\$806,226	
EQIP Forest Mgt Plans					95	\$135,620	
EQIP NMP CNMP					55	\$365,400	
EQIP On Farm Energy			\$58,358		17	\$106,624	
EQIP Organic			\$550,000				
EQIP Certified Organic					5	\$136,845	
EQIP Organic Transition					6	\$123,635	
EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel			\$500,000		76	\$473,689	
EQIP WQI - Sacony Cr					2	\$269,790	
EQIP WQI UpMaiden					2	\$301,991	
EQIP WQI UpKish					1	\$279,257	
EQIP Wildlife Habitat						\$68,149	
EQIP GHG CIG							
EQIP Pennsylvania CIG				\$225,000			
WHIP			\$1,700,000	\$2,300,000	49	1,226,229	2,636
WLFW Bog Turtle				\$17,097			
WLFW Golden Winged Warbler	93	43		\$2,282,903	49	1,280,075	
			\$28,517,980	\$32,309,380	811	\$ 25,337,896	77,866

July 16 2013

## Projected 2014 Pennsylvania NRCS Financial Assistance Programs

• July 17 2013

## 2014 Program Projections

- AMA available at low funding level.
- EQIP or something similar will be available.
- WHIP may be merged into EQIP. Else available if extended.
- CBWI not available unless reauthorized similar to January 2013 short term extension of existing farm bill.
- CSP available.
- Considerable pressure to reduce overall spending

## PA EQIP/CBWI and AMA/WHIP 2007-2013

Program	2002 Farm Bill		2008 Farm Bill				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
EQIP	\$10.8 M	\$15.3 M	\$13.0 M	\$13.5 M	\$13.5 M	\$18.7 M	\$21.4 M
CBWI	\$0	\$0	\$5.5 M	\$9.7 M	\$19.4 M	\$15.6 M	\$8.4 M
EQIP/CBWI combined	\$10.8 M	\$15.3 M	\$18.5 M	\$23.2 M	\$32.9 M	\$34.3 M	\$29.8 M
AMA	0	\$1.0 M	\$1.0 M	\$0.8 M	\$0.7 M	\$0.2 M	\$0.2 M
WHIP	\$0.2 M	\$0.9 M	\$0.8 M	\$0.8 M	\$0.8 M	\$1.0 M	\$2.3 M

## 2014 Signup Cycles

- Anticipate similar approach as for 2013, which was:
- National Signup Cycles - 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of month
- FY 2014 Projected Dates
  - October 18 2013
  - December 20 2013
  - February 21 2014
  - April 18 2014
  - May 16 2014
- Obligate funds about July 1 2014

## Program Eligibility

- No changes anticipated to AMA, CSP, EQIP
- WHIP applicants without agricultural land or NIPF may not be eligible under EQIP
- Adjusted Gross Income/AGI threshold level may be reduced
- Currently \$1 million average over prior three years

• 65

## 2014 Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

- Anticipate low funding allocation
- Anticipate continuing to target to an Area or Team(s)
- May continue to target Irrigation

•

## 2013 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- 2012 Farm Bill proposals had only minor changes to EQIP
  - 5% set-aside for wildlife habitat to reflect absorption of WHIP
  - Variations on the \$300K/\$450K payment limit

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## Fiscal Year 2014

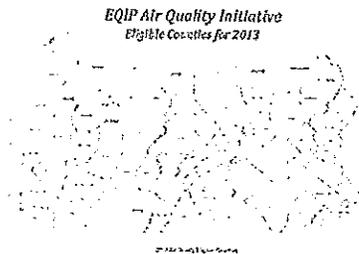
### Potential EQIP National Initiatives

- Required in 2008 Farm Bill
  - Air Quality
  - Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers
  - Organic Initiative
- NRCS Agency Initiatives
  - On-Farm Energy Conservation
  - Seasonal High Tunnel
  - Water Quality Initiative
  - Greenhouse Gas/CIG support (Chester, Lancaster)
- May be discontinued
  - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

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## 2013 Counties – Air Quality



## Air Quality – New Practice

- Combustion System Improvement 372
- Adapted for Maple Syrup Producers
- Reverse Osmosis, Preheaters
- 16 contracts
- 22 practices
- \$387,625 obligated

## 2014 PA State EQIP Priorities

- Anticipate offering:
  - CNMP/NMP Plan Development
  - Conservation Activity Plans
  - Feed Management
  - Forestry
  - Forest Management Plan Development
  - Conservation Innovation Grant (state option)
- If Funding Allows
  - Advanced Technology
  - Stream Corridor Management
  - Wildlife Habitat (new farm bill may direct what is done)

## Conservation Activity Plan

### Proposed 2014 Options

- Agricultural Energy Management Plan
- Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
- Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
- Drainage Water Management Plan
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
- Forest Management Plan
- Grazing Management Plan
- Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Irrigation Water Management Plan
- Nutrient Management Plan (no livestock)
- Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan

## 2014 Locally Directed Fund Pools with Team Allocations

- Field Team Allocations for:
  - Cropland
  - Pasture/Grazing Land
  - Livestock/Manure Management

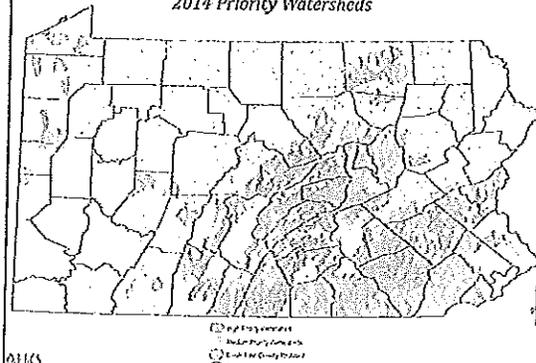
## Chesapeake Bay

- CBWI authorized until September 30 2013
- \$50 M in President's 2014 budget
- Requires reauthorization
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program in new farm bill may be source of replacement funding
- Updating old CBWI priority area map based on new USGS data

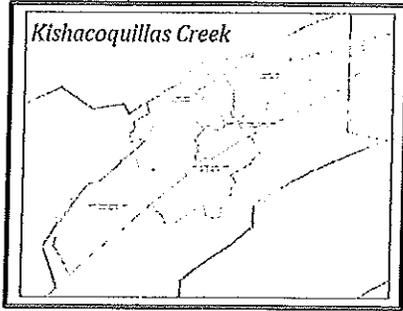
2011 CBWI Priority Watersheds



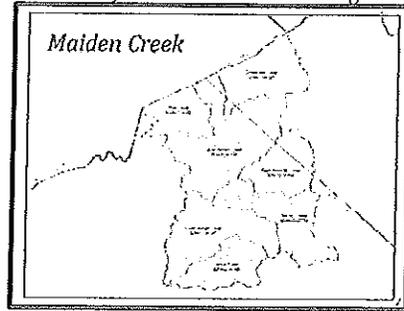
2014 Priority Watersheds



Water Quality - Upper  
Kishacoquillas Creek - Mifflin Co



Water Quality - Upper Maiden and  
Sacony Creeks - Berks and Lehigh



### WQI: 2012-2013 Current Totals

Upper Maiden Creek  
9 contracts, \$642,937; 758 acres  
Sacony Creek  
7 contracts, \$865,241; 765 acres  
Upper Kishacoquillas Creek  
3 contracts, 618,203; 381 acres  
1 pending; \$359,316; 544 acres

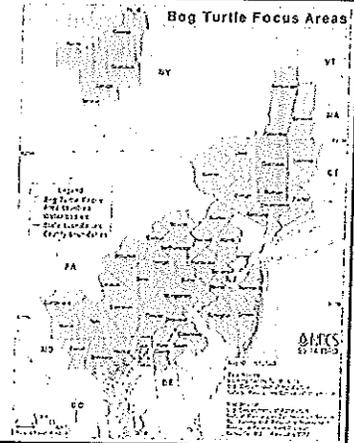
### Edge of Field Monitoring

- NRCS Funding by EQIP contract with Farmer
- New Practices to fund monitoring
- Data Collection (201)
- System Installation (202)
  
- Requires paired fields for comparison
- 6 to 9 years monitoring
- Baseline documentation approx. 2 years
- Third party partner to oversee monitoring

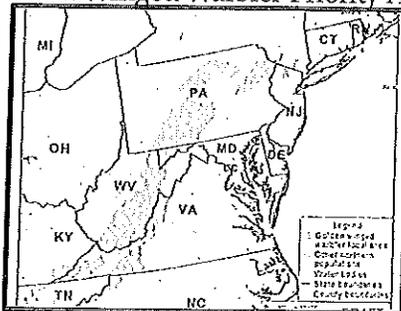
## 2014 Financial Assistance for Wildlife Habitat

- Anticipate similar ability to fund practices
  - don't know if through EQIP or WHIP
- Anticipate continuing Working Lands for Wildlife/WLFW approach, unless new Farm Bill directs otherwise
- Unknown: ◻ Is there enough funding in a new EQIP program to fund non-WLFW wildlife habitat?

## Bog Turtle Priority Area



## Golden-Winged Warbler Priority Area



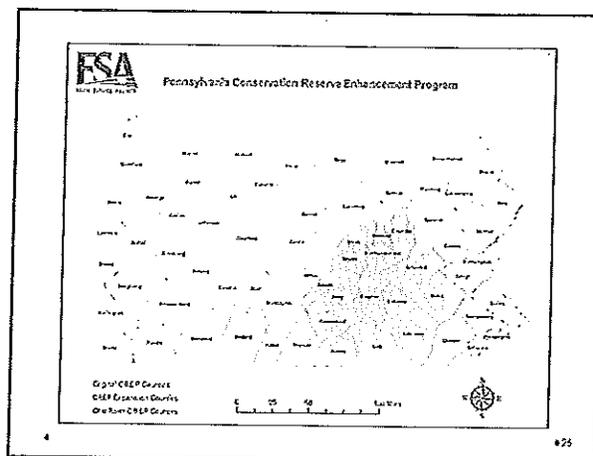
## Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP

- Anticipate CSP will be available
- House and Senate 2012 Farm Bill proposals had minor changes
  - Slightly higher eligibility criteria (meet more resource concerns)

## CRP and CREP

- CRP Re-authorized to Sept 30 2013
- Anticipate being included in new farm bill or reauthorized or other new legislation
- Reminder: All 43 Ches Bay counties combined in one area with all practices available.
- Delaware CREP continues to move through the review process

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## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Included in 2012 House and Senate Bills
- Replaces AWEP, CBWI, CCPI, GLCP
- Option for agency designation of target areas
- Option for third party proposed special project areas
- May provide means to partially replace CBWI funding

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## Possible Local & State Improvements

- What resource concerns justify its own Fund Pool?
- Fund Allocation Process
- State or Local Screening Tools
- Ranking Questions and Process
- Eligible Practices and Payment Rates
- Local Work Groups meeting, through July

• 23

## Possible New Fund Pools

- Soil Health
  - Incorporate into EQIP cropland or grazing?
  - CSP also has options?
- Other?

• 29

## Allocations

- 2013 Team Allocations:
  - \$200,000 Base allocation
  - 20 teams = \$4,000,000
- Additional allocation based on county PASS data for ag land, animal units
  - Originally estimated at \$5 million additional
- Adjusted to account for uncertainty, actual allocations

• 30

## Screening Tools

- State - Low Priority based on contract history
- Field Team - High or Medium Priority based on critical resource problem?
- Additional Screening Tools Needed for Livestock?
  - Does applicant have a CNMP Plan?

• 31

## Local Screening Examples

- Distance of water quality concern to stream
  - High Priority: Within 100 Feet
  - Medium Priority: Within 200 Feet
- If you answer yes to any of the following questions you are considered a High Priority
  - Gully at least 1 foot deep and 100 feet long that will be stabilized with permanent vegetation?
  - Establish a minimum 35 foot wide buffer along streams, wetlands or other water bodies?
  - Act 38 Nutrient Management Plan and Manure Management Plan and proposed contract will implement conservation practices required by plan?
  - Significant resource concern in which sediment, manure or other polluted
  - runoff is adjoining and directly discharging into a stream, well, wetland or other water body and are willing to treat this concern?

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## Ranking

- Are State and Local Questions ok?
- One resource concern per practice
- Appropriate practices for the fund pool/resource concern?
- Can rankings be completed in reasonable time without excessive planning or I&E?
- How effective was 2013 policy to put application in the (one) most appropriate fund pool?

• 33

## Practices

- Picking most appropriate payment scenario
- Level of guidance needed to select scenarios
- Were the payment rates reasonable?

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

For More Information, visit:

- ✓ Your local USDA Service Center
- ✓ Your local conservation district
- ✓ [www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)



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## FY2014 Pennsylvania Conservation/Financial Assistance Program Projections

### Potential Fund Pools

#### Agricultural Land Management AMA

Irrigation

#### Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP

Advanced Technology (digesters or litter incinerators); Air Quality; Conservation Activity Plan Development; Cropland; Feed Management; Forestry, Forest Management Plans; Grazing; Livestock/Manure Management Projects; Nutrient Management/Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Development; On-Farm Energy Conservation; Organic; Seasonal High Tunnel; Water Quality Initiative;

#### EQIP Wildlife (or Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program WHIP)

Bog Turtle; Golden Winged Warbler

#### Conservation Stewardship Program CSP

Agricultural Land (cropland and pasture); Non-Industrial Private Forestland)

Approximately 80 advanced management enhancement activities

**FY 2014 Projected Signup Cycle Due Dates for AMA CSP EQIP WHIP: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of month**

- October 18 2013
- December 20 2013
- February 21 2014
- April 18 2014
- May 16 2014

### Eligibility

Participants must meet Adjusted Gross Income criteria; currently no more than \$1 million average AGI over prior 3 years for conservation programs.

All except AMA require participants to be in compliance with standard USDA Conservation Compliance requirements for Highly Erodible Land Conservation, Wetland Conservation.

For AMA and EQIP, participant must be farm business operator, or owner of land on which farm business is operating, or for EQIP, be owner or operator of Non Industrial Private Forestland.

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For CSP, participant must be farm business operator.

Hathaway Jones

WRP

\$1.7 Million in eligible applications to be obligated. Another round of applicants expected in the next two weeks.

Acreage cut in half for FY2013 due to sequestration – received an allowance of 800 acres for FY2013 WRP. Very busy with surveying back log of 40 2011 parcels and another 30 2012 enrollments. GARC rate appraisal to be ordered soon for FY2014 GARC rates

FRPP

\$2.7 million in eligible applications, \$1.3 million still available for applications

GRP

Not funded in 2013

HFRP

3 new applications working on funding. Received \$1.8 million in HFRP funds in 2013 to fund enrollments. One 800 acre enrollment to go to closing soon.

**Wildlife Subcommittee Report to the NRCS State Technical Committee**  
**Mike Pruss, PGC, Chair**  
**July 17, 2013**

Golden-winged warbler WLFW implementation

Contracting and planning is going well, partnership between IUP, NWTF, PGC and NRCS is working well.

Issues in some counties with Indiana Bat related restrictions from the USFWS PA Ecological Services office on managing habitat are affecting 13 proposed WLFW projects. Restrictions will impact the obligation of some allocated funding. NRCS is working with USFWS to seek a resolution to the current restrictive management guidance. These issues happen with active habitat management at landscape scales, and we hope for a positive resolution.

State Wildlife Action Plan Update

PGC and PFBC are in the process development phase of the updated Wildlife Action Plan

Internal (PFBC and PGC) Steering Committee is in place.

Advisory Committee has been formed, NRCS is a member of this committee.

Have provided valuable input in to the review of goals, objectives, vision, purpose and guiding principles.

Agency Leads are Diana Day for PFBC and Cathy Haffner for PGC

Upcoming meeting of the Advisory Committee will be July 31<sup>st</sup> at the UFWFW Fisheries Center in Lamar from 10am – 2:30pm.

Young Forest Council Meeting

Created to coordinate young forest habitat creation on private lands in Pennsylvania, targeting species of conservation and recreation concern, such as GWW, Snowshoe hare, American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse.

Next meeting is July 29<sup>th</sup> in Huntingdon at the PGC Regional HQ from 10am -3pm

Agenda includes member updates on habitat implementation status, selecting next priorities from the existing Strategic Plan, and discussion of the Cornell and Penn State's Poconos Focus Groups for the implementation of Forest BMPs in the GWW Cooperative Management Area.

Members include NRCS, DCNR, PGC, IUP, PSU, QDMA, RGS, WMI, TNC, USFWS, consulting foresters, private landowners.

## **Mark Goodson's Presentation**

### Nutritional Management:

1. Technical Presentation: PA P Index Revision

2. Updates:

Bay Model Workshop (May) – CB Program – 3 Industry members attended.

National Nutrient Stewardship Summit, Des Moines. (June) – 1 member attended.

Interstate networking on Nutrient Management, Nutrient Stewardship and National 4R's campaign by industry.

PA 4R Alliance – Organization of this PennAg Industry initiative described. 4RAlliance enjoying support of allied industries as well as partners. J. Reed-Harry is acting Executive Director, plans to pursue additional funding and to grow.

3. New Business:

Introduced priority resource concern maps distributed at last STC meeting (April).

Discussed ranking issues toward providing NRCS in PA Guidance for selecting program FA awards to most operations to gain highest conservation returns.

Will take these two new business items on next agenda – Meeting approx. Oct

7th

PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRESENTS  
**PENNSYLVANIA ORGANIC  
FARMFEST**

**August 2-3, 2013**

**Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, PA**

Free Admission - [Farmfest2013.paorganic.org](http://Farmfest2013.paorganic.org)

814-422-0251 - [farmfest@paorganic.org](mailto:farmfest@paorganic.org)

**EVENTS**

- SpringCreek Homesteading Education Track -
- Trail2Creek.com Outdoor Symposium - Kids Parade -
- Silent Auction & Raffle - FarmFest 5K & Fun Run -
- NCAT Agricultural Education Track - Art Exhibit -
- Children's Activities - Organic Book Nook -
- Homemade & Homegrown Market -

**SPEAKERS**

Jerry Brunetti - Gary Zimmer - Brian Snyder - Susan Beal

**LIVE MUSIC**

Lady Moon Farms Grandstand:

**MOUNTAIN MINSTRELSY TED MCCLOSKEY & THE HI-FI'S  
VINEGAR CREEK CONSTITUENCY J-MAC, JR. & FRIENDS**

Organic Valley Stage:

**THE ROUNDERS THE HOT MAMAS HAROLD TADDY**

Organic Kids Stage:

**GARY GYEKIS THREE KITTIES ROBOT MOUTH**

trail2creek 

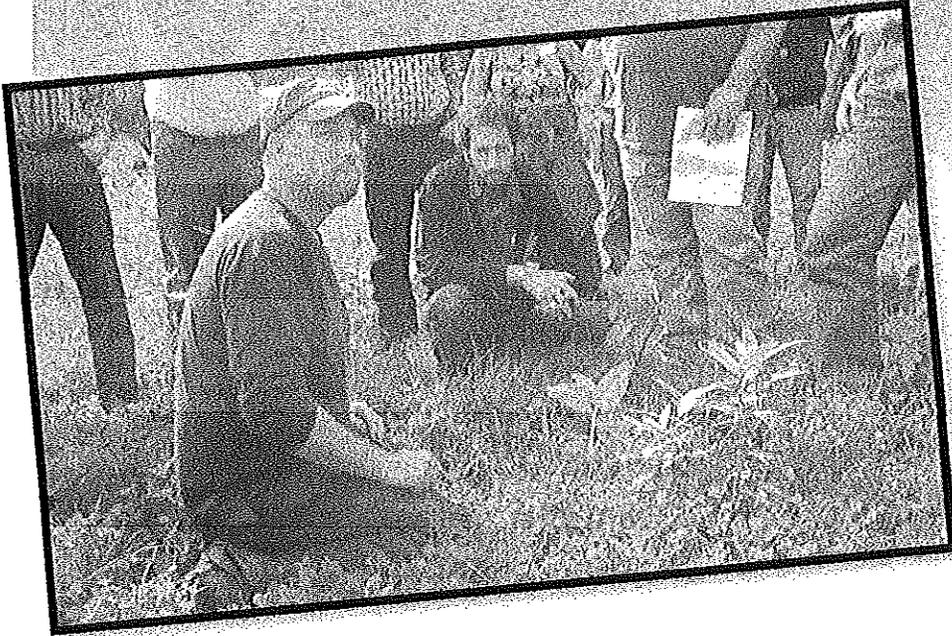
SpringCreek Homesteading 

Fertrell 



PCO Education Series 2013

# Planned Grazing and Biological Monitoring with Troy Bishopp and Susan Beal August 13, 2013 10am-3pm



See Mr. Burkholder's  
grazing chart in action

James Burkholder  
Farm at Rodale  
411 Siegfriedale Road  
Kutztown PA 19530  
A PCO-certified organic  
dairy

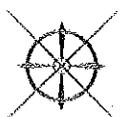
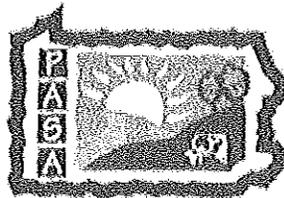


For van transportation call  
Lee at 814-470-9734

**\$20 registration, please  
register at  
<http://www.paorganic.org/>  
or by calling Lee Rinehart  
at 814-470-9734**

**Participants will learn the whys and hows of utilizing a grazing chart, biological monitoring and implementing grazing management techniques with a holistic view to improve profit and mitigate risk...**

- Create goals and strategies around grazing season benchmarks
- Monitor and track dry matter production weekly
- Implement practices to improve animal health and soil biology
- Use grazing management to improve nutrient management and/or manipulate ecological succession on specific fields.
- Build in pasture recovery times for getting through weather events and plan back in time from projected and/or estimated major events.



NORTHEAST  
CENTER FOR RISK  
MANAGEMENT EDUCATION



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



Funded by a grant from the NE Center for Risk Management

### **Civil Rights Update – Joe Kraft**

- Importance of Civil Rights within the Department and the Agency
- Role of Denise as Deputy Equal Opportunity Officer and the CRAC
- Review of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964( Pub. L 88-352)
  - o Prohibits discrimination on the bases of Race, Color and National Origin in program and activities receiving federal funds.
- Goal to increase participation of Minority, Underserved and Limited Resource Producers on various boards and committees that NRCS participates in.
- Encourage participants to actively seek out and encourage minority, underserved and Limited Resource Producers to serve on the State Technical Committee, local work groups, District Boards and other committees that have an interest in Agricultural and Natural Resource Concerns
- Benefits of having diversity on various boards and committees
  - o Increase marketing opportunities
  - o New networks
  - o Broader perspective relating to environmental issues

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE

NAME	ORGANIZATION/ AGENCY/ COMPANY	E-MAIL ADDRESS (if different/changed since last meeting)	MAILING ADDRESS or PHONE # (if e-mail not available)	How did you hear about this meeting?		
				e-mail	newspaper	other (specify)
Jack Tressler Gary Gilmore	PACD DCNR	jacktressler@rocketmail.com				
JACKIE WALDORF DENNIS WALDORF	WALDORF TREE FARM " " "	mysti5605@aol.com " "				
Michelle Hickman Karen Sykes	Armstrong Cons. Dist. USFS	mchnecc@aol.com ksykes@cs.fed.us			letter	
Frank Schneider Jason Detar	SCC Pthc	fschneider@pa.gov jdetar@pa.gov			invite	
Diana Day Grant Hubler	PFBC PA Farm Bureau	diday@pa.gov gghubler@pfb.com				
Bill Neilson Hannah Smith-Brubaker	PA FARM BUREAU PA Farmers Union	billneilson@PFB.com pafarmersunion@gmail.com				
Mike Pruss Ashley Lenz	PCC NRCJ	mpruss@pa.gov ashley.lenz@pa.usda.gov				
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