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# BROOK TROUT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

STEVE PERRY, EBTJV



# BROOK TROUT OUTCOME

"Restore and sustain naturally reproducing Brook Trout populations in Chesapeake headwater streams with an eight percent increase in occupied habitat by 2025."

## Initial Guiding Principles:

- 1. Focus on taking conservation actions in and around Brook Trout strongholds** (identified by subwatersheds with priority scores that range from 1.30-1.66).
- 2. Target patches that contain allopatric Brook Trout populations** (using results from the EBTJV's recently completed assessment of Brook Trout at the catchment scale).
- 3. Center conservation actions in locations where allopatric Brook Trout populations have low vulnerability to climate change** (i.e. Brook Trout patches with low sensitivity and exposure).

# DRAFT LIST OF PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- A. Reconnect adjacent habitats that have a high likelihood of sustaining stable wild Brook Trout populations.
- B. Improve access to spawning habitat and coldwater refugia.
- C. Mitigate factors that degrade water quality.
- D. Enhance or restore natural hydrologic regimes.
- E. Prevent the spread of invasives species into allopatric Brook Trout populations.

# BROOK TROUT ACTION TEAM

Name	Organization
Steve Perry	EBTJV - Team Lead
Mark Hudy	EBTJV
Jason Detar	PFBC
Alan Heft	MD DNR
Scott Prindle	NYS DEC
Steve Reeser	VA DGIF
David Thorne/Jim Hedrick	WV DNR
Kevin Anderson	TU
Than Hitt	USGS
Ty Wagner	PSU

# BROOK TROUT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY TIMELINE

**October-December 2014: Action team forms; suggests raw strategy content.**

**January 2015: Team meets to refine strategy content.**

**February 2015: Team completes draft management strategy.**

**March-April 2015: Public input period and agency/partner review**

**June 2015: Final strategies to be submitted to the Governors**

# FACTORS INFLUENCING BROOK TROUT SUSTAINABILITY

- Sediment and high water temperature caused by land use change
- Fragmented populations resulting from fish passage barriers
- Poor agricultural practices
- Acid effects from mine drainage and precipitation
- Competition from invasive species
- Others?