



**DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Joe Manchin III**  
*Governor*

**Frank Jezioro**  
*Director*

August 18, 2011

Callie McMunigal  
Project Leader  
Appalachian Partnership Coordination Office  
400 E. Main St.  
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24901

Dear Ms. McMunigal,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the WV Division of Natural Resources (DNR) in support of a project funding request submitted by Walter (Steve) Brown – Program Manager for the WV Division of Natural Resources’ Stream Restoration Program. The funding is being requested through the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) for the Oats Run Watershed Aquatic Passage Project in the Shavers Fork of Cheat River drainage of West Virginia.

Removal of the fish passage barrier will allow free movement of brook trout from Oats Run into Shavers Fork, where food resources are greater, and then back to Oats Run during summer months when temperatures may become lethal in the mainstem. Barrier removal will increase genetic diversity and has the potential to reconnect many miles of brook trout habitat, resulting in a more secure population.

As you know, West Virginia has participated in the EBTJV from its beginning in 2004. Previous funding secured through the EBTJV has allowed projects on several streams in West Virginia that have enhanced their ability to support brook trout and allow unimpeded passage.

West Virginia is committed to restoring and enhancing native brook trout populations in degraded streams where feasible and when funding is available. Evidence of this commitment can be found in DNR’s long history of treating acid impacted streams with limestone sand. Currently, over 300 miles of stream are being treated annually to improve the water quality of impacted streams to support trout. Approximately 80% of the treated stream miles support native brook trout. In addition we are currently working with several entities to improve habitat for native brook trout in the upper Shavers Fork watershed.

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I would like to add that the barrier removal project is just a part of a much larger and comprehensive plan to restore native brook trout to the upper Shavers Fork watershed. Previous funding obtained through the EBTJV has resulted in the removal of a fish passage barrier at Beaver Creek, and reconnected the stream to Shavers Fork.

I am requesting your favorable consideration of the Oats Run barrier removal project. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Curtis Taylor, Chief  
Wildlife Resources

CIT:ms