



Douglas W. Domenech  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*

Robert W. Duncan  
*Executive Director*

August 7, 2012

Re: St. Mary's River Liming Project

EBTJV/NFHP Grant Application Committee:

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) fully supports the proposed liming of St. Mary's River in Augusta County, Virginia. The wild brook trout population in St. Mary's River is a significant biological and recreational resource. While the trout population in St. Mary's River lies within the George Washington National Forest, VDGIF retains the primary fisheries management responsibility. Liming the stream is critical in order to protect this valuable wild brook trout fishery from the effects of acidic deposition. Previous liming operations have proved to be highly successful in sustaining the brook trout population. Our agency has invested considerable energy in evaluating the effectiveness of previous St. Mary's River liming projects by monitoring the macroinvertebrate and fish population. Research and monitoring efforts indicate that without continued liming the brook trout population in St. Mary's River would be severely suppressed or even eliminated.

We plan to continue to be an active member of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and work with the U.S. Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, and other partners in strengthening brook trout populations in Virginia. VDGIF encourages the approval of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen J. Reeser', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen J. Reeser  
Coldwater Stream Leader / EBTJV Member Rep.  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
P.O. Box 996  
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