



Eastern Brook Trout
JOINT VENTURE
A Fish Habitat Partnership

EBTJV Habitat News

NOW OPEN - FY26
EASTERN BROOK TROUT RFP
NEW - ONLINE ENTRY; PRE-APP DUE 1/14/24



photo: EBTJV steering committee members stand on top of a new clear - span bridge over Henderson Brook in Maine's 100-mile wilderness. This project connected an additional 3.3 miles of existing Brook Trout habitat to the West Branch. It was an FY21 EBTJV-FWS award to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in partnership with Appalachian Mountain Club. Photo credit: Kory Whittum, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 09/2024

EBTJV's FY26 Project RFP is now open!

New this year, we are utilizing an online form to accept applications, instead of requesting document uploads to the EBTJV website. The Jotform entry minimizes the potential for missed elements and standardizes the response formatting. Preview the application form [here](#). We also have a new short intent to apply/ feedback form due 1/14/2025.

Awards of up to \$50,000 are available for on-the-ground brook trout conservation and restoration projects in the native eastern range. Funds must be matched by nonfederal contributions (waived for tribal projects).

Examples of eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- restoring aquatic connectivity by removing small dams and replacing undersized culverts;
- executing strategies that eliminate competition from non-native species

(including removal);

- planting native shrubs and trees in riparian zones to provide shade and stream bank stabilization;
- adding large woody material to streams to add complexity, improve sediment sorting, and reconnect groundwater;
- restoring native brook trout to watersheds where it has been extirpated.
- implementing watershed conservation practices that reduce sediment and nutrient pollution.

This is not a complete list, and furthermore, specific project actions may be deemed appropriate in one location and not in another. Please see the RFP for more information.

[View the RFP for more information](#)

We are grateful for you!

The EBTJV would not exist if not for people like you who perform the work on the ground, and follow and support us. Twenty years ago, a group of conservationists answered the call to reverse the decline of wild brook trout, and since then we've been driven by the vision of fishable populations of this beloved species across its eastern geographic range.

We are grateful for everyone who makes this possible: the watershed and conservation groups who perform outreach and restoration programs; the local governments and communities who voluntarily adopt fish-friendly designs; our state, tribal, agency, university, and NGO partners who undertake applied research and continue to improve our conservation goals and actions; the administrative support that allows us to bring funding to the ground; foundations, federal/state programs, and other funders who make brook trout a priority; the financial supporters of the EBTJV and our partners; teachers, caregivers, guides, and fishing groups who bring people fishing for the first time ever and foster an admiration of fish and their beautiful habitats, or who take veterans and those in recovery for a day of quiet joy; writers, journalists, and artists who reflect on conservation needs, progress, and beauty so elegantly; and everyone who advocates for brook trout and wild spaces.

Thank you!

As we head into the fall and winter holiday season, we hope that you and your loved ones can spend some time in nature, reflecting on your own work and love for brook trout.



EBTJV steering committee and partners at a meeting at the New England Outdoor Center in Millinocket, Maine. Mt. Kathadin is in the background.



We also think it's great when you share photos and memories with us, like this, which we first shared on social media on Halloween.

This photo comes to us courtesy of Kirk Shisler of Harrisonburg, VA. Kirk, an avid angler who is also a repeat supporter of the EBTJV, netted and released this beauty on the Dry River in October. Says Kirk: "I did not see any trout pairing up yet but I think it's time to stay off the water until January!"

Jeon, Hyung-Bae, M. C. Yates, B. K. Gallagher, and D.J. Fraser. 2024. Life's a ditch: demographic history and environmental factors shape fine-scale local adaptation within small populations of brook trout. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2024-0075>

Robinson, Zachary, J. Coombs, M. Hudy, K. Nislow, and A. Whiteley. 2024. Estimates of Effective Number of Breeders Identify Drivers of Decline in Mid-Atlantic Brook Trout Populations. Evolutionary Applications. 17. 10.1111/eva.13769. [Open Access link](#).

We will be back in the coming months with more news links, job postings, and project profiles, including the outcomes from our 2023 Small Grants program for training and outreach.

Support Brook Trout conservation

Help us keep wild Brook Trout on the map! The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture accepts monetary donations through our 501c(3) nonprofit sponsor Beyond the Pond. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. When you select EBTJV as the Fish Habitat Partnership to support, all funds go to us and go towards outreach, coordination, and on-the-ground habitat projects that improve cold water habitat so that future generations can enjoy catching this beautiful fish.

[Donate Now](#)

The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) is a geographically focused, locally driven and scientifically based effort to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat throughout the Brook Trout's Eastern US native range. [Learn more](#)

We are a member of the [National Fish Habitat Partnership](#)
Our 501c(3) sponsor is the [Canaan Valley Institute](#)

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