

**2009 Multistate Conservation Grant Program
Proposal of the
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture-Fish Habitat Partnership**

I. Title of Project:

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture-Fish Habitat Partnership: Sustainable Infrastructure Development and Support

II. Applicant Information:

<p>Lila Borge Wills Conservation Management Institute, Virginia Tech 1900 Kraft Dr., Suite 250 Blacksburg, VA 24061 540/231-8996 540/231-7019 Fax lborge@vt.edu</p>	<p>Stephen G. Perry, Chief Inland Fisheries Division NH Fish and Game Department 11 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-1745 (603) 271-1438 Fax Stephen.Perry@wildlife.nh.gov</p>	<p>Robert F. Carline, PhD Interim Coordinator EBTJV 123 Gibson Pl Port Matilda, PA 16870 814-238-3119 m-bcarline@comcast.net</p>
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III. Project Objectives:

This proposal will build broad, diverse and transparent brook trout conservation partnerships at regional and state-wide levels, by: (1) creating the sustained organizational capacity to meet the long term Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture–Fish Habitat Partnership’s (EBTJV-FHP) strategic objectives; (2) increasing the EBTJV-FHP’s capacity to develop watershed scale protection, enhancement, and restoration of habitat on private and public lands; (3) building resource management agency capacity to guide mitigation of threats and stressors affecting brook trout habitat; and (4) generating awareness and stakeholder commitment to conserve brook trout populations and their habitats.

IV. Proposed Length of Project: 3 calendar years: 2009-2011

V. Funding requested: 2009 funding: \$81,020; 2010 funding \$220,073; 2011 funding \$148,154; Total \$449,248

VI. Funding Source: While brook trout are a prized sport fish, many state Wildlife Action Plans list the presence of brook trout as an important indicator of ecosystem health for species of greatest conservation need. The EBTJV-FHP estimates that 25% of the requested funds will be used for Wildlife Restoration activities and 75% will be used for Sport Fish Restoration.

VII. States Benefited: This proposal is written on behalf of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, an officially recognized Fish Habitat Partnership comprised of 17 eastern states in which brook trout have historically occupied.

VIII. NCN Addressed: NCN 4: Formation and Operation of Fish Habitat Partnerships to Facilitate National Fish Habitat Action Plan Implementation.

IX. Summary Statement: This proposal will allow the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to build and strengthen its Fish Habitat Partnership at regional and state-wide levels by increasing organizational capacity to meet the following EBTJV-FHP long-term strategic objectives: (1) implementing priority-based watershed-scale habitat protection, restoration and enhancement projects; (2) building partner capability to guide mitigation of threats and stressors affecting brook trout habitat, and (3) generating awareness and stakeholder commitment to conserve brook trout populations and their habitats.

2009 Multistate Conservation Grant Program
Proposal of the
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture-Fish Habitat Partnership

- A. Title: Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture-Fish Habitat Partnership: Sustainable Infrastructure Development
- B. Objective(s): The objectives of this proposal are to build broad, diverse and transparent brook trout conservation partnerships at regional and state-wide levels which include: (1) creating the sustained organizational capacity to meet the long term Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture–Fish Habitat Partnership’s (EBTJV-FHP) strategic objectives; (2) increasing the EBTJV-FHP’s ability to implement watershed scale actions that protect, enhance, and restore habitat on private and public lands; (3) building resource management agency capability to guide mitigation of threats and stressors affecting brook trout habitat; and (4) generating awareness and stakeholder commitment to conserving brook trout populations and their habitat.

Project goals.

1. Regional workgroups – organize and support regional teams of partners who will develop annual action plans, formulate and track regional conservation goals and objectives, establish funding goals, and evaluate proposed projects.
2. Infrastructure capacities – provide support to functional EBTJV-FHP subcommittees: Conservation/Habitat Strategies; Data Resources; Outreach and Education; Science and Research; Grants and Development.
3. Internal communications – develop communications vehicles (e.g. web site, newsletter, etc) to transmit technical, organizational, and financial information to partners to help them address conservation goals.
4. External communications – produce outreach materials to increase public and policy-maker awareness and commitment to conservation of brook trout.

Goal-oriented actions.

1. The EBTJV-FHP Steering Committee will recruit a part-time Coordinator dedicated to assisting regional workgroups in developing and implementing regional action plans and who will be responsible for ensuring that subcommittees are continuing to work on assigned charges and are regularly communicating with all elements of the partnership.
2. The EBTJV-FHP Steering Committee will organize annual meetings of all partners to review progress, identify new needs, and assess progress towards achieving conservation goals.
3. The EBTJV-FHP Outreach and Education subcommittee will: redesign the web site and design and develop a newsletter that addresses partnership needs; reprint and distribute the popular and educational document Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats and reprint selected state brochures for the EBT: Status and Threats; and, develop and produce of six other brochures that will address targeted educational themes

C. Problem Statement: This proposal addresses NCN 4 – “Formation and Operation of Fish Habitat Partnerships to Facilitate National Fish Habitat Action Plan Implementation.”

The EBTJV, one of the first Fish Habitat Partnerships to be officially recognized under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, has successfully brought together 17 states, 5 federal agencies, 4 non-governmental organizations, and 2 universities to formulate and implement a conservation strategy to protect, enhance, and restore brook trout populations throughout its eastern U.S. range. In just a few short years, the EBTJV-FHP has completed a comprehensive assessment of brook trout status and has forged a strategy to significantly improve this valued resource. Successful implementation of the EBTJV-FHP’s Conservation Strategy is dependent upon the maintenance of a strong operational organization that will provide guidance and assistance to all partners who are implementing on-the-ground projects to protect, improve, or restore critical habitat for brook trout.

Specifically, this request supports development of the EBTJV-FHP’s three regional workgroups, which are critical components of the partnership. This allows the EBTJV-FHP to: (1) be adaptive to addressing regional issues that vary significantly throughout the historic range of brook trout; (2) guide regional initiatives to meet the needs of the states within the region; (3) be better positioned to apply for and receive resources in support of regional and state programs (i.e.- Using the Farm Bill programs for conserving Brook Trout in the Southern Appalachians); and, (4) have a structure in place whereby support of conservation, outreach, and education activities can be classified, assessed, and reported as measurable results.

Due to the enormous geographic range of the initiative, the EBTJV-FHP has identified three regional workgroups, each consisting of between 4 and 7 states per workgroup. The regional objectives match the status and threats of brook trout populations and their habitats – i.e. the northern states have more of a protection role than the southern states. Because differences occur among the regions, the regional agendas will reflect the needs of their member states. The infrastructure to shape regional organizational, outreach, and education agendas to achieve range-wide goals will be strengthened as states work together to solve common issues at the regional scale.

State agency-led regional workgroups will formulate regional scale agendas that will lead to the development of action work plans that can be tailored to fit the different regional needs. These regional-scale workgroups will also provide support and advocacy to implement the needed conservation action, which will expedite meeting the EBTJV-FHP Conservation Strategy goals and objectives.

EBTJV-FHP regional Conservation Strategy objectives are written for a 5 to 7 year time frame to facilitate adaptive management feedback that is required to make mid-course corrections as the outcome of brook trout conservation actions become apparent. The framework for compiling and reporting this information, making mid-course corrections, and implementing and growing programs requires fully functional regional workgroups.

In addition to the accountability factor, a regional focus facilitates resource recruitment which otherwise would be difficult, if not impossible, to attract. For instance, regional workgroups might include universities, foundations, corporate interests, and individuals who would be willing to contribute at a regional level, but may be unable or unwilling to support efforts that are at the range-wide scale.

The EBTJV-FHP developed its Conservation Strategy with the concept of establishing regional workgroups, which are intended to support the actions contained within state-level Brook Trout Conservation Strategies. The application of the EBTJV-FHP's conservation goals at the regional scale is imperative to the success of the effort to conserve brook trout. This grant request will set the foundation for the success of the EBTJV-FHP at the regional level since it stimulates the building of operational capacity and effectiveness.

D. Experience:

A group of fisheries biologists, managers, nongovernmental organizations, and academics came together in 2003 to address the need for a coordinated approach to Eastern brook trout restoration. In June 2004, the group sponsored a workshop in Shepherdstown, WV, where committees were formed to address the various components of this initiative. The originating group became members of the EBTJV-FHP Steering Committee, which was later formalized by adoption of a management structure, by-laws, and a Memorandum of Understanding. Since then, the EBTJV-FHP has become one of the premier Fish Habitat Partnerships operating under the umbrella of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

The Conservation Management Institute (CMI) has extensive experience both in managing large complex projects and developing information management programs for state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. Recently, the Conservation Management Institute and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture teamed up on a Multistate Grant Program to establish baseline conditions for eastern brook trout with state and federal agency biologists, develop and initiate an outreach and education program with Trout Unlimited, and provide mapping and data management services with USGS. The result has been the successful launch of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture-Fish Habitat Partnership. Based on the experience and management of the initial grant, the EBTJV Steering Committee has asked CMI to manage and host the current proposal of strengthening the operational functionality of the partnership.

The Conservation Management Institute agreed to coordinate and submit the proposal and serve as the prime contractor if the proposal is funded.

E. Approach:

Acknowledging the enormous scale and scope of its vision, the EBTJV-FHP must develop broad sustainable regionally-based workgroups that meet the needs of state, regional and range-wide objectives. The EBTJV-FHP proposes to strengthen the functionality of these workgroups by establishing regional coalitions that work with and provide support to existing statewide brook trout alliances. Regional workgroups will require state leadership to support the implementation of the regional conservation agenda, implement the habitat and population threat solutions, and guide the priority planning for achieving early success in projects with replicable results. Stakeholder identification, recruitment of potential corporate or foundation interests and conservation minded individuals and organizations will be early outputs of the process. Delivering the message to target audiences at the regional and statewide scales will create awareness of the status of the brook trout, its value as a sport fish and indicator of healthy watersheds, and the existence of the EBTJV-FHP and its partners. These efforts are intended to recruit additional partners to support the outcomes of the regional-level and state-level brook trout conservation agendas.

Activities/Deliverables:	Budget	Time frame
I. Reprint 10,000 additional copies of the 2006 Eastern Brook Trout: Status and Threats document	\$24,000	Fall 09-Winter 2010
II. Reprint 10,000 selected state brochures	\$23,980	Fall 09-Winter 2010
III. Provide Website support	\$27,181	Ongoing, minimum quarterly
IV. Provide support for EBTJV Coordinator (\$50,000)	Included in budget	2009-2011
V. Provide support for electronic newsletter	\$13,451	Quarterly
VI. Develop Regional Workshops for each region (3): a) Regional planning meetings with JV members b) Travel awards for state professionals c) Stakeholder identification and invitation d) Meeting space e) Publicity/Outreach f) Honorariums g) Proceedings h) Mailing lists and contact management i) Planning and organizational salary expense	\$199,238	Planning through Fall 2011; Regional meetings held fall/winter 2009; spring/summer 2010; fall/winter 2011

VII. Publications: Based on outcomes of regional planning efforts - printing a) Regional Mapping b) Threats awareness c) Proposals for resources.	\$56,526	Begin Spring 2009;
VIII. Publications for Targeted Educational Themes: a) Brook Trout and Development b) Reducing Sediment from Dirt and Gravel Roads c) Fish Passage Barrier Identification and Assessment d) Riparian Buffers as Water Quality Amendments e) Managing Exotic Fish in Brook Trout Habitat f) Flooding and Habitat Recovery g) Others as identified	\$80,624	Fall 2009 – Fall 2011
IX. Symposium Conference and Workshop Support a) Portable Table Top Display b) Travel c) Posters and Display material a. Range-wide/ semi permanent theme b. Three regional themes c. 15 state themes	\$24,248	Spring –Fall 2010
Total Request	\$449,248	

All products will be distributed through EBTJV-FHP organizations and will be available through the EBTJV-FHP website (www.easternbrooktrout.net) in pdf format. Sustainability of the regional workgroups will be cemented by regional level organizing documents such as MOU, Cooperative Agreements or Letters of Intent. Specific resource contributions will be acknowledged through contracts, letters of Commitment, or other documented manner.

The grant manager will submit quarterly reports which indicate progress, accomplishments and progress towards deliverables.

The effectiveness of this effort will be gauged by

- the number of partners enlisted in the regional workgroups,
- contributions of resources garnered through the regional workgroups,
- numbers of outreach programs and of individuals reached,
- programs proposed, initiated, and implemented to further the goals and objectives of the EBTJV-FHP,
- number of State agencies committed to regional agenda and work plan implementation,
- Other indexes as determined

Subcontractors are chosen on the basis of previous work history and knowledge of the EBTJV-FHP.

- F. Expected Results and Benefits:** A sustainable infrastructure at the regional scale will provide benefits throughout the life of the EBTJV-FHP. This request for funding is an investment in the long term viability of this Fish Habitat Partnership because it strengthens the process for developing state agency led regional workgroups, which are formed around common region-wide brook trout conservation needs. Once the regional brook trout conservation agenda is developed, the recruitment of additional partners with the ability to accomplish the projects and strategies laid out at the state level will intensify.

The short term results and benefits are

- Regional workgroups in support of range-wide objectives; Outcome: three operationally functional regional workgroups formalized with membership lists.
- Outreach materials available for distribution to target audiences; Outcome: 10,000 copies of EBT: Status and Threats document plus 10,000 additional state brochure copies for selected state efforts.
- Display materials for state, regional, and range-wide venues custom designed to reflect the specific needs at the three regional and the range-wide scales; Outcome: Table top display with custom designed graphics depicting three regional themes and range-wide theme built to be shippable for conferences, workshops, festivals, symposiums, etc. (Hardware, plus four themes developed, designed, produced, and distributed)
- Current communications and information exchange through the EBTJV website; Outcome: Updated web site with current content compelling the reader to learn about brook trout, support efforts of the EBTJV-FHP, or contribute resources toward the effort – at least quarterly.
- Electronic newsletter services for range-wide and regional partners of the EBTJV-FHP; Outcome: Current information and calendar of events for EBTJV-FHP partners, accomplishments and commentary sections that provide a contemporary communications venue for range-wide and regional issues and events – quarterly.
- Stronger communications and working relationships among the wildlife professionals and between the professionals and the public specifically focused on brook trout issues; Outcome: Strength of numbers and consistency of message to build support for mutually beneficial programs and initiatives at all levels of decision-making (ongoing for the life of the EBTJV-FHP).
- Regional workgroups will provide increased media opportunities and exposure for brook trout and the habitat it requires to thrive; Outcomes: Public awareness is elevated through press releases, reporters interests, and ‘local’ interest stories. Outcome: Nine regional press releases resulting

in 200 'placements' in print or broadcast media with the intent of 'reaching' 3,000,000 individuals.

- Opportunity for additional, diverse, non-traditional partners to join forces with the brook trout advocates; Outcome: Broad based partnerships focused on brook trout will appeal to a wider audience, creating more opportunity to build support, garner resources and approach decision makers. Outcome: Capacity to directly appeal to developers, local officials, agency resources, and legislators from a number of perspectives with the mutual goal of conserving brook trout and its habitat.
- Other benefits that come from interaction between and among passionate people with resources to focus on the source of their interests.

Longer term, less quantifiable, benefits include

- A sustainable foundation for addressing the causes of habitat degradation and resultant population decline of brook trout;
- Long term viability of the EBTJV-FHP;
- Educational consistency and constancy regarding the brook trout message over the course of the 25-year plan contained within the Brook Trout Conservation Strategy;
- Outreach focused to target organizations to build the wide spread support of brook trout and its habitat.

Overall, the benefits of this proposal are tied directly to the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) because the expected outcomes are focused on: strengthening coordination among existing fish habitat coalitions at regional and state levels, while fostering new efforts; mobilizing landscape scale support for achieving regional fish habitat conservation goals and objectives; and, measuring and communicating the status and needs of fish habitat.

More explicitly, the benefits of this proposal will assist the EBTJV-FHP to fulfill its roles and responsibilities as a primary work unit of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan by: facilitating its leadership in developing fish habitat projects at regional and local levels; engaging the grassroots to build support for fish habitat conservation; involving diverse groups of public and private partners and focusing them on conservation of fish habitat; ranking proposals for funding, and tracking results of projects; and, implementing a process that embraces adaptive management principles.

This proposal also meets several of the desired outcomes listed for NCN 4 since it's expected the regional workgroups will be coordinating implementation of the EBTJV-FHP Conservation Strategy with other aquatic habitat strategies and actions identified in State Wildlife as well as other complimentary action plans; it includes development and implementation of coordinated outreach strategies to engage all organizations and individuals with interest in the conservation and stewardship of brook trout and its

habitats; and, it provides support for and development of EBTJV-FHP capacity to achieve goals and objectives outlined by our partnership's Conservation Strategy, NFHAP, and National Fish Habitat Board.

G. Certification:

I certify that the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity of the organization that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife, or the regulated taking of fish and the grant funds will not be used in whole or in part, for any activity, project, or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting and trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish.

H. Partnership Funds Certification:

By submitting this proposal, the organization's primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the Conservation Management Institute (1) understands that partnership fund contributions are assessed in the Association's review and selection of its priority list of MSCGP projects, but are not considered by the USFWS to be an official non-federal match/cost-share; (2) will provide the partnership funds identified in order to complete the proposed project; (3) will report the expenditure of partnership funds to the USFWS and the Association as required, which will not be more frequently than quarterly; (4) understands that if the promised partnership funds are not provided, and there is not a sufficient explanation, potential consequences could include a poor "quality assurance" evaluation by the National Grants Committee for the organization's future MSCGP applications; the imposition of "special award conditions" on this proposed grant and/or future grants (pursuant to 43 CFR 12); and if the failure to provide partnership funds affects the scope/objective or deliverables or other terms and conditions of the grant, then the USFWS could take necessary enforcement and termination actions (pursuant to 43 CFR 12).

I. Budget: Match years 2009-2011

Expense	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Objective 1: Reprint S&T Report					
Personnel					
Travel					
Supplies					
Equipment					
Contractual	4000	12000	4000	1480	20,000
Indirect costs	800	2400	800		4,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	4800	14400	4800	1480	\$ 24,000
Objective 2: Reprint S&T Brochures	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Personnel	983				983
Travel					
Supplies					
Equipment					
Contractual	1000	16000	2000		19,000
Indirect costs	397	3200	400	1479	3,997
<i>Subtotal</i>	2380	19200	2400	1479	\$ 23,980
Objective 3: Provide Website Support	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Personnel	4634	9810	8837		22,651
Travel					
Supplies					
Equipment					
Contractual					
Indirect costs	927	1836	1767	1676	4,530
<i>Subtotal</i>	5561	11016	10604	1676	\$ 27,181

Objective 4: EBTJV Newsletter	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Personnel	4270	3203	3736		11,209
Travel					
Supplies					
Equipment					
Contractual					
Indirect costs	854	641	747	829	2,242
<i>Subtotal</i>	5124	3844	4483	829	\$ 13,451
Objective 5: Regional Brook Trout Summits (3)	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Personnel	14115	37240	42677	15604	94,032
Travel	8000	25000	20000		53,000
Supplies	500	5000	2000	1000	7,500
Equipment					
Contractual	2,500	5000	4000		11,500
Indirect costs	5023	14448	13735	16835	33,206
<i>Subtotal</i>	30138	86688	82412	33440	\$ 199,238
Objective 6: Regional Brook Trout Publications	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Personnel	4914	3141	7050		15,105
Travel	2000	1500	1500		5,000
Supplies					
Equipment					
Contractual	5000	15000	7000		27,000
Indirect costs	2383	3928	3110	3486	9,421
<i>Subtotal</i>	14297	23569	18660	3486	\$ 56,526

Objective 7: Publications for Targeted Brook Trout Education Themes	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Personnel	1601	6334	5752		13,687
Travel	3000	2500			5,500
Supplies					
Equipment					
Contractual	8,000	30,000	10,000		48,000
Indirect costs	2520	7767	3150		13,437
<i>Subtotal</i>	15121	46600	18902		\$ 80,624
Objective 8: Create table top display system with Regional Themes	2009 MSCGP	2010 MSCGP	2011 MSCGP	Partner Funds*	Total MSCGP
Personnel		1047	1410	6069	2,457
Travel	2000	2000	1500		5,500
Supplies					
Equipment					
Contractual	1000	1750	2000		4,750
Indirect costs	600	2459	982	3134	20,207
<i>Subtotal</i>	3600	14756	5892	9254	\$ 24,248
<u>Total Expenses</u>					\$449,248

* The EBTJV-FHP partners will provide planning, delivery, travel and, most importantly, guidance to the objective listed in this proposal. The purpose of this proposal is to generate interest, attract resources, and gain additional traditional and non-traditional partners in a state wildlife agency guided partnership and to solicit the application of resources in a coordinated manner. Initial estimates of partner contributions have ranged from \$75,000 to \$150,000 over the course of the grant period. The grant managers and subcontractors commit to account for and report the level of contributions by partners, and soon to be partners.

Total MSCGP funds requested for the 3-year program is \$449,248. Total partnership funding for the 3-year project will be dependent upon the outcome of the MSGP decision and funding levels. See note above.

Qualifications:

Stephen G. Perry

Stephen G. Perry has 30+ years of professional experience working for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, including 11 years performing senior leadership responsibilities, which have been directly related to the field of fisheries research and management. This work experience includes developing, implementing, and managing multiple complex fisheries resource conservation programs; providing technical support, planning assistance, and supervision to staff; extensive experience working with federal, state and local governments; responsibility for adherence to Federal laws, regulations and procedures relative to fisheries conservation programs; and resolving fisheries resource issues through facilitated public involvement. Stephen has been involved with the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture – Fish Habitat Partnership (EBTJV-FHP) since its initial formation, and led the effort in developing the Management Structure for the EBTJV-FHP. Stephen has served as the EBTJV-FHP Steering Committee Chair since March 2007 and in this capacity assisted the EBTJV through the application process as it became one of the first four Fish Habitat Partnerships recognized under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Stephen was co-principal investigator on a 2005 Multistate Conservation Grant (Grant Number M-14-C) that provided the EBTJV-FHP with the resources to complete several key initiatives, one of which was a comprehensive range-wide status and threat assessment of brook trout and another was development of a valuable, interactive database. The brook trout status and threat assessment provided the basis for a range-wide conservation action plan.

Robert Carline

Robert Carline received a BS in biological sciences from Rutgers, an MS in fisheries science from Oregon State University, and a PhD in zoology from the University of Wisconsin Madison. He began his professional career in 1967 as a project leader with the Wisconsin DNR's Coldwater Fisheries Research Group. In 1976 he moved to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Assistant Unit Leader and then Leader of the Ohio Cooperative Fishery Research Unit. From there he took over the Unit Leader position with the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in 1984 and he retired from that position in 2007. Throughout his career, he has specialized in research on coldwater streams and lakes. He has been the Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator on more than 50 funded research projects and has published more than 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

The Conservation Management Institute (CMI)

The CMI has agreed to coordinate and submit the proposal and serve as the prime contractor if the proposal is funded. Project manager at CMI is Lila Borge Wills, who has 15 years of experience managing these types of projects, including two recently funded EBTJV projects. The CMI has extensive experience both in managing large complex projects and developing information management programs for state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. Recently, the Conservation Management Institute and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture teamed up on a

Multistate Grant Program to establish baseline conditions for eastern brook trout with state and federal agency biologists, develop and initiate an outreach and education program with Trout Unlimited, and provide mapping and data management services with USGS. The result has been the successful launch of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Based on the experience and management of the initial grant, CMI has been requested to manage and host the current proposal of building and initiating strategic partnership development.