



# NFWF

## NATIONAL FISH and WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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June 29, 2017

Callie McMunigal  
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service  
400 E. Main Street  
White Sulphur Springs, WV, 24986

Dear Callie,

Enclosed is the final programmatic report for the below agreement.

**Project Title:** Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Coordination and Operations FY15

**USFWS Agreement #:** F15AC00861

**Prepared by:** Stephen G. Perry, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Coordinator

**Prepared for:** Callie McMunigal, US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Final Report Performance Period:** 7/30/2015 – 3/31/2017

**Task 1:** Assist with refining the EBTJV's strategic objectives and key conservation priorities using the results of the recently completed status assessment of wild Brook Trout at the catchment scale.

### Accomplishments:

Two joint meetings of the EBTJV's Conservation Strategy and Science & Data Committee were convened (February 19, 2016 in Wheeling, WV and December 5-7, 2016 in Shepherdstown, WV) to assist with refining the partnership's strategic objectives and key conservation priorities using the results of the partnership's recently completed status assessment of wild Brook Trout at the catchment scale. To be effective in using the results of the EBTJV's catchment assessment ([Hudy et. al. 2013](#); [Coombs and Nislow 2015](#)) to refine the EBTJV's strategic objectives and key conservation priorities, the data generated from assessing ~272,000 catchments were analyzed and then summarized in a report titled [Range-wide Assessment of Brook Trout at the Catchment Scale: A Summary of Findings](#). The contents of this report were used by the EBTJV's Conservation Strategy and Science & Data committees to develop [revised key conservation actions and range-wide habitat objectives](#).



NFWF

A joint meeting of the EBTJV's Conservation Strategy and Science & Data Committee was convened February 19, 2016 in Wheeling, WV for the purpose of initiating discussions on a number of topics related to refining the partnership's strategic objectives and key conservation priorities. Sixteen Committee members participated in this meeting and a [summary document](#) was produced.

To be effective in using the results of the EBTJV's catchment assessment ([Hudy et. al. 2013](#); [Coombs and Nislow 2015](#)) to refine the EBTJV's strategic objectives and key conservation priorities, the data generated from assessing ~272,000 catchments were analyzed and then summarized in a report titled [Range-wide Assessment of Brook Trout at the Catchment Scale: A Summary of Findings](#). The contents of this report will be used by the EBTJV's Conservation Strategy and Science & Data committees when they meet jointly in December 2016 to discuss revisions to the aforementioned objectives and priorities.

**Task 2:** Collaborate with neighboring Fish Habitat Partnerships and other conservation entities to ensure strategic conservation actions among this community are synchronized.

Accomplishments:

Twenty-four HUC8 drainages were identified as potential candidates for a collective effort among the three eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships (EBTJV, ACFHP, and SARP) to mitigate fish habitat connectivity issues.

HUC8 drainages identified as potential to mitigate fish habitat connectivity issues:

03040102 South Yadkin  
03050101 Upper Catawba  
03050102 South Fork Catawba  
03050105 Upper Broad  
03050109 Saluda  
03060101 Seneca  
03060102 Tugaloo  
03060104 Broad  
02070001 South Branch Potomac  
02070003 Cacapon-Town  
02070004 Conococheague-Opequon  
02070005 South Fork Shenandoah  
02070006 North Fork Shenandoah  
02070007 Shenandoah  
02070008 Middle Potomac-Catoctin  
02070010 Middle Potomac-Anacostia-Occoquan  
02070011 Lower Potomac  
02080103 Rapidan-Upper Rappahannock



NFWF

02080201 Upper James  
02080202 Maury  
02080203 Middle James-Buffalo  
02080204 Rivanna  
03010101 Upper Roanoke  
03010103 Upper Dan

The EBTJV, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP), and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) collaborated to identify drainages that cross the three Fish Habitat Partnerships geographic boundaries in order to launch collective efforts to mitigate fish habitat connectivity issues.

The EBTJV collaborated with members of the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) to develop a scope of work for the 2016 Multistate Conservation Grant Program funding that is being allocated to the three eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships. The objective of this collaboration is to establish a process that identifies and prioritizes fish habitat conservation focus areas located in drainages that cross the geographic boundaries of the ACFHP, SARP, and EBTJV.

The EBTJV met with members of the Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition in Mashpee, MA (July 5-6, 2016) to discuss the conservation needs of “salter” Brook Trout in the southeastern coastal area of Massachusetts.

The EBTJV worked with the Chesapeake Bay Program’s (CBP) Brook Trout Action Team to initiate the development of an indicator of success for the CBP’s Brook Trout Management Strategy and to review the Brook Trout Management Strategy’s annual work plan.

**Task 3:** Solicit fish habitat conservation projects that address wild Brook Trout priority needs.

#### Accomplishments:

Twelve Brook Trout conservation project proposals were received by the RFP's September 16, 2016 deadline and were subsequently reviewed and scored by members of the EBTJV Review Team. The EBTJV Review Team then made recommendations for funding these projects to the partnership's Steering Committee. In early December 2016, the EBTJV Steering Committee approved the priority listing of Brook Trout conservation projects for funding.

The EBTJV developed and released a [Request for Proposals](#) for Brook Trout conservation projects seeking FY17 USFWS-NFHAP funding to more than 500 individuals via MailChimp. The EBTJV received 12 project proposals by the September 16, 2016 deadline. These 12 Brook Trout conservation project



# NFWF

proposals will be reviewed and scored by members of the EBTJV Review Team and the Team will then make recommendations for funding these projects to the partnership's Steering Committee in early December 2016, for their considerations and subsequent actions

**Task 4:** Coordinate and compile information on wild Brook Trout conservation activities and improvements in wild Brook Trout habitat condition for use in measuring progress towards conserving wild Brook Trout.

Accomplishments:

Collectively, twelve Brook Trout conservation projects completed between 2013 and 2015 enhanced 32 stream miles of habitat; restored 30 acres of riparian habitat; and removed 31 fish passage barriers that renewed access to 62 stream miles. The socioeconomic benefit resulting from these projects is estimated to be \$52 million dollars. Additionally, using the National Fish Habitat Partnership's economic calculator the twelve Brook Trout conservation projects supported 70 jobs, \$5.5 million dollars in total sales, \$3.2 million dollars in value added, and \$2.6 million dollars in income.

Information about twelve Brook Trout conservation projects completed between 2013 and 2015 were compiled for use in measuring progress towards conserving wild Brook Trout.

This task had no work performed during the period covered by the interim report. However, this task is expected to be completed on or before January 6, 2017.

**Task 5:** Promote the accomplishments being achieved in conserving wild Brook Trout to targeted audiences in coordination with the FWS.

Accomplishments:

To promote the accomplishments being achieved in conserving wild Brook Trout, seventy-nine (79) wild Brook Trout conservation-related media stories were posted on the EBTJV's [Facebook page](#) and resulted in increasing the followers of the EBTJV's Facebook page from 2,276 to 2,530 individuals and these postings generated more than 76,800 views.

During the interim performance period, 59 media stories about Brook Trout conservation were posted on the [EBTJV Facebook page](#). These Brook Trout conservation posts received 64,699 views.

The EBTJV provided [outreach material](#) for distribution to attendees of the International World Trout Congress that was held in Bozeman, MT.



# NFWF

**Task 6:** Serve as Business Manager for the EBTJV.

Accomplishments:

The EBTJV Steering Committee meetings resulted in the actions described in the [March](#), [June](#), [September](#), and [December](#) discussion summaries.

While serving in the capacity of Business Manager, three meetings via conference call and one in-person meeting of the EBTJV's Steering Committee were organized.

The EBTJV Steering Committee held three meetings via conference call during the performance period covered by the interim report ([March](#), [June](#), and [September](#)).

The EBTJV reviewed and provided feedback to the developers of the partnership's Project Tracking Database, which is in the final phases of development.

**Task 7:** Serve as liaison with National Fish Habitat Partnership efforts.

Accomplishments:

Liaised with National Fish Habitat Partnership, the National Fish Habitat Board, and the Board's Partnership Committee. Liaising with the National Fish Habitat Partnership included actively participating in four meetings of the National Fish Habitat Board, one Fish Habitat Partnership workshop and three Partnership Committee teleconferences. It also entailed preparing and submitting the EBTJV's section for inclusion in the National Fish Habitat Partnership's [2015 Annual Report](#).

The EBTJV Coordinator participated in three meetings of the National Fish Habitat Board; two of the meetings were conducted by teleconference ([1/20/16](#) and [6/29/16](#)) and one was in-person ([3/7-9/16](#)).

The EBTJV prepared and submitted its partnership section for inclusion in the National Fish Habitat Partnership's [2015 Annual Report](#).

The EBTJV Coordinator participated in three Partnership Committee teleconferences (5/6/16, 6/3/16, and 9/16/16). The Partnership Committee, which serves as a forum for preliminary discussions, fact-finding, and formulating recommendations for NFH Board actions that affect Fish Habitat Partnerships, concentrated on the following three priority tasks in 2016:

- Reviewing the current National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) National Conservation Need and amending it as needed.



# NFWF

- Developing a process that provides a priority ranking of multiple Fish Habitat Partnership project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source.
- Reviewing Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) performance evaluation response forms and identifying the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies.

The EBTJV participated in the bi-monthly calls between the National Fish Habitat Partnership staff and Fish Habitat Partnership coordinators.

### **Lessons learned:**

Key lessons learned include the EBTJV understanding that using the findings from its finer scale assessment to revise the partnership's regional habitat objectives puts the EBTJV in a better position to track progress; collaborating with ACFHP and SARP will allow these partnership's to be more effective at mitigating fish habitat connectivity issues because of the greater emphasis being placed on a common focal area that spans from the headwater system downstream to the marine environment; and, that by holding periodic workshops, the twenty recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships can improve their capacity to deal with some of the common challenges they face.