

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

BROOK TROUT

GOAL: Vital Habitats

OUTCOME

Restore and sustain naturally reproducing brook trout populations in Chesapeake headwater streams with an eight percent increase in occupied habitat by 2025.

CURRENT EFFORTS

- Jurisdictions—State-by-state efforts listed including: MD’s statewide Brook Trout Fisheries Management Plan (2006); PA’s efforts to provide high quality resource management and protection; and VA’s programs to monitor brook trout and maintain a Coldwater Stream Database.
- Federal Agencies— Efforts include: USGS decision-relevant science including studies on understanding factors that affect brook trout populations; National Park Service efforts to conserve natural and historic resources; USDA forest service efforts to promote sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation; and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service voluntary assistance programs to protect, restore and enhance lands and waters.
- Trout Unlimited advocates for native trout conservation and is an on-the-ground implementer of priority conservation actions related to the reconnection and restoration of brook trout habitat.
- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture facilitates collaboration among the conservation community by completing landscape-level scientific assessments on the status of wild Brook Trout and identifying the major threats they face and using results of the assessments to establish key priorities that serve as the framework for the coordination of strategic conservation actions.

GAPS

- Tools or technologies are needed to help correlate terrestrial habitat restoration to improvements in Brook Trout population health
- Continued or increased funding of terrestrial habitat restoration or conservation programs
- Creative or innovative ways to get more private landowners to participate in programs
- Improved understanding of how the rate of genetic exchange among populations of Brook Trout affects population persistence in the presence of stressors.
- Funding for annual seasonal monitoring staff.

MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

- **Identify Priority Focal Areas for Brook Trout Conservation**— The specific locations of Wild Brook Trout Only patches can be viewed at the [Brook Trout Integrated Spatial Data and Tools website](#)
- **Consider climate change in determining priorities**—Added considerations need to be given to those locations where Brook Trout have a lower vulnerability to the effects of climate change because their populations are less likely to disappear under various climate change scenarios.
- **Apply decision support tools**— In addition to the Brook Trout Integrated Spatial Data and Tools website, there are several other decision support tools available that will assist the conservation community in refining their efforts to conserve Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout resources at the local level:
 - Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Prioritization
 - Riparian Restoration for Climate Change Resilience Tool
 - Chesapeake Bay Brook Trout Model decision support application



For the full management strategy, visit: www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies