

PLAN FOR TARGET DEVELOPMENT

Brook Trout

CBWA Signatory members participating in the BTAT include federal partnership through USFWS, USGS, USFS, USEPA. Jurisdictional reps identified on the BTAT include WV, PA, NY, MD, VA.

The Brook Trout Action Team (BTAT) had one target placeholder in its resiliency target: By 2035, reduce identified threats by _XX_% to increase brook trout resiliency in watersheds supporting healthy populations. To fill this, the group has a list of 5 outputs each highlighting project types that mitigate negative impacts to brook trout population resiliency in the face of changing environmental conditions. These include acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment, aquatic organism passage (AOP), dirt & gravel road improvements, land protection, and riparian restoration-based projects. With assistance from the Geospatial Science and Applications Team (GSAT), the workgroup is defining the extent of each stressor to show mitigation potential. The workgroup will then decide on a realistic 10-year goal for each project type. This will be informed by professional judgement of the workgroup members as well as data on the previous 10 years of project implementation (data gathered by [the workgroup's most recent GIT-funded project](#)). Dividing the 10-year goal by the mitigation potential will yield a stressor's percent mitigated for each project type. To get the overall percent in the outcome target we will average all outputs. Specific language development is planned as follows:

June 27: [Brook Trout Action Team](#) meet with GSAT, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, and Trout Unlimited to discuss attainment of denominator metrics.

July 7: Brook Trout Action Team meet with Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, and Trout Unlimited to discuss outstanding methodology bottlenecks and define actions to resolve.

November 19 & 20th: Brook Trout Workgroup Meeting - seek workgroup feedback on annual / 10-year goals for the resiliency outputs.

December 31st: GSAT will supply metrics for each of the 5 resiliency outputs.

December 31st: The Brook Trout Action Team (BTAT) will finalize the 10-year goals and overall percent reduction for each of the 5 resiliency outputs.

Fish Habitat

The current [fish habitat action team](#) membership does not have expertise on acid mine drainage (AMD) mitigation; therefore a small team was formed to begin discussion of an AMD target and plan. We began developing a team with the partners that have indicated AMD interest and were part of the June CRC webinar “A River Runs Orange: Acid Mine Drainage in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed,” author of the Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment STAC report, or representatives of the Brook trout workgroup. The team currently has representatives from NGOs, academia, USGS, the brook trout workgroup chairs, and state signatories (WV, MD, and PA.) We welcome the Management Board to submit additional members to participate in development of this target.

The first meeting was held July 9, 2025 and resulted in an identification of background information needed to develop the target, including the number of stream miles degraded and restored so we know a baseline. It was suggested that the target includes maintaining restored areas, a % gain in stream miles providing chemistry suitable for aquatic life recovery, and a possible focus on brook trout strongholds/persistent patches.

The group had a strong preference to have language developed after the public feedback period for the Management Board to consider changes and have language included in the finalized Watershed Agreement revisions. **With a plan to have target language drafted in September for consideration**, another AMD meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 31st to continue the discussion.

Waterbird

CBWA signatories that have membership on the Wetlands workgroup include Federal agencies through USFWS, USGS, USDA NRCS, USDOD, USACE, USEPA, NOAA. The Jurisdictional partners that have identified members of the wetlands workgroup include, WV, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, NY. We would welcome the Management Board to submit members to participate in development of this target.

The plan is to convene federal, state, and NGO natural resource biologists/managers that specialize in waterbird science and habitat management (The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, National Audubon Society) to create a core group that will lead the development of the target. When STAC workshop funding opens in 2026, the Wetlands Workgroup will apply to fund a workshop where experts assemble data already being collected on waterbirds to then prioritize and focus efforts. If the workgroup is successful in receiving a STAC workshop. **The goal is to have a fully developed target by December 2026.**

- **Between now and January 2026** we will be identifying the experts that need to be involved in developing this target.
- **January 2026- December 2026** apply for STAC funding, Host STAC Workshop and develop waterbird Targets