Example Applications

The following example applications are intended to present how the tools developed for Trout Unlimited's Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio and Range-wide Assessment of Habitat Condition and Threats can be used to help evaluate and identify potential projects.

We present the following examples:

- Identifying populations within regions with specific restoration needs (Riparian restoration in Delaware Basin, AMD projects in Susquehanna basin, cold water source protection in Chesapeake basin)
- Identifying conservation need of populations within a specific geography (Upper Lehigh River in Delaware basin)
- Placing local restoration efforts within the broader Brook Trout conservation context (Ammonoosuc barrier removal, Connecticut basin)

Example 1: Identifying priority EBT populations requiring specific restoration activities – riparian restoration

In this example, EBT populations in the Delaware basin are prioritized based on riparian restoration need using the DE basin focal area visualization tool, and on-the-ground opportunities are evaluated within one priority population using the Riparian Restoration Decision Support Tool viewer.

Criteria for prioritizing riparian restoration at the basin-scale:

- Patch has coldwater habitat likely to remain viable under future climate scenarios (Mean summer temperature in Letcher (Ecosheds) model ranges 0 – 17 °C)
- Patch has some riparian restoration need (% mean canopy cover range is 60-80%)
- Patch is high value EBT population (is resilient or redundant)















Decision Support Tool for evaluating on-theground opportunities

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Turn off canopy cover and explore aerial imagery

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Example 2: Evaluating restoration needs of EBT patches in a particular geography

In this example, EBT populations are evaluated through the lens of a particular funding source, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Delaware River Restoration Fund. Upper Lehigh Basin EBT populations are selected using the DE basin focal area visualization tool and compared within an Excel spreadsheet table.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the DRRF include:

- Increase delivery of agriculture BMPs to reduce nutrient and sediment loads
- Expand conservation outreach to new farmers and landowners
- Restore stream banks, shoreline and wetlands
- Establish, expand and improve riparian buffers
- Promote and install green stormwater infrastructure BMPs and reduce suburban runoff
- Improve municipal policies for green stormwater infrastructure
- Reach, train and provide technical assistance to new audiences
- Engage significant numbers of new volunteers

Delaware River Restoration Fund continued

The DRRF's investments are targeted primarily to DRWI "Clusters," sub-watersheds within the broader Delaware River Watershed where investments in restoration are expected to realize the greatest return. These geographies include important habitat and are critical for improving water quality.

The strategy for restoration in these places is determined by a team of local partners with on-the-ground knowledge of conservation needs and opportunities. The DRRF awards grants to projects that address these strategies.

CONSERVATION IN THE DELAWARE WATERSHED

In its first two years, the fund has invested a total of \$4.45 million in 30 projects (shown as green dots in the map above) to improve water quality and restore habitats. DRWI targeted geographies include:

Poconos and Kittatinny	Schuylkill Highlands
Upper Lehigh	Upstream Suburban Philadelphia
New Jersey Highlands	Brandywine and Christina
Middle Schuylkill	Kirkwood Cohansey Aquifer

Mean Summer Temperature (C) - Letcher

Download tabular data, open in Excel, remove duplicate records following the instructions in the General User's Guide, and filter to just Upper Lehigh and Middle Lehigh HUC10 watersheds

👯 View Data - Google Chrome

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Looking populations in the Upper and Middle Lehigh, the following habitat condition or future threat attributes stand out. Conditions are listed with restoration actions in parenthesis, and *italicized* if they align with an activity eligible for NFWF funding:

- All populations meeting portfolio criteria for resiliency, redundancy, or unique life history (Hazle Cr., Nesquehoning Cr., Mud Run, Wright Cr., Stony Cr., Headwaters Lehigh) have incomplete barrier assessments (barrier assessment)
- 2 redundant populations have 1% agricultural lands (Hazle Cr. and Nesquehoning Cr.,) and 4 other populations have 10-30% agricultural lands (agricultural BMPs)
- 2 redundant populations have 2-5% impervious surfaces (Hazle Cr. and Nesquehoning Cr.; stormwater runoff BMPs)
- 2 redundant populations have abandoned mine lands, 303d listing, and lower amounts of forested riparian zones (Hazle Cr. and Nesquehoning Cr.; AMD restoration or treatment and reforestation of abandoned lands)
- 2 redundant populations (Wright Cr. and Stony Cr.) have around 40% public or private conservation lands (conservation easements around public lands)
- 1 unique life history population (Mud Run) falls within the proposed path of a natural gas pipeline (citizen science and monitoring)

Example 3: Placing a local restoration effort within a range-wide brook trout context

In this example, we evaluate several potential culvert removal projects in the Ammonoosuc River basin of NH and show how the conservation portfolio and range-wide assessment results can be used to articulate project value to brook trout. This process may assist entities that conduct culvert replacement work (such as towns or counties) in accessing information about local brook trout fisheries values.

Process:

 Use conservation portfolio and range-wide assessment map viewer to overlay a recent barrier survey to place a local restoration opportunity within a broader brook trout conservation context using patch habitat condition and future security percentile scores.

Open the Eastern Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio and Rangewide Assessment map application:

http://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f70da52f45304ab8be440885d 32d3866

Zoom to the Ammonoosuc River basin and change the visible layer in the layer list to show the portfolio results – resilient (green) and redundant (blue) brook trout populations are populations that TU has identified as highly likely to be viable in the long-term based on the amount of connected habitat available to populations based on the Conservation Portfolio analysis.

Add a local barrier survey dataset. The dataset we are using was provided as an excel spreadsheet – to make it visible in the map and limit the amount of data shown, filter the dataset to just show crossings with "Reduced AOP" status, save the dataset as a .csv file, and drag onto the map.

Add data tool

A quick scan of the map reveals several types of critical barriers – those that appear to fall within existing population patches (and were not accounted for in the patch delineation process) and those that appear to be at the downstream extent of patches and fall between patches.

Zooming into the map shows that the between patch barriers are actually road crossings on smaller tributaries within the patches – not significant obstacles to stream connectivity. Even if the barriers were between patches, clicking on the map shows that the adjacent trout communities differ – the redundant patch (blue) is brook trout-only, while the downstream patch is mixed brook trout and brown or rainbow trout – given the competitive interaction of brook trout and brown trout, reconnecting the brook trout-only patch to downstream brown trout would not be a brook trout priority.

Zooming into the map to explore the within patch barriers shows that both fall on major streams – Pettyboro Brook.

Zooming into the map to explore the within patch barriers shows that both fall on major streams - Upper Wild Ammonoosuc River.

To further evaluate the potential benefit of the two potential project areas, filter the habitat integrity results show only those habitat patches with average habitat condition percentile scores of 80 or higher. The habitat condition score is based on agricultural land use, riparian forest cover, road density, road x stream crossing density, and acid deposition within patches. The patches remaining on the map are among the top 20% least impaired watersheds in brook trout range in the eastern US. Of the 2 populations, only the Upper Wild Ammonoosuc population has very high condition.

Habitat integrity filter tool

Click on the Upper Wild Ammonoosuc River patch to learn about the scores for that population. This population is in the 88th percentile for overall habitat integrity and in the 80th percentile or higher (among the top 20% of brook trout populations) for agricultural land use, road densities, acid deposition, and riparian forest cover. These numbers suggest that these populations have high habitat integrity relative to other brook trout populations.

Repeat these steps for the future security layer. The future security factor is based on stream temperature within patches. The Upper Wild Ammonoosuc River population has very high percentile scores – 85.7%, placing it within the top 15% coldest watersheds in brook trout range in the eastern US.

Example 4: Identifying priority EBT populations requiring specific restoration activities – AMD treatment

In this example, EBT populations in the Susquehanna basin are evaluated to identify abandoned mine drainage (AMD) restoration opportunities in high value brook trout populations using the Susquehanna basin focal area visualization tool.

Criteria for identifying AMD restoration opportunities likely to have significant benefit to brook trout:

- High Portfolio value resilient or redundant patch
- A 303d listed stream with AMD impairment
- High brook trout habitat suitability
- Contains an exceptional value stream

303d listed for AMD

Apply additional filters to only show those with high probability of brook trout occurrence (>0.6) for 2 different models (DeWeber/Wagner and Downstream Solutions' **Chesapeake Bay** Assessment). Note that neither model explicitly incorporates AMD into their predictions, so this is a general habitat suitability filter indicating that other stressors are largely absent

Q

Apply an additional filters to only show those also containing a stream meeting exceptional water criteria. The 9 populations can be further evaluated using other criteria in the tool (e.g., acres of abandoned mines), or further evaluated in the field to determine the feasibility of treatment.

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GALLERY

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RESOURCES

Additional datasets can by overlaid on the patches using the Portfolio and Range-wide assessment ArcGIS Online tool accessed by clicking on a patch of interest and the ArcGIS Online hyperlink.

ACTIVITY SIGN IN

Here we can add the PA DEP 303d impaired streams layer to further explore where AMD impaired reaches fall within individual patches and the location of abandoned mine lands. <u>http://maps.pasda.psu.edu/arcgis/rest/services/pasda/DEP/MapServer/17</u> <u>http://maps.pasda.psu.edu/arcgis/rest/services/pasda/DEP/MapServer/17</u>

Example 5: Identifying priority EBT populations requiring specific restoration activities – cold water source protection

In this example, EBT populations in the Chesapeake basin are evaluated to identify cold water source protection opportunities in high value Brook Trout populations using the Chesapeake basin focal area visualization tool.

Criteria for identifying cold water source protection opportunities likely to have significant benefit to brook trout:

- High Portfolio value resilient or redundant patch
- High modeled stream temperature
- Presence of karst geology on stream network
- Some agricultural land use

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Open the Chesapeake basin focal area tool and go to the "Climate Change and Ecosystem Services" tab

Apply filters to only show resilient or redundant brook trout populations, those with warmer stream temperatures (> 17.5°C), and at least 30% of the stream network overlapping with karst geology

+ableau‡public	GALLERY AUTHOR	S BLOG F	RESOURCES ACTIVITY	SIGN IN
< Sean McFall - Profile				Download Workb
+ableau*public < Sean McFall - Profile	Status Status Status Watershed Name: Upper Jackson River Subwatershed Name: Dry Branch-Jackson River Subwatershed Name: Dry Branch-Jackson River Subwatershed Name: Dry Branch-Jackson River Status Portfolio Results: Resilient Resiliency & Redundancy: Both Life History: Not Applicable Took Community: Sympatric EBT & RBT Mi. of Exceptional Waters: 0 Max Avg. 30-day Stream Temperature (C) - DeWeber/Wagner: 19.700 Ave Mod. EBT Occupancy - Letcher: 0.5000 Ave Mod. EBT Occupancy - Letcher: 18.140 Ave Prob. EBT Occupancy - Letcher: 18.140 Ave Prob. EBT Occupancy - Chal: 0.5200 Ave Total Stress Index (ChA): 0.1300 Spin: Fortfolio Elements Vo Fed/St/Lc/Priv Conservation Land: 25.00 % Rip. Zone Forestet: 81.00 % Ray.Land: 15.00 % Homp. Surface: 0.000 Allopatric Brook Trout Extent (km): 82.37 Climate Change and Ecosystem Services % Stream Network Overlap with Karst: 51.00 Index of Importance to Drinking Water (F2F): 72.28 % Dev. Floodplain: 0.00 Ave. Prob. EBT Occ. +4C - Letcher: 0.3600 Ave. Prob. EBT Occ. +4C - Letcher: 0.3600 Ave. Prob. EBT Occ. +4C - Letcher: 0.3600 Ave. Prob. EBT Occ. +4C - Letcher: 0.2400 % Mean Canopy Cover: 73.53 Ave Hab Qual Proj 2062 (ChA):-15.6 Remediate AMD, Deposition % Areas Ab Mine Lands: 0 Miles 303(d)-listed for AMD: 0 Miles AMD Streams (WV): 0 Riparian Restoration Mean Solar Gain (KW-hra/SqM/Yr): 1,365.6 Fe Valuate/Restore Fish Passage # Potential Barriers: 432 # Potential Barriers: 28 # Potential Barriers	S BLOG F S BLOG F S BLOG F S BLOG F S BLOG F S BLOG F S Stressor S S S Stressor S S S Stressor S S S Stressor S S S Stressor S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	RESOURCES ACTIVITY oration Evaluate/Restore Fis Passage sam Network Overlap arst 100.00	Hover the mouse over individual patches and evaluate other stressors present, looking for some with agricultural land use, since those patches may have degraded pasture lands and spring systems that could be restored
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+ableau[‡]public GALLERY AUTHORS BLOG RESOURCES ACTIVITY Resiliency & Redundancy: Both Life History: Not Applicable Trout Community: Sympatric EBT & RBT Mi. of Exceptional Waters: 0 % Stream Network Overlap Max Avg. 30-day Stream Temperature (C) - DeWeber/Wagner: 19.700 with Karst Lanci Ave Mod. EBT Occupancy - Letcher: 0.5000 Q York 30.00 100.00 Ave Mod. EBT Occupancy - DeWeber& Wagner: 0.2000 0 D Mean Summer Temp (C) - Letcher : 18.140 + Ave. Prob. EBT Occurrence (ChA): 0.5200 Index of Importance to Drinking Ave Habitat Quality (ChA): 0.6500 Water (Forests to Faucets) Ave Total Stress Index (ChA): 0.1300 命 61.83 98.00 RYLAND Secure Portfolio Elements -D % Fed/St/Lc/Priv Conservation Land: 25.00 Baltimore % Rip. Zone Forested: 81.00 % Developed Floodplain Se .. % Ag. Land: 15.00 69.00 % Imp. Surface: 0.000 -D ePark Annapolis Allopatric Brook Trout Extent (km): 82.37 Ave. Probability of EBT Climate Change and Ecosystem Services ton Occupancy +2C - Letcher WEST % Stream Network Overlap with Karst: 51.00 Chesape Beach VIRGINIA Index of Importance to Drinking Water (F2F): 72.28 0.0200 0.9900 % Dev. Floodplain: 0.00 -D Ave. Prob. EBT Occ. +2C - Letcher: 0.3600 Ave. Prob. EBT Occ. +4C - Letcher: 0.2400 Lush Ave. Probability of EBT % Mean Canopy Cover: 73.53 Occupancy +4C - Letcher Ave Hab Qual Proj 2062 (ChA): -15.6 0.0100 0.9800 -D Remediate AMD, Deposition G-% Pottsvile: 0 % Mean Canopy Cover ahannoci Acres Ab Mine Lands: 0 Miles 303(d)-listed for AMD: 0 99.39 9.27 sults Miles AMD Streams (WV): 0 0-Riparian Restoration Average Habitat Quality Mean Solar Gain (KW-hrs/SqM/Yr): 1,365.6 Proj. 2062 (Chesapeake Assessme. -49.3 88.5 Evaluate/Restore Fish Passage # Potential Barriers: 432 Sum of Norm. Impact Index for Crossings: 2,789 Trout Community Resiliency & R Avg. Habitat Quality Projected 2062 Mean of Norm. Impact Index for Crossings: 6.460 (Chesapeake Assessment) ✓ Allopatric EBT ✓ Both D9 750 # Complete Barriers: 28 V Sympatric EBT & BNT Neither Fragmentation Index: 0.6100 0.9100 Sympatric EBT & RBT Culvert Inventory Status: Incomplete \checkmark ✓ Redundar -D Sympatric EBT, BNT, & RBT -D1.000 Mitigate Sedimentation/Nutrients Ave. Total Stress Index Miles Proposed Pipeline: 12.56 Unique Life Hi (Chesapeake Assessment) Miles 303(d)-listed for Sediment: 0 V Not Appli 0.4100 Road Density(Mi/SqMi): 2.340 -Do.7200 ✓ Resident | Miles ACP Pipeline: 6.430 ✓ Unique Ave. Prob. EBT Occurrence ArcGIS Online | See more data (Chesapeake Assessment) D21.760 EBTJV Data & Tools | Riparian Restoration Decision Support ECOSHEDS | Interactive Catchment Explorer 0.0100 0.8900 Fish Habitat Decision Support Tool Veber/Wagner

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Other tools can be explored using the hyperlinks at the bottom of the popup, including the Downstream Strategies' **Chesapeake Bay** assessment tool (Fish Habitat **Decision Support** Tool) and **ECOSHEDS** Interactive Catchment Explorer