Blueprint for Building Partnerships and Recommendations for
Scaling Brook Trout Restoration in Stronghold and Persistent Patches

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How Did We Get Here?

Brook Trout Outcome Goal 2014-2024: Increase Brook Trout occupied habitat by 8 percent by 2025.

- 2024 GIT Project, 0.5% Increase through 2025,
    - 5,419 Projects in Bay watershed
    - Only 94, 1.7% of projects BKT were know present at site
    - 1,645 Projects BKT presence unknown
    - 3,557 BKT data missing

Facilitating Brook Trout Outcome Attainability through Coordination with CBP Jurisdictions and Partners. Rummel et al. 2024.

New Outcome beyond 2025

Protect and enhance brook trout within the Chesapeake Bay watershed by increasing occupancy, abundance and resilience to changing environmental conditions.

- By 2035, increase brook trout occupancy by 1% in watersheds supporting **healthy populations** while achieving no net loss in other watersheds.
- By 2035, increase abundance at 10 long-term monitoring sites.
- By 2035, reduce identified threats by XX% to increase brook trout resilience in watersheds supporting healthy populations.

Goals of Workshop: Why are we here?

- Agree on a collaborative process to increase brook trout conservation in priority watersheds.

- Identify stakeholder roles and responsibilities for working together more efficiently and effectively.

- Provide recommendations on ways to increase awareness of brook trout conservation and increase project prioritization and implementation.

Workshop Format

9:40 - 12:00 pm   Morning Lightning talks from Programs (BMPs funding)

1:20 pm   **Restoration Strategy and Multi-Jurisdictional Coordination -**
Discussion on restoration plans, best management practices, and potential funding strategies for large-scale, multi-layered restoration initiatives. Common "hangups" in collaboration (issues, funding gaps, etc.)

2:00 pm   **15-minute Break**

2:15 pm   **Breakout Session: Action Plans and Timelines for Local Implementation (groups 8-10 ppl)**
Participants will break into groups to discuss:
- Strategies for increasing local awareness and engagement
- Identifying roles for stakeholders in long-term restoration plans
- Setting specific goals and milestones for interjurisdictional collaboration
- Recommendations to the Bay Program to facilitate, increase, incorporate brook trout conservation; scaling

3:45 pm   **Breakout Group Report-out and Discussion**

4:15 pm   **Group Plenary: Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations**
Led in a facilitated discussion by steering committee members, participants will prioritize key findings from the workshop and breakout sessions.

4:45 pm   **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**
Summary of key takeaways, actionable steps, and discussion of June 3, 2025 Maryland-specific workshop date.

Shared Recommendations

Establish a Brook Trout Collaborative
- o A formal platform (coalition, hub, or alliance) for partners to coordinate across counties and states.
- o Include not only conservation groups but also **DOTs, county public works, river basin commissions, and municipal planners**—gaps noted in both discussions.

Adopt a Two-Tiered Spatial Approach
- o Use **watershed as organizing scale** → then target **patches within watersheds** using limiting-factor analysis.
- o Ensure state and county maps clearly display brook trout patches, strongholds, and threats.

Bundle Projects for Efficiency
- o Package AMD treatment, culvert replacement, and riparian work in the same watershed to maximize ecological return and reduce transaction costs.
- o Encourage funders to support **multi-BMP bundles** rather than isolated projects.

Shared Recommendations

Elevate Brook Trout in Local Planning
- o Integrate into **county CAPs, zoning, and conservation plans** so brook trout protection isn't an "add-on" but part of planning frameworks.
- o Promote cross-state alignment so successes in PA can inform MD strategies and vice versa.

Invest in Capacity
- o Prioritize funding for **dedicated coordinators** and technical staff.
- o Support county conservation districts and NGOs in securing training and equipment (e.g., stream-smart crossings, AMD treatment systems).

Enhance Outreach and Storytelling
- o Create a **shared StoryMap or communications hub** with project sites, success stories, and partner roles.
- o Build "brand recognition" for brook trout restoration within the Chesapeake Bay Program, tying it to heritage, clean water, and recreation.

PA Brook Trout Partners

- PA Fish and Boat Commission
- Conservation Districts
- Center for Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies
- NRCS
- USGS
- USFWS
- SRBC
- EBTJV
- Trout Unlimited
- Western PA Conservancy
- Watershed Associations

- PA DEP
  - Chesapeake Bay Program Office
  - BAMR
- Stroud Water Research Center

Funders
- PA DEP Growing Greener
- Foundation for PA Watersheds
- Private Foundations
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

MD Brook Trout Partners

- MD DNR
  - FABS
  - Forestry
- Baltimore, Carroll, Garrett County Conservation Districts and DPW
- NRCS
- USGS
- USFWS
- EBTJV
- Trout Unlimited
- Watershed Associations

- MDE
  - Abandoned Mines
- Alliance for Chesapeake Bay