

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NFWF/Legacy Grant Project ID: 0603.11.029499

Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants 2011 - Submit Final Programmatic Report (Activities)

Grantee Organization: Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Project Title: Potomac Highlands Brook Trout Conservation (WV)

Project Period 10/01/2011 - 12/31/2013
Award Amount \$100,000.00
Matching Contributions \$223,000.00
Project Location Description (from Proposal) This project is located in the eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. It is hoped to expand the work into the states of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania within the term of this grant.

Project Summary (from Proposal) Use brook trout to motivate restoration and protection on private lands in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. Project will accelerate implementation of complex stream and fish barrier works in priority eastern brook trout habitats, especially those most sensitive to climate change impacts.

Summary of Accomplishments TU has met and/or exceeded many of the goals set out in this award and has firmly established the ‘Inception to Protection’ brook trout program in the headwaters of the Potomac. Since the project was awarded, TU has successfully added a Stream Restoration Specialist and a Project Coordinator to its staff in WV and is currently in the process of adding two more full time staff positions. TU has also added a Stream Restoration Specialist position in VA. TU has completed the restoration of over 15 miles of floodplain forest/riparian buffer by fencing out livestock and reestablishing native vegetation. Over 600 acres of land have been preserved in habitat enhancement agreements and over 500 landowners or volunteers have been engaged by TU staff, with more than 15 landowners enrolling their land in conservation programs to improve the health of streams in the Potomac. TU has assisted in the restoration of over 6,000 linear feet of streams, reducing the sediment input from eroding banks by over 700 tons per year. Additionally, TU has built upon strong relationships with federal, state, and local partners and has lined up a number of future projects that promise to carry on the momentum and promote the longevity of Brook Trout Conservation in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia.

Lessons Learned Through the implementation of this project, we have learned that a nonprofit organization such as TU, when partnering with state and federal agencies, can exponentially increase the timeliness and effectiveness of implementing watershed restoration. From identifying high value project sites to designing and constructing cost-effective restoration projects, TU has been able to effectively use programmatic contributions from our partners as well as matching funds to target brook trout restoration. We have also realized the difficulty of keeping up with the changing directives and program details associated with programmatic contributions and the challenges associated with the time lag between developing conservation plans and on-the-ground implementation of those plans. We have also learned that landowners and the general populace place high value on brook trout and native fisheries resources and being able to connect conservation and restoration to seeing more and bigger fish in streams is a great asset that Trout Unlimited has been able to capitalize on.

Conservation Activities	Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer
Progress Measures	Linear feet of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-foot buffer
Value at Grant Completion	35,376

Conservation Activities	Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer
Progress Measures	Acres of wetland habitat improved
Value at Grant Completion	29
Conservation Activities	Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer
Progress Measures	Acres of invasive vegetation removed
Value at Grant Completion	10
Conservation Activities	Restore Eroding Stream banks on Impaired Streams
Progress Measures	Linear feet of livestock exclusion fencing installed with at least a 35-foot buffer
Value at Grant Completion	35,376
Conservation Activities	Restore Eroding Stream banks on Impaired Streams
Progress Measures	Linear feet of livestock exclusion fencing installed with less than a 35-foot buffer
Value at Grant Completion	47,995
Conservation Activities	Restore Eroding Stream banks on Impaired Streams
Progress Measures	Tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways
Value at Grant Completion	775
Conservation Activities	Restore Spring Habitat
Progress Measures	Linear feet of streambank/shoreline stabilized
Value at Grant Completion	2,900
Conservation Activities	Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer
Progress Measures	Linear feet of livestock exclusion fencing installed with less than a 35-foot buffer
Value at Grant Completion	47,995
Conservation Activities	Restore Eroding Stream banks on Impaired Streams
Progress Measures	Linear feet of streambank/shoreline stabilized
Value at Grant Completion	4,375
Conservation Activities	Land Conservation Education and Assistance
Progress Measures	Acres of land preserved in conservation easement
Value at Grant Completion	700
Conservation Activities	Conservation agreements
Progress Measures	# of landowners targeted by program
Value at Grant Completion	15
Conservation Activities	School and Civic Participation
Progress Measures	# of participants/volunteers in project
Value at Grant Completion	580



















Novel Stream Bank Program Helps Farmers

"I want to make this farm a better place for my grandkids." These are the words of Carl Kimble, Jr., of Moyers, who owns land along Black Thorn Creek. He is a participant in the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) between the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

and Trout Unlimited (TU). Kimble was losing land at a fast rate in a sharp bend of the stream. "It seemed like every time the water came up, I had to move the fence back. I went to the NRCS office and Doris [Brackenrich] came up and looked at the problem."

Brackenrich, district conservationist for NRCS, returned

in Pendleton, Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, and Mineral counties. The LWG consists of NRCS staff, members of the Potomac Valley Conservation District Board, cooperating agencies, including TU, and local farmers.

The group discusses the major resource concerns of the five-county area, and stream bank erosion is always at the

and tree planting in the entire buffer area. Hoover is also the chairperson of the Potomac Valley Conservation District and tries to serve as an example for other farmers.

"Restricting livestock and equipment access to the streams is not a popular practice but is necessary if we are to protect those banks," states Brackenrich. "The cattle and sheep use the stream as a water source, along with the various wildlife species that we are blessed with, and they keep grass and trees from growing to provide cover and shade. If we provide assistance with developing alternative water sources and stabilized stream crossings, the financial impact on the farmer is reduced," continues Brackenrich.

Hoover and her husband Danny operate a nearly 400-acre farm at the headwaters of Thorn Creek. She commented, "We both have public service jobs that pay us a salary and provide health care coverage." Charlotte Hoover drives a school bus and has for 14 years. Danny Hoover, who is on medical leave right now, is employed by the WV Division of Highways. "We're not rich by any means but the income from the farm makes us comfortable."

The projects on both the Hoover and Kimble farms follow the engineering philosophy of Dave Rosgen, an award-winning hydrologist who has made a career of finding a better way to restore a stream than miles of concrete and rock riprap. Rosgen chooses materials natural to the site, such as logs and boulders, and places them in strategic spots to help direct the flow of the water. Rosgen's strategies for stream restoration are known as Natural Stream Design (NSD).

(Cont. on Page 7, Column 3)



Doris Brackenrich and Carl Kimble, Jr.

to the farm and brought along Gary Berti, then the Potomac Headwaters director of Trout Unlimited. "This was a perfect site for our special project on Thorn Creek," says Brackenrich. "NRCS and TU had combined resources to reduce erosion and sediment while improving the habitat for the native Brook Trout."

This ambitious program began in 2007 with the Potomac Valley Local Work Group (LWG), which meets every year to establish the guidelines for NRCS' programs

top of the list. Some of the other concerns are water quality due to excessive nutrients (animal waste) in the streams, noxious and invasive plants, and poor water distribution on our farms.

"We knew that farmers had an opportunity for cost-share to fix problems before they became mandatory," Charlotte Hoover, another participant in the Brook Trout effort, said of her stream improvement project. The work on her farm includes four in-stream structures, more than a mile of stream bank fencing,

Community Focus

Bloodmobile To Be At Library Monday

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Pendleton County Library, Franklin, on Monday, Oct. 22, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Please note change in time).

UT Post Office Mtg. To Be Held Tuesday

A community meeting dealing with the possible fate of the Upper Tract Post Office will be

County Mulls ATVs in Mon Forest

The Pendleton County Commission heard a proposal at Tuesday morning's meeting for opening up roads in the Monongahela National Forest to ATVs, roads on which Jeep and

The Coopers are lovers of all types of outdoors recreation on public lands. Years ago, Cooper was one of the leaders of the effort to have the New River receive federal designation as a

Trails Association, represented by Doug Cooper, be included in the revision process.

Cooper maintains that the current Mon Forest plan can be modified to allow for these

Hoover said that she and her husband were skeptical when a recent high water event occurred just at the finish of the project. "But the ripple effect from the wood vane threw the current right into the center of the stream, taking the pressure off the banks. I am hoping that if the water breaks over into my hay field now, I get silt loam instead of piles of rocks!"

"Using the Rosgen method has definite benefits," says Brack-enrich, "but it has also caused some difficulties as far as these contracts go. The process of Natural Stream Design is fairly new to West Virginia NRCS and we knew that the design process would be slow. Unfortunately, several contracts were lost because we could not provide designs fast enough to meet the contract requirements."

On the positive side of the loss of contracts, NRCS at the state level recognized the need for more design assistance. TJ Burr, a civil engineer in the Morgantown office, has experience with Natural Stream Design and is spending more of his time working on Pendleton County designs. Trout Unlimited joined forces again with NRCS and hired Abby McQueen, a stream restoration specialist. With both Burr and McQueen working on designs, a third project is planned for this fall on the North Fork River and several others for next summer.

Supporting McQueen from Trout Unlimited is Dustin Wichterman, who serves as the Potomac Highlands project coordinator. He has made several visits to Pendleton County looking for new sites where stream restoration could benefit Brook Trout, and the farmers. Wichterman can be contacted to schedule a farm visit by calling 304-614-5709.

"We hope to get through the current contracts, which include funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI)," explains Brack-enrich. "Then I hope to convince some of the lost contracts to give us another chance to get their work completed."

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) has been reported through the country in both wild animals and livestock and Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass is advising cattle and sheep farmers in West Virginia to keep an eye on their herds.

Smith Creek/ Friends Run

With a couple cold mornings, the area had Jack Frost appearing on vehicles. If anyone has pears on the tree, now is the time to pick them. With this cold snap, the leaves will be turning their colors, and the raking will start.

Prayer concerns at the Smith Creek and Friends Run Churches of the Brethren were for the following: Kinsley Armstrong, Dorothy Bailey, Peyton Beachler, Allison Bennett, Jim Bennett, Bertha Bowers, Betty Burner, Charles Stanley Calhoun, Hailey Copley, Bruce Cutlip, Mary Alice Evick, Glenda Feronti, Dolan Grogg, Rosalee Grogg, Kitty Hammer, Luther Hartman, Betty and George Heavener, David Hedrick, Jennie Hott, Mike Jamison, Chuck Lambert, Gladys Meadows, Glenn Mitchell, Delbert Mowery, Hazel Moyers, Nathan Propst, Ruby Propst, Tina Roberson, Riley Shiflet, Cindy Shoemaker, Autumn Smith, Betty Smith, Debbie Smith, Rhonda Stump, Teretha Thompson, Polly Waggy, Sandy Wagner, Shelda Warner, Pamela Wilberger, Reba Wiseman, Anna Wright, Dennis Simmons family, Dot Bowman and Harry Warner.

Prayer thought: "Jesus said it best: 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through Me.' Jesus is the way of salvation. Help us to share the gospel with love and truth."

High and low temperatures and precipitation for Oct. 8 through Oct. 14, followed by the same for last year, were as follows: Oct. 8 - 44°, 36°, .22" (75°, 44°); Oct. 9 - 56°, 38° (77°, 40°); Oct. 10 - 60°, 41° (72°, 49°); Oct. 11 - 63°, 32° (66°, 49°); Oct. 12 - 62°, 35° (60°, 54°, 1.28"); Oct. 13 - 62°, 31° (63°, 57°, .27"); and Oct. 14 - 73°, 45° (63°, 46°, .28").

Dr. Jewell Plumley, State Veterinarian for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), said symptoms of the disease can include severe lesions, or erosions, in and around the mouth that can become infected.

Animals infected with EHD tend to salivate excessively and develop crusty mucous around their muzzles. Fever and lethargy are also common. Animal

deaths are usually related to dehydration.

"There's no vaccine and no direct treatment for the condition, but farmers can help by making sure food and water are readily available to them," said Dr. Plumley. "Because of the pain, animals may not want to swallow, but they should be kept near sources of food and water so they can eat and drink when they are able."



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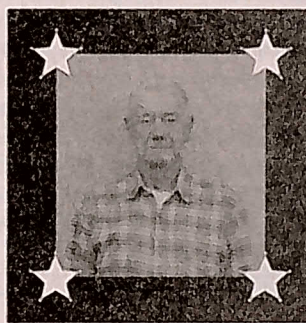


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Thursday
January 24, 2013

PCMS Students Plant Trees *Reid Homan:*

This past November, 30 or so wide-eyed Pendleton County Middle School (PCMS) students piled off of the bus to form a large circle surrounding Casey King, the Mountain Institute's leader for the day's adventure. They smiled and gazed excitedly at the brook trout filling a pool. King explained to the kids the importance of clean water, and how forested areas surrounding streams help to protect water quality, while providing needed shade for the brook trout to

thrive. Those students were part of a Mountain Institute program known as the "Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors." The program is designed to get kids outside, learn about the area they live in and gain an appreciation of West Virginia's wildlife and natural heritage. Since 2004, The Mountain Institute (TMI) has worked with Pendleton County Middle School annually to teach the children about mountain forests, the

streams that flow through them and what's good for the creatures living there.

TMI and Trout Unlimited (TU) like the idea of kids leaving their computer screens behind and learning firsthand about the greatness the outdoors has to offer.

This "hands in the water" learning experience gives kids the opportunity to look at local stream health and understand what makes up good fishing water. The field day consisted of four one-hour stations which looked at the water's chemical makeup, what bugs are found there and the type of habitat available for fish and bugs. The students recorded the information to get a feel for the idea of stream health.

Lastly, the two groups of 35 students along with their teachers helped to plant more than 230 trees and shrubs—in slightly less than two hours. The trees will help restore the forested area surrounding the stream, reducing stream bank erosion and providing shade to keep the water cold for brook trout proliferation.

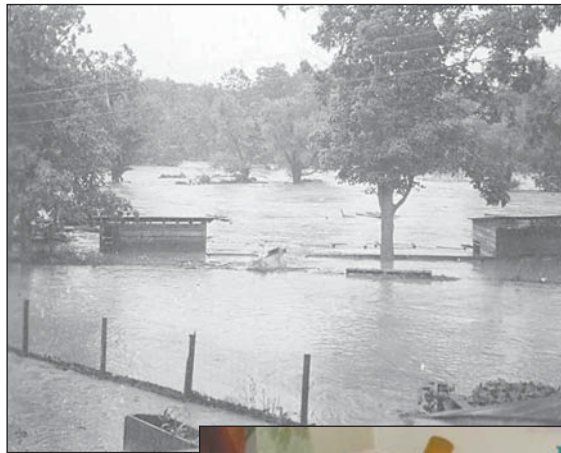
The property landowner was Mike Cox, who understands that he has the authority to make decisions that either help



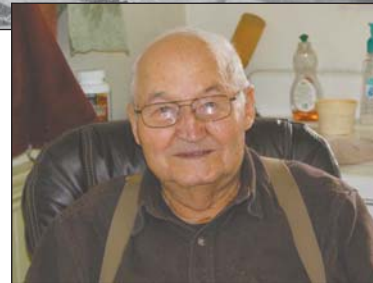
PCMS STUDENTS PLANT trees in a classroom of the outdoors on the Thorn.

(Cont. on Page 5, Column 4)

Farmer, Sugar Grove Mainstay



THE BIG FLOOD of 1949 that ravaged the Sugar Grove area, above, is shown as it looked on pasture land behind the Homan home place. At right, Reid Homan reminisces about the life and times of a South Fork farmer. The family's old mill, which dated from the later 19th century, had been started by his mother's family and was operated by his brother, Richard, until 1964.



Commission Organizes For New Year

The county commissioners assigned board seats at their Tuesday morning meeting, and with those seats come the extra duties of holding countywide office.

President Gene McConnell will continue as volunteer floodplain manager and the commission's representative on the chamber of commerce, the Region 8 Solid Waste Authority, senior and family services board, rural schools, the community corrections drug court report center and the litter control task force.

Carl Hevener will serve on the EDA and farmland protection boards, the Potomac Valley Transit Authority, as the volunteer hazard mitigation officer, on the Potomac Headwaters RC&D and the Region 8 Solid Waste Authority.

The new commissioner, Randy Roberson, will serve on the 911 advisory board, the extension service committee, the local emergency planning committee and the workforce investment board.

It was noted that some of those boards carry more duties

and are more time consuming than others.

In other business, the commissioners got an update on the drug court/day report center from probation officer Kenny Watson and program coordinator Seth Haines. The program was pushed by Judge Donald H. Cookman for Pendleton, Hardy and Hampshire counties to deal with substance abuse and lower the cost of regional jail fees for counties.

Haines said the program to date has had two graduates, one from this county. He said Pendleton is "one of the more successful counties" in the program. Five county people are currently in day report and are "doing well." To date, 1,500 community service hours have been performed in Pendleton.

Watson and Haines agreed that Pendleton, the smallest county, is "not getting a third of the services," and they are working with Judge Cookman to correct the imbalance. Noting that most of the treatment programs are held in Romney

(Cont. on Page 7, Column 4)

Community Focus

AFG Now Meeting At Lutheran Church

The Franklin Friendly Alton Family Group (AFG) is now meeting at Faith Lutheran Church, behind the Shell station in Franklin, every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Brandywine Painting Group Resumes

The Brandywine Painting Group resumes Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Brandywine. Bring your choice of media. Still lifes will be available or one can work from one's own photo. All are welcome to attend. For more information call Alison at 304-249-5082.

Region 8 PDC Cancels Meeting

The Region 8 Planning and Development Council will not hold the regular monthly meeting for January. Members are encouraged to register for the Legislative Luncheon on Jan. 31, 2012.

Storm Prep Meeting Set for Saturday

Pendleton County residents and officials are invited to attend a public discussion of the state's preparation for and response to emergency weather situations at Elkins City Hall at 401 Davis Ave. on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

The town hall-style meeting will allow the public to question state officials about emergency response plans and voice opinions on the development of future preparation and response plans.

State Sen. Greg Tucker (D-Nicholas) will host the meeting. Tucker and Clark Barnes (R-Randolph) represent Pendleton in the state Senate following redistricting after the 2010 census. Also attending will be Sen. John Unger (D-Berkeley), the Senate majority leader, and state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jimmy Gianto, among others.

Cookman, Ross, Hawse Tapped

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin will appoint Circuit Judge Donald H. Cookman, former Senator Mike Ross or former Senator Tom Hawse to the Senate seat vacated by Walt Helmick when he became the new Agriculture Commissioner.

Under state law, the appointment was to have been made no later than today. Last Friday morning, 18 Democrats from the nine counties that had elected Helmick to a four-year term in 2010 met in Romney to consider candidates to recommend to the governor for Helmick's replacement.

They recommended three names familiar to Pendleton County residents—Judge Cookman (Romney), Hawse (Moorefield) and Ross (Conlon/Buckhannon).

The 15th Senatorial District Committee members gave Cookman 15 votes, Ross 12 votes and Hawse nine votes.

A surprise candidate at the Romney meeting was a Pendleton County native, Lisa (Muljenak) Amoroso. Of the six candidates nominated, she placed fourth, with seven votes.

Pendleton was represented by Paul Morton and Margaret

Rexrode. She stood in for Judy Holt, who was unable to attend because of a family medical emergency.

Morton voted for Cookman, Hawse and Ross. Rexrode cast her three ballots for Ross, Cookman and Hawse.

Amoroso received votes from Rosalie Bernick of Berkeley County, Gary White and Delores Al Probst (both Grant County), Juanita Cutler of Hampshire County, Neil Gillies of Hardy County, Stephen Montoney of Randolph County and Donna Matthews of Upshur County.

The other candidates were Green Bank businessman Charles Sheets and Margaret Beckwith, a Democratic Party political activist from Randolph County, who lost decisively when she ran for the state Senate this past fall against incumbent Republican Clark Barnes. Beckwith received two votes, from Montoney and White. Montoney, a staunch labor union advocate, also voted for Cookman.

Julia R. Stevenson of Randolph County cast one ballot, for her brother, former Senator Ross. Hampshire County's Bob Walker also cast a single ballot, for Judge

Reid Homan was born in 1924 in the Sugar Grove house in which he still resides, the family homestead, built by his mother's family about 1908.

It's a great big house with big rooms, only about eight or nine of them, and it accommodated the six boys born to Virgil R. (1895-1952) and Leafy (Mitchell) Homan (1899-1981).

The first-born was Morris, in 1921. He graduated from Franklin High School (FHS) around 1940, served during World War II, attended Bridgewater College and became the owner of the Pendleton County Insurance Agency in Franklin. He was also one of the most influential Democrats in this part of the state for many years.

Richard Homan graduated from FHS about 1941, served in the US Army during the war and later became the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and president of Pendleton County Bank. Also a Bridgewater graduate, he

operated the family's flour mill on the homestead until about 1964, married the former Jean Ann Simmons and was, without question, a leading citizen in this part of the state for a couple of generations. For example, with other local leaders, he helped bring the Hanover Shoe factory to the Franklin area in the 1960s.

Next was Reid, who graduated from FHS in 1943. Over the years, he maintained the family farm, which consists of about 1,000 acres in Sugar Grove. Reid Homan recalls that working the farm was a family affair: "All the boys helped if they were here. I've worked here all my life." There was also a farm outside of Harrisonburg, VA, in the Dayton area. Consisting of about 120 acres, cattle, sheep and hogs were raised there. It had been purchased a long time ago by Reid's mother's father, Wes Mitchell (d. 1932).

In 1996, the Rockingham County farm was sold to a Menonite family. Reid Homan says, "I was happy to see them get it. They'll keep it going as a farm."

Virgil R. Homan Jr. was born in 1927 and lives just up the road in Sugar Grove from Reid. He was in the National Guard and drove a milk truck for Shenandoah Pride. It was a good job. Born in 1932, Walter Homan went to Potomac State/WVU and was a veterinarian in Moorefield. The youngest was John, who was born in 1937, went to Potomac State/WVU, taught school in Maryland and now lives in Shepherdstown.

Reid's father had been the state veterinarian at stock sales in the area—Moorefield, Petersburg, Charles Town—and was the county state road supervisor. Leafy Mitchell's family had operated one of three mills in the Sugar Grove area. The one next door to the Homan home place dates from the late 19th century.

Top to bottom, that is what is called an accomplished family.

The mill was water-powered and ground wheat and buckwheat flour and corn meal. The dam was near the present-day location of the rescue squad bay. Reid remembers it as a good business, especially at buckwheat time in the fall. Back then, a lot of the farmers grew buckwheat. That's not the case anymore.

Reid's father rebuilt the mill around the end of the 1930s, making it more efficient with the introduction of steel rolls. Before, when rock was used in the grinding process, it would take all day to grind for a customer or two. The flour was sold locally in stores. Other mills in the area had belonged at one time or another to Tom Mitchell's grandfather and to George Waggy.

Reid Homan grew up in the Methodist faith. For a time, the old Union Church held Sunday services at different times for Brethren, Lutheran and Methodist congregations. The present-day Methodist Church was dedicated in 1930.

He remembers when the pews were a lot fuller than they are today, when 25 worshippers, give or take a few, is typical on Sunday mornings. Just as the rural communities in Pendleton County were fuller at one time, so, too, were the country churches. But, he observes, "The older people have died off. The younger folks have moved away."

He remembers the 1929 fire in which "Sugar Grove about burnt up" and the floods of 1949 and 1985. The 1949 flood hit Sugar Grove hard but not the entire county the way the one in 1985 did. "Up the hollow, the flood of 1985 washed a lot of buildings away," he notes.

He remembers when the Sugar Grove store was run by Roy Bowers, the father of John and Roy Bowers. It was open until 9:00 p.m. and hummed with the current of the community. Reid Homan played cards there. It was where people "loafed." Roy Bowers Sr. was the son of a physician. He was Bowers' brother, who was Reid's mother's first cousin.

In those days, if farm help was needed, there was always a pool of willing and ready labor to be found among "the loafers" at the store, especially among the younger boys.

Homan reflects, "A lot of boys grew up with nothing to do. You could find 'em up at the store, and they were happy to do some work. It seems like nobody much anymore wants to cut any brush. There used to be always someone around loafing. Now welfare keeps 'em."

(Cont. on Page 6, Column 1)

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 2002 FORD F-350 SCAB DUALY FLATBED 4X4, XL1, blue, 7.3 diesel, 6-spdl, ldd, 99K miles \$19,900
 2001 FORD F-250 CREW CAB SHORTBED 4X4, platinum, 6.8 V-10, auto, ldd, leather, 189K miles \$10,900

CARS

2011 KIA SPORTAGE AWD 4-DR SUV, LX pkg, black, 4-cyl., auto, ldd, 11K miles, like new \$21,900
 2010 DODGE JOURNEY SXT AWD, white, 3.5 V-6, auto, ldd, 34K miles, sharp \$18,900
 2008 FORD ESCAPE AWD, limited, silver, 3.0 V-6, auto, ldd, leather, 50K miles \$18,900
 2006 JEEP WRANGLER X 4X4, green, 4.0 6-cyl., auto, air, CD, 74K miles, new tires, etc. \$14,900
 2006 MAZDA TRIBUTE 4-DR. 4X4, LX, blue, 4-cyl., 5-spdl, ldd, 93K miles \$9,990
 2005 FORD EXPLORER 4-DR. 4X4, XL1, black & gray, 4.0 V-6, auto, leather, 3rd seat, 96K miles \$10,900
 2004 FORD E-150 VAN, XL1, white, 5.4 V-8, auto, ldd, 172K miles \$6,995
 2003 FORD EXPLORER SPORT TRAC 4X4, XL1, silver, V-6, auto, ldd, 90K, sharp \$10,900

SALES

2009 FORD FOCUS 4-DR. SE, silver, 4-cyl., auto, ldd, 83K miles \$9,950
 2009 KIA SPECTRA LX 4-DR. LX, black, 4-cyl., 5-spdl, air, CD, etc, 77K miles \$9,900
 2008 FORD TAURUS AWD 4-DR SEDAN, maroon, SEL pkg., 3.5 V-6, auto, ldd, 92K miles \$12,900
 2007 FORD FOCUS 4-DR. ST PKG, gray, 4-cyl., 5-spdl, ldd, 85K miles \$8,995

HIFAWY EQUIPMENT

2005 FORD F-350 12 PASSENGER BUS, white, 6.8 V-10, auto, ldd, wheelchair lift, etc, 183K miles \$7,999
 1995 FORD L3000 STRAIGHT TRUCK, maroon 8.3 Cummins diesel, 6-spdl, A/C, air brakes, 24-ft. flatbed and a hydraulic liftgate, 259K miles \$11,900
 1991 TOMMY'S TRAILER BRAND 48-FT. 3-CAR ALUMINUM TRAILER w/haement storage \$10,900
 1991 FORD LITS 9000 HEAVY-DUTY ROLLBACK, red, 350 Cummins diesel, 9-spdl, tandem axle w/air brakes, PS, PI and A/C, 23-hl. steel bed \$13,900
 1999 FORD F-450 BI-CAM TRUCK, silver, 460 V-8, auto, PS, PI, 106K miles \$4,995
 1988 FORD LTD 9000 TANDEM AXLE ROAD TRACTOR, white, 600 Cummins, 13-spdl, only 247K miles \$14,800
 1988 DITCH WITCH 2310, diesel, 4x4 trecher w/ front mounted backhoe and blade, runs great \$4,995

January is a long winter month, but there are many things that a person can do to redeem the time. Many industrious folk are busy making quilts. St. John Lutheran Church seems to be a gathering place for doing just that. Then it is also a perfect time to get rid of clutter that gets collected over the past. The first of a new year is a perfect time to bring on a flurry of cleaning up, throwing out and generally de-cluttering. Sometimes real treasures are found that have been hidden for quite some time...for which one has spent hours looking!

Mother Nature must have given Old Man Winter a nudge in the ribs to remind him of his official duty to bring colder weather. This week promises to bring frigid temperatures. One can surely be happy with the wood stove that brings that comfortable heat to the home. Comfort foods are always welcome. Someone recently said that all they ever did was cook and eat, and their main topic of conversation was what to cook next. The best time to enjoy the most delicious of soups is during cold weather. A glorious vegetable soup is a meal unto itself, so smooth and satisfying.

Mountain Vegetable Soup
 Soup bone
 1 cup of onions, chopped
 2 1/2 quarts of water
 2 cups of corn
 1 cup chopped cabbage
 1 cup chopped turnips/potatoes
 1 1/2 cups tomatoes
 Salt and pepper
 2 cups lima beans or beans
 2 teaspoons flour
 A pinch of two of sugar
 1 cup broccoli or cauliflower

Place soup in a soup pot with water and boil 3 hours. Allow to cool before taking off meat and discarding the bone. Pour off fat and add seasonings and vegetables. Combine flour with salt and pepper and add to soup. Boil for 45 minutes and serve. Yields 10 servings. (The secret to a delicious soup is to add the pinch or two of sugar!)

To survive the winter cold, small birds must feed every day, both to replenish the preceding night's lost energy and to build a reserve for the night to come. The songbirds are round, fluffy balls of feathers as they daily flock to the feeders. The chickadees can withstand frigid temperatures by fluffing their feathers, thereby trapping more insulating air. Their critical need is to find sufficient food for these cold temperatures. There is some interesting trivia regarding the Oriole, one of the gorgeous birds that grace the backyards.

- If one wants to attract the Oriole to the backyard, try these three foods: sugar water, oranges and grape jelly.
- Adult males are much more brightly colored than females, but the males don't get their brilliance until their second year.
- As many as nine different types of Orioles will show up in North America, but of those, only five are common: the

Bullock's, Baltimore, hooded, orchard and Scott's.

Be sure to stock the bird feeders full of wild bird seed and black sunflower seeds.

Wintertime can be very dreary. Gates can be a happy time. Every day "Fistalk"? It's a game where a column of fists, joined by grasping thumbs is made. Then the dialog begins... "Watcha got there?" "Fistalk!" "Take'm off or knock'em off?" So, one has the choice of either removing one's fist or getting it knocked off.

As the week becomes blue cold, one can always resort to sleeping comfortably and warm in one's feather bed. Imagine living during the Depression, when Saturday night baths were not just a joke. A wash pan bath sufficed for the week, however Saturday night was a real go-for-broke wash-tub bath. Water was carried into the kitchen where it was heated on the cook stove, and then poured into the described tub. The first tub was for the girls, from youngest to oldest. Then the water was dumped and fresh water was heated for the boys. It surely was a chore to carry that cold water into the house on a cold evening. Hopefully water never splashed down one's leg, making it a memorable time!

Wilford Barnett from Cowen has given the Depression Day's post for reflection and enjoyment:

I remember the depression days

They were inconvenient in many ways.

Beans and 'taters were our daily grub,

And we took our bath in a three-bushel wash tub.

Things will not be that way again, I hope.

Because I don't like that old lye soap.

Trees...

(Cont. from Page 1, Column 3)

or hurt trout and wildlife. TU's Dustin Wichterman says that Cox has "chosen to help fish and wildlife and TU has offered to help with technical and financial assistance to keep the fish that are there healthy and thriving. When the kids who planted here bring their own children to this place, the next generation of kids will have a better chance of seeing trout because of Mr. Cox's commitment."

The streamside planting was part of an ongoing project that TU and its partners have been working on in the area since 2005. TU and partners help local landowners with stream problems. Those interested in the programs or seeking more information may call Wichterman at 304-463-4011.

We grew most of what we had to eat.

We killed groundhogs in order to have meat.

When the preacher came to visit we had chicken, dumplings and gravy too.

But after he left it was beans and 'taters the whole week through.

Well, we had no fancy clothes. We used our shirtsleeves to wipe our nose.

Things have changed since away back there.

Because now we have food stamps and welfare.

We use the stamps to buy our grub.

And bid farewell to the three-bushel wash tub.

No doubt about it, life could be a whole lot worse!

Kinsley Armstrong is home following several weeks at Philadelphia for treatment and observation. The Kinsley Cure Cookbooks are "fresh off the press". Should anyone be interested in purchasing a cookbook, please contact either April Simmons or Erin Eye.

Water Cress is quite a delicacy. These are the first greens to appear—and a sign that the wild cress exhibits a more full-bodied flavor than cultivated watercress.

After collecting them, remove stems, rinse and soak in water for 15 minutes to remove any trace of grit. Drain well and serve the greens with a hot dressing.

There is happy news in Sugar Grove. It appears that Sam and Brenna Mitchell Cockran are the proud grandparents of Noah Harrison Cockran, born to Christopher and Angela Cockran. He weighed in at eight pounds, eight ounces and was born January 14th. Congratulations to the Cockran family!

Thursday visitors of the Dolan Grogg family were Wanda Pitsenberger, Vada Wilfong, and Willard and Judy Rader. The occasion was Dolan's birthday. Hope you have a great year, Dolan.

The children of Paul Bolton had quite a surprise for Paul Bolton who celebrated his 90th birthday. Paul has seen a lot of changes in his life time, and his memory serves him well. His happy spirit reigned throughout the afternoon festivities while the well-wishers enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship. Happy birthday, Paul...and hope the year brings you many happy memories.

Cara and Brandon Mitchell motored to Lynchburg, VA, for the weekend get-together with the Lacy Moyers family.

Birthday celebrations were in order for Cary Hevener this past Sunday as family gathered at the home of Harold and Ellen Mitchell for a bountiful dinner, Sunday. Attending were the guest, Jordan Hevener, Jennifer, Allison and Morgan Hevener, Bridgewater, VA, Brandon and Cara Mitchell, and Tom and Paula Mitchell.

Referring to last week's article, "Brandywine Area Has Seen Much Change" article, a correction needs to be made, with regards to the photo caption. The photo of the tannery depicted the location on "Factory Hill" in Brandywine prior to being dismantled and moved to Stokesville, VA.

The concerns list is as follows: Ruth Kile, Kinsley Armstrong, the Gary Heckrick family, Pam Rexrode, Dolan and Rosalee Grogg, Ed Kiser, George Crider, Jeff and Jennie Holt, John Dorsey, Lori Lambert, Fay Bodkin, Ruth Bowers, Pastor Bradford, Wayne Colaw, Luther Hartman, Danny Hoover, Roger Hoover, Maxine Huffman, Meghan Keller, Burton Propst, Fannie Propst, Nathan Propst, Vernon Propst, Dolan and Delores Rexrode, Ella Mae Rexrode, Marie Rexrode, Tina Roberson, Debbie Smith, the Darlene McLaughlin family, Allen Eye, Don Thomas, Judy Bodine, Alda and Irvin Propst, Byrd Teter, Mary Lou Sites, R.C. Nash, Kerri Harman, Brian Harman and Bobby Peer.

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LINCOLN Daniel Day-Lewis
 DAILY 12:00 - 3:00 • 6:00 • 8:55 PG-13

LAST STAND Arnold Schwarzenegger
 DAILY 12:15 • 3:15 • 6:15 • 8:45 R

SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK Bradley Cooper
 DAILY 12:15 • 3:15 • 6:15 • 8:55 R

A HAUNTED HOUSE Martin Scorsese
 DAILY 12:30 • 3:30 • 6:30 • 8:55 R

HANSEL AND GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS Johnny Remmer
 DAILY 12:30 • 3:30 • 6:30 • 8:45 R

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Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Final Programmatic Report Narrative

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed ten (10) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line final programmatic report task as instructed.

1. Project Description.

Briefly describe your project, including a description of the problem your project is trying to address, the project's objectives and strategies, as well as the project location, and a characterization of the watershed and the relevant characteristics of the community's natural resources, population, and economy.

The Potomac Highlands Brook Trout Conservation (WV) Project used brook trout to motivate restoration and protection on private lands in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. We focused efforts on brook trout resources in the Potomac Highlands impacted by historic channelization, agricultural impacts, and aquatic organism passage barriers. The main objective of the project was to improve brook trout habitat by restoring floodplain forests/riparian buffers, restoring eroding stream banks on impaired streams, removing fish passage barriers, restoring spring habitat, and increasing land conservation education and assistance. These objectives not only improve brook trout habitat but also assist in the achievement of West Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan to meet the Chesapeake Bay's Total Maximum Load limitations as well as assist numerous state, federal, and other joint agency initiatives. This funding allowed TU to support staff in all stages of conservation from outreach, education and enrollment in conservation programs, through conservation planning and design, to on-the-ground implementation of conservation practices and monitoring. While on the ground installations are the primes objective of this work, TU's work under this agreement will pay conservation dividends for many years to come.

2. Summary of Accomplishments

In four to five sentences, provide a brief summary of the project's key accomplishments and outcomes that were observed or measured.

TU has met and/or exceeded many of the goals set out in this award and has firmly established the 'Inception to Protection' brook trout program in the headwaters of the Potomac. Since the project was awarded, TU has successfully added a Stream Restoration Specialist and a Project Coordinator to its staff in WV and is currently in the process of adding two more full time staff positions. TU also added a Stream Restoration Specialist to its VA staff. TU has completed the restoration of over 15 miles of floodplain forest/riparian buffer by fencing out livestock and reestablishing native vegetation. Over 600 acres of land have been preserved in habitat enhancement agreements and over 500 landowners or volunteers have been engaged by TU staff, with more than 15 landowners enrolling their land in conservation programs to improve the health of streams in the Potomac. TU has assisted in the restoration of over 6,000 linear feet of streams, reducing the sediment input from eroding banks by over 700 tons per year. Additionally, TU has continued to build upon strong relationships with federal, state, and local partners and has lined up a number of future projects that promise to carry on the momentum and promote the longevity of Brook Trout Conservation in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia.

3. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

- Describe and quantify (using the approved metrics referenced in your grant agreement) the primary activities conducted during this grant.
- Briefly explain discrepancies between the activities conducted during the grant and the activities agreed upon in your grant agreement.

Outcomes

- Describe and quantify progress towards achieving the project outcomes described in your grant agreement. (Quantify using the approved metrics referenced in your grant agreement or by using more relevant metrics not included in the application.)
- Briefly explain discrepancies between what actually happened compared to what was anticipated to happen.
- Provide any further information (such as unexpected outcomes) important for understanding project activities and outcome results.

Introduction

The following activities and outcomes include the activities and goals established in the original proposal (Goal), the actual values achieved during the performance period (Actual), and the values that are scheduled for implementation in the upcoming year (Contracted for implementation in 2014). An explanation of the discrepancies is outlined under the Actual values achieved. Although we did not achieve the implementation of the activities described in those scheduled for 2014, this award enabled us to plan and secure funding for these activities for the upcoming year.

Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer

- **Goal: 45,000 lf of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-ft buffer**
- **Actual: At least 35,376 lf of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-ft buffer**
 - TU and its partners have restored 35,376 lf of riparian buffer under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and have restored 47,995 lf of riparian buffer under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Program (CBWI) for a total of 83,371 lf. The buffer associated with CREP requires a 35-ft width; therefore, we have assumed that the linear footage of buffer in CREP meets the 35-ft buffer goal. There are additional footages with at-least a 35-ft buffer in the EQIP and CBWI programs; however, because it is not a requirement of the programs, we did not track it in our records. If this figure needs to be precisely reported, we can generate a reliable estimate of the EQIP projects with 35 foot buffers. In the future, we will start including the width of the buffer into our internal tracking system.
- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: 11,786 lf of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-ft buffer**
 - TU has assisted landowners in the acquisition of funding and will install livestock exclusion fence to protect 11,786 lf of riparian buffer through the CREP program.

Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer

- **Goal: 50 acres of wetland habitat improved**
- **Actual: 29 acres of wetland habitat improved**
 - TU and its partners have improved 29 acres of wetland habitat by installing fence and excluding cattle. Twenty-nine acres falls short of our goal of 50 acres; however, we have improved wetlands on 20 different private properties. The area protected on each property ranged from 0.1 to 7 acres with an average of 1.4 acres.
 - Our initial project plan included a single property which had been estimated at improving 54 wetland habitat acres alone. We were not able to secure implementation funding for this project under USDA programs due to unforeseen obstacles. We have secured funding for 2014 for this project, though at a lower level of wetland protection.
- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: 25 acres of wetland habitat improved**
 - TU has assisted two landowners in the acquisition of funding to install livestock exclusion fence to protect approximately 25 additional acres of wetland in 2014 in the Potomac Watershed. These properties were enrolled and excluded for cost share programs due conditions outside of TU's control. TU has assisted the landowners in obtaining alternative funding sources to implement the conservation practices. As a result, these projects were not completed within the expected time period, but are scheduled for 2014's construction season. .

Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer

- **Goal: 50 acres of invasive vegetation removed**
- **Actual: 10 acres of invasive vegetation removed**

- TU has continued work on Thorn Creek and Seneca invasive plants (primarily Japanese Knotweed) and has continued to collaborate with the USFWS/Potomac Highlands Weed and Pest Management Area members to identify and eradicate additional acres of invasive plants. In the Seneca Watershed alone, invasive plants were addressed across a six mile span of riparian habitat comprising more than 50 acres of riparian area under surveillance and treatment, but only 10 acres of basal treatment actually was needed across both watersheds. TU also assisted with a workshop and experiential eradication effort in the headwaters of White Thorn Creek on a fenced riparian wetland of 15 acres. To date, both Seneca Creek tributaries and Thorn Creek watersheds have been surveyed and invasive stands treated for infestation. TU has also provided support to its partner's efforts in the acquisition of funding to further address invasive species in these watersheds, and, partially based on TU's efforts, the USFS is currently in the process of applying for an upgraded permit request so this work can be accomplished under a nationwide NPDES permit. TU's efforts focus on removing invasive plants from the uppermost reaches in a watershed to reduce further infiltration into riparian habitats.
- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: invasive vegetation removed from 125 acres of land**
 - TU has assisted two landowners in the acquisition of funding and will begin eradication of invasive species on two tracts in 2014. These tracts, composed of approximately 25 acres of riparian wetland habitat and 100 acres of riparian upland, are within the Thorn Creek Watershed. These lands were excluded from cost share programs with which they had originally signed up to accomplish the conservation practices. TU has assisted the landowners in obtaining alternative funding sources to implement the conservation practices. As a result, these projects were not completed within the expected time period.

Restore Floodplain Forest/Riparian Buffer

- **Goal: 30,000 lf of livestock exclusion fencing installed with less than 35-ft buffer**
- **Actual: 47,995 lf of livestock exclusion fencing installed with less than 35-ft buffer**
 - TU and its partners have installed 47,995 lf of livestock exclusion fencing under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Program (CBWI). Much of this footage have a buffer width greater than 35-ft; however, because it is not a requirement of the programs, we did not track it in our records. In the future, we will start including the width of the buffer into our internal tracking system. If needed, TU can provide more detail to support the wider riparian requirement.

Restore Eroding Streambanks on Impaired Streams

- **Goal: 45,000 lf of livestock exclusion fencing installed with at least a 35-ft buffer**
- **Actual: 35,376 lf of livestock exclusion fencing installed with at least a 35-ft buffer**
 - TU and its partners have installed 35,376 lf of livestock exclusion fencing under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The buffer associated with CREP, typically requires a 35-ft width; therefore, we report CREP program work meets the 35-ft buffer goal. There may be additional footages with at-least a 35-ft buffer in the EQIP and CBWI programs which are captured in the next metric.
- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: 11,786 lf of livestock exclusion fencing installed with at least a 35-ft buffer**
 - TU has assisted landowners in the acquisition of funding and will install livestock exclusion fence to protect 11,786 lf of riparian buffer through the CREP program. See note above regarding the width of the buffers.

Restore Eroding Streambanks on Impaired Streams

- **Goal: 30,000 lf of livestock exclusion fencing installed with less than 35-ft buffer**
- **Actual: 47,995 lf of livestock exclusion fencing installed with less than 35-ft buffer**
 - TU and its partners have installed 47,995 lf of livestock exclusion fencing under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative Program (CBWI). See note above regarding width of buffers.

Restore Eroding Streambanks on Impaired Streams

- **Goal: 500 tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways**
- **Actual: 775 tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways**
 - TU has been involved with the installation of 4 streambank stabilization projects which will reduce sediment loads by 775 tons per year.
- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: 4,539 tons of sediment reduced from entering waterways**
 - TU designed streambank stabilization projects that have yet to be constructed that will reduce sediment by 4,539 tons per year. We have also identified and placed 6,672 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilization under contract to be assessed and designed in 2014. Tons of sediment reduced is not estimated until the assessment phase of the project and is not known at this time but will be significant.

Restore Eroding Streambanks on Impaired Streams

- **Goal: 4,000 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilized**
- **Actual: 4,375 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilized**
 - We have been involved with the installation of 4,375 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilization. These projects also contain structural elements such as j-hooks, rootwads, and vanes that increase the volume of wood and increase the number and depth of pools, thereby enhancing habitat for brook trout.
- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: 2,755 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilized**
 - Additionally, we have designed streambank stabilization projects that have yet to be constructed that total 2,755 lf. We have also identified and placed 6,672 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilization under contract to be assessed and designed in 2014.

Fish Passage Barrier Removal

- **Goal: 20,000 lf of upstream channel opened to fish passage**
- **Actual: 0 lf of upstream channel opened to fish passage**
 - In 2013, the NRCS Engineering made a decision to forego working on private Fish Passage/road crossings. Two projects were on the burner for these passage projects which had to be postponed due to the engineering requirement of this practice. TU had to develop new relationships with engineering firms to install and get approval. This delay, halfway through the term of the grant, prevented completion of these projects under the time frame of the grant.
 - The Bears Hell passage project, reported on in the interim report which included 19,000 lf of upstream channel, has been postponed indefinitely due to unexpected landowner health issues.
 - Another passage project on an unnamed spring tributary to Blackthorn Creek was assessed and designed but got impeded by the NRCS design review process because of job approval authority.
 - The techniques for replacing improperly sized crossing structures with fish-friendly versions are still being developed in West Virginia, and we have found that projects are taking longer to get designed, approved, and installed. TU has taken great strides in promoting the science of aquatic organism passage by hosting a USFS Stream Simulation workshop on the topic with over 40 participants from 6 states. The Forest Service uses a stream simulation approach that involves constructing a natural channel bed through a preferably open bottomed crossing structure such as an arch culvert or bridge. We also plan to coordinate an advanced aquatic organism passage workshop in 2014.
- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: 37,000 lf of upstream channel opened to fish passage**
 - TU has identified and acquired funding to assist landowners in the removal of three existing passage barriers that will open approximately 37,000 lf of upstream channel to fish passage; however, these projects are not expected to go to construction until the summer of 2014.

Restore Spring Habitat

- **Goal: 2,000 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilized**
- **Actual: 2,900 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilized**
 - TU and its partners restored spring habitat and stabilized 2,900 lf of streambank on an unnamed tributary to the South Branch of the Potomac. This stream had been channelized and the habitat destroyed by

historic logging practices. In addition to stabilizing the streambanks, TU designed and installed step pools constructed out of rocks and logs to add habitat features and stream bed diversity.

- **Contracted for implementation in 2014: 4,600 lf of streambank/shoreline stabilized**
 - The work on Jack Thorn and Whitethorn Creek reported on in the interim report is still in the assessment and design stages and will not be constructed until 2014 due to approval authority backlog at the NRCS.

Land Conservation Education and Assistance

- **Goal: 600 acres of land preserved in conservation easement**
- **Actual: 700 acres of land preserved in conservation easement**
 - TU and its partners have successfully placed 700 acres of lands under conservation agreements to date, as a temporary measure. This temporary measure awaits a longer term solution for strictly riparian based conservation easements and a conservatory willing to manage riparian acres without the entire farm going under easement. TU has embarked upon its first permanent easement in the watershed, which will be help by The Nature Conservancy that may close as early as January 2014.

Conservation Agreements

- **Goal: 15 landowners targeted by program**
- **Actual: 15 landowners targeted by program**
 - TU has exceeded its goal of getting 15 landowners enrolled in conservation programs. TU has assisted 15 landowners in enrolling in programs to directly address streambank erosion. These projects are under contract and will stabilize over 6,500 lf of streambanks and restore the adjacent riparian buffer. TU has assisted additional landowners with enrolling in conservation programs to indirectly address streambank erosion with practices such as fencing, establishing riparian buffers, and installing alternative watering systems.

School and Civic Participation

- **Goal: 500 participants/volunteers in projects**
- **Actual: 580 participants/volunteers in projects**
 - TU successfully engaged 180 school kids in project work. Additionally TU attended and presented at agricultural extension dinners in various counties to educate farmers about TU's work and offer services. Over 400 landowners in total were in attendance at these dinners.

Additional Outcomes

- With the granting of this award, TU was able to enter into an agreement with the NRCS to partially fund a stream restoration specialist position to assist with the design of streambank stabilization projects in the Potomac. Prior to entering into this agreement, the NRCS did not have the time or resources to devote to designing streambank stabilization projects and many contracts were expiring and landowners were being turned away from stream restoration and conservation practices. NRCS has seen the value in its partnership with TU and has renewed agreements with TU for an additional \$150,000 that will require a 1:1 match over the next three years to continue stream restoration and conservation efforts in the Potomac. NFWF's participation in this project is the foundation of keeping the NRCS engaged in this much needed effort.
- TU has also been able to identify two targeted watersheds within the Potomac (Thorn Creek and the Cacapon) with high brook trout conservation value, and funding has been secured to continue the 'Inception to Protection' model of restoration at a more local scale. The North Fork of the Potomac and Seneca Creek have also been identified as high priority watersheds for TU to continue work and this award has allowed some initial outreach and planning in these watersheds.
- Because of the activities accomplished and partnerships strengthened during this award, TU has also been able to enter into an agreement with the West Virginia Conservation Agency to install cattle exclusion fencing, stabilize streambanks, enhance habitat, and restore the riparian buffer of 2000 lf of stream and 25 acres of riparian buffer on the Lost River, a high quality stream in the Potomac.

- Additionally, TU has been able to enter into an agreement with the WV Department of Environmental Protection to restore and permanently protect a headwater brook trout stream in a targeted watershed as part of a mitigation project in the headwaters of Thorn Creek.
- TU has also begun to raise funds and build partnerships to support a conservation crew to implement conservation work in the Upper James River watershed in Virginia. TU has received a great deal of support for this initiative and will be able to use the ‘Inception to Protection’ model developed with this award to expand our efforts.
- The outreach, education, and design work accomplished under this award has allowed us to secure funding for future projects that have received additional funding from NFWF and have positioned us to serve as a pilot for the monitoring efforts under development by NFWF over the coming years.

4. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Describe any specific challenges that have arisen during the course of the project and how they have been addressed. Also describe the key lessons learned from this project, such as the least and most effective conservation practices or notable aspects of the project’s methods, monitoring, or results. How could other conservation organizations adapt their projects to build upon some of these key lessons about what worked best and what did not?

Through the implementation of this project, we have learned that a nonprofit organization such as TU when partnering with state and federal agencies can exponentially increase the timeliness and effectiveness of implementing watershed restoration. From identifying high value project sites to designing and constructing cost-effective restoration projects, TU has been able to effectively use programmatic contributions from our partners as well as matching funds to target brook trout restoration.

We have also realized the difficulty of keeping up with the changing directives and program details associated with programmatic contributions and the challenges associated with the time lag between developing conservation plans and on-the-ground implementation of those plans, particularly for NRCS sponsored projects. NRCS changes their cost share rates as well as the scenarios available in each conservation practice on an annual basis. This can be very confusing to landowners and planners. We have made a concerted effort to stay current on the most available information that NRCS provides and to incorporate the most available information into conservation planning efforts. The time lag between developing conservation plans and on-the-ground implementation of those plans has also been a challenge. Time lags can develop due to the sequencing of different conservation practices, the NRCS engineering review process, the permitting process, difficulties raising matching funds for project implementation, contractor availability, and weather delays. We have tried to work through most of these time lag issues with proper project planning; however, for large projects, particularly stream restoration projects, it often takes two years from the identification of a project to the construction of that same project. This issue should be taken into consideration when planning projects and applying for funding.

Another challenge we confronted was that the techniques for replacing improperly sized crossing structures with fish-friendly versions are still being developed and adopted in West Virginia and projects are taking longer to get designed, approved, and installed as a result. TU has taken great strides in promoting the science of aquatic organism passage by hosting a workshop on the topic with over 40 participants instructed by our partners at the US Forest Service. The Forest Service uses a stream simulation approach that involves constructing a natural channel bed through a preferably open bottomed crossing structure such as an arch culvert or bridge. We also plan to coordinate an advanced aquatic organism passage workshop in 2014.

We have also learned that landowners and the general populace place high value on brook trout and native fisheries resources and being able to connect conservation and restoration to seeing more and bigger fish in streams is a great asset that Trout Unlimited has been able to capitalize on.

5. Dissemination

Briefly identify any dissemination of lessons learned or other project results to external audiences, such as the public or other conservation organizations.

TU holds regular meetings with NRCS engineering staff to discuss lessons learned through the installation of stream restoration practices. NRCS engineering staff and TU are in the planning process of conducting training for all West Virginia State NRCS staff to highlight these lessons learned and integrate the results into future projects and contracts. TU also holds regular staff meetings where project results are discussed and staff members can collaborate and share experiences. TU and partners also participate in Conservation District local work meetings and NRCS state technical

meetings to provide feedback to the agencies on prioritization and implementation of conservation and restoration efforts. TU staff present at Trout Unlimited Chapter and Council meetings to highlight restoration and conservation efforts such as those supported in this project. As stated in one of the metrics results above, TU also attends and presents at agricultural extension dinners to educate farmers about TU's work and offer services.

6. Project Documents

Include in your final programmatic report, via the Uploads section of this task, the following:

- 2-10 representative photos from the project. Photos need to have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi;
 - a. Photo 1: Habitat Enhancement on Spring Stream Before
 - b. Photo 2: Habitat Enhancement on Spring Stream After
 - c. Photo 3: Constructed Step Pool Structure on Spring Stream
 - d. Photo 4: Blackthorn Before
 - e. Photo 5: Blackthorn After
 - f. Photo 6: Blackthorn J-Hook
 - g. Photo 7: Fence Before
 - h. Photo 8: Fence After
 - i. Photo 9. Monitoring Thorn Creek Watershed
- report publications, GIS data, brochures, videos, outreach tools, press releases, media coverage;
 - a. *The Pendleton Times* “Novel Stream Bank Program Helps Farmers”
 - b. *The Pendleton Times* “PCMS Students Plant Trees”
 - c. Link to Video produced by Steve Droter: “From the Field: Linking Land and Water in Brook Trout Conservation”
http://www.chesapeakebay.net/videos/clip/from_the_field_linking_land_and_water_in_brook_trout_conservation
- any project deliverables per the terms of your grant agreement.

POSTING OF FINAL REPORT: *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contains material that does not have to be posted on such websites because it is protected from disclosure by statutory or regulatory provisions, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as “PROTECTED” and provide an explanation and complete citation to the statutory or regulatory source for such protection.*