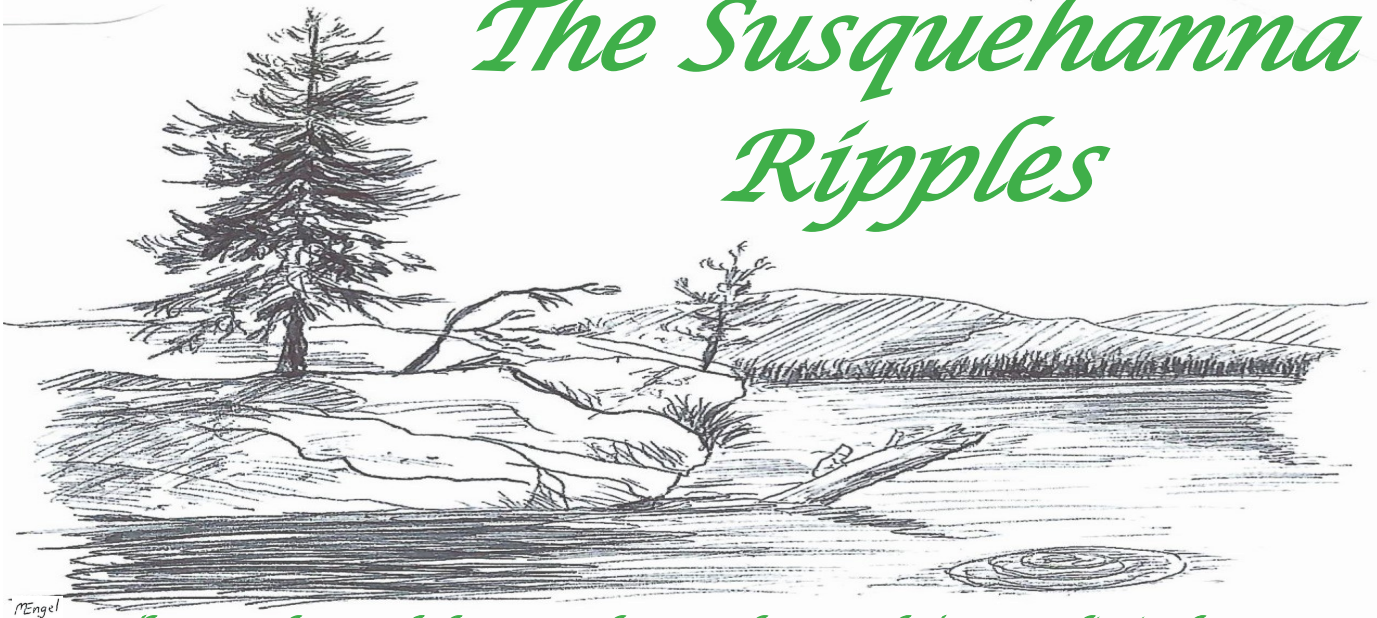


The Susquehanna Ripples



The Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited #044

PA Fish & Boat Commission to be Featured at Trout Unlimited Susquehanna Chapter Meeting “20 Years of Stream Habitat Improvement”

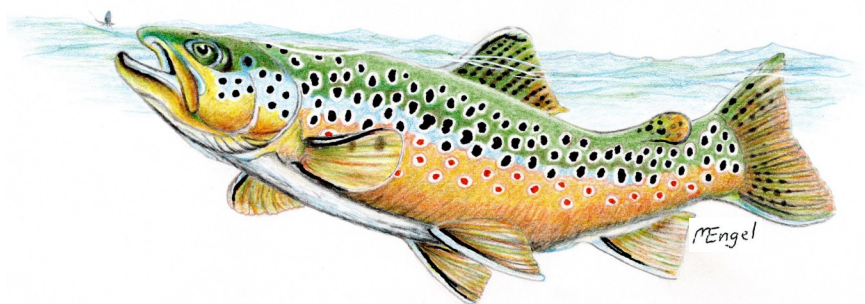
The public is invited to a meeting of the Trout Unlimited Susquehanna Chapter featuring Mark Sausser, Stream Habitat Section Chief with the PFBC. Mark will discuss the evolution of stream habitat improvement in PA, highlighting advancements in design, materials, and restoration techniques compared to those used two decades ago. Mark oversees staff implementing habitat projects statewide, is the author of the newly updated *PFBC Stream Habitat Improvement* book, and the *PFBC Stream Habitat Visual Survey* assessment.

Also providing updates and taking questions will be local PFBC Waterways Conservation Officers, as well as PA Fish & Boat Commissioner Eric Hussar, who represents the 5th District of PA, which includes Tioga, Lycoming, Bradford, Sullivan, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties.

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 pm at the Covenant Central Presbyterian Church**, 807 West 4th Street in Williamsport. Parking and entrance to the Church is at the rear of the building with access off of Campbell Street. If you are able, please park in the overflow lot that is just south of the main church lot, as there will also be an Ash Wednesday service being held in the church at 7:00 PM.

For more information, please see our website at <https://susquehannatu.com>.

MEETING DATE HAS CHANGED AND WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 18, 2026



Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited - February 2026

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Bob Baker (2026)
John Kolb (2027)
Mike DiDomenico (2027)
Mike Ditchfield (2028)
Dennis Dusza (2028)

Director Emeritus and Chapter Adviser

Dave Craig

Chapter Advisor

Steve Szoke

Past President / Financial Reviewer

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Upcoming Events

February 18, 2026	Chapter Meeting
February 21, 2026	Basic Boating Course / PFBC / Mill Hall
February 22, 2026	Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited Cabin Fever Show
February 22, 2026	Snowfest 2026 at R. B. Winter State Park
February 28 - March 1, 2026	Muskie Max Plus Fishing Expo at Thiel College
March 11, 2026	Chapter Meeting
March 11, 2026	Trout Fishing Tune Up / Virtual Course by PFBC
March 12, 2026	Casting Chats: Spinner fishing for Trout / virtual program / PFBC
March 14 - 15, 2026	The Fly Fishing Show, Lancaster
March 25, 2026	Trout Fishing Tune Up / Virtual Course by PFBC
March 28, 2026	Mentored Youth Trout Fishing
April 4, 2026	Opening Day of Trout
April 8, 2026	Chapter Meeting
May 19, 2026	Kayaking Basics / Virtual Program / PFBC
May 20, 2026	Kayak Fishing Basics / Bald Eagle State Park
June 24, 2026	Kayak Fishing Basics / Bald Eagle State Park
August 1, 2026	Susquehanna Greenway Outdoor Expo

Our Official Newsletter

The **Susquehanna Ripples** is the official newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It is published 8 times a year: January, February, March, April, June/July, September, October, and November. Please consider submitting something of interest to our readers; a story, stream report, recipe, photograph, gear review, etc. Submissions received will be placed in the next available issue. All submissions can be sent to susquehannatu@gmail.com / boblaker@comcast.net.

Chapter meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) and are always free and open to the public and begin at 7:00 pm. Meetings are held at the **Covenant Central Presbyterian Church, 807 W 4th St, Williamsport, PA 17701**, in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted). Parking is at the rear of the Church and enter off of Campbell Street.

No meetings are held in May, June, July, August or December



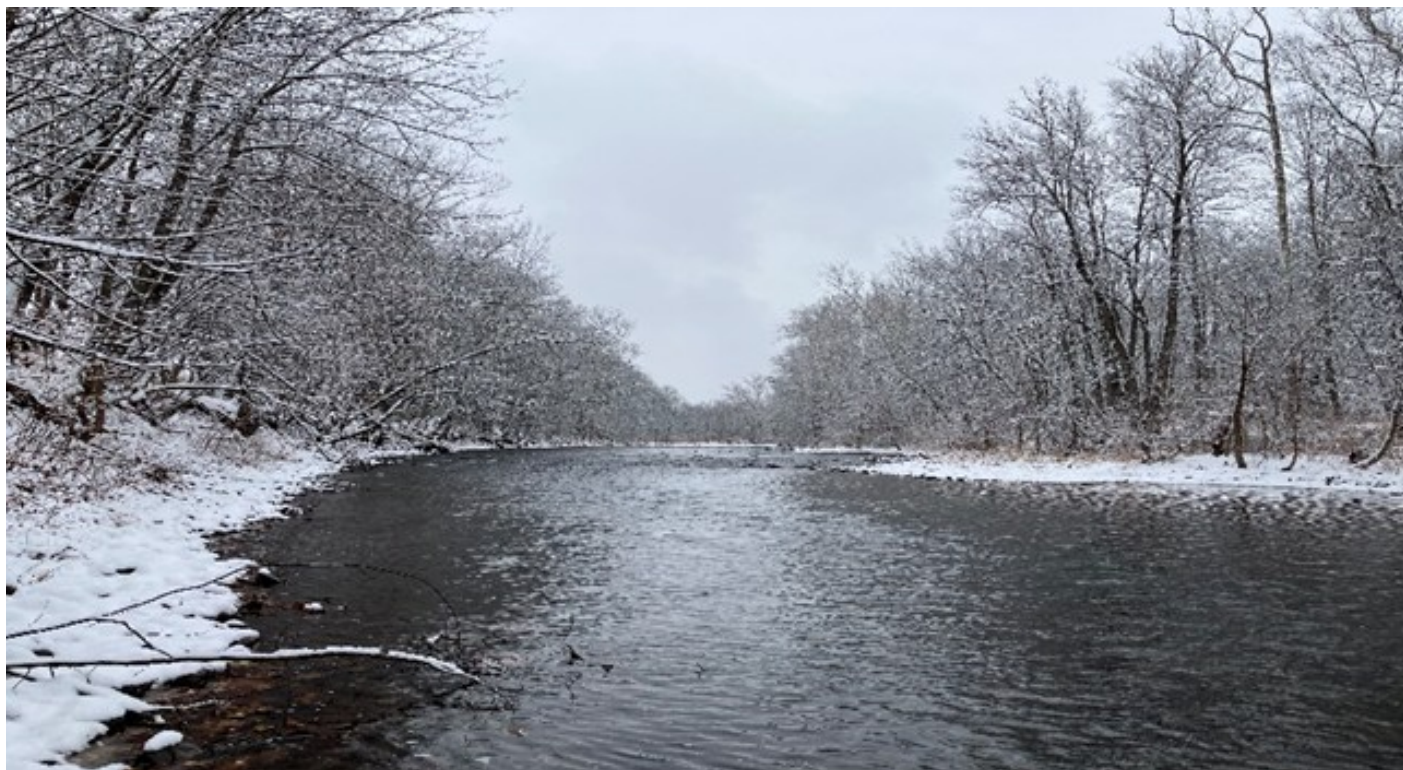
Presidents Message...

Not much has changed over the past month. Snow covered ground, frozen water, and frigid temperatures. I thought last Winter was bad, but I think this year has it beat. I've been outside a little bit, a couple short walks in the woods and a bit of pruning in my Apple orchard, but not nearly enough. I'm getting antsy, but there's not a whole lot I can do about it. I glance over at my glass-doored woodstove and watch the rich, orange glow of the embers. The metal pops and cracks occasionally as the stove begins to cool down. Time for some more wood to get 'er going again and ward off the cold air that's trying to work its way into the house. There's just no kind of heat that matches that of a woodfire. Deep and penetrating, it just envelops you like a soft, warm blanket. Some popping and hissing from a bit of moisture trapped in the wood, the mild aroma released when the door is opened...I just love it. I've been reading a lot lately... mostly in the recliner near the woodstove. Right now, I'm into "Remembrances of Rivers Past" by Ernest Schweibert. It's an older book, written in 1972, but that doesn't matter as the fishing stories are timeless. Prior to that it was "The Final Frontiersman" by James Campbell, a chronicle of the life of Heimo Korth and his family who have spent their entire adult lives living primitively in the Alaskan Bush. Before that one? "Meat Eater: Adventures from the Life of an American Hunter", by Steve Rinella. Not very hard to see a pattern here. When I can't get out and do it, I like to read and dream about it. And big dreams I have! As soon as the ice goes out, its off to Yellow Creek State Park in Indiana County to fish for spawning Northern Pike in the shallows. From there will be some Sucker fishing (yes, Sucker fishing!) at the mouth of a couple tributary streams that dump into Lycoming and Loyalsock Creeks, well downstream of their approved Trout water sections. Then will come Trout season, followed shortly thereafter by some Panfish action. Certainly, I'm not a purist. What's that they say, "Variety is the spice of life"? Oh, I can't wait and it will all be here soon...time to transition from books and dreams back to reality. But for now, I'll put some more wood on the fire and get back into my book.

If you see me along the water this Spring, stop and say hello. I always have time for a good story or two.

Steve Martin

President – Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Public testifies over proposal for drilling on mountain

Article written by Mike Reuther

Sun Gazette Correspondent

Published on February 19, 2026

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2026/02/public-testifies-over-proposal-for-drilling-on-mountain/>

A Marcellus Shale Coalition official testified of the benefits of natural gas, of how the industry supports thousands of household supporting jobs and that the company seeking to extract the gas in Loyalsock State Forest will be good stewards of the environment.

Dan Hagan urged the Department of Environmental Protection to approve Pennsylvania

General Energy's plans to drill 90 wells and create an access road and pipeline on Jacoby Mountain.

His voice was like that of a lone wolf howling in the wilderness muffled by the pleas of those opposing drilling on lands they cherish and say must be protected from industrialization.

"I love this mountain," Barbara Jarmoska testified during the public hearing.

She noted the precious waters of the streams meandering through the landscape, the wildflowers that bloom each spring.

PGE wants to bring a "radically different springtime" to the mountain, according to Jarmoska.

The claim by PGE that there will be minimal degradation "is insane," she said.

Bruce Buckle, president, Lycoming County Audubon Society, noted that different bird species are declining and need forest land to survive.

"State forests deserve our highest level of protection," he said.

People testified as to the natural marvels of the area including the presence of Jacoby Falls which reportedly would be just 600 feet from the proposed gas pipeline.

"It is such a beautiful area that needs to be preserved," Bridget Irwin said.

Aaron Deffenbaugh, a Lycoming College student,

testified that he grew up near the city of Johnstown and has seen how the environment can be adversely impacted by industrialization.

The outdoor recreational opportunities afforded by undeveloped rural landscapes are a reason he chose to go to Lycoming.

"It's a really beautiful area," he said. "It's great we can go to these secluded areas."

Gary Metzger, past president of the Lycoming County Audubon Society, called the proposed drilling plan, "the wrong project in the wrong place."

A loss of forest canopy, he said, not only adversely impacts bird and aquatic populations but also groundwater absorption which can lead to increased runoff and flooding.

"People in the Loyalsock Valley know about flooding events," he said.

Brian Wagner, of the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, said, "We believe there are significant risks which will degrade streams and wetlands."

Ryan Bahr noted the traffic from creation of a road will mean excess runoff and sediment impacting the trout streams.

"We want clean water and healthy streams," he said. "Changes like this are not easily undone."

Ralph Kinsberg noted the need to protect the "exceptional water quality" of the forest lands.

"PGE has the right to extract (gas), but you could do this differently," he said. "Take our exceptional water more seriously."

Beth Jones noted that hikers, anglers, hunters, and birders will be impacted by drilling.

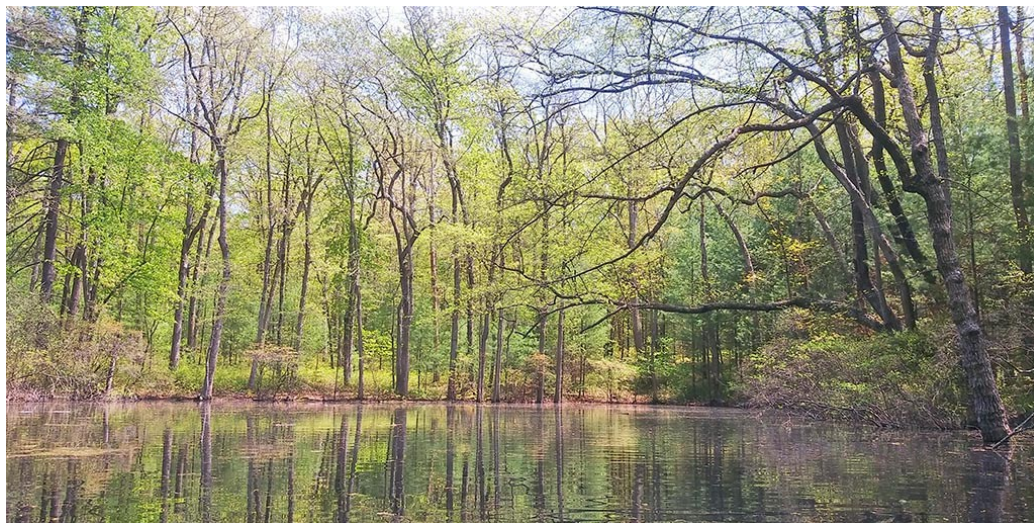
Outdoor recreation, she added, brings billions of dollars to the state, "and yet we want to give away our most precious resource."

Ruth Steck urged DEP to abide by its mission statement to protect the environment.

She cited climate change as a significant threat to the future.

"Time is running out and the climate does not negotiate," she said.

"Enough is enough," Brook Lenker said. "Industrializing our forests sullies the outdoors."



SUN-GAZETTE FILE
PHOTO A view of the
Loyalsock State Forest.

Summary of the 165th Meeting of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

HARRISBURG, Pa. (January 30) – The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) began its quarterly business meeting with attention to ongoing winter fishing opportunities, and upcoming spring activities for anglers and boaters.

"While many anglers are anxiously awaiting warmer spring weather, others are taking full advantage of current wintry conditions," said John Mahn, Jr., Board President and District 2 Commissioner. "Once again this year, we've experienced ideal ice fishing conditions on many lakes statewide. While those opportunities have kept many anglers busy, the frigid weather and ice also present challenges. I'd like to thank our Waterways Conservation Officers for their added attention to safety and remind anyone who ventures out onto the ice to have fun, but to protect themselves. Whether you're ice fishing or you have the opportunity to go boating on open water this winter, always wear a life jacket."

Since 2012, the PFBC has required anyone aboard a boat less than 16 feet, including all kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards, to wear a life jacket from November 1 through April 30. Over the first decade of this regulation, the number of boating accidents in Pennsylvania during the cold weather months has remained about the same, but fatalities have been reduced by approximately 50%.

Executive Director's Report

During his report to the Board, Executive Director Tim Schaeffer noted that the PFBC is already preparing for pre-season trout stocking operations in anticipation of the statewide Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day on Saturday, March 28, 2026, and the statewide Opening Day of Trout Season on Saturday, April 4, 2026.

Schaeffer noted that the 2026 Adult Trout Stocking Schedule was

published on the PFBC website (Fishandboat.com) on January 29 and reminded anglers to revisit the stocking schedule frequently to remain aware of changes that may occur due to inclement weather and hatchery logistics. The PFBC will stock approximately 3.2 million adult trout throughout the 2026 season, which is consistent with the number of fish stocked over the past decade. In addition to trout raised at state fish hatcheries, PFBC cooperative nurseries operated by sportsmen's clubs and other groups across the state will add another 1.1 million trout to waters open to public angling throughout the year.

Fishing licenses and permits may be purchased through the [HuntFish.pa.gov](https://www.huntfish.pa.gov) online portal on the PFBC website (Fishandboat.com), or by visiting nearly 700 retail license issuing agents.

Executive and Administrative

The Board voted to approve the publication of proposed rulemaking pertaining to Administrative Provisions (58 Pa. Code Chapter 51). In 2025, the Pennsylvania Fiscal Code was amended to permit the PFBC to use Fish Fund moneys for expenditures related to boats and boating that also benefit fish and fishing, and Boat Fund moneys for expenditures related to fish and fishing that also benefit boats and boating. Previously, no crossover of funds was permitted, leading to inefficiency and higher costs for anglers and boaters. Under this proposal, 58 Pa. Code Chapter 51 would be amended to memorialize the fund flexibility created by the amendment to the Fiscal Code. If adopted on final rulemaking, this amendment will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Fisheries

Commissioners voted to remove Blue Hole Creek, Section 02, Somerset County, from the Stocked Trout Waters (STW) Open to Year-round Fishing program (58 Pa. Code § 65.19). In 2025, the PFBC was notified by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Pro-

tection (DEP) of results from its physicochemical and macroinvertebrate community survey that documented high concentrations of cadmium and lead in a portion of Blue Hole Creek. While these results do not necessitate the DEP to issue a consumption advisory because it does not have a standard for such advisories, trout stocking will be discontinued on Section 02 due to potential health safety concerns. Under this change, Section 02 will revert to Commonwealth Inland Waters angling regulations (58 Pa. Code § 61.1) upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

The Board voted to approve the addition of three new waters to the PFBC's list of Class A wild trout streams, two waters to the PFBC's list of wild trout streams, and the revision of the section limits of one water currently listed. A list of waters proposed waters for Class A wild trout and wild trout stream designation can be found in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. All of these additions and revisions will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Real Estate and Property Services

Commissioners voted to give final approval to regulations pertaining to Accesses and Marinas. Under this change, the section of 58 Pa. Code § 53.12a, which references a hunting restriction for North East Marina, Erie County, will be removed. This change is necessary because the PFBC no longer owns the marina property, and the language is irrelevant. This amendment will go into effect upon publication of a second notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Temporary Changes to Fishing Regulations

Through executive action, temporary changes to fishing regulations were recently enacted or extended on several lakes in anticipation of upcoming dam rehabilitation projects.

Continued on next page

PFBC Meeting Continued

The removal of seasons, sizes, and creel limits applies to Fords Lake, Lackawanna County; Harris Pond, Luzerne County; Rose Valley Lake, Lycoming County; and Tobyhanna Lake, Monroe County. These temporary modifications were announced in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and will remain in effect until January 1, 2027, unless the PFBC shall by then, by appropriate action, have approved the designation or redesignation of waters or shall have approved the revision of the regulation in question.

Notice of Exemptions for Stocking of Class A Wild Trout Streams

Through executive action, under the authority of 58 Pa. Code § 57.8a (relating to Class A wild trout streams), exemptions were recently granted to allow for the stocking of trout on Class A wild trout streams that meet the stocking criteria set forth in the current edition of the *Operational Guidelines for the Management of Trout Fisheries in Pennsylvania Waters*. Through this action, there are a total of 13 stocking exemptions being granted on 12 Class A wild trout stream sections: eight renewals and five new exemptions. All are valid for five years. The exemptions include:

Renewal Exemptions:

Yellow Creek, Section 02, Bed-

ford County: 2021 exemption criterion: pre-existing fishing derbies and exclusive use fishing areas.

Unnamed tributary to Tulpehocken Creek (Womelsdorf), Section 02, Berks County: 2021 exemption criterion: pre-existing fishing derbies and exclusive use fishing areas.

Wyomissing Creek, Section 03, Berks County: 2021 exemption criterion: preexisting fishing derbies and exclusive use fishing areas.

Beaver Run, Section 01, Clearfield County: 2021 exemption criterion: pre-existing fishing derbies and exclusive use fishing areas.

Letort Spring Run, Section 03, Cumberland County: 2021 exemption criterion: preexisting fishing derbies and exclusive use fishing areas.

Warriors Mark Run, Section 01, Huntingdon County: 2021 exemption criteria: preexisting private stockings on private property closed to public angling; stream section previously received a stocking exemption.

Marvin Creek, Section 01, McKean County: 2021 exemption criterion: pre-existing fishing derbies and exclusive use fishing areas.

New Exemptions:

Clover Creek, Section 03, Blair

County: Criterion: pre-existing private stockings on private property closed to public angling.

Penns Creek, Section 01, Centre County: Criterion: pre-existing private stockings on private property closed to public angling.

Dotters Creek, Section 02, Monroe County: Criterion: pre-existing private stockings on private property closed to public angling (private club).

Dotters Creek, Section 02, Monroe County: Criterion: pre-existing private stockings on private property closed to public angling (private landowner).

Monocacy Creek, Section 02, Northampton County: Criterion: previously received a Special Activities Permit.

Special Announcements

The PFBC's remaining quarterly business meetings in 2026 are scheduled for the following dates:

- April 27, 2026
- July 27, 2026
- October 26, 2026

The April and July 2026 meetings will be held at the PFBC headquarters located at 1601 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110. The location of the October 2026 meeting will be announced at a later date.

3.2 MILLION REASONS TO FISH

That's how many **adult trout** we will stock in **2026** in **684 streams** and **130 lakes**.

Average size: 11 inches

2.3 Million Rainbow Trout

698,000 Brown Trout

128,000 Brook Trout

18,000 Golden Rainbow Trout (75% stocked before opening day)

Plus, 1.1 Million trout stocked by **cooperative nurseries**.

72,000 trophy-sized Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout and Brook Trout. Trophy size: 14 to 20 inches (70% stocked before opening day)

FishandBoat.com

House Environmental Committee Told Water Quality Restoration Efforts Need To Be Better Targeted; Important 'Emerging Contaminants' Need To Be Addressed; Cuts In Federal Funding Slowing Progress

On February 9, the House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection Committee held a hearing on DEP's Draft 2026 Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report identifying streams and lakes that fail to meet water quality standards, streams with improving water quality and the efforts being taken to improve water quality across the state.

"The Genesis of this hearing relating to stream impairment in Pennsylvania was a draft 2026 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report [IWQR] that the Department of Environmental Protection put out in December of 2025," said Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware), Majority Chair of the Committee.

"That report indicated that 37% of Pennsylvania stream miles were impaired. The report also covered other water bodies and had other metrics, but that's what stood out to me.

"The previous report two years ago indicated that 34% of Pennsylvania stream miles were impaired in some fashion.

"The chief sources of impairment were one, agricultural runoff, two, acid mine drainage, and three urban runoff.

"The purpose of today's hearing is to take a look at what Pennsylvania could do better, what Pennsylvania could do differently in dealing with this level of impairment," said Rep. Vitali.

Summary Of Comments

Jill Whitcom, DEP Deputy Secretary of Water Programs, "Pennsylvania has the most advanced assessment program in the country and is one of the only states that uses assessment decisions and real water quality data to inform permitted pollution limits.

"A common misconception is that our Water Quality Standards, monitoring, assessments, and permitting programs prioritize aquatic life. However, human health is a priority, specifically related to drinking water, fish consumption, and water contact uses.

"Pennsylvania maintains 220,000 assessment units across almost 86,000 miles of streams and rivers and 2 million acres of bays, lakes and wetlands; this is 10 times more than any other state.

"The 2026 IWQR expanded assessments for more than 10,000 miles of streams and rivers and more than 18,000 acres of lakes, with new assessments or updated assessments for any use.

"Thanks to stronger partnerships and increased communication with county conservation districts (CCDs), watershed associations, non-profit organizations, and others, DEP saw a three-fold increase in data submis-

sions compared to previous reports.

"In other words, we use a targeted approach to assess our waters and base our decisions on data.

"Since 2004, DEP has recorded 1,099 miles of restored streams and 35,504 acres of restored lakes.

"The leading identified sources of stream impairment are agriculture, AMD, and urban/stormwater runoff. These are nonpoint sources.

"The three leading causes of impairment are siltation, pathogens, and mercury, followed closely by metals.

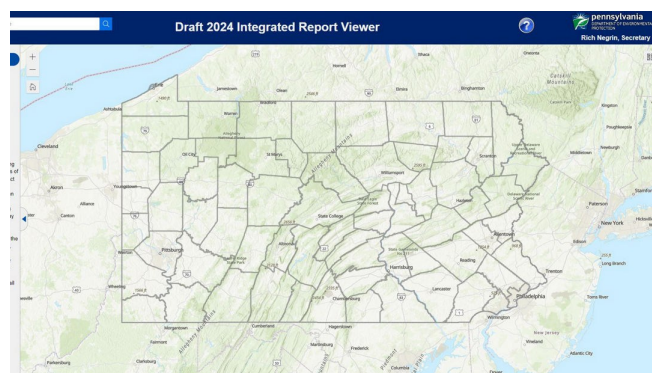
"This demonstrates that nonpoint source pollution reduction and watershed restoration should remain a priority for statewide water quality improvement and restoration."

To read the full article, please go to

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2026/02/house-environmental-committee-told.html>



<https://gis.dep.pa.gov/IntegratedReportStory>



Integrated Report Mapping Application

<https://gis.dep.pa.gov/IntegratedReportMap>

2026 Trout Stocking Program Changes

Each year, the PFBC adjusts its adult trout stocking program based on several factors. A waterway may be added, extended, reinstated or removed depending on existing or pending changes to angler access, changes to designations on streams managed for wild trout populations, water quality issues that may threaten the survival of stocked trout, and maintenance being performed to dams and other infrastructure that result in the draw-down of impoundments or decreased water flow.

Waters Added or Extended

Brush Creek, Beaver County: Located near the town of Hazen, a 2.2-mile section of stream extending from State Route 588 downstream to the lower end of Brush Creek Park has been added into the trout stocking program. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Freeman Run, Potter County: A 2.9-mile section of this stream has been reinstated into the trout stocking program. The stocking limits will extend from West Branch Freeman Run downstream to the mouth. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Kettle Creek, Clinton County: Located near the town of Westport, a 5.6-mile section of stream extending from Slide Hollow downstream to the mouth has been added into the trout stocking program. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Lions Lake, Lebanon County: This 7.0-acre impoundment has been reinstated into the trout stocking program. Stocking was cancelled in 2025 due to maintenance and repairs to the dam. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Seven Mountains Boy Scout Pond, Centre County: This 2.5-acre impoundment has been reinstated into the trout stocking program. Stocking was cancelled from 2023 through 2025 due to maintenance and repairs to the dam. Trout will be stocked on a preseason only basis.

Waters Revised

When survey data suggests that a waterway is no longer suitable for adult trout stocking based on a loss of angler access, environmental factors, or designation as a Class A wild trout stream, the PFBC makes every attempt to reallocate fish to a comparable location nearby. When inadequate angler access is the reason for a removal, locations are monitored for improvement so these waters can be considered for reinstatement to the stocking program if access is improved.

Brokenstraw Creek, Warren County: Due to an in-

crease in landowner posting, the stocking limits have been revised. The revised stocking limits will extend 4.64 miles from the Davey Hill Road bridge downstream to the confluence of Matthews Run. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Bull Creek, Allegheny County: The stocking limits were revised to provide additional angling opportunities for warm-water and cool-water species in the downstream section of Bull Creek. The revised stocking limits will extend 6.23 miles from the Thompson Road bridge in Millerstown downstream to the West 4th Avenue bridge in Tarentum. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

East Branch Clarion River, Elk County: Located near the town of Glen Hazel, a 1.2-mile section of stream extending from 100 meters downstream of East Branch Lake downstream to the State Game Lands boundary 1.15 miles downstream of East Branch Lake will now receive a fall season stocking.

Little Fishing Creek, Columbia County: The stocking limits were extended 0.71 miles downstream. The revised stocking limits will extend 13.21 miles from Talmar Road downstream to the State Route 42 bridge. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Mahoning Creek, Montour County: The stocking limits were extended 0.40 miles upstream. The revised stocking limits will extend 3.53 miles from the intersection of State Route 642 and Bogart Road downstream to the mouth. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Manada Creek, Dauphin County: Due to an increase in landowner posting, the stocking limits have been revised. The revised stocking limits will extend 1.73 miles from the Unnamed Tributary to Manada Creek (river mile [RM] 11.50) downstream to Furnace Road. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

Meshoppen Creek, Wyoming County: Due to an increase in landowner posting, the stocking limits have been revised. The revised stocking limits will extend 2.63 miles from the Jennings Road bridge downstream to Route 29. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

North Deer Creek, Mercer County: The stocking limits were revised and will now extend 6.06 miles from the Bortz/Lower Road bridge downstream to the mouth. Trout will be stocked during the preseason and in-season stocking periods.

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/fishandboat/fishing/stocking/trout-stockings/trout-stockings-program-changes>

Petition Requesting ATV/UTV Access on State Road 4001

January 15, 2026

ATVs for Little Pine Creek Road

To: Pine Township and Cummings Township Municipalities and PENNDot Officials

From: The undersigned residents and property owners of Pine Township, Cummings Township and all interested parties

Subject: Petition for ATV/UTV Access on State Road 4001, or Road called Little Pine Creek Road

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that Pine Township and Cummings Township initiate a formal request to the state Department of Transportation to designate State Road 4001 as an "All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Road."

Requested Segment:
From: The intersection of State Route 287 Game Commission parking area across from Harpers Creekside Tavern

To: Past the Little Pine State Park and to the Intersection of State Route 44 and onto Waterville Parking areas in Waterville, Pa.

Justification for Access:
Economic Impact: Our local businesses have taken a hit since covid and since storm Debbie flooding. This area can use a boost! Times have changed, this area is a prime recreational spot just untapped so far. Side by sides have changed the game. Connecting our trail systems to Game Commission parking area located in English Center, Harpers Creekside Tavern, Happy Acres, The Waterville Hotel, McConnell's Store will boost local tourism revenue and support small businesses. it would give people access to Little Pine Creek fishing and kayaking and boating at the Little Pine State Park., along with shooting range access, Eagle watch, and park programs and rentals. The Little Pine State Park and Happy Acres have large camping areas as well that would be connected with State Route 4001 ATV/UTV Access. There is also Rail to Trail bike access in Waterville and connections to bigger ATV/UTV trails such as Haineyville trailhead!

Critical Connectivity: This road segment is a necessary connector between existing off-road trail networks and public roads already open to ATVs. Such as Schoolhouse lane, and Silver Springs Road which connects to thousands of State Game land acres. English Center mine road and English Run is another example, which

connects to the Pa Grand Canyon. The 2026 English Center State Bridge project is set to be completed late this year and there are and will in the future be restrictions of height, weight, length and width plus single lane, therefore State Route 4001 is restricted for industry, heavy equipment, big trucks, vans, etc. in English Center. Why not allow UTV access on Little Pine Creek Road and lower speed limits makes it safer for everyone to enjoy our recreational area!

Safety & Regulation: Establishing a legal route with posted speed limits and clear signage reduces illegal riding on non-designated roads. Plus registered, licensed and insured side by sides brings more revenue to the State, businesses, etc. and puts insurance liability on the drivers and not the property owners.

Proposed Regulations:
We support the following requirements for all riders on this route:

Operators must be at least 16 years of age.
Vehicles must be registered, titled, and insured. Riders must follow State mandated safety regulations.

This article if for your information. It was found on Change.org with references on Facebook.

https://www.change.org/p/atv-utv-access-on-little-pine-creek-road-sr-4001?recruit-er=1399499199&fbclid=IwY2xjawP5gm9leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzcxNzg4MjAwQDkyAAEeO4J7TzlOhr1KiJxOgfHIDnutYoSa_rse0jgh5hJzs_doGALk39LcD34S5iw_aem_u7MYBoGWYSAUw897uRdQzw





Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 1132
Williamsport, PA 17703 - 1132

Since 1964, the core mission of our Chapter is to work to make positive contributions to the protection, conservation and restoration of our Coldwater fisheries and their watersheds of North Central Pennsylvania

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

TU does not make email addresses available to outside parties, for any reason, ever.
Please help us conserve resources by providing your email address.

www.tu.org/join044Susquehanna

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:



Trout Unlimited
PO Box 98166
Washington, DC 20090

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Members Only \$17.50 | <input type="checkbox"/> TU Teen (\$14) (13 - 18 y/o) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular (Renewal) \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (\$1500) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$55) | <input type="checkbox"/> TU Business (\$295) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Explorer (\$12)
12 years old and under | |

PAYMENT METHOD

- ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover
Make checks payable to Trout Unlimited

Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law

To ensure correct New Member Rebate, enter Chapter/Council #:

#044