

FAQ's for EBTJV work:

1. Who is the target audience for this work?
 - a. **People, corporations, conservation organizations, agencies, elected officials, land planners, developers, watershed organizations, communities, ecologists, animal lovers, farmers and anyone who feels our generation should care for, and hand off to future generations, our natural heritage – not just for brook trout - but for the conditions that brook trout require to survive and thrive.**
2. Who will carry this message forth?
 - a. **As momentum builds, the message carriers will expand from its current base of biologists, state and federal resource managers and sportsmen to a wider, more diverse subsection of the population who are concerned about the environment, the land, the health of people, our quality of life, and the many health and ecological benefits that the presence of brook trout represents.**
3. Who will benefit by the success of this program?
 - a. **Americans of all walks of life, present and future, will benefit from the success of this program. Of course, anglers will see immediate benefits, but so will landowners, land managers, drinking water customers, municipalities, anyone who lives near the waterways affected or breathes air, and the ecosystem at large as we identify, protect and restore the conditions to return a native species to its historic range.**
4. Who is responsible for accomplishing this work?
 - a. **This program is designed to be implemented by the state fisheries agencies in each of the 17 states within the historic eastern range of brook trout. At the national level the state fishery agencies will have the support and partnership of the US Fish and Wildlife Agency, the National Forest System, the US Geologic Survey, Natural Resource Conservation Service, National Parks and the Office of Surface Mining, and others. At the regional and local level, the state agencies will garner support from groups like fishing organizations, land conservancies, local residents, land owners and people who care about how our generation leaves the land for generations to come.**
5. What is the purpose of developing this strategy?
 - a. **In 2005, fishery scientists from the eastern U.S. documented the decline of brook trout across its historic eastern range by examining the condition of brook trout within over 11, 400 small watersheds. The purpose of this strategy is to stem and reverse the declining trend by protecting the best of the best, restoring the most restorable and maintaining the rest without further decline.**
6. What results are expected?

- a. **The first result is to protect the best of the best, with no decline in the watersheds deemed Intact by the scientists who know best. Next, reintroduction of brook trout to 10% of watersheds where they have disappeared. Restoration activities on 30% of the Reduced and Greatly Reduced watersheds will improve those watersheds's classification and the remaining 70% will be maintained in their current state without degrading into a lesser condition.**
7. What resources are needed?
 - a. **Success will require huge injections of resources. The Joint Venture partners will invest in public educational/awareness media, protection and restoration activities, and will provide grants and funding for these activities. It is anticipated that current state and federal programs will provide the bulk of the resources, but additional private and public funding sources will play a large role.**
8. What scale will be effective?
 - a. **The Joint Venture has identified four effective scales it will operate within. The Range-wide scale encompasses the entire eastern range of brook trout from Maine to Georgia. At this scale, range-wide priorities and program development will occur to support smaller scale initiatives. The Regional Scale (Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern Regions) provide regional forums which develop programs, data, technology and results applicable to meet regional scale objectives. The state scale is the backbone of the program and it is at this scale that restoration, protection and reintroduction priorities are most effective; and finally, the watershed scale where the actual work will be accomplished.**
9. Where will we be working?
 - a. **Across the eastern range of brook trout in the streams, watersheds, farmlands and developing suburbs, wherever brook trout are, or have been historically. Wherever people are concerned about the condition of the streams, the lands, the fish and fishing, the habitat and the quality of life for themselves and their descendants.**
10. When will this program begin?
 - a. **It already has on a small scale, with state restoration projects in most of the partner states, with Trout Unlimited Home Rivers Initiatives, with conservation organizations like the Izaak Walton League, Trust for Public Lands, The Nature Conservancy, and federal and state agencies all contributing to the strategy. These efforts are worthwhile in their own right and prepare the partners for larger, more intense work to come.**
11. How long will it take?

- a. **The nature of the situation requires diligence in perpetuity because of the history and potential of brook trout decline, but the basis agreed to by the Joint Venture is five and twenty year planning timelines. The five year goals will provide a measurement basis in the short term to ensure effectiveness in the longer twenty year term.**

12. Why are we doing this?

- a. **Besides being a sport fish, the brook trout is the native trout to the streams and rivers, and some lakes of the eastern United States. Its presence indicates that the conditions are right for not only brook trout, but other native flora and fauna that require clean water, healthy watersheds, and in more developed watersheds, humankind's conducive place in the environment.**

13. How will this work be accomplished?

- a. **1) By conserving, protecting and restoring brook trout populations and habitat throughout its historic range.
2) By building partnerships among traditional groups such as sportsmen, agencies, and conservation groups. Additionally, natural allies such as Heritage programs, watershed groups, local community groups, agricultural interests, developers, corporations and other non-traditional partners will be enlisted as well.
3) By ensuring public awareness through active public outreach and educational efforts;
4) By building public and private support for program implementation to perpetuate and restore brook trout populations throughout its historical range.**

14. How do I become involved?

- a. **Contact your state's Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture partners. These contacts are available at the EBTJV website www.easternbrooktrout.net. Read your state's Brook Trout Conservation Strategy and understand the threats, stressors, strategies and programs that may affect brook trout populations in your area. Be ready to act in favor of the brook trout.**

15. How does someone get more information?

- a. **The website of the Joint Venture is the best source for information concerning the efforts to conserve brook trout. If you need additional information, contact one of the partners listed in the website, or contact your state coldwater fishery manager. The website is www.easternbrooktrout.net.**