Upper Rapidan-Rappahannock Eastern Brook Trout Initiative

<u>OUTLINE</u>

- Overview/Background
- PEC/TU Fish Passage Assessment
- Prioritization Study
- Jumpstart Projects

 ✓ Bolton Branch
 ✓ Kinsey Run
- Next Steps







The Rapidan - Upper Rappahannock Eastern Brook Trout Initiative

At a Glance:

- Formed in 2015 as a unique, partnership with a range of expertise including advocacy, planning, land owner relations, conservation, and habitat restoration science.
- Cooperation and collaboration to protect, restore, and enhance native brook trout populations within the Rapidan and Upper Rappahannock River watersheds.

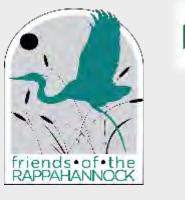


Strategic Plan



The Rapidan-Upper Rappahannock Eastern Brook Trout Initiative

Mission: Develop a comprehensive partnership whose overall includes the vision improvement Of water quality and critical habitat with the goal of sustaining native populations of Eastern Brook Trout in the Rapidan Upper and Rappahannock watersheds.



Piedmont Environmental





Creating the opportunity for a meaningful collaborative effort to address the overlap of related issues contributing to the decline of the eastern brook trout, in the Rappahannock and Rapidar Headwaters.









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Celia Vuocolo Habitat & Stewardship Specialist, Piedmont Environmental Council

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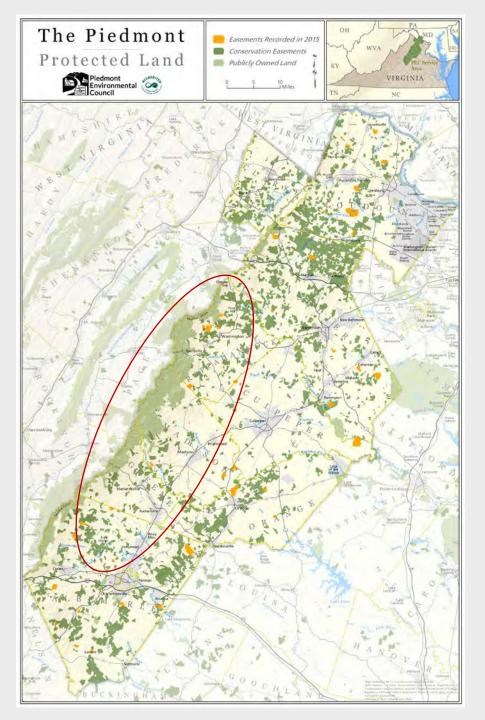
Brian Wagner Principal Biologist, Ecosystem Services

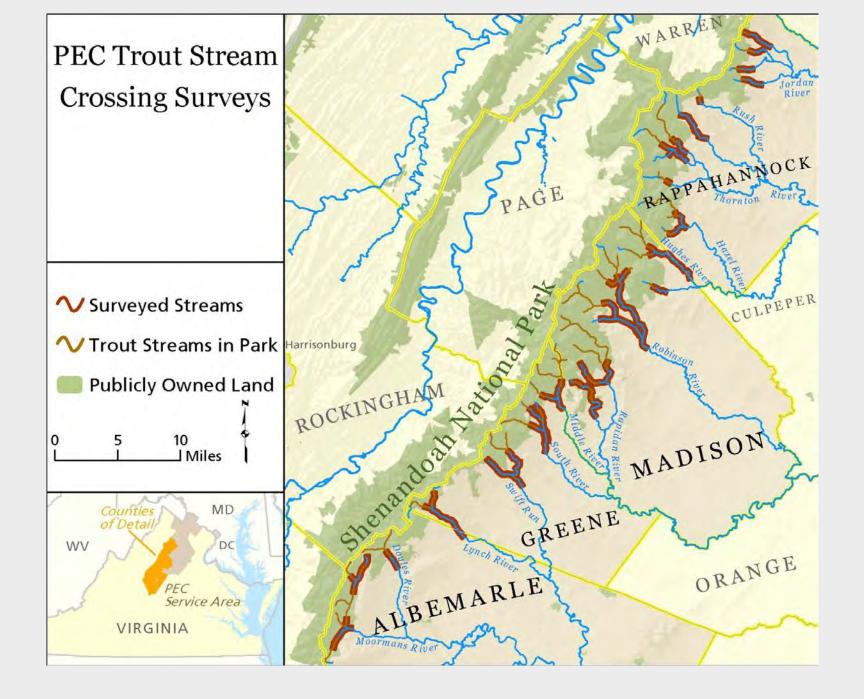
Kyle Ashmun Ecological Restoration Specialist, Ecosystem Services

Annemarie Abbondanzo Environmental Specialist, Ecosystem Services

Trout Streams Central Virginia

- Trout streams are an important resource to local residents and visitors
- 2012 Partnership with PEC and Trout Unlimited

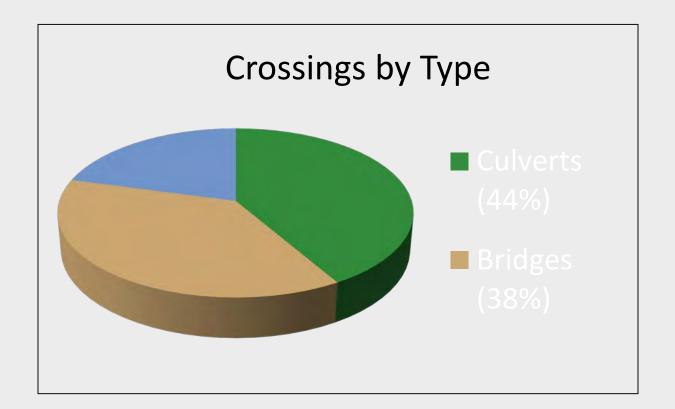




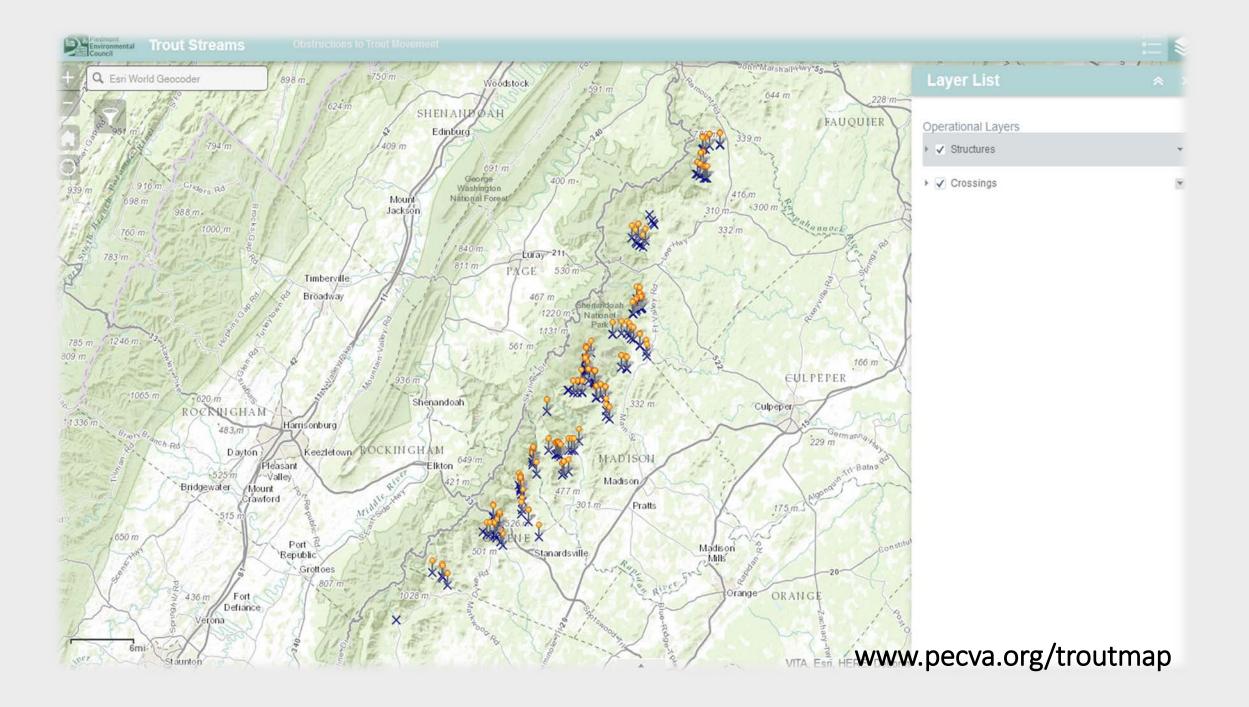


Findings

- 133 crossings assessed
- 255 structures assessed
- 40 crossings *not* assessed
- 35% Private
- 65% VDOT (50% of VDOT structures are bridges

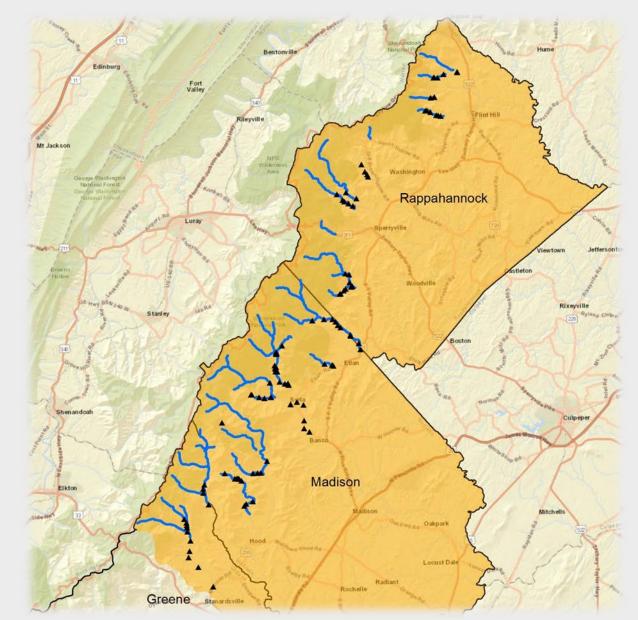


- 15% of structures have an outlet drop (perch) greater than 1'
- 20% of crossings have severe channel constriction



Prioritization Study

- 1) Goal: Identify sites that will improve/restore EBT habitat
- 2) Separate evaluation for Private vs. Public (VDOT) in each County (Greene, Madison, Rappahannock)
- 3) Develop weighted criteria to rank 113 sites using input from multiple stakeholders/interests (MCDA)



Prioritization Study

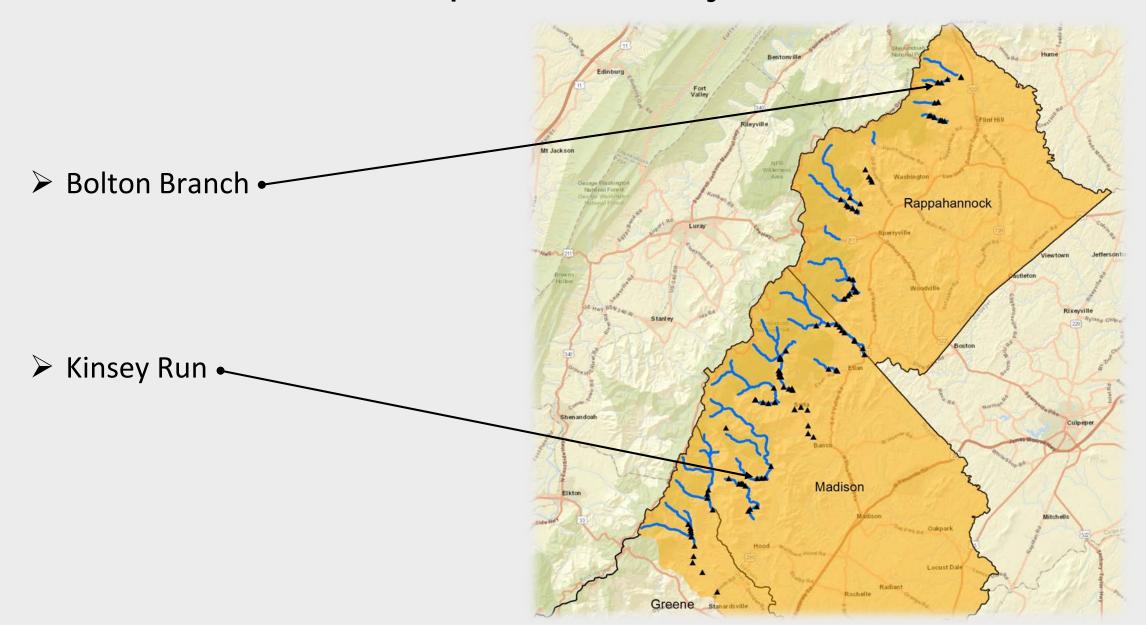
Criteria Examples

- Impediment vs. Blockage
- Landowner Interest/Willingness
- Crossing Stability/Structural Condition
- Existing EBT population status (Allopatric vs. Sympatric)
- Re-introduction of Brown Trout
- Proximity to TMDL impairment
- Water Quality (ph, temp, pollutants)
- Proximity to potential habitat restoration upstream & downstream
- Implementation Cost

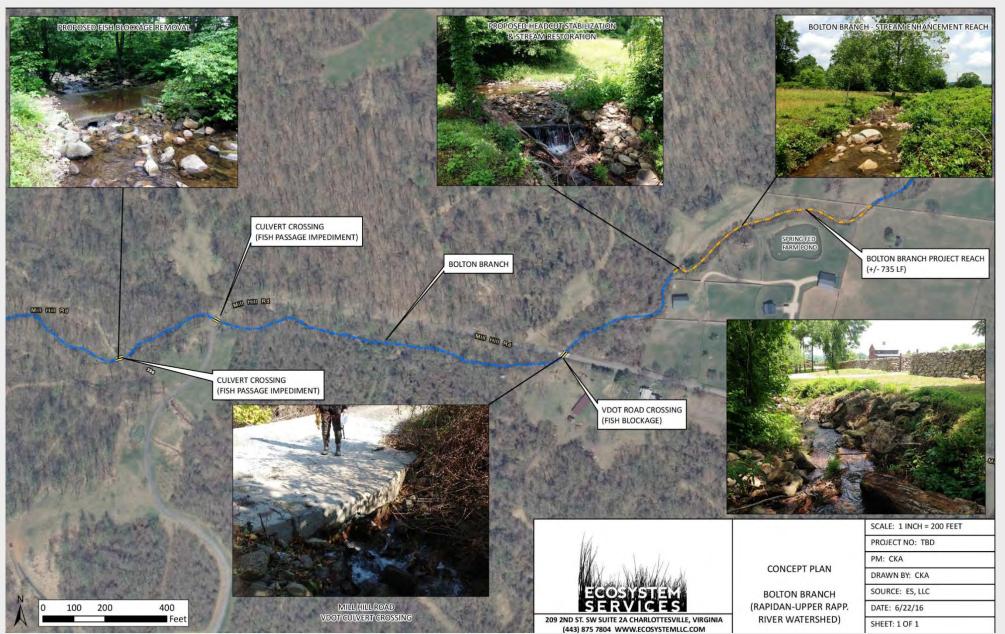




Jump Start Projects



Bolton Branch



Bolton Branch

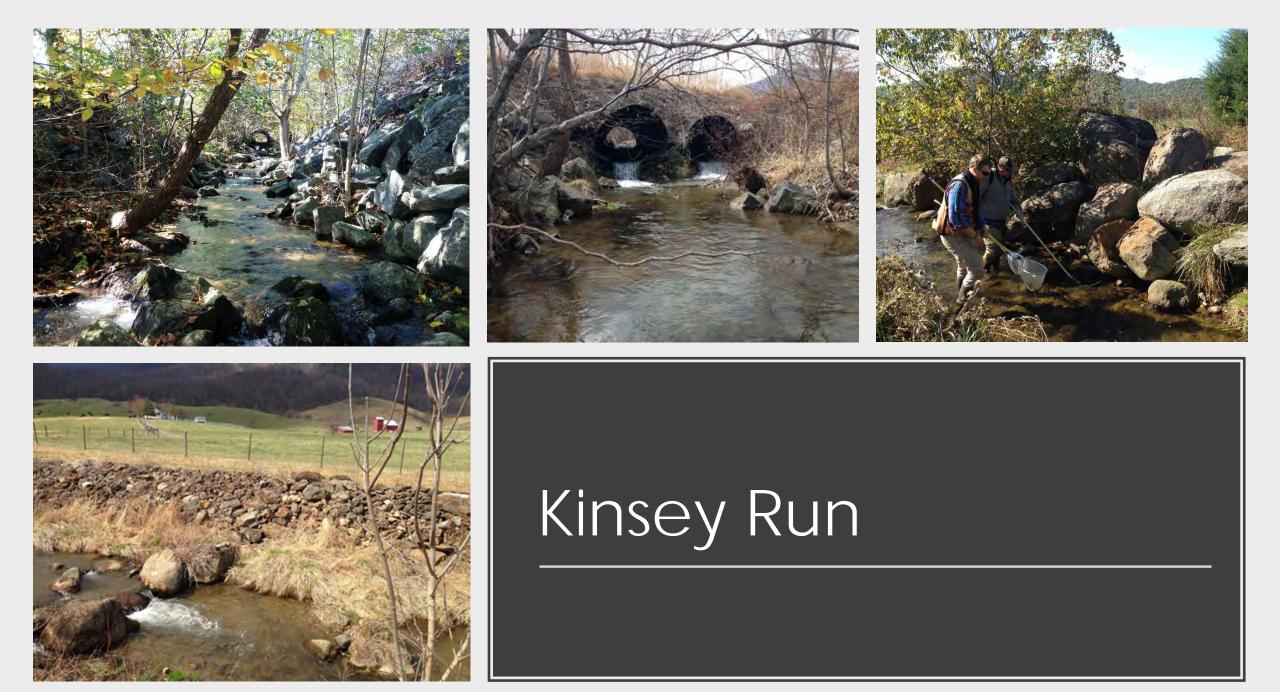




Bolton Branch

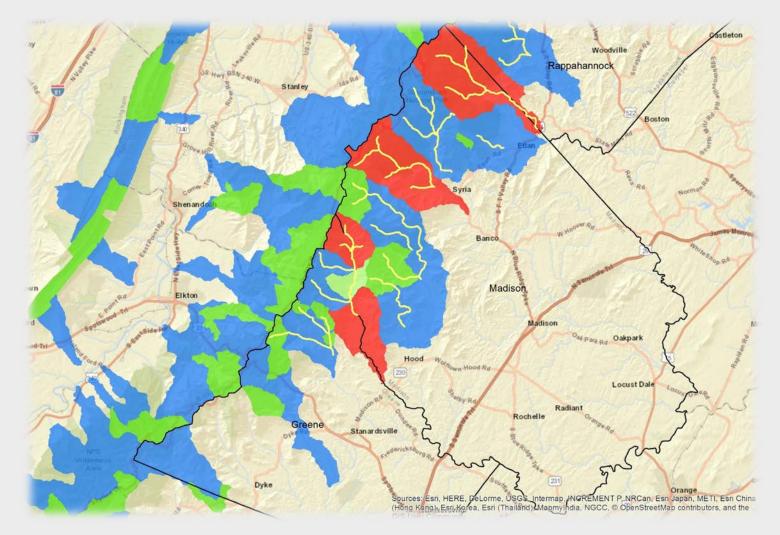






Next Steps

- Design/Implement Jump Start
 Projects outside of TOY
 restrictions (October-March)
- 2) EBT Population Mapping
 (Temperature Monitoring and Fish Sampling) with DGIF and other interested parties
- 3) Public Outreach/Partnerships



Thank You! Questions?