OUTLINE

• Overview/Background

• PEC/TU Fish Passage Assessment

• Prioritization Study

• Jumpstart Projects
  ✓ Bolton Branch
  ✓ Kinsey Run

• Next Steps
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.

Mission:
Develop a comprehensive partnership whose overall vision includes the improvement of water quality and critical habitat with the goal of sustaining native populations of Eastern Brook Trout in the Upper Rapidan and Rappahannock watersheds.
Peter Hujik
Land Conservation Officer, Piedmont Environmental Council

Celia Vuocolo
Habitat & Stewardship Specialist, Piedmont Environmental Council

Bryan Hofmann
Programs Manager, Friends of the Rappahannock

Brian Wagner
Principal Biologist, Ecosystem Services

Kyle Ashmun
Ecological Restoration Specialist, Ecosystem Services

Anнемarie 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
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
- Kinsey Run
Next Steps

1) 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?