



Restoring Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout- Big Run, West Virginia

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Big Run project is part of Trout Unlimited's Home Rivers Initiative Potomac Headwaters Restoration Project. The stream has suffered habitat degradation in the riparian zone, stream banks and instream due to long-term livestock grazing. There currently exists a lifetime grazing allotment on that portion of the Monongahela National Forest that supports Big Run. The Forest Service, Trout Unlimited and others have teamed up to work with the allotment holder to fence the riparian zone, create crossings and alternative water sources to completely remove the cattle from the stream. Over time, riparian reforestation will stabilize banks and provide vital shade during warm summer months. This is the initial project on Big Run. Resources have already been secured to move down stream on the Forest and on to private property. The project will include informational and educational kiosks and trails that will improve access for anglers and hikers.



Volunteers from local schools plant thousands of trees to reforest the riparian zone. (Courtesy Bryan Moore, Trout Unlimited)

PROJECT STATISTICS

Location: Pendleton County, WV
Initiated: 2005
Estimated Year of Completion: 2015
Congressional District: WV02
Watershed Status: Reduced
Landownership Status: Public

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Restored 45ac. riparian forest
- 1.5 mi. stream restored through cattle exclusion
- 4 stream crossings (bridge) for cattle
- 2 alternate watering sources for cattle
- Public access to stream provided



Tree plantings at Big Run, Summer 2006.
(Courtesy Bryan Moore, Trout Unlimited)

PARTNERS

- *Trout Unlimited-Home Rivers Initiative*
- *Monongahela National Forest*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *West Virginia Department of Natural Resources*
- *West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection*
- *West Virginia Conservation Association*
- *National Fish and Wildlife Federation*
- *Fish America Foundation*
- *Dominion Power*
- *The Mountain Institute*
- *Boy Scouts of America*
- *Local and Chesapeake Bay Area school children*

For more information contact:

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