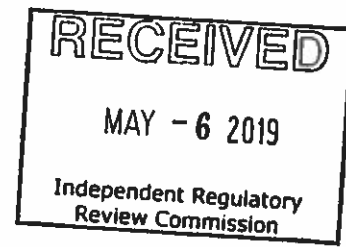


Sunday, May 5, 2019

3224



Patrick McDonnell
Secretary DEP
Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Subject: Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards - Class A Stream Redesignations (#7-548)

Dear Secretary DEP McDonnell:

The Chestnut Ridge Chapter of Trout Unlimited strongly supports the EQB's March 23 proposal to redesignate 41 Class A wild trout streams to High Quality Cold Water Fishes, status.

The distribution of these streams around the state, under HQ-CWF status, helps assure clean water and high quality outdoor recreation experiences for millions of Pennsylvanians. We strongly support this concept of enhanced protection for these waters.

Our chapter of 500 members in southwestern Pennsylvania has worked hard, raising money and devoting our own volunteer time, to restoring stream quality in the Youghiogheny River Basin, particularly in the Dunbar Creek watershed in Fayette County. We have seen the increased interest in Dunbar Creek from anglers outside the area, and we've seen a growing pride in local "ownership" of this high quality resource by local residents. This is extremely important to the local rural economy and in a local positive sense of place.

We know from personal experience the positive impact that high quality stream restoration and protection can have on local environments and economies, and we strongly urge redesignation of the listed 41 streams to High Quality Coldwater Fishes status.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Ben Moyer
,President
Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

I strongly support the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board proposal (Pennsylvania Bulletin, March 23, 2019) to redesignate 41 Class A wild trout streams to High Quality-Cold Water Fishes (HQ-CWF).

The benefits of these upgrades are numerous.

Protecting the water quality of these streams with High Quality designations will help ensure that our best wild trout populations continue to thrive. This supports an outdoor recreation economy worth \$29 billion to the state; Pennsylvania boasts 16,000 miles of wild trout water and more than 1.3 million anglers.

At the same time, HQ designations protect water supplies for downstream users, including farmers and industry. More than 175,000 citizens draw drinking water from these streams. We all know that protecting water quality at the source is far cheaper than treating it downstream.

I applaud Pennsylvania for protecting these 41 waters, and urge the DEP to move quickly to advance additional packages of Class A streams that are still awaiting upgrade to HQ status.

Sincerely,

Ben Moyer
126 Krepps Rd
Farmington, PA 15437