



Stephen Hoffman

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; gking; lversen, Sarah A.; Emily.Eyster; IRRC
Cc: c-jflanagan@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards - Dunbar Creek et al. Stream Redesignations (#7-557)

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Re: eComment System

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards - Dunbar Creek et al. Stream Redesignations (#7-557).

Commenter Information:

Ben Moyer
 Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited (bcmoyer@verizon.net)
 126 Krepps Road
 Farmington, PA 15437 US

Comments entered:

August 31, 2021
 Environmental Quality Board
 P.O. Box 8477
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Dear Environmental Quality Board,

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support of the proposed re-designation of 47.5 stream-miles in the Dunbar Creek basin, including Dunbar Creek main stem and tributaries Limestone Run, Irishtown Run, and those parts of Glade Run within State Game Lands 51, Fayette County, as Exceptional Value (EV).

The Dunbar Creek basin's improving water quality, wild character, scenic appeal, and the fact that two-thirds of the basin is protected within State Game Land 51, make the basin an irreplaceable environmental, recreational, and economic asset to Fayette County and southwestern Pennsylvania.

Our organization has worked to improve the water chemistry, trout habitat, and the aesthetic appeal of the Dunbar Creek basin since 1998. Since that date we have invested nearly a half-

million dollars and an immense contribution of volunteer time and effort of our members to construct an anoxic limestone treatment system to moderate acid mine drainage degradation of Glade Run tributary, we have carried on a regular program of alkaline limestone sand treatment of Glade Run and two of its tributaries to boost alkalinity in the basin, we have helped remove obstructions to aquatic organism passage, and we annually clean up litter along Dunbar Creek main stem.

In addition, we work cooperatively with our partners Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Mountain Watershed Association to seek further improvements in the basin through regular water sampling and advocating future projects to remediate acid mine drainage degradation. Consequently, we feel compelled and justified in offering comment on the proposed re-designation.

Few places, perhaps none, in western Pennsylvania or bordering states offer the kind of experiences available to trout anglers within the Dunbar Creek basin. There, it is possible to fish miles of mountain stream in a wild setting, in pursuit of native, wild brook trout. These fish are a natural element of the place, not a far-off hatchery. Their presence throughout nearly the entire basin testifies to the watershed's unique recreational, biological, and economic value. We know of anglers who travel from long distances for the experience of fishing for Dunbar Creek basin's wild native trout. Their visits contribute to the vitality of an otherwise challenged local economy, and their reports back home elevate the image of the Dunbar community and Fayette County.

In summary, we support and recommend re-designation of 47.5 stream-miles in the Dunbar Creek basin, Fayette County, as proposed, as Exceptional Value (EV) waters.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.
Sincerely,
Ben Moyer, President
Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Senator Pat Stefano
Pennsylvania's 32nd Senatorial District
Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties

These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments Attachment: [Senator Pat Stefano signature.docx](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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PA Department of Environmental Protection
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