Inland Waters Trout
Stamp Revenue Expenditures
Fiscal Years 2002-2005

Administrative Report 58
By John G. Puls

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management & Habitat Protection
Madison, Wisconsin
February 2004
Inland Waters Trout

Stamp Revenue

Expenditures

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Our Mission:

To protect and enhance our natural resources:
our air, land and water;
our wildlife, fish and forests
and the ecosystems that surround them.

To provide a clean, sustainable environment
and a full range of outdoor opportunities.

To insure the right of all Wisconsin citizens
to use and enjoy these resources
in their work and leisure.

To work with people
so that we understand their views
and can carry out their will.

And in this partnership with our citizens,
consider the future
and those who will follow us.
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Background of the Inland Waters Trout Stamp Program

**Creation of the Inland Waters Trout Stamp Program**

The inland waters trout stamp program was created in 1977 to provide additional funding for improving trout habitat. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a long history of successful trout stream habitat management. Work began with the federal work programs in the 1930s and improved as more successful methods were developed over the history of the program. Only limited work could be accomplished due to limited funding ($140,000) until the trout stamp program began in 1977. Wisconsin is now envied by other states because of the amount and dedication of the trout stamp funds for habitat improvement.


The number of trout stamps sold varies from year-to-year and currently averages about 140,000 stamps annually over the last 10 years. In addition, Patron License holders (currently about 80,000) support the Inland Waters Trout Stamp program. – see Table 1 on page 9. DNR managers, biologists and technicians have used the money to improve an average of 25 miles of stream and 1 spring pond per year. This has resulted in about 670 miles of stream improved out of a total of 10,200 miles of trout stream in Wisconsin. It is important to note that, many of the DNR personnel working on trout habitat projects are not paid by trout stamp funds, therefore a significant amount of non-trout stamp dollars support trout habitat work. About $400,000 per year is currently spent on inland trout programs from general fishing license fees, federal Sport Fishing Restoration (SFR) funding and donations.

Research and management evaluations have proven the positive results of stream improvement. Numerous DNR Technical Bulletins [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/tb.htm#fisheries] and Research Reports [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/rr.htm#fisheries] document increased numbers and size of trout in improved areas. Many anglers seek out streams with habitat work, knowing that good fishing will likely be found there.

In the past decade, the Department has expanded the use of trout stamp money to other aspects of trout stream habitat management. Since 1992, these funds have included maintenance of habitat improvements, which is vital to insure the long-term benefits of habitat work. Trout population surveys were added as a viable use in 1998. Surveys are very important for planning habitat improvement projects and evaluating the results of funded projects on improving trout populations. With continued public support, these funds will provide for increased trout fishing opportunities and increased quality of trout habitat into the future.

**Guidelines for the use of Inland Waters Trout Stamp revenues**

Wisconsin state statute 29.191(4)(e) states: “The Department shall expend the receipts from the sale under this subsection of inland waters trout stamps on improving and maintaining trout habitat in inland trout waters, conducting trout surveys in inland trout waters and administering this subsection.1" In addition to applying to trout species, these statues define the geographic and program requirements of the Inland Waters Trout Stamp Program.

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Geographical Requirement

Projects that use trout stamp revenues must be geographically focused on Wisconsin’s inland trout waters. These revenues may not be used on portions of Great Lakes tributaries that are only accessible to anadromous trout and salmon.

Program Requirement

Projects funded by Inland Waters Trout Stamp money must specifically relate to inland trout habitat management (improving and maintaining habitat) or to conduct trout surveys. Expenditures for trout surveys is limited to not more than 10% of the habitat management budget.

Habitat management encompasses activities such as maintaining trout streams, improving existing streams and restoring streams capable of sustaining trout populations. Beaver control projects may be funded as part of habitat management. The purchase of equipment to conduct this work is also authorized.

Surveys authorized must be limited to trout surveys of inland waters. Surveys funded to date include those designed to plan and evaluate habitat improvement projects, wild trout stocking, trout genetics and regulations.

Restoration of the South Branch Oconto River included a cooperative effort between the DNR, USFS and the Menomonee River Indian Tribe. The stream channel was narrowed from 40 to 20-feet wide and the depth increased from approximately 6 to 18-inches.
Sources of Revenue for the Inland Trout Stamp Account

All receipts from the sale of Inland Waters Trout Stamps are placed in the Inland Waters Trout Stamp Account (IWTS). However, Inland Waters Trout Stamp revenues are not the only source of funds for the Inland Waters Stamp account. Some revenues from the sales of patron licenses and collector stamps also contribute. The price of each license to the consumer includes the base price of the license plus a fee that goes to the vendor. The vendor’s fee is $0.75 for the patron license and $0.25 for the Inland Waters Trout Stamp. Calculations and references in this report exclude vendor’s fees.

Currently the cost of each Inland Waters Trout Stamp is $7.00. At present, the IWTS Account receives about $1.70 for each Patron License sold. In addition, collectors can purchase souvenir Inland Waters Trout Stamps from previous years. All revenues from these sales contribute to the Inland Trout Stamp account. License sales that contribute to the Inland Waters Trout Stamp Account are shown graphically below and in a tabular presentation on page 9.

General fishing license fees, federal Sport Fishing Restoration (SFR) funding and donations also support the inland trout program.

Two previous Inland Waters Trout Stamp Expenditure reports have been published. They cover the fiscal years 1998-2001 and 2000-2003.

Figure 1 License Sales 1978 - 2003

![License Sales 1978 - 2003](image)

2 Topel, B. 2000 Expenditures of Inland Waters Trout Stamp Revenues. Administrative Report No. 46
Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, Department of Natural Resources, Madison, Wisconsin
Reader’s Guide

This report summarizes expenditures and accomplishments of the Inland Waters Trout Stamp (IWTS) fisheries program. It includes planned expenditures of IWTS revenues for fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 as well as the actual total expenditures, from all funding sources, for fiscal years 2002 and 2003. Each fiscal year runs from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the next. Actual expenditures may exceed Inland Waters Trout Stamp contributions since other fishing license revenues and federal funds also support this program. Descriptions are presented for each IWTS project, however project costs at the local level are not easily identifiable based on current accounting procedures. Each project is categorized as a Habitat Improvement Activity, Trout Survey, or Inland Waters Trout Stamp program administration (the cost of producing the IWTS and this report). Within each category, projects are listed in alphabetical order by county. Costs associated with travel, special services, supplies, program overhead, limited term employee (LTE) salaries and permanent salaries (which are directly funded by IWTS funds) are included.

In the section on individual projects, “Budgeted IWTS Expenditures” includes only costs of supplies and LTE salaries that are allocated during project approval. “Actual IWTS Expenditures” includes not only costs of supplies and LTE salaries, but also permanent salaries, fringe benefits and program overhead which are assigned as funds are spent. While permanent employee salaries paid by IWTS funds are shown in this report and LTE salaries are included by project, fringe benefits for both are summarized only in Table 3 on page 13. Also in Table 3, total funding for program overhead (a prorated amount of additional costs to the fisheries program for annual leave, compensatory time and routine office and administrative costs) is spread across each individual project. “Total Actual Expenditure” figures in Table 4 and the “Total Program Expenditures (all funding sources)” for individual projects includes IWTS expenditures for all cost categories as well as expenditures from other funding sources supporting these programs.

For those projects in which organizations outside of the DNR were partners in the project activity, that organization is identified.

Our partners have requested that we include information in this report on the time spent by employees on trout stamp funded work. Table 2 shows man-hours (FTE = full time equivalents) of time spent on habitat projects and trout surveys by region and by fiscal year. The information was taken from the computer database (PALS) of hours recorded on time sheets and coded to specific trout stamp funded projects. It only includes FH employees. There are 9.34 permanent positions funded by the trout stamp, but in actuality our finance systems charges the trout stamp account with up to 9.34 FTE of work done by any FH employee doing trout stamp work. Any additional hours spent on eligible activities are billed to the Department’s Fish and Wildlife account which is supported by general fishing and hunting license sales. By law, permanent staff hours spent working on non-trout projects cannot be billed to the IWTS account. The total permanent employees doing trout stamp funded work totals 9.47 FTE in FY 2002 and 11.19 in FY 2003. SFR (Federal Sport Fish Restoration) positions that expired in October 2002 and LTEs (Limited Term Employees) are not included in this total. These are probably minimal estimates of the true time spent on trout stamp related work because we have found in the past that some employees have coded time to administration, office, or shop maintenance projects rather than trout stamp projects. Also, the FH program has been holding vacancies open for two years because of projected shortfalls in the overall Fish and Wildlife account and several positions with heavy trout stamp workloads are currently vacant. We have directed the regions to place a high priority on accomplishing trout stamp work in the next biennium (FY 2003 – 2005) and set a goal of 14.6 FTE if fully staffed.
It is important to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that you find this report useful. To better meet this goal, direct your suggestions for improving this report to:

Larry Claggett, Coldwater Fisheries Ecologist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection
PO Box 7921
101 South Webster Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53707
Phone: (608) 267-9658 or (608) 266-1877
E-mail: Lawrence.Claggett@dnr.state.wi.us

For more information on trout fishing and other subjects, visit the DNR Web site at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov

Find the *Fishing Wisconsin* page by clicking on

“Outdoor Recreation” and then “Fishing”

or by logging on to

www.fishingwisconsin.org

Thank you for your interest and feedback.
### Table 1 -- License Sales Contributing to The Inland Waters Trout Stamp Account

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Patron Card</th>
<th>Trout Stamp</th>
<th>Total Trout Anglers</th>
<th>Total Revenues</th>
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<td>183,447</td>
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<td>183,958</td>
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<td>194,873</td>
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<td>194,658</td>
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<td>131,008</td>
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<td>34,942</td>
<td>130,701</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>43,370</td>
<td>136,687</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>48,368</td>
<td>127,840</td>
<td>176,208</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>55,579</td>
<td>129,385</td>
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<td>1999*</td>
<td>89,114</td>
<td>184,526</td>
<td>273,640</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>140,603</td>
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<td>225,248</td>
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<td>80,851</td>
<td>143,405</td>
<td>224,256</td>
<td>$1,166,441</td>
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</table>

*A spike in sales occurred in FY 99 due to implementation of the Automated License Issuance System (ALIS).*

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Adding rock to vertical wall base at Lodi Creek in Columbia County.
Table 2 Time coded to Trout Stamp projects by employees by region - FY 2002 & FY 2003.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Permanent Trout Stamp</th>
<th>Permanent FH SEG</th>
<th>Permanent Sport Fish</th>
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<td>FTEs</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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<td>0.04</td>
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<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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<td>22.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8.05</td>
<td>12.513</td>
<td>5.14</td>
<td>40.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact List

If you have any questions concerning specific projects in this report, please contact the personnel listed by phone or e-mail with the specific project of interest.

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Randy Schumacher DNR Service Center, Waukesha; (262) 574-2121; Edward.Schumacher@dnr.state.wi.us
Trout Stamp funds have paid for restoration work on the Eau Claire River.
Table 3
Planned Expenditures - Inland Waters Trout Stamp revenue in fiscal year (FY) 2002-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned Expenditures</th>
<th>FY 02</th>
<th>FY 03</th>
<th>FY 04</th>
<th>FY 05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat Improvement</td>
<td>$725,403</td>
<td>$779,177</td>
<td>$834,273</td>
<td>$635,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout Surveys</td>
<td>$33,476</td>
<td>$49,839</td>
<td>$62,782</td>
<td>$54,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Waters Trout Stamp Program Administration</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Salaries</td>
<td>$292,427</td>
<td>$298,277</td>
<td>$300,628</td>
<td>$303,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$152,973</td>
<td>$156,032</td>
<td>$180,738</td>
<td>$160,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Overhead*</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Planned Expenditures of Inland Waters Trout Stamp Revenues</td>
<td>$1,210,279</td>
<td>$1,289,325</td>
<td>$1,384,421</td>
<td>$1,156,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4
Actual Expenditures - Inland Waters Trout Stamp revenue in fiscal year (FY) 2002-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual Expenditures of Inland Waters Trout Stamp Revenues</th>
<th>$1,303,594</th>
<th>$1,370,336</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Actual Expenditures for Inland Waters Trout Stamp Supported Projects (All Funding Sources)</td>
<td>$1,530,994</td>
<td>$1,620,950</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>

*Estimated program overhead costs are included as part of the Habitat and Trout Surveys totals. Actual program overhead (annual leave, compensatory time and routine office and administrative costs) is included in the individual project costs.
Table 5 Annual Inland Waters Trout Stamp account activities, fiscal years 2002-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 02 Actual</th>
<th>FY03 Actual</th>
<th>FY04 Budgeted</th>
<th>FY05 Budgeted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning cash balance</td>
<td>$577,026</td>
<td>$431,416</td>
<td>$227,521*</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>$1,157,984</td>
<td>$1,166,441</td>
<td>$1,156,900</td>
<td>$1,156,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total available funds</td>
<td>$1,735,010</td>
<td>$1,597,857</td>
<td>$1,384,421</td>
<td>$1,156,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditures</td>
<td>$1,303,594</td>
<td>$1,370,336</td>
<td>$1,384,421</td>
<td>$1,156,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash balance</td>
<td>$431,416</td>
<td>$227,521</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These funds have been allotted to projects in FY 04.

Figure 2 Actual Expenditures Inland waters Trout Stamp Projects

![Total Expenditures For Inland Waters Trout Projects](chart.png)

*General license fees, federal funding & donations
Habitat Improvement

Trout Habitat Maintenance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY 02</th>
<th>FY 03</th>
<th>FY 04</th>
<th>FY 05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted IWTS Expenditure$^5</td>
<td>$55,858</td>
<td>$75,976</td>
<td>$48,273</td>
<td>$58,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual IWTS Expenditure$^6</td>
<td>$117,727</td>
<td>$155,319</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Expenditures (all funding sources)$^6</td>
<td>$138,255</td>
<td>$187,856</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Routine inspection and maintenance is required on past trout stream enhancement projects. Trout Stamp funding covers a variety of work and varies by individual stream. Typical maintenance includes replacing and repairing lunkers and other cover structures, in-stream debris removal, replacing rip-rap and fill and maintaining desired stream bank vegetation. Following are descriptions of individual stream habitat maintenance projects that are arranged alphabetically by county.

Four County Area – Barron, Burnett, Polk & Washburn Counties

Contact: Terry Margenau

Funding Status: Completed

This project covers in-stream habitat maintenance on major trout streams in the four-county area including: McKenzie Creek, the North Fork of the Clam River, Yellow River, Engle Creek, Five-Mile Creek, Dogtown Creek, Hickey Creek, Sawyer Creek, Beaver Brook and Bean Brook.

All streams were walked to inspect for maintenance needs. Maintenance work was conducted on the following streams.

FY 2002
- Removed beaver dams on Turtle, Hickey, Dogtown and Engle Creeks
- Repaired 60-feet of rock and log revetment and a 60-foot brush and log revetment; rock was added to three 30-foot log deflectors on Turtle creek
- Removed silt and repaired debris control structure on Engle creek
- Repaired a 50-foot brush mat on Clam River
- Selectively brushed Yellow and Clam Rivers

FY 2003
- Repaired a 10-foot x 12-foot structure on the Yellow River
  - Repaired a log boom and a 10-foot x 25-foot structure on Engle Creek
- Removed silt in front of covers on Engle Creek
- Brushed Turtle Creek and repaired brush mat (150 brush bundles)
- Replaced 70-feet of log deflectors from run-off on Turtle Creek
- Repaired 70-feet of brush mat on North Fork Clam
- Constructed drop pool on Turtle Creek (75-feet rock revetment to narrow channel)
- Brushed 1-mile of fence and repaired fence on South Fork Main

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5 LTE salaries & supplies
6 LTE salaries, supplies, permanent salaries, fringe benefits & program overhead
Iron River, White River, Big Brook – Bayfield County
Contact: Scott Toshner
Funding Status: Ongoing
Partners: Wisconsin Conservation Corp. & Brule River Sportsman Club

Iron River
In fiscal 2002, phase two of the intensive work completed upstream in 1998 was begun. Remote and difficult topography prevented equipment access and hence intensive development procedures were required. The 700-foot project area was artificially wide and shallow due to past hydropower operations upstream and a low-head dam downstream (has been removed). A 200-foot access road was cut following BMP guidelines to transport logs to the upstream boundary of the project site. Logs were floated to the work site. A total of 51, 15 – 20-foot pine logs varying from 10 – 20-inches in diameter were installed in natural orientations and clusters to improve channel complexity, aesthetics, depth and cover. They were secured via naturally disguised wooden posts bored through the log and jetted six-feet into the substrate. The access road was revegetated with wildlife enhancing grasses and forbs. In FY 2003, nine wing dams, two artificially constructed undercut banks and six log deflectors were inspected, found structurally sound and functioning as intended. Approximately 21 artificially placed log clusters comprised of 63 large tree trunks placed downstream of the intensive treatment area were also inspected and jetted deeper into scour pools, formed by their placement, to increase mean pool depth and further minimize navigational concerns.

White River
Intensive habitat development in the mid 1990s on a 3,500-foot section of the South Fork of the White River was inspected and all structures constructed were found to be in reasonably good condition and functioning as intended. Stream monitoring inventories conducted in FY 2003 indicate that improved reaches exhibit higher quality channel morphology and habitat characteristics than unimproved reaches. Excessive bed-cutting on the lower end of the project site has caused stream levels to drop as much as three inches below the planking of three boomcovers. Head elevation development work scheduled for FY2004 will address this by placing woody snag clusters immediately downstream of the covers that are now exposed.

Trout stamp maintenance funds from FY 2002 and 2003 were also used for an unanticipated reclamation of a severe, 10,000-square foot washout of a tributary of the White River. Recontoured banks had begun to slump and the problem would have accentuated if intense erosion control measures weren’t enacted. Plans developed in FY 2002 included bank reshaping, filter cloth and heavy rip-rap placement, the addition of drain tile and reseeding were implemented in FY 2003.

Little Brule River
Twenty-one log deflectors forming six sang clusters in a 200-foot channel were inspected in the Little Brule River during FY 2003 and found to be providing complex pool habitat.
Kinnickinnic River & Duncan Creek – Chippewa/St. Croix Counties
Funding Status: Complete
Contact: Robert Hujik
Partners: Ojibleau Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The stream side vegetation on the Kinnikinnik River and McCann Rivers is dominated by weak rooted invasive tree species that shade out strong rooted stream side grasses and shrubs. The lack of strong vegetative undergrowth leaves the stream-side open to excessive erosion and bank failure during periods of run off. To stabilize this accelerated erosion process, 3,920-feet of invasive tree species (mainly box elder) were removed using heavy equipment on the Kinnikinick River and 4,000-feet on the McCann River. Stumps were chemically treated with an environmentally compatible herbicide to inhibit regeneration. Turf type vegetative cover soon recovered. Aquatic macrophyte growth and diversity increased dramatically along with increased light penetration to the stream-bed. The subsequent increase in aquatic vegetation has led to further increases in invertebrate density and diversity. Trout growth rates and densities have also improved as brushing has increased.

Maintenance work on the Trimbelle River consisted of adding rip-rap to approximately 460-feet of stream where erosion had occurred and covering areas with soil, seed and mulch. Sand Creek and Duncan Creek were brushed and habitat structures were replaced.

Entire Headwaters Basin – Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida & Vilas Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Michael Vogelsang

As part of habitat improvement, 25 miles of trout streams in the entire Headwaters Basin (Forest, Florence, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas Counties) are inspected and maintained. In 2002 and 2003 a 1/2 mile stretch of skyhook boomcovers on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River in Langlade County was brushed. Habitat enhancement work consisting primarily of rip-rap was completed on 425-feet of Prairie River in Lincoln County. A 1/4-mile stretch of the Middle Branch Embarrass River was brushed and six brush bundles were constructed. A sediment trap on the Prairie River in Lincoln County was maintained.

The following activities were completed in Forest County.
- Allen Creek - use jet pump to reposition 17 whole cover logs that heaved above water surface
- Brule Creek - sod 75-feet of eroded stream bank and construct one 8-foot x 20-foot brush bundle
- Elvoy Creek - cut encroaching woody stream bank vegetation along the entire 2,350-foot 1998 project boundary and sod 25-feet of eroded stream bank.
- North Otter Creek - cut encroaching woody stream bank vegetation along 4,000-feet of stream.

There were 400 hours carried over through fiscal year 2005 for trout habitat maintenance in the Headwaters Basin.
La Crosse/Bad-Axe Basin - La Crosse, Crawford, Monroe & Vernon Counties
Funding Status: Complete
Contact: David Vetrano

This project covers work performed to prevent continued deterioration and minor maintenance on destroyed or damaged trout habitat caused by flooding. Typical work included stream bank stabilization, structure reconstruction/repair, cattle/machinery crossing repair and the repair or replacement of fences on easement or state owned properties on trout streams in the La Crosse area counties.

- Bohemian Valley Creek, La Crosse County – 3,030-feet of stream length
- Cannon Valley Creek, Monroe County – 2,280-feet of stream length
- Pinnacle Rock Pond, Monroe County – 600-feet of shore length
- Kickapoo Springs Pond, Monroe County – 600-feet of shore length
- Spring Coulee Creek, Vernon County – 2,025-feet of stream length
- Coon Creek, Vernon County – 1,020-feet of stream length
- Timber coulee Creek – Vernon County 1,490-feet of stream length
- Tainter Creek, Crawford County – 2,483-feet of stream length (three beaver dams were removed)
- Sugar Creek Crawford County – 3,800 feet of stream length (two beaver dams were removed)

McCaslen Brook, First South Branch Oconto River, Waupee Creek – Oconto County
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Cliff Sebero

This project covers several habitat maintenance techniques. Several elevated culverts were replaced on the Waupee Creek system and in-stream habitat maintenance was done on the First South Branch of the Oconto River and Waupee Creek. A logging dam removal project planned for McCaslen Brook was delayed due to dam ownership issues. The McCaslen dam removal is planned for 2003-2005.

South Branch Oconto River – Oconto County
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Cliff Sebero

Annual maintenance is conducted in the spring after snow-melt/runoff and in the fall after completion of new habitat projects. Dredging of sediment basins (sand traps) takes place in early fall, before the spawning run and/or during late winter to minimize ground disturbance in lowland areas.

Five miles of stream were inspected and routine annual maintenance conducted. There are over 100 bank covers and numerous digger logs, half logs, inverted tree stumps and rip-rap within project site. Debris from bank covers and half logs was removed along with selective tag alder from the top of bank covers. Felled trees that were clogging stream and diverting current were also removed. Sand traps are scheduled for dredging in early September and mid winter 2003.

South Fork Main Creek – Rusk County
Funding Status: Complete
Contact: David Neuswanger

This project covers improvement of in-stream trout habitat on approximately a 1/2 mile stream thread in the summer of 2002 and 2003 and is an extension of a previous maintenance/development project immediately downstream from this location that took place in 1999 and 2000. The stream is within the South Fork of the Main Creek State Fishery Area in Rusk County and the shoreline is maintained in public control through a permanent conservation easement.
A cattle crossing was installed along with fencing to exclude livestock along the entire 1/2-mile reach. Numerous lunker structures and other in-stream cover enhancement features were also installed. Nearby reaches of this stream, enhanced in previous years, now contain high numbers of 10 to 14-inch brook trout.

**Scuppernong River – Waukesha County**  
**Funding Status: Complete**  
**Contact: Susan Beyler**

Approximately 500-feet of stream were finished in this final phase. Work included beaver dam removal, repair of structures and brushing.

**Lower Wolf River Basin – Waupaca & Waushara Counties**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Al Niebur**

Brushing and structure maintenance was completed on 5,000-feet of Willow Creek, 1.5 miles of Davis Creek and 3,000-feet of Pine River. In addition five sand traps were cleaned on Murray Creek.

Work on Coon Creek in 2002 included restoration of 1,000-feet of stream with over 2,000-feet completed in 2003.
# Trout Habitat Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budgeted IWTS Expenditure 5</th>
<th>FY 02</th>
<th>FY 03</th>
<th>FY 04</th>
<th>FY 05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$504,493</td>
<td>$540,801</td>
<td>$574,415</td>
<td>$434,103</td>
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<td>Actual IWTS Expenditure 6</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Program Expenditures (all funding sources) 7</td>
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<td>$1,118,464</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Habitat development projects listed in this section cover a wide variety of activities intended to improve trout populations. In total there were approximately 27.5 miles of trout habitat improvement work completed on 42 streams. Typical activities might include brushing, bank stabilization, bank tapering, and instream structures. Projects are arranged alphabetically by county.

**Turtle Creek – Barron County**

*Funding Status: Complete*  
*Contact: Phillip Anderson*

The project involves in-stream habitat improvement on Turtle Creek, a Class II trout stream. The stream is located in the Silver Creek Management Unit of the Barron County Forest. Intent of the project is to narrow and deepen stream and install holding and cover areas on 1,800-feet of stream. Work completed in 2002 included installing three rock wing deflectors, three 30-foot long log deflectors, two log revetments and brush mats totaling 110-feet. One 60-foot log and rock revetment, 40-feet of brush and rock revetment, 30-feet of cover, 50-feet of bank rip rap and large rocks were placed in-stream at various locations to create bottom scouring and deepen channel to a three-foot depth. Stream banks were brushed and material used onsite. Project used 340-cubic yards of field rock. Banks were graded and seeded for stabilization.

**Cap Creek – Bayfield County**

*Funding Status: Complete*  
*Contact: Frank Pratt*

This project has been completed with successful brook trout spawning as the result. Cap Creek has been restored to a channel similar to its pre-alteration configuration. The associated springs have been protected and are tied in to the restored channel. Riprap is complete as well as the construction site restoration (topsoil dressing, seeding, and mulching).

---

5 LTE salaries & supplies  
6 LTE salaries, supplies, permanent salaries, fringe benefits & program overhead
Black filter cloth and rock riprap have been added as part of Cap Creek trout habitat development project in Bayfield County. Fill and topsoil on upland bank will facilitate re-vegetative growth. Instream enhancement is planned in 2-4 years after new stream channel has been stabilized.

Iron River – Bayfield County  
Funding Status: Complete  
Contact: Scott Toshner  
Partners: Bayfield County, WCC & Brule River Sportsman Club

This 700-foot project area was artificially wide and shallow due to peaking operations of a now abandoned hydropower facility upstream and a former low-head dam downstream. This project consisted of constructing current deflectors and channel constrictors on the Iron River, in the portion of river immediately downstream from intensive work completed in 1998-99.

Remote and difficult topography prevented equipment access causing intensive development procedures. A 200-foot access road was constructed following BMP guidelines to transport logs to the upstream boundary of the project site. A total of 51, 15–20-foot pine logs varying from 10–20-inches in diameter were installed in natural orientations and clusters to improve channel complexity, aesthetics, depth and cover. The logs were manually floated to the work sites and secured via naturally disguised wooden posts bored through the log and jetted six feet into the substrate. The access road was re-vegetated with wildlife enhancing grasses. Work in the 2003 fiscal year largely consisted of the maintenance and repositioning of logs and log clusters previously installed.

Schultz Springs, Namekagon River – Bayfield County  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Frank Pratt  
Partners: U.S. National Park Service

This project will restore some of the original, free flowing stream conditions that were impounded for a private fish hatchery. Surveys revealed a remnant population of self-sustaining wild brook trout using the ponds for spawning/nursery activities. Cap Creek also has a remnant population of self-sustaining wild brook trout in its headwaters.

The initial construction was completed in September-October 2003, as planned. Cap Creek was reconnected through the springs areas and two interconnected outlet stream channels were created/restored. Large woody cover was added. New fishing regulations were posted on site. Boomcovers were added to
one headwater springs area to provide cover for spawning brook trout. Instream enhancement is planned once the new stream channel has fully stabilized in approximately two to four years. Currently, brook trout are spawning at the site. Prior to construction, DNR personnel surveyed the channel nursery area and sampled yoy brook, brown, rainbow and tiger hybrids - all in the same habitat. It is the first time in 30 years, in inland habitat, that more than two species of juveniles have been sampled sympatrically.

**North Fork Clam River – Burnett County**

**Funding Status: Ongoing**

**Contact: Terry Margenau**

This project will improve in-stream habitat on DNR lands adjacent to the North Fork of the Clam River, a Class I trout stream. In-stream trout habitat improvement was completed on a 400-foot segment of the stream including installation of two covers (one 98-feet and one 68-foot) plus installation of 6-foot x 12-foot and 5-foot x 8-foot rock wing deflectors. Two channel revetments were completed including a 7-foot x 15-foot and a 6-foot x 10-foot. Scouring rock was placed in front of covers and along river channel.

**Lodi Spring Creek – Columbia County**

**Funding Status: Complete**

**Contact: Tim Larson**

**Partners: Lodi Park Commission/City Council, Lodi Canning Company, Madison Chapter Trout Unlimited**

The lower 4-miles of Lodi Creek within and downstream of the City of Lodi is excellent brown trout water and is especially known for large trout. It requires stocking, as natural reproduction is typically low (300 fall fingerlings/mile). This project will enhance natural reproduction, allow fish passage over two small dams that are highly visible within town and educate the public on the values of this work and the trout stream itself.

Volunteers in 2002 installed rock riffles below the two low head dams using volunteer help. About 20 cubic yards of rock was used per riffle. Lodi Canning Company provided equipment and labor to place 0.1 cubic yards per foot of rubble (cobble size rock) at the base of vertical walls (both banks) through 1,600-feet of City Park stream bank. Four professionally created information signs were purchased and delivered to City of Lodi staff for installation. The signs explain the benefit of the fish passage riffles and habitat work.
La Crosse/Bad-Axe Basin - Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe & Vernon Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: David Vetrano
Partners: Coon Valley & Crawford County Conservation Clubs, Monroe County Conservation Department, Prairie Rod & Gun Club & the Town of Shelby

The major problems addressed were lack of cover for trout and unstable stream banks with the majority of work focused on installing bank cover structures and stream bank stabilization in:

- North & South Branches of Copper Creek – Crawford County
- Plum & Sugar Creeks - Crawford County
- Bohemian Valley Creek - La Crosse County
- Burns & Mormon Coulee Creeks - La Crosse County
- Coles Valley Creek - Monroe County
- Farmers Valley Creek - Monroe County
- Leon Creek - Monroe County
- Coon Creek - Vernon County

Plum & Sugar Creeks
The Plum Creek project was completed in fiscal 2002 and restored 2,545-feet of stream with 23 lunker structures installed. During fiscal 2003 678 cubic yards of rip-rap rock was stockpiled for Sugar Creek. The Prairie Rod and Gun Club purchased the rock with aide grant money awarded to the club from the Crawford County Conservation Club. The club also purchased the lumber needed for 20 lunker structures and helped with the construction. The stream work is planned for the summer of 2004.

Bohemian Valley Creek
Total stream length restored was 345-feet with 6 lunker structures installed.

Burns & Mormon Coulee Creek
Trees and brush were removed on Burns Creek as needed along the stream banks to allow for stockpiling of 2,004 cubic yards of rip-rap rock along a 2,700-foot stretch of stream. The remainder of the stream work is scheduled for fiscal 2005. Mormon Coulee Creek was a cooperative project with the Town of Shelby in Mormon Coulee Park where 640-feet of stream were restored. The township helped with hauling and paying for the rip-rap rock. Rock weirs, rock riffles, boulder retards, root wads, cross channel logs and 12 lunker structures were installed.

Coles Valley Creek
Trout stamp funds were used to help purchase rock in a cooperative project with Monroe County Land Conservation Department. Total stream length restored was 1,900-feet with 40 lunker structures installed.

Farmers Valley Creek
Total stream length restored was 250-feet with two lunker structures installed.

Leon Creek
Four separate portions of Leon Creek were completed in fiscal 2002. Total stream length restored was 4,260-feet with 21 lunker structures and one machinery crossing installed.

Coon Creek
One project on Coon Creek was completed in fiscal 2002 and included restoring 1,000-feet of stream. Work completed in fiscal 2003 included a 2,380-foot stretch of stream with high banks that were badly eroding due to cattle over-grazing. The work included installation of several cross channel logs, boulder retards, rock clusters, rock weirs, rock wing deflectors, 20 lunker structures and extensive stream bank sloping and rip-rapping. The 20 lunker structures were built in cooperation with the Coon Valley Conservation Club. A total of 2,976 cubic yards of rip-rap rock was stockpiled along 2,160 feet of stream length at three other project sites on Coon Creek in fiscal 2003. Two of these projects are planned for 2004 and the third project is planned for fiscal 2005.
North Branch of Copper Creek
A 420-foot stretch of stream was restored that had been degraded by flooding and beavers. Intensive stream work included installing six lunker structures, cross channel logs, rock weirs and boulder retards.

South Branch of Copper Creek
Eroding stream banks on an easement property were threatening to destroy a landowner’s house. A new channel was constructed and all stream banks were stabilized along with improving trout habitat for a 335-foot stretch of the stream. Improvements included the installation of four lunker structures, rock weirs, cross channel logs, root wads, boulder retards and a machinery crossing/riffle.

Harbison Branch – Dane County
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Kurt Welke
The project consists of the removal of an existing rough fish holding pond (from the contract commercial fishing era) to restore the channel, character and habitat of the Harbison Branch (a first order tributary of Token Creek). Project features include: removal of water control structures, reclamation of the pond banks by tree and brush removal, re-establishment of the riparian corridor by bank grading, stabilization and reseeding and re-meandering of the stream within the former pond bed.

In fiscal 2002 the following work took place: brushing of access road, clearing of trees, removal of fish rake/crowder, removal of water control structure, excavation of new outlet channel with erosion control measures and removal of wood retaining wall.

In 2003 the pond outlet was stabilized and re-sloped, graded, seeded and mulched to secure the outlet. The pond has drained somewhat but due to slope an existing large area of dead storage remains. Because this area can be credited and used as disposal area for the adjacent Corps of Engineers ecosystem restoration project on Token Creek, additional fill and grading to re-establish the former Harbison Creek channel is dependent upon the progress of the Token Creek project. Expectations are that the Token Creek project and therefore, the related completion of the Harbison Creek project will occur in calendar 2004.

Story Creek – Dane County
Funding Status: Complete
Contact: Doug Lubke
This project combined two ditches that had at one time diverted most of the main flow away from the creek and forced the ditch flow back to Story Creek. Ditch plugs wee installed on both ditches to maintain flow in the original stream channel. Banks were sloped, rip-rap added and 40 mini lunker structures were installed on 0.5-miles of upper Story Creek south of Bellbrook Road.

The old ditches remain as full pools for waterfowl brood water. Lands adjacent to the stream have been brushed and burned twice to enhance waterfowl and grassland bird nesting and to deter the growth of woody vegetation.

Token Creek – Dane County
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Don Bush
This project will create seven-miles of Class I trout stream from a shallow millpond that has historically had a rough fish problem. The Corps of Engineers selected Token Creek as an ecosystem restoration area. Lower Rock River Staff have been working with the COE on the Preliminary Restoration and Feasibility Plans in fiscal 2002 and 2003. The project start is projected for late fall/winter 2003 or early spring 2004.
West Branch Sugar River – Dane County
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Kurt Welke
Partners: Dane County

This project is a continuation of work begun in 2000 to enhance trout populations and fishing opportunities along the West Branch of the Sugar River under easements procured through Trout Unlimited.

Work completed in fiscal year 2002 included traditional trout habitat improvement including placement of 240 lunker structures along 11,200- feet of shaped and sloped banks, installation of 3000-feet of rip-rap and stone armor/edging and seeding of 13 acres of stream bank. This project continues to connect recently improved stretches of the West branch of the Sugar River and now provides a 10-mile reach of eased fishing.

Lower Chippewa Basin - Dunn, Eau Claire & Pierce Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: John Paddock
Partners: Trout Unlimited

This project will involve trout habitat construction on 1,700-feet of Cady Creek, 3,800-feet on Elk Creek, and 1,100-feet on the Kinninickinnic River. It is part of a continuing effort that will complete restoration of formerly highly degraded streams. The effort will restore native brook trout populations and create additional quality fishing experiences.

Cady Creek
The project area was typified by steep, eroded banks, a wide shallow stream-bed and few pools or areas of suitable trout habitat. The project entailed the grading of the stream-banks to a gradual 4 to 1 slope to lessen erosive pressures. The stream was substantially narrowed to an average of 12 feet or less to increase velocity. Forty one habitat structures were placed throughout the stream to provide overhead cover for trout. Five plunge pool grade controls were installed to provide habitat and wintering pools. Logs and stumps were placed to provide additional habitat areas. All rip-rap and exposed areas were covered with soil, seeded and mulched. A tributary was also restored as part of the project. In total 3,040-feet of trout habitat restoration were completed including installation of 61 lunker structures. Increased pool area size will aid in brook trout winter survival. Post restoration surveys will determine the impact of restoration efforts and periodic monitoring will help ensure restoration efforts are successful.

Elk Creek
This project entails the restoration of a highly degraded stream and the enhancement of trout habitat on DNR Fisheries property. Total length of the project completed in 2002 was 1,845-feet. The stream was narrowed to an average of 15-feet to increase velocity for sediment transport and depth. Limestone rip-rap was keyed along the banks of the constructed channel, covered with soil, seeded and mulched to create a natural appearance. Excessive soil was removed from the normal flood-plain and contoured to the surroundings. Forty two overhead trout habitat structures were placed within the stream to provide cover. Three rock plunge pool grade controls created suitable fast gravel runs for trout spawning sites. The increased velocity added depth and exposed gravel

Kinninckinnic River
The Kinninckinnic River work was rescheduled for May 2004.
Pine Creek – Eau Claire & Trempealeau Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Dan Hatleli

In total, habitat will be improved on 2.5 linear miles of Pine Creek that will result in increased public accessibility, fishability and reduction of erosion. In FY 2003 trout habitat restoration was completed on two separate reaches of Pine Creek. Approximately 1/3-mile of stream was completed on the 50-acre Peter Scheel property where 17 jetted overhead boom covers were installed ranging from 8-feet to 16-feet in length along with 12 brush bundles and 10 rock grade control/current deflectors. Work was complicated by marshy conditions. Geoweb textile filled with gravel and sod was used to cover and stabilize the structures. Rock deflectors were installed by hand. The second site was located near the mouth of Pine Creek on the Mark Martinson property. Three severely eroded banks were stabilized with rip-rap, landscaped and seeded. Approximately 800-feet of stream bank was stabilized. Work will continue through 2005.

Brule Creek – Forest County  
Funding Status: Complete  
Contact: Michael Vogelsang

The initial activity associated with this project began in June 2002. Preliminary work completed included the strategic cutting of overhanging bank vegetation and staking the locations of future pools and riffles.

The stream channel renovation was increased from 2,500-feet to 2,650 feet to restore a braided channel that resulted from past beaver dams. This final phase of the project was completed by contracted excavator services and DNR personnel in 2002. Activity began with the excavation of a sand trap at the downstream end of the project boundary. A sediment trapping fabric was placed across the entire width of the stream immediately above the sand trap. The purpose of both these measures was to curb the downstream deposition of heavier suspended solids. Twenty-nine-pools, three runs and 27 riffles were created or enhanced during this activity. The mean channel width was narrowed to 20-feet and the mean water depth increased to 16 inches. One hundred and eighty-seven boulders and 170 whole cover logs were placed within the restored stream channel for trout cover. The majority of the in-stream fill areas were seeded and faced with a four-foot wide strip of erosion control matting. The entire equipment access was also seeded. The remaining fill areas were seeded and matted. A number of boulders and logs were also repositioned by hand.

Downstream view of Brule Creek restoration work prior to establishment of vegetative cover.
Brule Creek – Forest County, Brule Creek Corporation  
Funding Status: Complete  
Contact: Michael Vogelsang  
Partners: Brule Springs Corporation  

The Brule Springs Corporation has signed a Trout Habitat Agreement with the DNR to manage this portion of the Brule Creek and restore native brook trout habitat. Twenty pools (bends) and 22 riffles were created or enhanced on this stretch of stream. The channel length was increased from 1620-feet to 1900 feet and the width narrowed from an average of 30 to 15 feet. The mean depth increased from 7 to 16-inches. One hundred and forty boulder retards and 100 15-foot whole logs were placed in the stream channel for additional trout cover. A sand trap was excavated to curb downstream deposition of suspended solids. The new banks were groomed to the natural bank height, secured with a four-foot strip of erosion control matting and seeded with indigenous plant species.

A double run, mark and recapture brook trout population electrofishing evaluation was completed at this site in July of 2002. The evaluation showed a substantial increase in the brook trout population when compared to the long-term population information gathered prior to the completion of the project. This increase was most evident in adult brook trout, especially fish eight inches and larger. These post stream channel restoration population evaluations will continue for several more years.

McPherson Branch – Grant County  
Funding Status: Complete  
Contact: Bradd Sims  
Partners: Trout Unlimited & UW Platteville  

The purpose of this project is to restore a total of 1.5-miles of the McPherson Branch to a Class I trout stream. In FY 2002 1.25 miles of stream bank were brushed and cleared of willow and box elder trees. In addition, 565 feet of bank were seeded with 2,750 feet of stream bank sloped and seeded. There were 35 lunker units installed and two upstream wedge dams.

Sanders Creek & Mill Creek – Grant & Richland Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Gene Van Dyck  
Partners: Corps of Engineers  

The Sanders Creek intensive habitat improvement project includes follow-up work in Boscobel on the stretch of Sanders Creek channelized by the Corps of Engineers as part of their flood control project in the early 1990s. As part of the project, the Corps completed about 1/4 of the needed trout habitat improvement work. DNR personnel will complete the remainder of the stream habitat improvement in conjunction with Boscobel’s walkway and planned handicapped fishing pads along this stretch of creek.

The Mill Creek project is a long term habitat effort that includes maintenance of 2-miles of work installed 20+ years ago and in need of maintenance and repairs. Tree and brush removal is also required.

Willow & Ash Trout Streams – Northern Grant & Iowa Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Gene Van Dyck  

Willow Creek stream bank brushing and tree removal has been underway for about 7 years and should be complete in 2-3 years. There has been a tremendous resource improvement on this heavily used, Class I trout stream.

The Ash Creek habitat improvement project was started two years ago. The 2002 fiscal year monster flood has delayed completion of the project. Repairing the existing work and finishing up the project is needed or all previous work will be lost.
Trout stamp funds are used for removal of nuisance trees like willow and box elder from Wisconsin’s trout streams. This example is from Gordon Creek, a Class II trout stream.

**Hefty Creek – Green County**  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Don Bush

This trout habitat development project started in fiscal 2003 with brushing in the winter months after the ground is frozen.

**Gordon, Ley, Conley-Lewis Creeks – Iowa County**  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Bradd Sims

This project covers removal of brush and trees from the banks of these streams and their associated tributaries for a distance of 60-feet on each side of the stream. The project area covered 1,900-feet on Gordon Creek (a Class II trout stream), 0.8-miles on Conley-Lewis and 0.2-miles on Ley Creek. Only nuisance vegetation like willow and box elder trees were removed. Other species such as oak, cottonwood and walnut will remain for wildlife and aesthetic purposes. Grasses have been established along the banks and UW-Platteville will measure the physical and vegetative response to the clearing under separate funding.

**Black, Buffalo & Trempealeau River Basin – Jackson County**  
**Funding Status:** Complete  
**Contact:** Dan Hatleli  
**Partners:** Elk Rod & Gun Club, Trout Unlimited

A mini-excavator was purchased in fiscal 2002 to access wet lowlands, narrow easements, small streams and where minimal manipulation of the riparian corridor is desirable.
Central Wisconsin River Basin – Juneau, Marathon & Portage Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Spaeth
Partners: Trout Unlimited & Marathon County

Projects scheduled are on the Plover River in Marathon County; Flume Creek, Tomorrow River and Bradley Creek in Portage County and the One-Mile and Brewer Creeks in Juneau County. The main purpose of the improvements is to narrow stream channels, increase fish cover, increase stream flow, wash away unwanted sediment and expose trout spawning areas.

Plover River
The project will focus on narrowing and deepening the channel as well as meandering the channel to the shaded side of the banks. The habitat work completed totals 6,800 feet (1.29 miles). Included in the work is creation of 28 wing deflectors totaling 5,448-feet; installation of six wish bone shaped islands totaling 1,566-feet, eight sky-hook boomcovers, 500 boulder retards, 20 digger logs, one root wad and the installation of woody debris throughout much of the work area. A cattle watering area was abandoned and a pump installed to provide water for the cattle.

Flume Creek
During the 2002-2003 field season work was completed along 5,840-feet (1.11-miles) and included the installation of 76 brush bundles, nine digger logs, 20 half-logs, three log clusters, four plunge pools and a 1 k-dam. Also installed were 20 mini lunker structures and 125 boulder retards. Other work accomplished included the installation of four sediment traps, four wing deflectors, five root wads and the cleaning of four springs.

Tomorrow River
Work will be performed on 4,000-feet of the Tomorrow River in fall of 2003 and spring of 2004 including:
- installation of 25-30 brush bundles along with 7-10 jetted overhead covers
- placement of 50 boulder retards, root wads and half logs
- 1 k-dam and 5 plunge pools will be installed
- removal of fallen woody material caused by beaver problems from the Bradley Creek

Brewer & One Mile Creeks
A stream bank de-brushing/windfall removal project will be done on the Brewer and One-Mile Creeks along 6,000-feet of stream has been delayed to FY 2004. Approximately 50-75 brush bundles will be placed in the stream. Willow windfalls that are diverting water to the banks and increasing erosion will be removed. All wood will be used to increase overhead cover and create wing dams. All disturbed or bare ground areas will be seeded and mulched using native prairie and wetland plant species.

Fountain Creek
Improvements on 4,500 feet of stream-bank include brushing, adding 78 brush bundles, 22 digger logs, three log deflectors and four overhead log covers. Eight springs were also cleaned out. There were many willow windfalls throughout the area that diverted water to the banks, increasing erosion. The windfalls were removed and all wood was used to increase overhead cover and create wing dams.

Steiner Branch – Lafayette County
Funding Status: Complete
Contact: Bradd Sims
Partners: Harry & Laura Nohr Trout Unlimited

The purpose of this project is to restore approximately 1.25-miles of habitat in the Steiner Branch with the potential for maintaining a self-sustaining brook trout population. It was completed in September of 2002.

In fiscal 2002 1,760-feet of stream were enhanced. There were 1,650 feet of bank sloped, 830 yards of rip-rap installed, 500 pounds of seed spread and 60 lunker units installed. Local volunteers built structures for the first phase of the project. Brook trout adult and young were present in the 2002 surveys.
Willow Springs – Langlade County  
**Funding Status:** Complete  
**Contact:** Michael Vogelsang

Approximately 40,000 cubic yards of silt and organic sediment were removed from the Willow Springs 4.4-acre spring pond to increase trout productivity and carrying capacity. Approximately 15% of the pond will not be dredged to leave shallow spawning areas. Sediment was removed by a dredge and deposited in three 2-3 acre, upland depressions. The project started in the fall of 2001 and was completed in fiscal 2002. The average depth in the pond was increased from less than 1-foot to 7-feet. Final seeding of the access and spoil areas was completed in May 2003.

Chaffe Creek – Marquette County  
**Funding Status:** On Hold  
**Contact:** David Bartz  
**Partners:** Trout Unlimited

Trout habitat will be improved by stabilizing banks and placing in-stream bank covers on 2,000-feet of Chaffe Creek at a future date.

Mecan River – Marquette County  
**Funding Status:** Complete  
**Contact:** Ron Bruch

Heavy rip-rap was used to reinforce the toe and stabilize the severely eroding Mecan River bank. The ground was seeded to prevent further erosion.

Wedde Creek – Marquette County  
**Funding Status:** Complete  
**Contact:** David Bartz

This project was completed in 2002 with bank stabilization and placement of overhead covers to increase stream carrying capacity. Fourteen jetted bank covers and 60 logs were jetted in as mid-channel cover on 3,200-feet of Wedde Creek.

Waupaca/Tomorrow River – Portage & Waupaca Counties  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Al Niebur  
**Partners:** Trout Unlimited, County Land Commissions & Private Landowners

This project will initiate trout habitat restoration in the Waupaca/Tomorrow River and is a joint effort of the DNR, Trout Unlimited, County Land Commissions and private landowners.

The Waupaca/Tomorrow River is a large Class I and II trout stream that flows through parts of Portage and Waupaca counties. Brown trout, brook trout (especially in the headwaters and tributaries) and rainbow trout are present. In prior years, the Central Wisconsin Regional Committee of Trout Unlimited chose the Waupaca/Tomorrow River watershed as a focus for their conservation efforts. One of their main objectives was to obtain stream bank conservation easements along the riparian corridor. These easements would protect the stream from development, provide access for anglers and allow for restoration of degraded trout habitat. The existing habitat was surveyed, the channel mapped and the project design completed.
**South Branch Embarrass River – Shawano County**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Ron Bruch**  

The stream section was too wide and shallow, had a sand substrate and provided limited fish cover. A backhoe was used to narrow and deepen the channel, add meanders, create deeper pools and expose gravel in 1,500-feet of stream. Cover was also added - boulders and logs. Riffles were constructed using smaller stones.

**West Branch Red River – Shawano County**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Ron Bruch**  

This stream is 35-feet wide, one-foot deep with a sand substrate and has no cover. In FY 2002 the project area was mapped and permits procured. A backhoe will be used to narrow and deepen the channel, add meanders, create deeper pools and expose gravel in 1,200-feet of stream. Cover will be added in the form of boulders and logs. Smaller stones will be used to construct riffles. Due to land control issues, this project has been postponed until June 2003.

**Former Silver Spring Trout Farm – Sheboygan County**  
**Funding Status: Complete**  
**Contact: Randy Schumacher**  
**Partners: National Trout Unlimited, Lakeshore Trout Unlimited, Great Lakes Protection Fund**

The Silver Springs property consisted of a hatchery building, numerous concrete and earthen raceways and over 14 ponds. Water flow from the property formed the main headwaters of Mill Creek, a tributary of the Onion River. This project involves the removal of control structures, dikes and raceways and the reconstruction of stream channels that will provide trout habitat. The stream channels will be formed to provide cover, access to upstream areas and suitable spawning habitat for brook and brown trout.

In fiscal 2002 and 2003, a total of 12 ponds and an equal number of dikes/control structures were removed. Approximately 2,000-feet of new stream channel were created where the ponds previously existed, allowing trout to reach upstream spawning habitat. The new stream channel also eliminated the ponding effect on downstream water temperatures. Approximately 50 habitat features were installed including digger logs and root wads. Riffles were also created during the construction of the new stream. Funded by a separate grant, volunteers planted approximately 1,500 trees and shrubs.

**Onion River – Sheboygan County**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: John Nelson**  
**Partners: Lakeshore Trout Unlimited, Sheboygan County Land & Water Conservation Department, Between the Lakes Chapter of Muskies, Inc.**

The main purpose of this project was to significantly reduce non-point and point discharge of barn-yard waste to the Onion River and improve in-stream habitat. In FY 2002, a 1200-foot long by 14-foot wide stream channel was constructed at the Bohnhoff property easement area. Within the channel six log covers were placed, four plunge-pools were created, 300-feet of rock was placed along the bank and roughly 150 boulders were installed in the channel to improve cover for trout. In the fall of 2003 and spring 2004 tree planting to increase shade will be completed to ensure increased survival. Additional work was completed on the Drewry easement where 39 lunker units were installed along with five plunge pools and roughly 100 boulders. The Drewry work was completed in cooperation with a Trout Unlimited excavation contractor and many volunteers.
Manley Creek – Sauk County  
Funding Status: Complete  
Contact: Tim Larson  
Partners: Alliant Utility  

This project continues the habitat improvement work started in 1997. Manley Creek is a native brook trout stream flowing from Devils Lake Property 4-miles to Lake Wisconsin. Recent habitat improvement has been highly successful.

During the fall of 2002 DNR habitat personnel tapered the banks at site 1 on 2,000-feet of this stream, downstream of Hwy. 113. Rock rip-rap and six lunker structures were also installed. This was a follow-up to the original 1997/98 cooperative project with Alliant Utilities (who sponsored two organizations that provided jobs for youth – Operation Fresh Start and the Wisconsin Conservation Corp.) and the landowner.

During the summer of 2002 a DNR habitat crew debrushed 2,100-feet of stream on site 3 that was choked with tag alder. Banks were tapered on the entire stream thread, narrowed and rip-rap was installed on both sides of the stream. In addition 28 lunker structure complexes were added along with associated rock deflectors. Riverland Conservancy, a subsidiary of Alliant seeded the debrushed corridor with native grasses.

On all three sites there was virtually no trout recruitment prior to habitat work. The habitat work performed has been highly successful in improving natural recruitment and habitat for yoy and yearling fish up to 9-inches. Larger fish over 9-inches remain stable or low compared to the number of 6-8 inch fish (200-400/mile). There still are habitat-related questions that need to be addressed before the population of larger fish will grow in number. Since this is a small stream, is cover for larger fish still lacking or will the lunker structures at site 3 eventually produce that cover? There, currently, are 45 9-inch or larger fish per mile at the site. As an alternative strategy, should larger pools be created similar to the plunge pools at site 1? The
site 1 pools are providing habitat for larger fish. Since the tag alders have been removed, canary grass has invaded and now grows over the steam and will need to be addressed in the future.

**Bluff/Whitewater Creek – Walworth County**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Randy Schumacher**

This is a continuing trout habitat development project to increase cover and restore a previously ditched stream. In fiscal 2002, 25 lunker structures were placed along 300-feet of stream and 342 tons of limestone rip-rap was installed. In addition, 180 cubic yards of topsoil were spread on disturbed stream banks re-seeded and mulched.

**Scuppernong River – Waukesha County**  
**Funding Status: Complete**  
**Contact: Randy Schumacher**

A dam and earthen berm impounded this stream until it was removed approximately eight years ago. The stream was wide and silted with poorly defined banks. The flow was slow and shallow. The bed was narrowed and has formed a defined channel where none formerly existed. Brush bundles were also installed on 500-feet of trout stream.

**Little Wolf River – Waupaca County**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Al Niebur**  
**Partners: Trout Unlimited**

The Little Wolf River is located in northern Waupaca County and is one of the largest trout rivers in the area. It’s a Class I and II stream with a population consisting primarily of native brook trout. Many reaches in this river have extremely wide and shallow channels that offer very little habitat for trout. This project will enhance channel depth and complexity. One of the major objectives is to improve over-wintering habitat for larger brook trout. In fiscal 2002 work began on 2,500-feet of the North Branch of the Little Wolf River. Access trails were cleared during the winter of 2001-02. Rock was staged at various locations along project site. In 2002 and 2003 2,500-feet of the stream were restored and enhanced. Numerous half logs and boulders were placed in the stream along with riffle enhancement.

**Upper Pine River – Waushara County**  
**Funding Status: Complete**  
**Contact: Al Niebur**  
**Partners: Trout Unlimited**

This project will restore trout habitat to approximately 3,000-feet of the Upper Pine River in conjunction with Trout Unlimited. The stream was surveyed (mapped) to identify unique and/or limiting trout habitat and electrofished to document trout populations. Based on these assessments, a habitat restoration plan was tailored to meet the needs of this stream. In 2002 and 2003 work activities included removal of an old road bed crossing that acted as a low head dam to improve. This project also restored 3,000-feet of trout habitat through brushing, rip-rap, adding brush bundles, boulder placement and installation of eight overhead bank covers. All sites are inventoried for native vegetation and replanted with seed and plants from local nursery.
### Trout Habitat Equipment Purchases

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Equipment is purchased on a regional basis, but can be used throughout the state for trout habitat improvement projects. In fiscal 2002 the Southeast Region purchased a skid loader in combination with Wildlife Management funds to move material at trout habitat restoration sites.

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Views of Plover River before and after trout habitat restoration work.

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5 LTE salaries & supplies
6 LTE salaries, supplies, permanent salaries, fringe benefits & program overhead
Beaver Control

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Beaver control work is required to maintain and manage trout stream ecosystems. Without active beaver control activity it will only take a few years for beavers to re-establish themselves and adversely impact trout streams. The absence of beaver dams allows streams to flow freely and increases their productive condition. Where private trappers are reluctant to trap beavers, DNR personnel perform the task. In addition the DNR has a cooperative agreement with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to assist with beaver management and control in specific high priority trout streams.

Central Wisconsin River Basin – Adams, Marathon & Portage Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Jason Spaeth

In fiscal 2002 six beaver dams and three beaver were removed on Bradley Creek. The remaining trout waters were monitored for presence of beaver/beaver dams. In fiscal 2003 six beaver were trapped in Bradley Creek, Poncho Creek and the Tomorrow River. Ten beaver dams were removed from these waters. This activity lessened the beaver impact on 21-miles of Class 1 trout streams.

Upper Chippewa Basin & Chequamegon National Forest – Ashland, Bayfield, Price & Sawyer Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Thomas Sommerfeldt

This project is designed to control, abate, and/or minimize beaver conflicts in aquatic and riparian areas of the Upper Chippewa Basin and Chequamegon National Forest and to keep approximately 55 miles of trout stream free from the impacts of beaver. This project is designed to target problem areas and important spawning areas. Each year approximately 100 beaver are trapped and 110 dams removed.

Lower Chippewa Basin – Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, St. Croix Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Robert Hujik

A total of 19 beaver and 21 dams were removed from nine streams in 2002. A total of 31 beaver were trapped and 25 beaver dams removed in 10 trout stream systems in fiscal 2003. Aerial surveillance was used to locate target areas and a contract trapper performed work to protect 150 miles of trout streams in these counties.

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5 LTE salaries & supplies
6 LTE salaries, supplies, permanent salaries, fringe benefits & program overhead
Lower Wisconsin Basin – Columbia & Sauk Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Tim Larson  

This project will maintain a beaver free status on all trout streams in Columbia and Sauk counties. There are 105 miles and 27 trout streams impacted. Beaver activity was located during winter months using aerial surveillance, plus contacts with anglers and hunters. Twenty-two beavers and 13 dams were removed on four streams in fiscal 2002. Nine beavers were removed by contract trapping and 12 dams pulled on 4 streams in Columbia County in fiscal 2003. No activity was noted in Sauk County.

Headwaters Basin - Forest, Langlade & Lincoln Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Michael Vogelsang  

Over 30-dredged spring ponds and more than 25 natural spring ponds were checked for beaver activity. In Lincoln and Langlade Counties 175 sites were checked by foot or canoe. Both spring and fall airplane surveys were made to identify beaver activity. There were 31 beavers trapped under this activity and 141 active dams removed. Nineteen inactive dams were also removed.

West Upper Fox Basin – Green Lake & Marquette Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Ron Bruch  

Streams were monitored to locate active beaver activity with seven removed in 2002. There were seven dams removed from Chaffee Creek in 2002 and one dam removed on Lawrence Creek. In FY 2003 five beavers and seven dams were removed in the West Upper Fox River Basin. This project is ongoing with beaver continuing to threaten the coldwater resource.

Upper Green Bay Basin – Marinette & Oconto Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Cliff Sebero  
Partners: U.S. Forest Service, Marinette County Forestry Dept., Lake Superior Land Comp., International Paper & Trout Unlimited  

In FY 2002 13 named streams and three isolated unnamed streams were added to the Marinette County list and four named streams to Oconto County. A total of 46 named streams and numerous unnamed streams totaling approximately 390 miles are being managed to protect and improve trout stream habitat from beavers in Marinette and Oconto counties. Oconto County – over 145-miles of named and unnamed streams. Marinette County has over 225-miles of named and unnamed streams. Streams were flown in the fall after leaves dropped and recorded on county maps. Ground checks were also conducted. Beaver dam locations were made available to interested trappers and on private property, permission was requested for beaver and beaver dam removal. In total there were 57 beaver and 44 beaver dams removed. The North and South Branch Pem Bon Won and North and South Fork Harvey Creeks will be included in future work.

Wolf River Basin – Shawano & Oconto Counties  
Funding Status: Ongoing  
Contact: Ron Bruch  

Removed 22 beaver and 17 dams from 11 different streams in 2002 and in 2003 contract trappers worked on five problem areas in the Wolf River Basin.
Statewide Operations
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Larry Claggett
Partners: APHIS

This project is designed to manage beaver populations at low levels in specific high-priority trout stream watersheds where they are damaging habitat. It responds to input from external partners and uses watershed scale planning. The work includes reviewing the annual cooperative agreement with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), monitoring APHIS expenses and accomplishments, meeting with APHIS and fish managers as necessary to review the program and set goals. Funds are also available to pay APHIS trappers to control beavers and remove dams in target watersheds. In the biennium, APHIS field staff protected over 800-miles of trout stream. In FY 2002 the APHIS Program protected 102 streams in the northeastern part of the state by removing 627 beaver dams and 633 beaver. FY 2003 totals include 122 streams protected in that same area of the state with 631 dams and 626 beaver removed. APHIS totals are in addition to the beaver control activity listed in the previous projects.

Without beaver control management, trout streams and their ecosystems can quickly become adversely impacted.
### Trout Surveys
#### Coldwater Habitat Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FY 02</th>
<th>FY 03</th>
<th>FY 04</th>
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#### Clam & Yellow Rivers, McKenzie & Turtle Creeks – Barron & Polk Counties
**Funding Status:** Complete  
**Contact:** Terry Margenau, Heath Benike

In prior years considerable habitat improvement has been accomplished on these four streams. This report will help establish through electrofishing the impact trout habitat improvement projects have had on the overall trout populations.

One station each on McKenzie Creek and the Yellow River were chosen to monitor the long-term trends in the brook and brown trout fisheries as a result of past and recent habitat restoration work. McKenzie Creek was surveyed in 2002. As of 2003, McKenzie Creek is stocked annually with 1,000 domestic holdover brown trout. The data suggests that the trout population is relatively low even with the major habitat restoration activity that has occurred over the past few decades. Likely causes for the low trout population can be attributed to marginal natural reproduction. Historical data suggests that brown trout less than 5 inches were very low on every year surveyed over the past decade. Causes of poor natural reproduction could be related to summer and winter thermal regimes as well as lack of coarse substrates in McKenzie Creek. In 2004 McKenzie Creek will receive 4,000 small feral strain brown trout fingerlings for five years in an effort to increase adult densities of brown trout. The goal of this stocking change is to obtain brown trout densities of 1,000/mile by 2008. It is recommended that no future habitat restoration take place on McKenzie Creek until the stocking evaluation is completed in 2008.

One station on the Yellow River was sampled in 2002. Extensive habitat restoration work has occurred on this portion of the Yellow River over the past decade. Both brook and brown trout are present in the Yellow River. The Yellow River has primarily been managed as a brown trout fishery and has been known to produce brown trout in excess of 20 inches. As of 2003, the Yellow River is stocked with 1,300 domestic holdover brown trout. Over time the brown trout fishery has deteriorated. Natural reproduction of brown trout appears to be the most limiting factor effecting recruitment into the fishery. In 2003, 16,000 small feral brown trout fingerlings will be stocked to supplement limited natural reproduction and provide recruitment into the brown trout fishery. Feral trout stocking is scheduled for spring 2004. The goal is to obtain 1,000 brown trout per mile by 2008. No additional habitat restoration work is recommended for the Yellow River until the completion of the stocking evaluation.

Turtle Creek has historically been managed as a brown trout fishery. An ongoing stream habitat restoration project was started in 2001 and subsequent habitat restoration occurred in 2002 and 2003. Currently, Turtle Creek receives 1,000 holdover domestic strain brown trout with a few wild brook trout present. The brook trout most likely filter into Turtle Creek from nearby Silver Creek (about 2 miles downstream of the habitat restoration project). Habitat restoration activities have increased brown trout densities from 19/mile in 2000 to 136/mile in 2001 and 484/mile in 2003.

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5 LTE salaries & supplies  
6 LTE salaries, supplies, permanent salaries, fringe benefits & program overhead
Even though densities have increased following stream restoration, densities of brown trout are still considered low. The most limiting factor affecting the brown trout fishery is limited recruitment. No natural reproduction of brown trout is present on Turtle Creek. It was recommended that 10,000 small feral strain brown trout fingerlings be stocked on a trial basis to increase adult densities and provide a more desirable put, grow and take fishery. Feral trout stocking is scheduled for spring 2004. The goal is to achieve 1,000 brown trout/mile by 2008. Considering the favorable response in the overall trout density that increased to 484/mile in the past three years further trout habitat restoration work is recommended.

Clam River has been surveyed 10 times since 1978. Most recent survey showed the adult brook trout population at its lowest level of any of the previous surveys and the fingerling brook trout level also low. Brown trout population has showed significant increase and accounts for over 75% of the adult trout population. A comparison of brown trout shows 13 per mile in the 1978 survey and 232 per mile in the 2001 survey. Estimates in 2002 for brown trout were 76/mile (< 5 inches) and 205/mile (> 5 inches). Estimates for brook trout were < 1/mile (< 5 inches) and 194/mile (> 5 inches). No stocking is recommended at this time, but further evaluations should occur to determine if stocking may be warranted to help improve recruitment in the fishery.

Brewery & Spring Creeks – Columbia & Dane Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Dave Marshall
Partners: Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley & Dane County Land Conservation

Monitoring was completed at both streams. Spring Creek is a Class II trout stream. A major tributary of Spring Creek was evaluated for habitat and water quality to determine potential for expanded trout habitat and any adverse factors affecting the stream. Habitat, fisheries, water quality and macroinvertebrates were evaluated to determine the impact of a subdivision development along Brewery Creek in concert with Dane County Land Conservation. Presentations were given to an audience of federal, state and local government officials on the "environmentally friendly" development along Brewery Creek. Draft report on Brewery Creek is complete and will be published as a USGS Water Resources Report. The Lodi Creek report is also complete and has been submitted. Further work on classifying Lodi Creek tributary continues.

Fryes Feeder, Deer Creek & West Branch Sugar River – Dane County
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Don Bush

Activity funded will be above and beyond the baseline monitoring activities and would involve evaluating how effective the habitat rehabilitation is. Pre and post evaluation study metrics will be conducted on:
- habitat
- coldwater IBI scores calculated at multiple locations
- catch per unit effort data for all brook and brown trout
- length frequency data for both species of trout
- macroinvertebrate data captured at all sites

Reference streams will also be monitored. Fryes Feeder had five fisheries stations completed. Deer Creek had four fisheries stations completed. The West Branch Sugar River had 14 fisheries samples completed, one habitat evaluation completed and one macroinvertebrate sample collected. For all collections, catch per unit effort and length frequency information has been summarized. Population estimates have been performed where numbers were sufficient to yield adequate recapture samples. Habitat will be collected once every five years.
Gordon, Big Spring & German Valley Creeks – Dane & Iowa Counties  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Dave Marshall

The primary goal of this project is to evaluate the condition of these streams and their potential for supporting brook trout populations. Sampling completed included stream shocking (10 stations), macroinvertebrate sampling, temperature data logging, water quality data logging and habitat index assessments. Results indicate that the streams have significantly improved over the last 15 years due to the CRP program and grassland management. Preliminary habitat, water quality and fisheries data suggest that Big Spring headwaters will support brook trout and German Valley Creek should be reclassified to Class II trout fishery. Fish survey results from the lower reaches of German Valley support a healthy cold water fish community. The upper reaches of German Valley support a low density brown trout fishery.

Springhead Ponds – Dane, Iowa & Green Counties  
**Funding Status:** Complete  
**Contact:** Dave Marshall

In cooperation with pond owners, pond conditions, discharge characteristics and potential impacts to cold water streams will be evaluated to better establish regulating policies. Vertical pond profile data, outlet structure type and discharge information will be collected to document threats and impairments. Information collected will also assist in developing recommendations for reducing impacts.

Thirty-two ponds were sampled over the course of the summer with measurements including secchi, dissolved oxygen profiles, temperature profiles, phosphorus sampling, ammonia sampling, outlet flow, estimated macrophyte densities, conductivity, alkalinity and pH. DNR staff determined that pond temperature and water quality characteristics (excessive algae blooms and anoxic bottom water) have potential to impact both cold and warm water streams. The final analysis and report will be completed and issued in 2004.

Token Creek & Harbison Tributary – Dane County  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Don Bush

Token Creek and its watershed was selected as an Army COE 206 "Habitat Ecosystem Restoration Project" with a goal of restoring brook trout. This project will be entering the implementation phase within the next two years. Seven stations have been established to collect data on fish assessments, habitat evaluations, macroinvertebrate assessments and temperature monitoring (collected in 15-minute intervals).

Both Token Creek and Harbison Creek were sampled in July 2003. Temperature was recorded at three locations on Token Creek and one site on Harbison tributary.

Headwaters Basin – Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln & Oneida Counties  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Michael Vogelsang

This is a basin wide activity involving 18 streams in the five counties. Summer survey stations will be established on each candidate stream to thoroughly assess the trout population and the associated coldwater fish community. Electrofishing assessments will identify composition, abundance and size structure. Current in stream habitat types will be mapped for all streams. Analysis of this information will determine methods, materials and manpower needs to accomplish habitat protection/improvement.
Streams evaluated in FY 2002-03 included Big Pine Creek in Lincoln County; East Branch Eau Claire River, Hunting River, Red River and Prairie River in Langlade County; Morgan Creek, Riley Creek, Popple River, Simpson Creek, South Branch Popple River, and Woods Creek in Florence and Forest Counties; and Jenny Creek, Kaubashine Creek, Thunder Creek, and Trout Creek in Oneida County. In addition, single run electrofishing was conducted on five stations of the Popple River, seven on the Pine River and one on Rock Creek in Florence County. Several spring ponds have been investigated as candidates for rehabilitation by hydraulic dredging.

**Milwaukee/Sheboygan Basins – Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington Counties**  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Randy Schumacher & Will Wawrzyn

Since 2001, 41 stream reaches along 17 first to third order streams in the Milwaukee River Basin were evaluated for their existing or potential ability to support trout, cold or cool water forage fishery. Continuous temperature logging thermistors were deployed during the summer of 2001 and 2002 at all stream reaches. Additional temperature logging sites were added to some streams during the summer of 2002 to more accurately locate observed temperature extremes. Thermistors were installed in all stream reaches during the summer of 2001 and 2002 and the winter of 2002-03. Streams were ranked according to their observed maximum daily mean temperatures. Synoptic habitat assessments were conducted along the entire length of three streams whose water temperatures met the coldwater temperature criteria. The streams included a "least-impacted" coldwater stream (Nichols Creek), a "severely impacted" stream (Polk Springs Creek) and a "moderately impacted" stream (Mole Creek). The streams were mapped for gross morphological features (dominant substrate, location of pools, riffles, runs, bends, water depth, springs and tributaries, cover and cover types). In-stream or corridor features that were considered limiting to the streams existing or potential coldwater use were also mapped and photographed (channelization, bank erosion, ponds, enlargements, obstructions to flow, connected enlargements, tiles, headcuts). Based solely on temperature criteria, four streams have been identified as meeting the coldwater criteria (<22C MDM). These streams are not currently managed as trout streams. Five additional streams have been identified as meeting the cool water criteria (22-24C MDM).

During the 2003-04 winter water temperature models for the basin will be evaluated. In addition, staff will identify and prioritize management practices on a stream by stream basis and develop Arcview "projects" for selected streams. Arcview software allows DNR staff to map streams identifying over 100 variables including habitat features using PDAs and GPS linked equipment. Photos can be linked allowing queries to locate and display on an aerial photo where all riffles are located for example.

**Honey, Mill & Otter Creeks – Iowa & Sauk Counties**  
**Funding Status:** Ongoing  
**Contact:** Dave Marshall  
**Partners:** Iowa & Sauk Counties, Trout Unlimited, UW Platteville

The purpose of this project is to monitor the impacts of three large earthen dams on downstream water quality and fisheries on three trout streams. Biological sampling, chemical grab sampling and continuous data logger monitoring will be conducted to better characterize the impacts of the dams and downstream impairments to the coldwater fisheries. In addition, impoundment thermal and chemical profiles will be monitored to determine a discharge scheme that will minimize downstream impacts.

Sampling was completed including stream shocking, data logger deployments, lake monitoring, macroinvertebrate sampling and air quality sampling. Data suggests there is moderate to significant impact to the streams, but trout habitat can be improved. It is doubtful, however, that downstream habitat within a mile of an impoundment can improve beyond a Class III trout fishery. A partnership with UW-Platteville Engineering Department produced an outlet management plan for Blachhawk Lake in an attempt to lower water temperatures. Evaluation of the impacts from these projects will
continue next summer. An interim report on the impacts from White Mound Lake will be developed in fiscal 2004.

**MacIntire Creek - Marinette & Oconto Counties**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Cliff Sebero**

This ongoing project will improve the current information on the physical conditions of selected trout streams in Marinette and Oconto counties. Current information dates back to the mid 60s and early 70s. Project activities will obtain more thorough information relating to the physical characteristics, temperatures and conditions of these streams and for determining future habitat development locations.

In 2002-03 the MacIntire, Second South Branch Oconto and a portion of the North Branch Oconto River were mapped. In each station (1-mile in length) stream dimensions were taken. Other measurements, using the Rosgen’s Stream Classification, were taken at each station’s midway point. The Rosgen's data will be analyzed at a later date to determine what class each stream will be categorized as.

Thermographs (temperature recorders) were placed in MacIntire, Little South Branch Pike and Holmes creeks in Marinette County and the Second South Branch Oconto in Oconto County. These loggers were left in each stream for a complete year. Information has been downloaded and the report will be issued in fiscal 2004.

Thermographs were also placed in seven strategic locations on the North Branch Oconto River. The North Branch Oconto is a Class I trout stream throughout each of these temperature locations. Plans are to run these recorders for five years in order to determine an accurate average water temperature.

**Milwaukee River Basin, Mole Creek – Ozaukee County**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Randy Schumacher/Will Wawrzyn**

Mole Creek is a 5-mile long stream located in central Ozaukee County and has potential as a coldwater stream and trout fishery. Baseline monitoring and continuous temperature logging results suggest that this stream may be capable of supporting a restored native brook trout population. This project will evaluate fish and other aquatic life communities and habitat. Continuous temperature will be logged at 1-mile intervals (5 sites). Since 2001, nine reaches of stream were surveyed using for habitat and fish protocol. Summer water temperatures were logged during 2001 and 2002 and winter water temperatures during 2002 and 2003. Landscape features (channelization, enlargements, ponds, dams and other hydrologic modifications) will be located, described and potential impacts assessed.

**Ditches 2, 4 & 5- Portage County**  
**Funding Status: Ongoing**  
**Contact: Robert Hujik**

Several ditches within the Portage County Drainage District have not been dredged for over 30 years. This project will assess the short and long term impact of dredging on habitat and the fishery of these Class I waters by using established stream monitoring protocol. The rate of recovery of habitat and the fishery following dredging will also be assessed.

All three ditches were electrofished in September 2002. The populations of brook trout have been improving yearly since dredging. Abundant young of year brook trout were sampled at all three locations. Vegetation is returning and meandering of the channel is more common. Good size distribution was found at all sites.
Onion River & Tributaries – Sheboygan County
Funding Status: Complete
Contact: Randy Schumacher

This project was added in the spring of 2003 to document existing fishery conditions prior to the initiation of more restrictive fishing regulations in spring 2004. It involves a population and creel survey of the trout fishery in the upper Onion River and its tributaries. DNR staff conducted a population estimate on two stations on the Onion River and conducted a 20-hour per week random stratified creel survey during the entire 2003 fishing season on the river and its tributaries. Preliminary results indicate that pre-regulation trout populations are low and angling pressure is light through the summer. The final report from this survey will be written during the winter of 2003/04.
Brook Trout Restoration

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Conners & Behning Creeks - Barron & Polk Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Heath Benike

In early fiscal 2004 wild brook trout from Conners Creek were collected, diseased tested and were cleared for use in future restoration work. In the summer of 2004 fisheries staff will transfer approximately 35 age 2 (6-8") and 75 age 1 (4-5") brook trout from Conners Creek and transplant those fish into Behning Creek in Polk County as part of a brook trout restoration project. Annual summer electrofishing surveys will occur on Behning Creek in 2004 and 2005 to monitor the success of this restoration effort.

Ash, Big Spring & Syftestad Creeks - Dane & Richland Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: Bradd Sims

DNR staff collected temperature and D.O. data from Big Spring Creek over the past couple of years and felt the stream would be able to support brook trout. It was also determined that Syftestad Creek had even better potential. In the fall of 2003 adult and yearling brook trout were transferred from Ash Creek to Big Spring and Syftestad streams.

Area-wide Streams – Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon Counties
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: David Vetrano

This project looks to reintroduce wild brook trout to streams in the four county area that either through habitat restoration work or through improved land management are now capable of supporting a brook trout population. As water quality has improved native brook trout have responded well. DNR staff will follow-up on previous transfers and where warranted reclassify streams, in some cases to a Class I rating.

Upper Pine River – Waushara County
Funding Status: Ongoing
Contact: David Bartz

This project involves follow-up removal of any remnant young of year brown trout in the stream. As part of the overall project, habitat work was also completed. Brook trout populations have rebounded dramatically since removal of the brown trout and closing the stream to fishing. Plans are to reopen stream to fishing in 2006.

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<sup>5</sup> LTE salaries & supplies
<sup>6</sup> LTE salaries, supplies, permanent salaries, fringe benefits & program overhead

Inland Waters Trout Stamp Program Administration

Administer the Inland Waters Trout Stamp Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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**Funding Status: Ongoing**

**Contact: Larry Claggett**

This project covers costs associated with the judging the stamp design and selection process as well as printing of the Inland Waters Trout Stamp.

Inland Waters Trout Stamp Expenditure Report And Plan

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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**Contact: Larry Claggett.**

**Funding Status: Begins in FY00, occurs each even year thereafter**

These expenses cover the costs of limited term employees to perform research and gather data, then write and assemble this Inland Waters Trout Stamp Expenditure Report.

Permanent Employee Salaries

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<tr>
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(Note: Planned expenditure figures are offered here for reference. In actuality, permanent employee salaries are spread across the appropriate projects listed above and are accounted for in the total program expenditure figures for those projects.)

**Funding Status: Ongoing**

IWTS funds pay for salaries of 9.34 full time equivalent DNR permanent staff members throughout the state who work on inland waters trout programs.

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⁵ LTE salaries & supplies
⁶ LTE salaries, supplies, permanent salaries, fringe benefits & program overhead
Inland Water Trout Stamp Supported Projects
FY 2004 & 2005 by County

Expenditure of Inland Waters Trout Stamp Revenues, Fiscal Years 2002-2005
Inland Water Trout Supported Projects
FY 2002 & 2003 by County
Hydrographic Map of Wisconsin Trout Streams