

EBTJV needs for prioritizing Brook Trout conservation actions:

1. A process for classifying and visualizing Brook Trout status (e.g. Intact, Reduced, Extirpated) at the catchment scale. VDGIF agrees that this is very important to help develop and prioritize conservation strategies and actions. However, how Intact, Reduced, or Extirpated is defined could be tricky. VDGIF would like to see Extirpated be used “only” where actual data exists to validate.
2. A process for predicting and visualizing the status of Brook Trout at the catchment scale, where supporting presence/absence data doesn’t exist. VDGIF feels that this would not apply to our state since we feel that Virginia has a very comprehensive database where brook trout are located.
3. A process for identifying and visualizing Brook Trout strongholds at the catchment and “patch” scales that can be used to prioritize protection, enhancement, and restoration strategies. Question how “stronghold” will be defined.
4. A process for identifying and visualizing important thermal refuges for Brook Trout.
5. A process for identifying and visualizing the natural quality of Brook Trout habitat at the catchment and patch scales.
6. A process for identifying and visualizing the cumulative amount of stressors affecting Brook Trout at the catchment and patch scales.
7. A process that assigns relative weights to Brook Trout stressors at the catchment and patch scales.
8. A process that models the effects of Brook Trout conservation actions (i.e. a futuring tool). Very important! Where do we get the most bang for the buck? I think that this is what all partners inside and out of the EBTJV really want to see. There needs to be a way to measure the effectiveness of projects/actions.