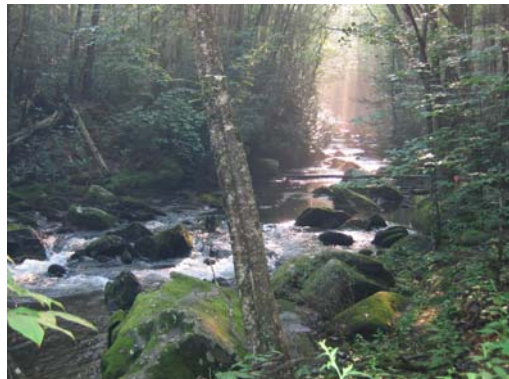


## **Eliminating Competition from Exotic Species in the Southern Region Lynn Camp Prong in the Great Smoky Mountains State Park, Tennessee**

One of the top stressors to thriving brook trout populations is their inability to successfully compete for food and space with other, non-native (exotic) trout species such as brown and rainbow trout and warm water species such as small mouth bass. Balancing the needs of multiple fish user groups presents a unique set of challenges in developing strategies to address declines in brook trout populations due to competition from these species. Steve Moore, Fishery Biologist for the National Park Service is leading a partnership to eliminate non-native trout species from Lynn Camp Prong in the Great Smoky Mountains State Park. This effort focuses on the use of chemical means to eliminate rainbow trout from the stream. A natural barrier at the lower end of Lynn Camp Prong will exclude rainbow trout from stream. Approximately 8 miles of stream will be restored allowing brook trout to inhabit the stream without the challenge of competing trout species.



The Park's Fishery Management Plan and the Tennessee Brook Trout Conservation Strategy identify restoration as a high priority for the protection and conservation of native brook trout in the state. The successful completion of this project will help ensure that the management objectives for both agencies are moving forward. Additionally, the project will help meet a goal of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) by restoring brook trout to a watershed in which they have been reduced by over 90% and will reconnect currently fragmented populations.

This project further supports range-wide efforts to restore healthy brook trout populations by providing training for biologists interested in using chemical removal of non-native species to conduct native fish restoration projects.

### **Project Partners:**

- Federation of Fly Fishermen
- Trout Unlimited
- Trout and Salmon Foundation
- Little River Chapter of TU
- TN Council of TU
- Little River Outfitters
- Bass Pro Shops
- Wal Mart
- National Park Service.