

EBTJV Data Management and Research Priorities Brook Trout Conservation Strategy – November 2011

Data Management Strategies:

It is imperative that the EBTJV establish and implement a centralized, web-based, data management system that permits all agencies with brook trout management responsibilities to contribute, store, and access data. In addition, providing EBTJV partners, outside organizations, and the public with relevant data, maps, and reports is an important function of the EBTJV.

1. Work with management agencies to develop minimum data standards to facilitate data sharing and reporting.
2. Assess current data gaps.
3. Create a centralized, web-based, data access system to query data owned and maintained by the management agency. This would permit biologists to access other organizations' data from a central location while allowing the state and federal data owners to maintain full ownership and control of their data.
4. Develop web-based map server (ArcIMS) application to view brook trout distribution, abundance, and habitat information.
5. Integrate other information as appropriate to assess Brook Trout status and management needs.
6. Establish web-based system for the efficient dissemination of EBTJV related data, maps, reports, and outreach material.

Research Strategies:

The heart of the Conservation Strategy is a set of immediate actions to improve conditions for Brook Trout. However, another important function of the EBTJV is to facilitate applied research directed to answer questions relative to Brook Trout conservation actions.

1. Establish statistically-designed research projects to identify cause-and-effect relationships for changes in Brook Trout populations.
2. Develop research projects designed to determine genetic impacts of Brook Trout restoration techniques. This research would benefit managers by providing information on the genetic variability needed to establish new Brook Trout populations, protect existing populations, ways to strengthen populations with low genetic variability, and protect unique strains.
3. Use effectiveness monitoring when cause-and-effect relationships between habitat improvement and Brook Trout population responses are being established. The design of

effectiveness monitoring requires data be collected simultaneously at both treatment and control sites before and after treatment.

4. Establish a research plan that identifies key Brook Trout conservation needs and establishes priorities for research funding.
 - a. Prioritize at state, regional, and range-wide levels annually.
 - b. Utilize and apply prior research results to assist in prioritization process.
 - c. Develop standardized protocols to assist in research prioritization process, implementation schedule, and reporting deadlines.
 - d. Establish research standing committee.

5. Make information from EBTJV research products readily available.
 - a. Develop coordinated EBTJV press releases and outreach plan.
 - b. Utilize EBTJV web site to archive and distribute reports.