

**West Virginia Trout Management Plan  
Parkersburg Public Meeting  
September 30, 2019  
(Attendance 5)**

- Does this process represent the framework for the management plan?
- Would like to see an increase in delayed harvest waters
- What three streams are delayed harvest?
- Non-resident angler interested in learning more about trout management, would like to minimize truck followers, and see more delayed harvest waters. Management should seek for more of a happy medium in opportunities
- Angler seeks to fish less crowded conditions and how it relates to when a stream was stocked – avoids announced stockings
- How to improve wild trout fisheries? Improvements to wild trout fisheries currently include habitat improvements and genetics
- For weekly stockings, stocking does not occur on the same day of the week
- Are you seeing more kids fishing at Gold Rush stockings and announced stockings?
- Would like to see a resident 3-day license – there is a 5-day resident license but not a short-term trout license
- When was the last trout stamp increase?
- If there was an increase in the cost of the trout license, how would the additional revenue be used?
- What are the regulations about accessing a stream on public land and then you cross into private land?
- DNR should capture email address of anglers to share information
- Will there be opportunities for the public to comment on the plan after it is written?
- How can comments be submitted on the DNR web page?

**West Virginia Trout Management Plan  
Beckley Public Meeting  
October 02, 2019  
(Attendance 12)**

- Do weather conditions or water quality affect when you stock?
- If the water flows do not increase and temperature does not decrease, how will you be able to stock?
- What steps can citizens take to change management of a stream from put-and-take to catch-and-release?
- Thanks to DNR for including the public in the trout management plan development.
- Who are the stakeholder selective individually and as a group?
- Does the DNR have a GIS-based map of trout resources so that anglers can learn where fisheries exist and what anglers can expect
- Current map is color coded and has some basic info for waters across the state
- Does the fish allocation formula apply to catch-and-release or just put-and-take?
- What determines allocation for special regulation sites
- How long has the fall stocking program been going on – is there any usage data on fall stockings?
- Can we move late-spring stockings to late fall since late spring is often too warm but conditions are better in fall
- Southern TU chapter going to begin measuring pH, temperature, rod surveys
- What is the point of allowing wild/native trout to be harvested? Currently about 100-mile of native trout streams are catch-and-release
- Has there been any consideration to increasing the cost of the trout license?
- Is there any data on states that show effect of point-of-sale licenses versus January to December licenses?
- Helicopter stocking at Summersville tail water was great for distributing trout
- Need hatchery staff to make more stocking stops to distribute trout and be held accountable for distributing trout
- Can volunteers help stock trout to improve distribution
- Anthony Creek – stock last hole?
- Why is North Fork of Anthony not stocked anymore?
- Is there a plan to increase law enforcement staff?
- Is there a plan to stock tiger trout?
- Are there plans to have more public input meetings – good for educating the public
- Was there sufficient promotion of these meetings to get more input
- Can the public meeting be done as a live webinar where people could watch and ask questions?
- Demographics of trout anglers – getting older – limited fishing availability for physically challenged
- Gold Rush has been good at recruiting youth
- Can there be a wild trout stamp?

**West Virginia Trout Management Plan**  
**Forks of Coal Public Meeting**  
**October 01, 2019**  
**(Attendance 23)**

- Poor communication in these type of meetings decreases participation – not everyone uses the internet; highway information signs; email blast?
- Otters are a problem in stocked trout waters
- How many anglers utilize fly-fishing only and special regulation streams?
- Greater protection for native brook trout
- Increase in special regulations and delayed harvest program
- Good job on habitat restoration
- Catch-and-release in state parks
- Harsher penalties for poaching, littering, etc. – need for more law enforcement
- Do away with the stocking report – simply advertise how many times a water gets stocked but not daily updates
- Need to get kids and families involved in trout fishing
- Help for law enforcement – check stations?
- Does the annual sale of trout license sales vary with stocking quality?
- Would like to see an expansion of the fingerling program and wild trout management
- Why stock trout over wild/native streams?
- Is there a plan for more habitat restoration projects? Are sites being identified?
- Little River of West Fork of Greenbrier – trees cut down
- Stocked trout used to disperse – seem to stay in schools now – genetics?
- Pleased with trout size last spring (2019)
- Any update on brook trout transplant work being done?
- What does the trout stamp money go to?
- Would it be possible to have a wild trout license that would be ear-marked for wild trout management only?
- Are lifetime licenses counted toward the federal match (ten years)
- What happened to the original public comments last year?
- Does the DNR (or other agencies) have funds for stream access? Need for easements to increase public access – potential for partnerships?
- Would like to see streams with holdover potential stocked with fingerlings and not catchable-size
- Can we use triploid trout when stocking over native/wild trout
- Stocking over wild fish increases biomass and competition
- More fingerlings stocked in southern WV
- Would like to see greater transparency from DNR (share data, reports, which streams have deteriorated, etc.)
- Need a GIS-based map that show where wild/native trout exist
- Why is there not a tail-water trout fishery below Summersville?

- Better access at sites for older anglers
- Why are sections designated as catch-and-release and what effect does that have on other groups?
- Will catch-and-release sections support trout year-round?
- How to deal with the effects of otters?
- People who hold lifetime licenses are not included in surveys – feel they should be
- Is DNR going to continue spreading fish out
- Were creel limits ever adjusted for native brook trout
- Do not support all native/wild trout being managed as catch-and-release
- Reduce creel limit for native and wild trout
- Is there a way for anglers to provide feedback?
- Need a trout survey similar to spring gobbler survey
- Do we have demographic data on license buyers – do we know anything that can help with recruitment and retention?

**West Virginia Trout Management Plan  
Elkins Public Meeting  
October 07, 2019  
(Attendance 19)**

- How is the stocking factor calculated?
- How does stocking change with number of sites?
- Will there be two fall stockings?
- How many miles of stream are managed with special regulations?
- How are streams added to special regulations of fingerling stockings? Would like to see more waters in these programs.
- A lot of waters lost to hunting and fishing clubs
- Why are marginal sites stocked in favor of quality mountain streams?
- Can DNR have easements to increase access? Implications of insurance?
- What are the negatives of expanding the delayed harvest program?
- Following the stocking truck is not sporting.
- Are there data that show how much stocked trout move?
- How will the Stakeholder Advisory Committee be formed?
- How will the Technical Advisory Committee be formed?
- How will landowners be involved in key issues like habitat management?
- Can DNR rate habitat suitability and incorporate that into stocking? Could stocking affect brook trout as an example?
- Is DNR considering buying trout like some warmwater species?
- Do we have consideration for developing more wild trout fisheries and how would success be measured?
- Is there consideration of a wild trout license? Would be willing to pay for a wild trout license
- Does fracking have an impact on trout fisheries? Are there stream classifications – are some excluded from fracking?
- Can you stock at different times or have some stocking locations closed to fishing (small sanctuaries)?
- Some people will not fish unless the site is stocked
- Are there enough officers? How does West Virginia rank with percentage of officers?
- Have license sales changed over the last 30 years?
- Most people probably would contribute more through licenses – with lifetime licenses, revenue will decrease and then programs will have to be cut
- Was the lifetime license money invested? How much money does DNR get on the interest?
- The main reason I fish for wild trout is beautiful places and litter seems to be an increasing problem
- Will one of the outcomes of this plan be to increase participation, even by non-residents – make West Virginia a destination location
- What is the average age of trout anglers – seems old

- Is there going to be a tiger trout program (native streams – sterile?)
- Tiger trout in Gold Rush program because they are aggressive?
- There has always been a user fee mentality – many users (example – hikers) do not buy a license but use state facilities
- Need to look for alternative sources of funding, especially out-of-state
- How important is education in this plan? Letting people know about this plan, the agency, the science, the species, etc.
- Any thought to not requiring an adult to purchase a fishing license when taking youth fishing
- Any thought of using footage on popular locations or conservation activities through public service announcements to promote trout fishing
- Publicizing with social media for example helps promote fishing
- What criteria are used to turn a native brook trout stream from statewide regulations to catch-and-release?
- There is a problem with otters on stocked trout streams – they need to be controlled

**West Virginia Trout Management Plan**  
**Morgantown Public Meeting**  
**October 08, 2019**  
**(Attendance 28)**

- Are stocked brook trout “natives”
- Is there a breeding population of brook trout?
- Has the state through this process determined the overall economic value of trout fishing?
- Are there factors that have kept the delayed harvest program from expanding?
- In areas where there are a lot of quality streams that are all put-and-take, can we diversify with special regulation sites?
- Fly fishing tends to be more “high-end” and can bring more popularity and revenue to trout program
- Observations of the Gold Rush events – creates crowded conditions and golden trout are difficult to catch right after stocking (maybe consider some rainbow or brook trout for catchability)
- Gold Rush and Friday/Saturday stockings – crowded – do not want to discourage potential future anglers
- Hatchery upgrades started in 2017 – can DNR update the public on future renovations
- Has there ever been a consideration of no harvest of brook trout statewide and no stocking of brook trout
- What are the criteria for creating fly-fishing only sites? Who determines these sites?
- Fly-fishing tends to be a negative concept
- Has there been consideration of a wild trout stamp?
- Do states share how many non-resident licenses are sold and from where?
- What are the future plans for tiger trout?
- Can a local DNR staff member alter the stocking schedule?
- Is DNR considering removing those stocked streams that have been improved and can now support wild trout?
- Has there been thought of creating more catch-and-release streams?
- Delayed harvest – some locations could potentially harm wild trout – be careful where you implement delayed harvest
- Can certain species be regulated differently? Even if species identification is questionable, it is still a move in the right direction
- Catch-and-release streams (non-stocked) – can the tributaries be protected as well
- Does voluntary catch-and-release help? Are there any data to support this?
- DNR should identify other groups to engage in trout fishing – Wounded Warriors, veterans, disabled, etc. – shows interest by sportsman and agency
- Are there other sources of funding to help support special programs?
- There is \$50 million in grants available from Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Is there a way to count a senior license longer than ten years?
- How long are lifetime and infant licenses counted?

- Fall stockings could attract fishing pressure to streams with wild fish during the spawning season
- Can DNR promote that purchasing a fishing license is a conservation donation – educate the importance of license revenue and how it can be used for conservation and also about the sportfish restoration match

**West Virginia Trout Management Plan**  
**Martinsburg Public Meeting**  
**October 09, 2019**  
**(Attendance 10)**

- Are there plans for capital improvements at hatcheries or to build new hatcheries?
- Would like to see a wild trout license
- Like brown trout stockings and the Gold Rush program although catch of Golden Trout seems low
- Saturday stockings give working people a chance to fish and catch trout
- Dislike opening day stockings
- Fish opening days in other states but glad West Virginia does not do it
- Can volunteers assist in stocking and distributing trout in different locations?
- Why not consider stocking more frequently in the fall as opposed to the spring so that fish could potentially stay in the stream for a much longer time?
- Are the fall 2019 stockings in question this year (temperature and flow)?
- What is the expected increase in production after hatchery improvements?
- Why are some streams no longer stocked?
- What are the plans for tiger trout?
- Is there a plan to change the daily creel limit?
- Should consider stocking lakes that do not require a \$5 daily parking fee
- Will the license fee be increased?
- Why is there not a lifetime license for non-residents?
- Why not announce stockings first thing in the morning?
- Golden trout are harder to catch
- Need to strengthen habitat restoration work particularly for brook trout