

The background of the slide is a photograph of four brook trout swimming in a river. The fish are positioned at the top left, center, bottom left, and bottom right. They have a blue-green body with numerous yellow and red spots. The riverbed is composed of dark, smooth rocks.

# Chesapeake Bay Program's SRS Process Overview: Recent Brook Trout Workgroup Efforts

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# BROOK TROUT OUTCOME:

“Restore and sustain naturally reproducing brook trout populations in Chesapeake Bay headwater streams, with an 8% increase in occupied habitat by 2025.”



OUTLOOK

**OFF COURSE**



RECENT PROGRESS

**NO CHANGE**



Photo credit: George Daniel

# Strategy Review System (SRS) Cycle Update

- Required to undergo SRS process once every two years
- Brook Trout Workgroup Fall 2023 Meeting: November 01, 2023
  - Reviewed [2022-2023 Workplan](#)
  - Worked on the [Outcome Review Summary](#) (aka “Looking Back Questions”)
- Management Board Meeting: December 14, 2023
  - Provided [Presentation](#) and completed [Outcome Review Summary](#)
  - Message to the Management Board → [OUTCOME OFF TRACK](#)
    - The 8% goal is unrealistic, we need to focus our efforts on stronghold and persistent patches where we know we’ll still have brook trout in the future
    - Made formal request to the Management Board (**More on this later!**)

# Strategy Review System (SRS) Cycle Update (*continued*)

- Final SRS Documents submitted: March 15, 2024 (*Workplan was later updated April 15, 2024*)
  - Submitted the final [Outcome Review Summary](#) and [2024-2025 Workplan](#) to the SRS Team
- Management Strategy will be updated by September 01, 2024
  - Waiting for dataset from FY2022 GIT Funded Project → Final Report due July 31, 2024
  - **Looking for volunteers to work on revising the Management Strategy**
- Plan to opt out of upcoming Fall 2024 SRS Cycle
  - Will continue to maintain required biannual responsibilities

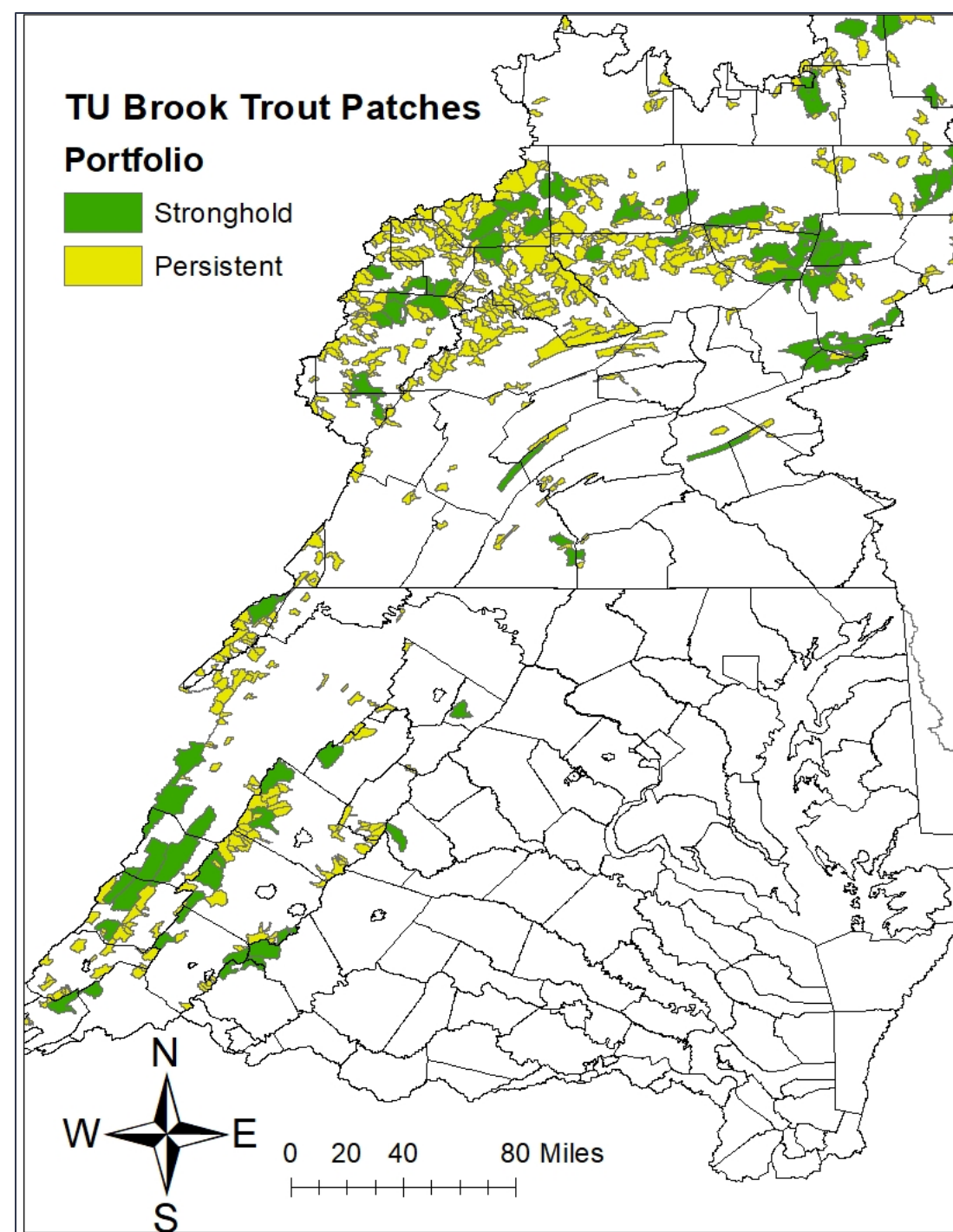


# Formal Request to the Management Board

Brook Trout Outcome (Attainability: Off Track)	
Where Help is Needed	Follow On Response
1. The Management Board directs the Bay Program to develop a cross programmatic strategy that can be adopted by County, State, and Federal Agencies to develop agreements that promote brook trout habitat in priority counties that currently have stronghold or persistent Brook Trout patches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Management Board will identify at least one interested state who will convene the Brook Trout Workgroup co-chairs and partners in their jurisdiction (including brook trout, acid mine drainage, <u>county</u> and local interests) to collaborate on an approach for promoting restoration and conservation in Brook Trout strongholds or persistent Brook Trout patches. The lead jurisdiction and co-chairs will report back to the MB on the approach and any potential for replication throughout the watershed.</li><li>• Maryland, Pennsylvania agreed to take leadership <u>positions</u></li></ul>

# Response from Management Board: EBT Priority Habitat Strongholds and Persistent Patches

- MB supported working with:
  - Maryland Counties: *Garrett and Baltimore*
  - Pennsylvania Counties: *Potter, Clearfield, and Cameron*



# Priority Practices for Outcome Attainment

- Increase Habitat Occupancy (i.e., net gain)
  - **Restore streams polluted by Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)**
    - Treat priority AMD sites that can quickly be repatriated by nearby Brook Trout populations
    - Often in Environmental Justice Areas
  - **Improve Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP)**
    - Culvert replacements and dam removals
- Protect and Increase Resiliency of Existing Populations (i.e., no net loss)
  - **Conserve stronghold and persistent Brook Trout patches**
    - Conservation easements and land acquisitions
    - Local zoning ordinances
  - **Increase forested cover in stronghold and persistent Brook Trout patches ( $\geq 75\%$  forested threshold)**
    - Riparian buffer implementation
    - Legacy mine land reforestation

# Next steps

- Following completion of FY2022 GIT Funded tracking tool, will meet with Local Jurisdictions
- Will work with Strategic Engagement Team (SET) and Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to identify contacts within these jurisdictions
- In Fall 2024, will apply for a STAC Workshop to facilitate a discussion with these jurisdictions to identify funding sources, overlapping local priorities, and recommended actions



# What we need to be successful

- Working partnerships that bundles and targets resources in priority EBT watersheds
  - Partners: County governments (SCD/CCDs), jurisdictional forestry departments, DOTs, and Mine Land Departments, NRCS
  - Any other partners?
- Leverage resources to do the following in stronghold & persistent patches:
  - Scale up reforestation
  - Scale up aquatic organism passage
  - Scale up acid mine drainage restoration
  - Scale up land conservation easements and acquisitions

# Thank you! Questions?



Photo credit: George Daniel

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