

# Documenting and Protecting Wild Trout in Pennsylvania



[www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)

TU works to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

We use science to drive conservation priorities.



# Wild Trout Streams



## PA Wild Trout Streams

- 🐟 TU seeks wild trout stream listings
  - Wild Trout = support naturally reproducing populations of brook, brown or rainbow trout
  - Class A = have highest wild trout biomass
- 🐟 **Wild trout status provides increased protections**

# Wild Trout Stream Designations



Special protections:

- 🐟 **Wild Trout = CWF**
- 🐟 **Class A = HQ-CWF**
- 🐟 **Wilderness Trout Streams = EV**

Wetlands contiguous to all wild trout streams = EV



## What does that mean?

- ✎ Individual permits required (vs. general permits)
- ✎ New, additional, or increased point sources discharges require antidegradation analysis to demonstrate that water quality will be protected
- ✎ Additional BMPs for construction activities, including 150-foot buffers

# Wild Trout Streams



## PA Unassessed Waters Initiative

- 🐟 Launched in 2010
- 🐟 Goal: assess the most at-risk of 86,000 miles of streams for wild trout
- 🐟 Half of streams still unassessed

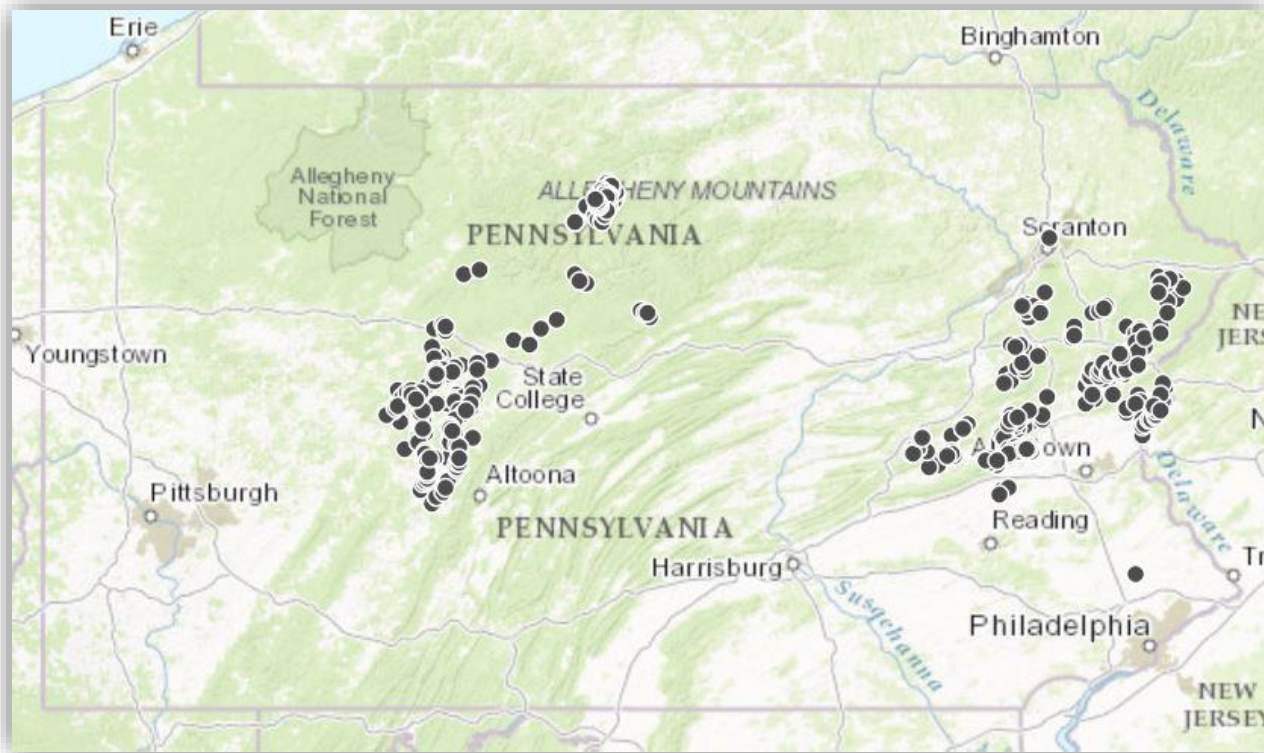


# Wild Trout Streams



TU has electrofished nearly 1000 streams since 2011,  
found wild trout populations nearly 40% of the time

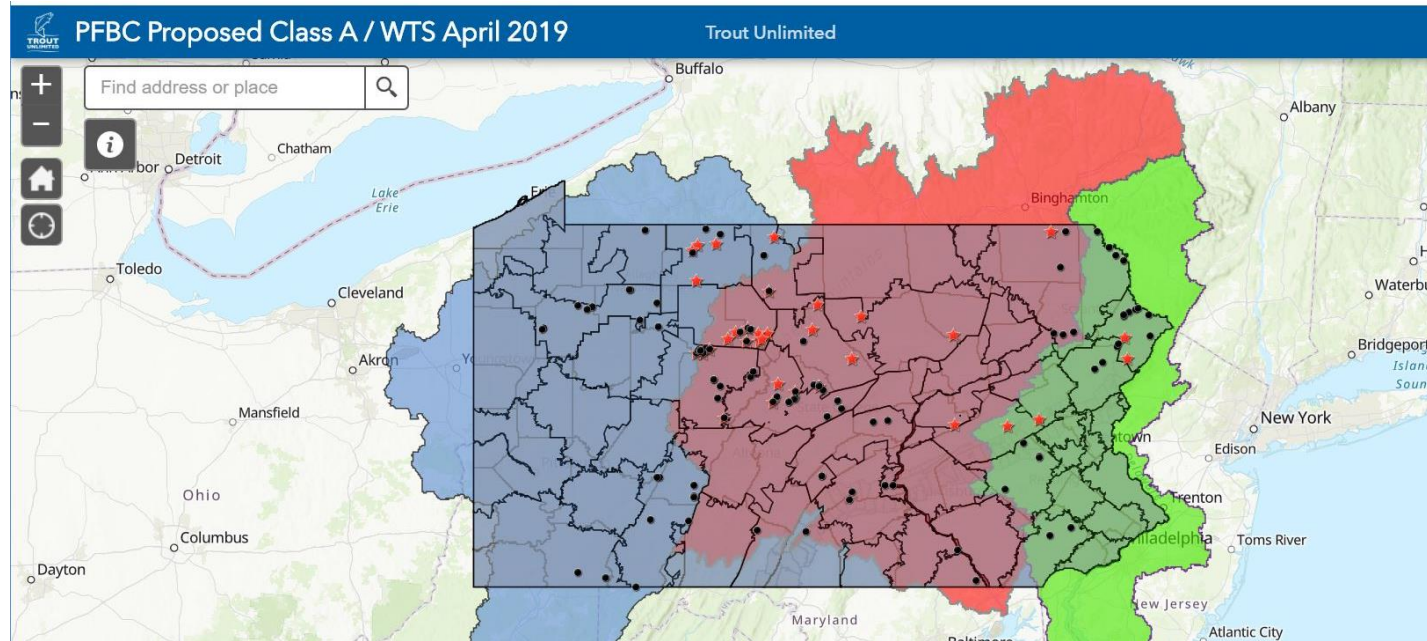
# TU Wild Trout Surveys



# Wild Trout Streams



TU spearheads efforts to generate public comments supporting wild trout listings.



# Public Comments



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [pfbc.pa.gov/regcomments/index.htm?title\\_number=WildTrout-Jan2018](http://pfbc.pa.gov/regcomments/index.htm?title_number=WildTrout-Jan2018). The page features the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission logo at the top center. Below the logo, the heading "Comments on Proposed Rulemakings & Notices" is displayed. A message states: "The Commission welcomes your input on proposed rulemakings and notices. Use the form below to give us your opinion." A section titled "\* Required fields" follows. The form includes fields for "YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION": "First Name\*", "Last Name\*", "E-mail Address\*", "Telephone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)", "Address\*", "City\*", "State\*" (a dropdown menu currently showing "Pennsylvania"), and "Zip Code\*". At the bottom of the form, there is a field for "Number of Rulemaking or Title of Notice" with the text "WildTrout-Jan2018" entered. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 3:48 PM on 11/15/2017.

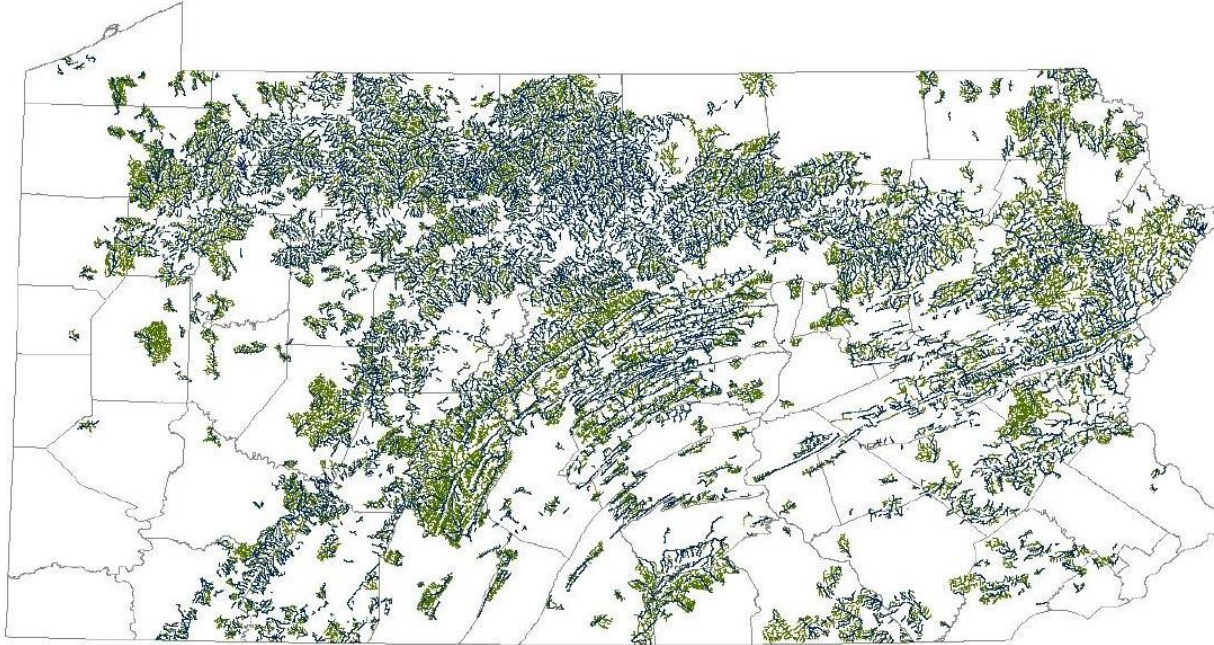
[pfbc.pa.gov/regcomments/](http://pfbc.pa.gov/regcomments/)



Since September 2016

- ✎ **208 stream sections** in the Delaware River Basin upgraded
- ✎
- ✎ **1,107 stream sections** added in other parts of PA

# Wild Trout Streams



More than  
16,000 miles of  
wild trout water

More than  
35,000 with  
“linked  
tributaries”

# Wild Trout Streams



More than 2 million anglers and hunters spend \$1.3 billion in Pennsylvania annually

- TRCP 2018 survey of sportsmen/women

# Questions?

David Kinney  
Eastern Policy Director

mobile: 856-834-6591

email: [dkinney@tu.org](mailto:dkinney@tu.org)

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