



Coalition Spearheads Spring Creek Watershed Restoration

- 2008-2009
- Allegheny National Forest
- Partner: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Project description

Working through a newly formed watershed coalition, the Allegheny National Forest and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy reconstructed portions of two forest roads and removed fish passage barriers in order to improve riparian and in-stream habitat along Spring Creek.

The project was a pilot for the Allegheny WINS (Watershed Improvement Needs) Coalition, a group of public and private agencies and individuals using partnerships and collaboration to protect and restore habitat in Allegheny National Forest watersheds.

Specific objectives of this project included reconstructing portions of Forest Roads 227 and 403 to improve drainage and reduce sedimentation; eliminating fish passage barriers associated with inadequate road crossings; hardening and decommissioning dispersed camp sites located along the roads; and hardening existing parking to reduce sedimentation while improving access to the stream.

Benefits

Mutual benefits for the Allegheny National Forest, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Allegheny WINS Coalition include improving water quality and the coldwater fishery and aquatic biodiversity in the stream through:

- Reducing sedimentation.
- Providing long-term stability to the stream bank.
- Allowing movement of fish through larger portions of the watershed and providing enhanced fishing opportunities.

Improved access to the stream via dedicated hardened parking and camping areas benefited the local community that uses the stream for recreational purposes.

This project would not have been undertaken without this partnership. The project allowed the forest to be an active partner in much-needed watershed restoration.



Before and after road reconstruction.
Photo courtesy Allegheny National Forest.

Keys to success

This project is the result of a coalition of public and private agencies and individuals. In 2007, Allegheny National Forest staff invited watershed stakeholders to come together to talk about common concerns with soils, water and streams. The result was the Allegheny WINS (Watershed Improvement Needs) Coalition. "We were like ships passing in the night," says Nathan Welker, of the Forest's Ecosystem Management Team. "We had common needs and goals, but were working individually to achieve them."

Type of agreement

Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Project costs and contributions

Total project cost: \$42,319

- Allegheny National Forest contributed \$17,219, which included salaries for USFS construction crew and equipment crew, project administration and technical development, 18 inch culverts, and pit run material from forest quarry.
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy matched a \$15,000 National Forest Foundation Grant to provide 4 fish passage culverts, limestone, and field supplies. They also ordered all supplies and acquired the necessary state and federal permits.

In addition, the Forest reconstructed three miles of Forest Road 227 for \$75,000 as part of a Stewardship Contract on the forest.

More information

Nathan J. Welker
Ecosystems Management Team (Fisheries & Hydrology)
R9, Allegheny National Forest
Tel: (814) 728-6163
nwelker@fs.fed.us

Dr. Charles Williams
Upper Allegheny Watershed Manager
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
cwilliams@paconserve.org

National Forest Foundation

Founded by Congressional charter in 1991, the National Forest Foundation accepts and administers gifts of funds and lands, and provides financial and technical support for community-based organizations and other non-profits for partnership projects benefiting the National Forest System. Learn more at <http://www.nationalforests.org>

Find this story and more at the Partnership Resource Center website: <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/roads/success-stories.php>

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 **FS Grant Strategists**  

Elizabeth Carroll 530-642-5106 ecarroll@fs.fed.us Carlos Garcia 909-599-1267 carlosgarcia@fs.fed.us