

## **Fulton County Stream Restoration Project Breathes New Life Back Into Local Waterway**

A once vibrant stream that flowed through the Borough of McConnellsburg was critically impaired after a decision was made 70 years ago to straighten and deepen the stream intended to drain a wet meadow and make the site easier to farm. After working for many years, the Fulton County Conservation District was able to secure nearly \$200,000 in funding to conduct a stream restoration project on approximately 1,800 feet of Big Cove Creek.

Designing stream restoration involves calculating a channel shape and pattern that will provide a healthy low-flow channel during smaller summer flows and convey larger storm flows without leading to excessive erosion. Upon completion in June 2011, the project restored streambanks, eliminated excessive erosion, reconnected the stream to its original floodplain and once again created an in-stream habitat for fish and aquatic life.

In addition, this project allowed the district to plant more than 500 trees and shrubs, as well as more than 650 plant cuttings and live stakes. In addition to many streamside plantings, specially designed rock and log structures were constructed along the stream banks to steer higher flows away from sensitive areas of the banks during the several years it will take to establish streamside trees and shrubs.

The district received a grant for \$160,500 from the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener II Program to conduct a stream restoration project on 1,800 feet of Big Cove Creek. Project was also funded through a combination of other sources including: \$25,000 from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and \$15,000 from the Foundation for PA Watersheds.

For more information, visit [www.pacd.org](http://www.pacd.org).

