

Somerset Conservation District to Create State's Newest Tailwater Trout Fishery



A combined Pa. Fish and Boat Commission and Somerset Conservation District survey crew electrofish the 1.3 miles of Quemahoning Creek downstream from the Quemahoning Reservoir. (Photo by Aimee Steele)

The Somerset Conservation District has been a significant component of the major resource conservation initiatives occurring in the Quemahoning Creek watershed in Somerset County for over 20 years. Abandoned mine drainage (AMD) abatement projects, stream bank stabilization and the public acquisition of land and water have all lead to restored recreational opportunities and economic benefits.

In 2012 the District began to address the remaining 1.3 miles of Quemahoning Creek below the Quemahoning Reservoir in order to restore in steam habitat that had been eliminated in the early part of the 20th Century. The District requested and received \$58,000 from the Foundation for PA Watersheds GenOn settlement fund. The District also requested and received additional funding support from the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project, Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Somerset County Sportsmen's League and the Boswell American Legion bringing the grant total to \$65,000.

The project will restore habitat through the placement of rocks, root wads and log vanes that will provide cover for fish and create the substrate for aquatic insect life to prosper as well. District Manager Len Lichvar comments that, "This project will combine with the coldwater conservation release coming from the reservoir and the fingerling trout stocked by the PA Fish and Boat Commission to create the state's newest tailwater trout fishery that will add yet another key recreational and sustainable economic opportunity for the entire region."

The project will begin in late summer. For more information visit --
<http://www.dailyamerican.com/da-ot-water-quality-improves-on-quemahoning-20130409,0,2549171.story>

