

Mr. Tim Schaeffer
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
PO Box 6700
Harrisburg, PA 17106

June 13, 2022

RE: Classification of Wild Trout Streams - Proposed Additions, Revisions, and Removals – July 2022; Proposed Changes to List of Class A Wild Trout Waters – July 2022

Dear Executive Director Schaeffer and Board of Commissioners:

Under 58 Pa. Code §57.11 (relating to listing of wild trout streams), it is the policy of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to accurately identify and classify stream sections supporting naturally reproducing populations of trout as wild trout streams and further, those that support certain biomass characteristics, to be classified as Class A streams. On behalf of Trout Unlimited, which represents over 15,000 members in 49 chapters throughout the Commonwealth, we are writing today to encourage the Commission to approve the entirety of the list of proposed nineteen (19) wild trout stream segments and nine (9) Class A trout stream segments at its next meeting on July 25-26, 2022.

As the largest coldwater conservation organization in Pennsylvania, strong advocacy on behalf of wild trout stream designations to protect them in the face of ongoing pressures is critical to Trout Unlimited. These streams are the lifeblood of the Commonwealth; thus, these designations are essential to ensure these waters are given the special protections they require. Class A streams qualify for consideration for High Quality (HQ) designation under 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93 (relating to water quality standards), while the wetlands contiguous to wild trout waters are considered for designation as Exceptional Value (EV). Left unprotected, these streams, which provide clean drinking water and recreational opportunities to millions of Pennsylvanians, are at risk of pollution and sedimentation from increased runoff; elevated temperatures as a result of the destruction of streamside buffers; and reduced flows because of water withdrawals, all of which are critical to the health of aquatic ecosystems.

We appreciate the work that the PFBC has done over the past decade to assess and protect the Commonwealth's wild trout populations, which in turn support a robust fishing and outdoor recreation economy in Pennsylvania. We encourage the Commission to continue to support this critical work.

Sincerely,



Greg Malaska
President, Pennsylvania Council Trout Unlimited

Jennifer Orr-Greene

Jennifer Orr-Greene
Eastern Policy Director, Trout Unlimited