



WV Back The Brookie:
Position on Non-Native Stocking

The Fisheries Committee under WV Council of Trout Unlimited has already addressed this critical issue in the Committee's Position Document "Stocking Over Native Brook Trout".

<http://www.wvtu.org/PDFs/Stocking.pdf>

This document was created in 2005. Since then, the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture has developed and disseminated a large amount of data and information concerning eastern native brook trout and their perturbations. Non-native species is addressed as a problematic concern under several of the EBTJV blanket documents.

While the value of native species seems to be arbitrarily debated, particularly by non-science based laypersons, the mission statement of Trout Unlimited cannot be construed to endorse the practice of stocking of non-natives over a self sustaining native brook trout population. The Back The Brookie Committee fully agrees with the Fisheries Committee's findings as authored by Larry Harris. We fully support the stocking of fingerling rainbow and brown trout in waters throughout WV where self sustaining brook trout populations do not exist. There are enough waters suitable for year round brown/rainbow trout production that aren't being stocked by fingerlings. Chapters should always consider where and how we allocate our resources so that the mission statement is fully carried out.