

A scenic view of a forest stream. In the foreground, a waterfall cascades over rocks, with a single yellow leaf floating in the water. The background shows a lush green forest with a mossy bank covered in fallen leaves.

EASTERN BROOK TROUT JOINT VENTURE

Mar 2023 SC meeting

March 2023

Agenda

Roll Call (intros/replacements/establish quorum; Jake) *12 SC members and 2 guests and Coordinator present.*

Colby Denison introduced himself; is replacement for Dianne Timmins on SC.

Present:

Jacob Rash - NC

Lori Maloney - Coordinator

Colby Denison - NH

Ross Shramko - NJ

Brian Eltz - CT

Stephen Faulkner - USGS

Merry Gallagher -ME

Matt Lawrence - MD

Adam Katuza - MA

Callie McMunigal - FWS

Stephen Perry - at large

Lee Simard - VT

Will Duncan - guest, FWS branch chief

Jason Cessna - MD (alternate)

Vote to approve the summary of the Dec 20, 2022 meeting (Jake). *passed*

Vice Chair election - 2 year term ending March 2025

Duties:

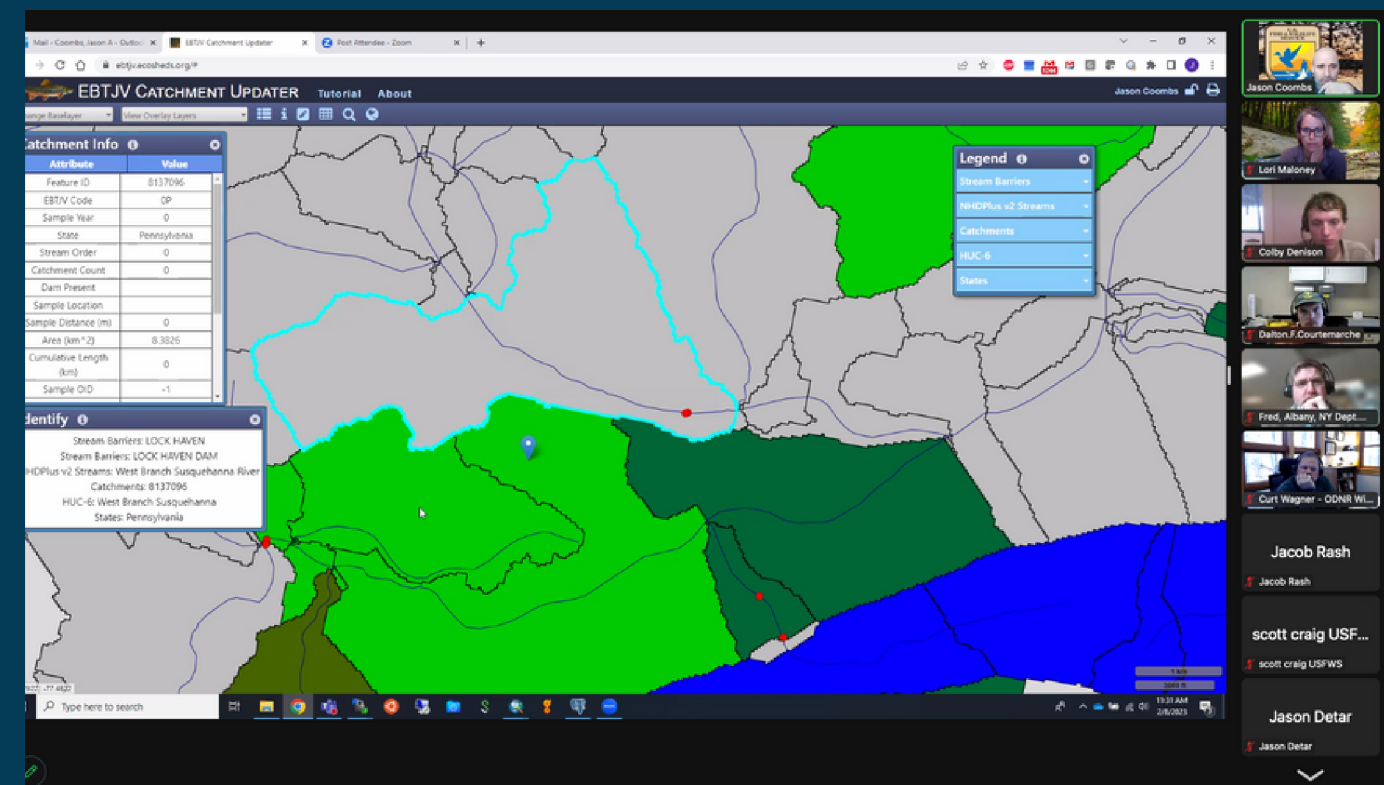
- replace Chair in leading SC meetings as needed
- Serve on executive committee, expedited votes when needed
- Provide feedback to Coordinator and committees when requested

Lee Simared (EBTJV SC rep from VT, since 2018) nominated by Steve Perry and Merry Gallagher. Nominations closed.

Merry Gallagher motioned, seconded by Jacob Rash, to elect Lee Simard as EBTJV Vice Chairman, motion passed.

EBTJV Science and Data Committee Update

- Jason Detar and Steve Faulkner are co-chairs
- Catchment updater **Deadline is this spring** for uploading data
 - coastal catchments have been problematic but Jason has a fix.
 - need more people to log in and check functionality and enter data
 - sign up at ebtjv.ecosheds.org if you have not yet – contact Lori if you want to view a training webinar recording



EBTJV Science and Data Committee Update

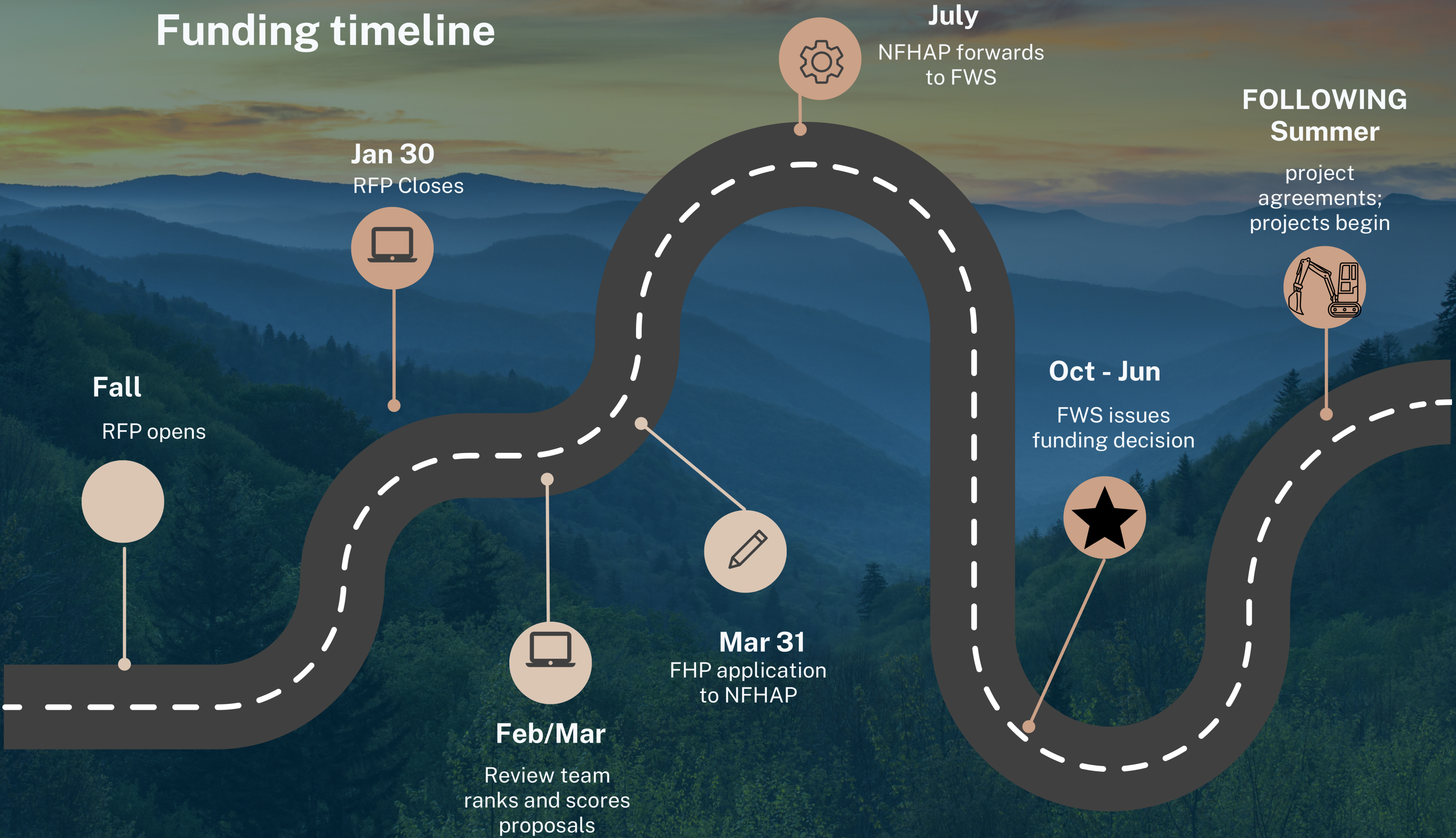
- Webinar series – first installment was well attended (at least 111 people, likely more).
- Webinar format in Zoom allows >100 audience; need some 'panelists'. Next lunch n learn March 31 - Yoichiro Kanno
- Requested feedback on lunch n learn topics/speakers:
shorturl.at/sFNR2
- Steve Faulkner mentioned we've made a lot of progress with the project to track the brook trout outcome for the Chesapeake Bay Program and it would be good to give an update at a future SDC meeting.

[Notes from March 8 SDC meeting_linked](#)

Project Updates

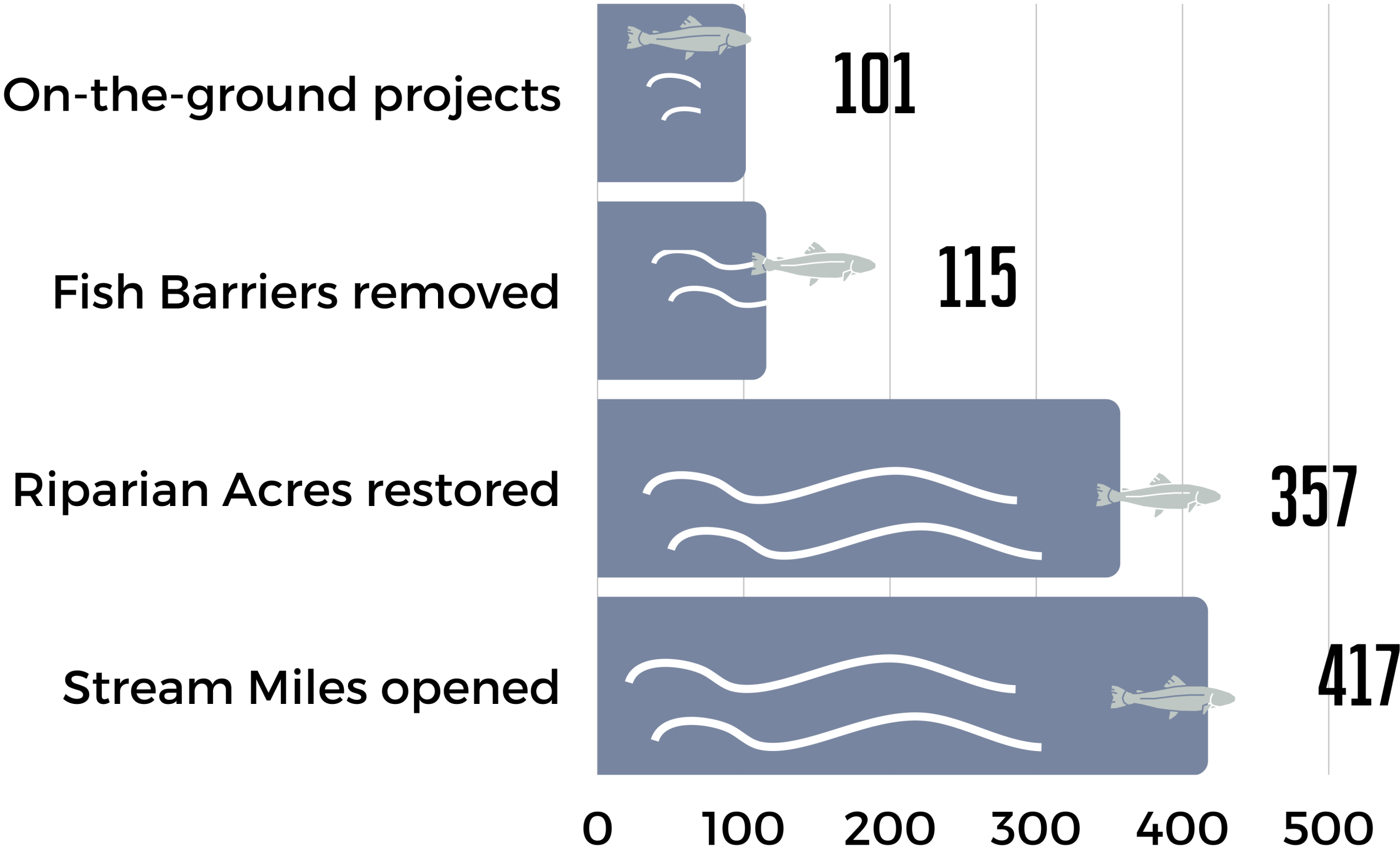
- Lori reviewed the NFHAP timeline.
 - Timeline overlaps years: we will recruit the next RFP prior to when awards are given for last year's RFP. This is due to ACE Act.
 - Visual of the RFP process (our deadlines) and other major deadlines for NFHAP and FWS before funding lands in hands of partners. Can take up to 18 months.
- Review of EBTJV progress to date (2004-2022); graphic.
 - Since 2004 EBTJV has had over 100 projects and opened over 400 stream miles with NFHAP funding to partners.
- FY23 awards: \$235,037 for 4 projects and EBTJV operations.

Funding timeline



EBTJV Restoration Progress 2006 - 2022

(TO SEE A FEW PROJECT PHOTOS/SUMMARIES THAT WE SHARED IN DECEMBER, SEE PG 21-24 OF THIS PDF).



recent project status

FY 20: 4 awarded, 3 completed
(1 tbc 2023)

FY 21: 3 awarded, 2 completed

FY 22: 4 awarded, 2 completed

FY 23: 4 awarded this week

FY 23 awards: \$235,037 for EBJTV projects

Project	Organization	Grant amount	State	Project_Rank	Total cost
EBTJV Operations FY23	EBTJV/ Canaan Valley Institute	\$ 85,000	WV	1	\$ 129,048
Quinapoxet Dam Removal, Worchester, MA	Mass. Water Resource Authority	\$ 50,000	MA	2	\$ 2,350,000
Evaluation and Mitigation Steps for Threats to the Moshannon Creek Watershed Upstream of Roup Run	Moshannon Creek Watershed Association	\$ 43,500	PA	3	\$ 90,766
Cady Brook Culvert Replacement, Cady Brook, Hartland, Vermont	Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District	\$ 41,560	VT	5	\$ 107,560
Lower Wells Brook Stream Restoration: Post-Construction Evaluation and Maintenance Dover Plains, NY	Housatonic Valley Association	\$ 14,977	NY	6	\$ 98,613
		\$ 235,037			\$ 2,775,987

FY 23 awards: on the ground project descriptions

Quinapoxet Dam removal, MA: The project will make 35 miles of river accessible to fish, restore 0.2 miles of upstream habitat, restore 1 acre riparian habitat, add an ADA compliant path/platform on the river bank, and install signage.

Moshannon Creek AMD: This project will result in a written plan for a series of restoration steps for the AMD- impaired Moshannon Creek watershed, which once implemented would result in the restoration of health to the main stem of Moshannon Creek. (specifically 6.3 miles of headwaters affected by AMD discharges and coal refuse pile sites).

Cady Brook Culvert: The project will replace an undersized culvert with a bridge (160% bankfull width) to restore fish passage and sediment transport processes, in a watershed with a high quality brook trout population. The project will open 14.5 miles total and 2.5 miles of upstream tributary to aquatic organism passage and reduce erosion of the crossing and adjacent trail.

Lower Wells Stream Restoration: post-construction eval/maintenance, NY: Objectives for the first phase include 1400' of stabilized bank, 10 crossvanes and 5 rootwads. The post-construction component will be to complete planting a 35' vegetated buffer (1.12 acres) and perform monitoring. The monitoring plan includes both pre-and post construction geomorphic, macroinvertebrate, and fish assessments.

FY 24 Project Selection

Review Team:
Merry Gallagher
Jake Rash
Jim Habera
Adam Kautza
Callie McMunigal
Mark Staley
Brad Fink
Lori Maloney
Julie Butler

Full project name	Project state	Applicant	Grant request	Total nonfederal	Nonfed ratio	other funds	Total project cost	Average score	Rank
EBTJV Operations	WV	CVI	85,000	35,000		Tbd			1
Restoring a Brook Trout Metapopulation in Moore Springs Branch, GSMNP NC	NC	GSMNP	45,248	66,762	1.48	114,272	159,520	73.4	2
Helicopter-assisted Large Wood Additions, Narraguagus River, ME	ME	Project SHARE	45,356	90,846	2.00	120,846	166,202	62.9	3
Charles Creek Aquatic Passage Project, Transylvania County, NC	NC	Trout Unlimited	50,000	116,198	2.32	263,877	313,877	62.8	3
Wheeler Pond Dam Removal and North Brook Restoration, Berlin,MA	MA	OARS	50,000	351,078	7.02	351,078	401,078	58.4	4
Small Dam Removal, East Branch North River, Whitingham, VT	VT	Trout Unlimited	50,000	167,500	3.35	167,500	217,500	55.4	5
Poplar Lick Run & Big Run Fish Passage Barrier Removal Projects Poplar Lick Run & Big Run, Fairview, MD	MD	Trout Unlimited	50,000	51,500	1.03	51,500	101,500	49.5	6
Culvert Replacement on Tributary to Taft Brook at Corrow Basin Rd, Westfield, VT	VT	OCNRCD	50,000	170,000	3.40	258,000	308,000	48.9	7
Indigenous Wetland and Fish Passage Project, Cedar Creek, Natural Bridge, VA	VA	ND Ponics	37,500	49,500	3.32	124,500	162,000		8*
SUM			463,104	1,098,384	2.37				

Project application process

- The S.C. voted and approved the FY24 project list and EBTJV Operational Funding for NFHAP consideration, contingent on the 9th project applicant addressing some final questions from our review team in time for us to meet our NFHAP deadline.

NFHAP operations update

- Steve Perry gave an update on NFHAP.
- NFHAP recently had a 2 day board meeting in DC. Robert Boyles (exec Dir of SC DNR) recently appointed new Chairman of NFHAP board by AFWA after Ed Schriever retired.
- Board reviewed draft application from partnerships to Congress for designation. Addressing all criteria in ACE Act for what Fish Habitat Partnerships MUST do. No date set yet for the applications to go out, but should be just prior to summer

NFHAP operations update continued

- NFHAP has a new online project tracking system and this is also where new project applications will be posted by FHPs.
- Funding timeline and delay issues were raised by FHPs. This is causing a number of applicants to forego applying for NFHAP funding, but this was established by ACE Act. Therefore, the Policy Committee of NFHAP will look into ways to recommend amendments to the ACE Act to alleviate the delay.
- Will Duncan (FWS) asked what some of the timeline recommendations might be. Steve said it used to work better when we submitted by 1st week of January and had them approved in the same fiscal year. So the suggestion would be to have a list to DOI in January and DOI approve list early in the year rather than waiting for the next FY.

Outreach and Communications Discussion

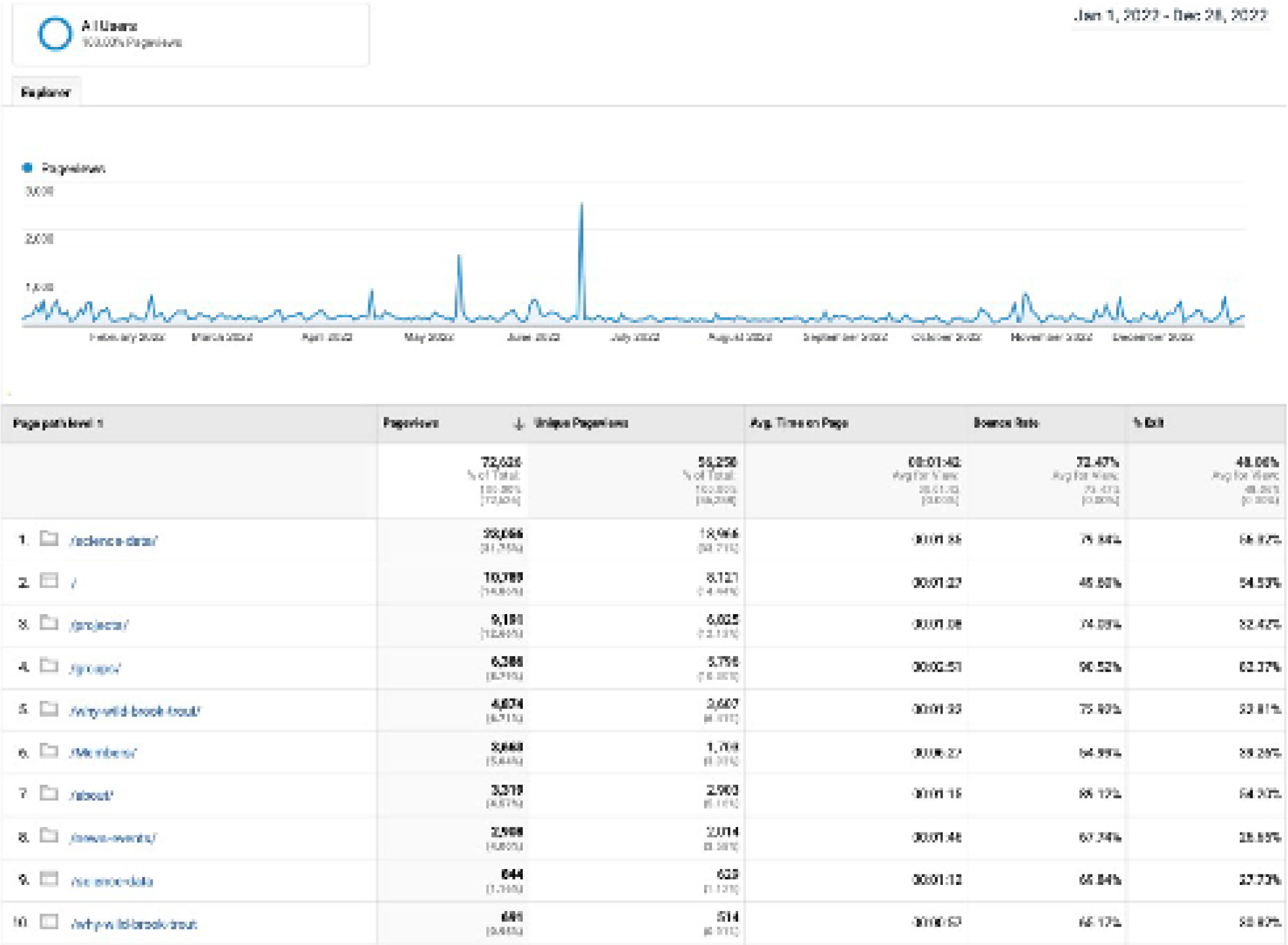
- Lori asked for interest in participating in an outreach committee, please contact Lori.
- Need input on messaging on website and social media channels.
- Last fall discussions: climate might be part of an overall communication plan.
- We could use a comms plan to ID audiences, messaging by topics.
- Website. Lori showed some website statistics from our contractor Ferguson-Lynch. (see link). More page views in summer and RFP season. Total page views Jan-Dec 2022 ~70,000. Most views were in science section, and most of those were driven by state by state maps of 2016 occupancy maps, which reiterates the importance of our upcoming update. New York was by far the state contributing the most visitors to the site.

Website use (2022 stats from Ferguson-Lynch)

72,000 page views in 2022

More visitors from NY than any other state

Science folder is the most visited - most traffic is for state distribution maps



Outreach and Communications Discussion

- Social media: love that brook trout get, and also EBTJV, especially on Instagram. Lots of user comments saying that folks are doing good work. Specific example, someone wrote in that Steve Reeser had really helped them.
- Steve Perry gave some of the past history of outreach committee; it was a leg on stool in strategic plan.
- Nat Gillespie suggested we partner with artists, even within individual states. James Prosek, Joseph Tomilleri, Karen Talbot, use these to bring in beauty in addition to science.
- Steve Perry mentioned a resource tool (and followed up after the meeting).
- Jake Rash said he's received good feedback also, and is encouraged by our ability to share our work with various user groups.

SC approved 2023-2024 Website Maintenance Contract

Scope of Work for March 2023 – March 2024 Total Proposed Costs: 5500.00

1.Task 1

\$1,200.00 for yearly hosting

\$ 150.00 Secure SSL

2. IT Services and Advanced IT Support

- a. Renew domain name registration;
- b. Install Plone security updates and upgrades
- c. Ensure QA/ QC of all installed elements and operating program
- d. Provide oversight of hardware & software maintenance and testing of backups, security, performance evaluation services, monitoring logs.

Task 2 Cost - \$ 500.00

3. Basic

- a. Registered the site EBTJV website Domain name
- b. Respond to user's questions, support project uploads, add members
- c. Delivered day-to-day support to general portal user inquiry and members
- d. Provided basic support to portal users and members or institutional administrators and technical IT staff through day-to-day assistance and problem solving via phone, collaborative software, or email.
- e. Provided one-to-one learning via phone and following up using Portal Help tutorials
- f. Communications/ project management
- g. Project submission content workflow
- h. Set up Development Site for testing and any requested new functionality
- redesign Support
- i. Site Search and any custom support
- j. Support / connectivity with Spatial data, multimedia, social media
- k. Support EBTJV with site inventory, archiving, edits as needed.

Task 3 Cost - \$3650.00

Total Scope of Work Costs = \$5500.00

Other items

- Merry Gallagher shared a quick update related to the Narraguagus project – large multi-year project restoring coastal river in ME. Project SHARE does a lot of high end habitat restoration work and is bringing in instructors for an intensive training workshop in the fall (October). Planning is underway; Merry will update. Scott Craig is involved.
- The SC had a discussion about regional collaboration and how we can be more proactive in partnering with neighboring FHPs. Steve Perry mentioned that he used to sit in on ACFP meetings and give 10 minute update from EBTJV. Also there is an all-FHP workshop coming up in December. There are also opportunities for co-supporting larger projects or grant applications.
- The EBTJV Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.
- Next meeting Tues June 20 1-3 pm ET

Restoring BKT to the Bald Mountains of Tennessee, FY21

TU SE, Cherokee National Forest, TNC,
and TN Wildlife Resources Agency

1 mile of Wolf Creek and 2.5 miles of Trail
Fork reconnected, 250 ft of Wolf Creek
and 120 ft of Trail Fork restored.

Volunteers installed live stakes a few
weeks ago.



Alarka Headwaters habitat connectivity and sediment reduction project (NC) FY21

TU SE, NC WRC, Nantahala National Forest, EBCI

Replaced 1 barrier

Reconnected 2,000 ft of stream





This project improved habitat for brook trout and Atlantic salmon by adding large wood and complexity. This helps by:

- Increasing the number and depth of pools.
- Increasing groundwater/surface water interactions (cool water).
- Decreasing substrate embeddedness by mobilizing the riverbed and increasing the sorting of mobilized sediments.
- The large wood and boulder structures will intercept, and retain, organic material, bolstering the food web.

In September 2022, over 50 people attended a native plant workshop including students from University of Maine Orono and Machias campuses, restoration practitioners, and foresters.



Inset, above: crew adding over 1,000 sq yds of gravel-cobble-boulders and trees to the bank to narrow the channel. Below: Two weeks later, partners and students plant native vegetation during a public workshop.



Narraguagus River, Maine stream restoration

Funding from

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Maine Division of Marine Resources
Project SHARE dues
American Forestry Management
Jordan Environmental Engineering
Jasper Wyman and Sons
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Davis Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Contact Project SHARE

Chris Federico,
Project SHARE
236 Blacks Woods Road
Cherryfield, ME 04622
<https://salmonhabitat.org>
cfederico@salmonhabitat.org



Photos by Scott Craig and Bill Bennett, USFWS

By the numbers

0.5 miles of stream enhanced

3 pools created

3 engineered log jams (ELJ)

Cost: \$163,566

NFHAP funding: \$20,000

GPS: 44.955090, -68.1063157

Blue Lick Run Culvert Removal (Savage River, MD) FY22 project

Trout Unlimited, MDDNR, FWS

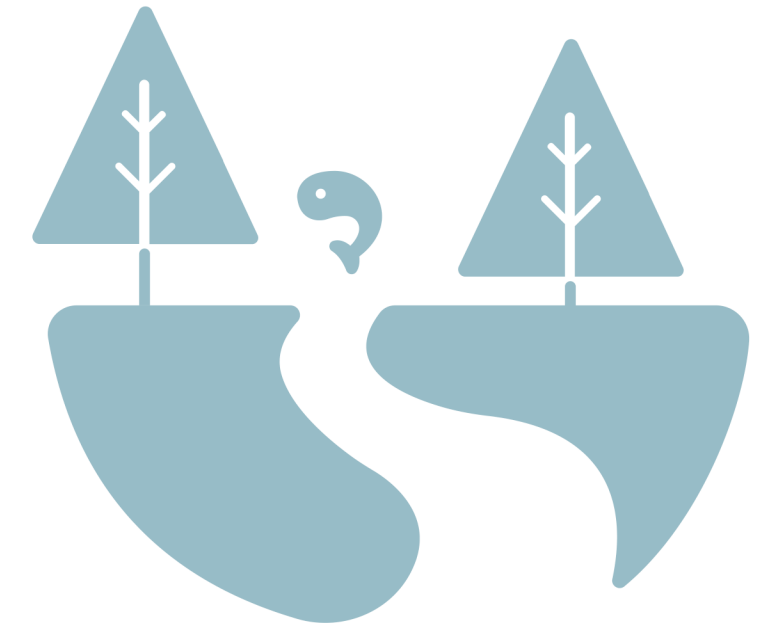
Also received USFWS BIL NFPP funding

Reopened 1.85 miles

Demonstration project: tours planned for 2023.



EBTJV's key conservation actions



1 Increase recreational fishing opportunities for wild brook trout

2 Conserve and/or increase habitats that support robust wild brook trout populations

3 Restore and reconnect suitable habitats adjacent to robust wild brook trout populations

4 Conserve genetic diversity of wild brook trout populations

5 Conserve unique wild brook trout life history strategies (e.g., lacustrine, large river, and coastal populations)

6 Minimize threats to wild brook trout populations (e.g., degraded water quality, invasive species, altered hydrologic regimes)