Nescopeck Creek Watershed Restoration Growing Greener Synopsis

The Glen Oaks Watershed Restoration has accomplished the protection of 6 residential structures in Glen Oaks subdivision in Dennison Township, Luzerne County and reduced 867 Tons/Year of sediment from entering the Little Nescopeck Creek, a class A Wild Brook Trout stream. The project restored 300 lineal feet of slumping mud banks with a combination of rock riprap, geotextile and hydroseeded native herbaceous plants and shrubs to restore a high bank of the stream. The bank restoration with native vegetation protects the stream from non-point nutrient runoff while restoring a growing native buffer. Since the stream has periodic low pH impacts to the wild trout fishery, a limestone filter was placed behind the rock riprap to allow alkalinity to enter the stream protecting from periodic low pH flows. Downstream of the 40-to-60-foot-high bank restoration, a 150 foot sediment bar developed within the waterway that was restored under this project scope. Additional restoration efforts included riparian trees along the waterway. The total project costs were $226,580 to restore 450 feet of the stream and reduce probable impacts to 6 homes.

The Stout Nescopeck Creek project accomplished the preliminary studies and engineering to pursue final permitting in future grant applications. The erosion of 2,500 lineal feet of streambank creates an estimated annual sediment load of 1,155.5 Tons per year. All progress made in this phase of the substantial project will be needed to help achieve the project completion. The $26,394 spent is critical work needed to accomplish future phases of this worthwhile project.

Riparian restoration work has been accomplished by Luzerne Conservation District throughout Luzerne County with alternative funding from Chesapeake Bay Foundation 10 Million Trees, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Stanley Cooper Chapter of Trout Unlimited and numerous volunteers during this grant period. The Luzerne Conservation District strives for continued riparian restoration tree plantings and urban tree programs as a part of our Countywide Action Plan to improve water quality within the District and downstream of our project areas.