

## Tionesta Lake Ross Run Fish Habitat Improvement and Youth Only Fishing Designation Partnership

**Project:** [Tionesta Lake](#), LRP

**Partners:** [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#), [Kellettsville Sportsmen Club](#), and the [Collins' Pine Company](#)

**Partnership Type:** Challenge Partnership

**Corps POC:** Jason Quinn

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, collaborated in a partnership agreement with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Kellettsville Sportsmen Club, and the Collins' Pine Company to improve fish habitat and to designate a youth and persons with disabilities only fishing area along Ross Run Stream. The partnership establishes a continuous working relationship with the partners and it enhances the Ross Run and Corps-owned property while encouraging families to visit and recreate utilizing the Corps' natural resources.



The Ross Run fish habitat improvement project, located near Kellettsville, Pennsylvania, is designed to stabilize eroding banks and provide in-stream and overhead cover along the stream. This project provides habitat for both wild and stocked trout by supporting a larger number of fish in the stream and consequently promoting better recreational fishing opportunities. When completed, this one thousand foot section of Ross Run stream will be designated and made available for fishing to children-only, age twelve and under, and persons with disabilities. This project consists of a three phase plan and is scheduled for completion in 2011. Upon finalization of the project, the Kellettsville Sportsmen Club has committed to maintaining this mountain trout stream.

The Ross Run fish habitat improvement project contributes to the Corps' environmental stewardship mission by impacting the health of a stream's ecosystem and physically improving the trout habitat of Ross Run. Currently, there are several eroded areas on the banks of the stream and the right bank has channel braids. Modified mud sill, bank cover cribbing, single log vane deflectors, root wads, random boulders, stove deflectors with a single log, and a log framed channel block will all be utilized to combat erosion and provide cover for the trout. These devices will stabilize banks and eroding channels, centralize flow to create deeper water, and provide cover for the fish. With these objectives completed, the stocked trout will have a better chance of surviving from year to year. In Ross Run, the wild brook trout population is low, but with the habitat development work combined with the growing trout population increases to the wild brook trout population is expected.

The Ross Run fish habitat improvement project will provide children and individuals with disabilities a unique opportunity to fish in a beautiful mountain stream located in the Appalachian Mountains. The project will encourage children to fish, introduce them to wildlife and the outdoors, and provide the opportunity to learn about the pastime of fishing. This illustrates the Corps' support of *Get Outdoors USA*, founded by Derrick Crandall, whose mission states:



"Get Outdoors USA! is the driving force behind a national movement to help our children seek out healthy, active outdoor lives and to embrace America's Great Outdoors – our parks, our forests, our refuges and other

public lands and waters. America's Great Outdoors is a treasure belonging to all of us – and offering benefits for mind, body and spirit. Get Outdoors USA! will help all Americans unlock the gates to this treasure. "

-[www.getoutdoorsUSA.org](http://www.getoutdoorsUSA.org)

The work will stand as a positive testament to a successful partnership and collaborative work effort. There will be lasting environmental and recreational benefits associated with this partnership agreement. Our customers today and into the future will benefit immensely from the stream and fish habitat improvements.



Dewey Schlack of the Kellettsville Sportsmen's Club observes as a group of kids fish in Ross Run.

Mark and Jennifer from Kittanning Pennsylvania hold 3 rainbow trout from there successful day of fishing at Ross Run.

