National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants 2012, Full Proposal (Activity 1)
Title: Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration
Organization: Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Grant Request Information

Title of Project
Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration

Total Amount Requested $69,800.00
Matching Contributions Proposed $47,906.00
Proposed Grant Period 10/01/2012 - 10/30/2014

Project Description
Project will reduce stream bank erosion, develop riparian buffer zones, and reduce sediment run-off from stream-side parking areas. Highly visible sites will demonstrate best management practices.

Project Abstract
The proposed plan will restore eroding streambanks, reduce sediment pollution and improve in-stream fish habitat. Methods will include installation of stream bank stabilization devices which include mud sill cribbing and multi-log vane deflectors, buffer planting of trees and shrubs to aid in bank stabilization, improve buffering capacity of runoff, and reduce thermal impacts. Three dirt surface parking areas will be graded, repaired, and stabilized with a permeable rock surface to reduce sediment and thermal impact. SCCTU will work with the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), ClearWater Conservancy, local agencies and private land owners to complete work on four sites. PFBC has designed the Milesburg site. Wetlands Habitat Management has designed the Oak Hall site. PFBC is providing oversite for the Fisherman’s Paradise plantings and parking area improvements and will provide design and construction effort at the Rock Road location. All permits required will be in place before construction begins. It is estimated that 600 feet of eroded bank will be repaired, run-off from three unimproved parking areas will be eliminated, and 1.5 acres of good quality riparian buffer will be established.

Organization and Primary Contact Information
Organization Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.
Organization Type Non-profit Corporation 501(c)(3)
Organization Web Address www.springcreektu.org
Organization Phone
Street Line 1 108 Gas Light Circle
City, State, Country Postal Code State College, Pennsylvania, North America - United States 16801
Region (if international)
Organization Congressional District
Tax Status Under Review - Non-profit
Tax ID 251340096
Primary Contact
Position/Title president
Street Line 1 108 Gaslight Circle
City, State, Country Postal Code State College, Pennsylvania, North America - United States 16801
Region (if international)
Phone and E-mail 814-861-3277 x; jlsittler@comcast.net
Keywords Conservation Action; Conservation Threat; Major Habitat Type
Sub-keywords Action - Land/Water Protection; Action - Species Management

Other Keyword(s)
Title: Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration
Organization: Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Easygrants ID: 33830
### Conservation Activities

*Lower McCoy Spring Creek Milesburg Mudsill (200 feet)*

**Progress Measures**
Linear feet of streambank/shoreline stabilized

**Value at Grant Completion**
200 linear ft.

### Conservation Activities

*Lower McCoy Spring Creek Milesburg Multi-vane deflectors (200 ft)*

**Progress Measures**
Linear feet of streambank/shoreline stabilized

**Value at Grant Completion**
200 linear ft.

### Conservation Activities

*Lower Spring Creek planting native vegetation by planting 500 native trees and shrubs*

**Progress Measures**
Linear feet of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-foot buffer

**Value at Grant Completion**
700 linear ft./.75 acres riparian buffer restored

### Conservation Activities

*Fisherman’s Paradise planting streamside*

**Progress Measures**
Linear feet of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-foot buffer

**Value at Grant Completion**
2000 linear ft./1.6 acres riparian buffer restored

### Conservation Activities

*Fisherman’s Paradise - parking lot enhancement (two areas)*

**Progress Measures**
Tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways

**Value at Grant Completion**
5 tons sediment removed from stream annually.

### Conservation Activities

*Rock Road parking lot enhancement*

**Progress Measures**
Tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways

**Value at Grant Completion**
10 tons sediment removed from stream annually.

### Conservation Activities

*Oak Hall stream bank grading and J-hooks*

**Progress Measures**
Linear feet of streambank/shoreline stabilized

**Value at Grant Completion**
800 linear ft.

### Conservation Activities

*Oak Hall riparian plantings*

**Progress Measures**
Linear feet of riparian buffer restored with less than a 35-foot buffer

**Value at Grant Completion**
400 linear ft./1.25 acres riparian buffer restored

### Conservation Activities

*Fisherman’s Paradise - Meadow*

**Progress Measures**
Linear feet of riparian buffer restored with at least a 35-foot buffer

**Value at Grant Completion**
700 linear ft./.9 acres reforested

### Conservation Activities

*Lower Spring Creek Mudsill*

**Progress Measures**
Tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways

**Value at Grant Completion**
3.2 tons sediment removed from stream

### Conservation Activities

*Lower Spring Creek Multi-vane deflectors*

**Progress Measures**
Tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways

**Value at Grant Completion**
6.4 tons sediment removed from stream

### Conservation Activities

*Oak Hall Bank Stabilization*

**Progress Measures**
Tons of sediment reduced from entering the waterways

**Value at Grant Completion**
5 tons sediment removed from stream

### Conservation Activities

*Fisherman’s Paradise - Hillside*

**Progress Measures**
Acres of upland forest improved

**Value at Grant Completion**
1.5 acres reforested
Title: Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration
Organization: Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

**Project Location Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Location Description</th>
<th>Spring Creek watershed (146 sq mi) lies in Centre County, PA flows 22 mi. from the source near Boalsburg to confluence with Bald Eagle Creek, Milesburg. Midpoint @ 40.5000 N. Lat. &amp; 77.5000 W. Long.</th>
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<td>Project Congressional District(s)</td>
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<td><strong>Contractual Services</strong></td>
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<td>Oak Hall - Permitting and design</td>
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<td>Oak Hall Construction</td>
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Lower McCoy - Design and permitting provided by PAFBC.
Lower McCoy - Equipment, oversight, and operations provided by Wetlands Habitat Management.
Fisherman's Paradise - design and operations to be provided by PFBC.
Rock Road - design and operations to be provided by PFCB.
Oak Hall - design and operations to be provided by Wetlands Habitat Management.

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Title: Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration
Organization: Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

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## Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration

**Organization:** Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

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<tr>
<th>Matching Contribution Amount</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<td>$1,500.00</td>
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Title: Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration
Organization: Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Matching Contribution Amount: $2,086.00
Type: In-kind
Status: Pledged
Source: Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Source Type: Non-Federal
Description: Project oversight and supervision.

Total Amount of Matching Contributions $47,906.00
Title: Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration
Organization: Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Inc.

The following pages contain the uploaded documents, in the order shown below, as provided by the applicant:

Statement of Litigation
Board of Trustees, Directors, or equivalent
Project Site Map
Project Vicinity Map
Letters of Support
Photos - Jpeg
Other Documents (10 page limit)
Project Site Design
CBSF 2012 Full Proposal Narrative

The following uploads do not have the same headers and footers as the previous sections of this document in order to preserve the integrity of the actual files uploaded.
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**Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Implementation Grant**

**Full-proposal Project Narrative**

**Instructions:** Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative may not ten (10) pages, and Small Watershed Grant applications should be closer to five (5) pages. Please retain the outline format below, but you may delete the instructions associated with each element. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

**A. Objectives:**

This project’s specific objectives are as follows:

1) **Lower McCoy (Milesburg) site:** Reduce erosion and restore a forested riparian buffer on approximately 0.25 miles of lower Spring Creek. Project includes installation of eleven, 15 ft. sections of modified mudsill cribbing (200 ft. total) to stabilize eroding stream bank; installation of 5 multi-log vane deflectors (200 ft. total) to stabilize an eroding stream bank; and planting of approximately 600 native trees and shrubs to restore a forested riparian buffer on both sides of the stream.

2) **Fisherman’s Paradise site:** Reduce erosion and restore a forested riparian buffer on approximately 0.5 miles of Spring Creek. Project includes planting approximately 450 native trees and shrubs to restore a forested riparian buffer; planting of approximately 500 native trees and shrubs in an adjacent meadow (partially in riparian zone) and hillside area, and resurfacing of two unimproved parking areas with clean gravel that are located in the flood plain and currently drain sediment into the stream.

3) **Rock Road site:** Reduce erosion and restore a forested riparian buffer on approximately 0.1 miles of Spring Creek. Project includes resurfacing of one unimproved parking area with clean gravel that is located in the flood plain and currently drains sediment into the stream. Approximately 100 native trees and shrubs will be planted between the parking area and stream to further reduce erosion and sedimentation and restore a forested riparian buffer.

4) **Oak Hall:** Reduce erosion and restore a forested riparian buffer on approximately 0.2 miles of Spring Creek. Project includes installation of in-stream and bank stabilization structures to stabilize an eroding stream bank and planting of approximately 100 native trees and shrubs in the riparian zone to decrease the effects of increased storm water flow from significant development on stream banks. Additionally, the project will include stabilizing a storm water channel using regenerative stormwater best management practices to promote infiltration to groundwater and assist in reducing peak flow volumes. The project will be used to work with local land owners to educate and demonstrate the use of stormwater best management practices and importance of maintaining a healthy riparian buffer zone.

**Oak Hall:** Reduce erosion and restore a forested riparian buffer on approximately 0.2 miles of Spring Creek. Project includes installation of in-stream and bank stabilization structures to stabilize an eroding stream bank and planting of approximately 100 native trees and shrubs in the riparian zone to decrease the effects of increased storm water flow from significant development on stream banks. Additionally, the project will include stabilizing a storm water channel using regenerative stormwater best management practices to promote infiltration to groundwater and assist in reducing peak flow volumes.
The project will be used to work with local land owners to educate and demonstrate the use of stormwater best management practices and importance of maintaining a healthy riparian buffer zone.

These 4 projects are consistent with prior cooperative projects in the Spring Creek Watershed including removal of the McCoy Dam and restoration of instream and riparian habitats, bank stabilization in-stream habitat improvements at Fisherman’s Paradise, bank stabilization and riparian habitat restoration at Spring Creek Park, bank stabilization and riparian habitat restoration at Spring Creek Park the Penn State University Sheep Farm, and riparian restoration and instream habitat enhancement at the Rt. 550 site.

B. Project Priority: This project falls under the CBSF conservation objective to restore eroding stream banks to reduce sediment pollution, restore forested riparian buffers, and improve in-stream fish habitat. Spring Creek supports an outstanding wild trout population, but is impacted by bank erosion and sedimentation. The work sites are within two communities, State College and Bellefonte, in Centre County, PA, which are experiencing rapid urban growth and are labeled as moderate to high impact on the Vulnerability map, Resource Lands Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

This project is a priority because the proposed work sites are located on high profile stream sections that experience erosion and sedimentation. The high profile nature of these stream sections will provide for a great opportunity for public outreach on the importance of riparian buffers. The Oak Hall and Lower McCoy areas have suffered serious erosion due, in part to an absence of riparian buffer plantings. The Lower McCoy formerly had a power plant on site, which was removed, and is now a flat, grass covered lot. There is a playground and ball field on an adjacent parcel, which is owned and operated by the Borough of Milesburg, downstream of Bellefonte, and is used year-round by the local residents.

The Oak Hall site, on the upper end of Spring Creek and just outside of State College borough, is primarily privately owned. Land owners have been mowing up to the stream side, impairing the buffer zone. There is significant erosion and sediment run off that will be eliminated with this project. Using this site as an example for other land owners along Spring Creek should have a far reaching effect for future improvements that other land owners will employ. We will use this work to draw community attention to these improvements and why they have such far reaching benefits. This small community is adjacent to another small community, Lemont, also just outside the State College city limits and has also experienced rapid development. This community lies within College Township, who is currently designing a major plan to overhaul a section of road (Pike Street), which, in places, is within 15 yds. of the edge of Spring Creek. The timing is perfect for advocating for the importance of riparian buffers and implementing practices that retain storm water.

Both Fisherman’s Paradise and Rock Road are two locations where there is heavy traffic from fishing and hiking activity. The parking areas are primarily dirt and essentially unimproved. The result is significant sediment runoff into Spring Creek both in high water events and during any substantial rain events. Riparian plantings between the parking areas and stream and the resurfacing of the lots with clean limestone gravel will significantly reduce runoff.

C. Overall Context: The work proposed in this project is consistent with and in support of the recommendations of several local and regional initiatives and plans including: 1) Spring Creek Watershed Plan, 2) Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, 3) ClearWater Conservancy’s Riparian Restoration Program, and 4) Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenway Plan. Additionally, according to a recent publication put out by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, on the Spring Creek watershed, “Storm water runoff has
now become the major threat to water quality.” (p.44) (“The Fishery of Spring Creek – A Watershed Under Siege” Technical Report #1, R. Carline et al. 2011). Thus, addressing stormwater issues at the sites above will help to improve and maintain high water quality in Spring Creek.

D. Work Plan: For each site the work plan is: Design and permits obtained for bank stabilization devices, materials gathered (donated and purchased), invasive plants removed, stream-bank/fish habitat structures installed, native plant materials planted, and long-term maintenance plan developed and executed by SCCTU. The parties for each activity include PA Fish and Boat Commission (providing designs and assisting with construction, project oversight, and permitting) and SCCTU (providing volunteer labor and assisting as needed). Wetland Habitat Management, Inc. will provide design, oversight, and construction as a contractor.

Site 1 – Lower McCoy – 2013.
- Permitting in progress.
- Installation of mud-sill cribbing above Commercial St. Bridge
- Installation of multi-log vane deflectors at upper site (by power pole)
- Riparian planting of native trees and shrubs will be planted in Fall, 2013

Site 2 – Fisherman’s Paradise – 2013 and 2014
- Permitting in progress.
- Construction of parking lot improvement – Summer, 2013
- Riparian planting of native trees and shrubs will be planted in Fall, 2013
- Hillside and meadow plantings with native trees and shrubs - Spring 2014

Site 3- Rock Road – 2014
- No Permits required
- Construction of parking lot improvement – Summer, 2014
- Riparian planting of native trees and shrubs will be planted in Fall, 2014

Site 4 – Oak Hall – 2014
- Permitting in progress.
- Riparian plantings using native plants on Smith Property – Spring, 2014
- Complete stream bank grading to remove steep banks with exposed soil on both Spring Creek and the storm water ditch from Boalsburg Road – Summer, 2014
- Install J-Hook structure in Spring Creek to redirect flow away from the eroding banks – Summer, 2014
- Place regenerative storm waters in the ditch for stabilization – Summer, 2014
- Riparian planting of native trees and shrubs will be planted in Fall, 2014

E. Monitoring and Measuring Performance: The conservation objectives are to reduce sediment pollution in the Spring Creek watershed by stabilizing eroding banks and by re-establishing a native, forested riparian buffer. Both of these objectives will also help improve in-stream fish habitat. Members of SCCTU will monitor the buffers to ensure the growth of the native species and assure the elimination of the invasive plants. A final report will be drafted by SCCTU that outlines project success. This report will include the number of organizations that contributed to the project, the number of youth that participated in the various educational activities, the number of trees and shrubs planted, the linear feet of riparian buffer enhanced through plantings, and the linear feet of stream bank stabilized using fish habitat/bank stabilization structures. A scrap book will be kept of all the news media coverage related to the project sites. Approximately six months after the Oak Hall site is complete, a sample survey will be conducted of people in the Lemont area, to determine how many people were influenced to plant more trees or in some way, protect the stream from run-off and pollution. In addition,
color photographs will be provided at the various reference locations depicting the stream and riparian conditions before and after the project.

F. Partner Justification: This project forms a unique partnership between the Spring Creek Chapter Trout Unlimited, PA Fish and Boat Commission, the Centre County Conservation District, ClearWater Conservancy, local governments, local grassroots organizations, concerned sportsmen, and private citizens to aid in the conservation and enhancement of the cold-water resources in the Spring Creek watershed. Our chapter has worked closely with the PFBC and ClearWater Conservancy on a substantial, three year project which included the removal of the McCoy Dam near Bellefonte, and four other sites which were mentioned earlier in Section A. They supply expertise and we supply organization, motivation, and volunteers. This proposed project will include private land owners and local municipalities such as the Oak Hall area and Lemont. It will add a new dimension to our partnership experience. We are also looking forward to working with the Centre County Conservation District since they have an interest in improvements on Bald Eagle Creek. Spring Creek is a tributary to Bald Eagle Creek. The local government of Milesburg is very interested in our work on the Lower McCoy site because their municipal park is on adjacent property. The improved site will not only stabilize the buffer zone and improve habitat, it will also positively improve the visual impact of that area.

The project will be managed and implemented by SCCTU with the assistance of PFBC. The PFBC is providing technical guidance to SCCTU and all aspects of the project. The PFBC has much experience in managing habitat enhancement projects, which include designing and installing habitat enhancement on Spring Creek over the past ten years as previously indicated. The progress of the Spring Creek watershed has received recognition for its accomplishment. The Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited Council gave our chapter the “Best Chapter Project” award in 2010. Our SCCTU mission statement is: to conserve, protect, and restore Spring Creek’s coldwater fishery and watershed. This mission fits well with the partner goals.

G. Dissemination: The results of the project will be shared with the local communities which include the majority of Centre County with a population of approximately 154,000. News media such as the Centre Daily Times, located in State College, will be used to bring attention to the value of mitigating stream bank erosion, controlling sediment run-off, and planting/maintaining a healthy riparian buffer zone. National Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited Council will receive reports of the completed work. The sections of the project that are privately owned (First Energy location in Milesburg and the private owners in the Oak Hall section) will be showcased in local news media stories highlighting the impact private owners can have on a healthy watershed. For example, each small section of stream impacts the other sections therefore, all land owners with a natural stream have a responsibility to nurture their section to reduce sediment load and maintain a natural riparian buffer. Educating land owners on the advantages of planting native shrubs and trees along stream banks and eliminating the practice of grass planting and mowing up to the edge of the stream. Photos of before and after will be used to show the public what the end result looks like and what other land owners can strive for. This community education will also be disseminated in various local newsletters, in particular, the quarterly Lemont Bulletin, published by the Lemont Village Association. This small, unique community is home to approximately three miles of Spring Creek between Oak Hall and Houserville. It is a typical example of a growing community in the Spring Creek watershed which boasts old, established homesteads along with brand new housing developments. This is the perfect confluence for educating and re-educating the stewards of this watershed.

Additionally, SCCTU volunteers will assist at all levels and will recruit school groups, scout troops, and other volunteers to assist with the project. Scout
troops who have previously worked with our chapter will be enlisted to plant trees and shrubs in the riparian buffer zone thereby developing a hand on awareness of what constitutes a healthy buffer zone. Troop leaders and chapter members will provide activities that develop an understanding of how and why forested buffer zones protect our water resources. They will learn how deep plant roots assist in filtering this process to promote cleaner water resources and hold back siltation.

H. Budget Impacts: List other sources to whom you have applied for funding to support this project, and briefly explain how your project would change if it were funded at 20% below the amount requested.

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited actively pursues donation of materials, in-kind services, and applies to external funding sources for project support. We have and continue to look for additional funding sources for this project including donations of stone from local quarries. To this point, no additional funding or donations have been secured for this project. A budget reduction of 20% would require the elimination of one of the four sub-projects. The sub-project that would most likely be eliminated would be the Rock Road parking lot and streamside riparian planting project which would result in the failure to reduce 10 tons of sediment annually.
May 9, 2012

Mr. Robert Vierck
299 Nimitz Avenue
State College, PA 16801

Dear Bob,

The Little Juniata River Association is pleased to add our support the Spring Creek chapter of Trout Unlimited in the Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Streamside Restoration Projects.

The Spring Creek chapter of Trout Unlimited has a long and impressive list of completed projects that have reduced sedimentation and restored fish habitat. Your proposed projects are ambitious and we applaud your commitment to the Spring Creek Watershed.

The LJRA will pledge volunteers to assist you in your undertaking.

Bob, we wish you well in your request to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Boston
Little Juniata River Association
Chairman, Habitat Committee
May 16, 2012

To: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

RE: Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant for Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

To whom it may concern:

ClearWater Conservancy is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Streamside Restoration project.

ClearWater Conservancy has worked collaboratively and successfully with SCCTU for many years on many initiatives, including stream restoration work such as that included in this project. We are confident SCCTU has the dedication, experience and initiative to make it a successful and beneficial project.

ClearWater Conservancy promotes conservation and restoration of natural resources in central Pennsylvania through land conservation, water resource protection, and environmental outreach and education to the community.

Thank you for considering support of Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Streamside Restoration project.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shuey, Executive Director
May 11, 2012

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Ms. Judi Sittler, President
108 Gaslight Circle
State College, PA 16801

Dear Ms. Sittler:

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Division of Habitat Management supports the in-stream and riparian habitat enhancement projects planned by the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The PFBC will play an active role as a partner on the projects and supports the projects’ objectives to enhance Spring Creek by improving in-stream fish habitat, enhancing riparian buffers, and reducing streambank and other erosion that is degrading water quality with elevated sediment and nutrients.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schmid
Regional Fisheries Biologist
Division of Habitat Management
Lower McCoy - Upper reach.
Approximately 200 feet.
Oak Hall - Note bench is now nearly in Spring Creek
Spring Creek Bank Stabilization and Streamside Buffer Restoration Project, Milesburg Borough, PA

- Location of mudsill bank cribbing to stabilize eroding stream bank
- Location of multi-log vane deflectors to stabilize eroding stream bank
- Milesburg Borough Park
- Riparian Plantings
- Riparian Plantings
- Riparian Plantings
Map of the Spring Creek watershed. The four proposed treatment reaches are outlined in black (Oak Hall, Rock Road, Fishermans Paradise, and Milesburg).
Statement of Litigation

**Instructions:** Save this document on your computer and complete. The final narrative should not exceed two (2) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

**Litigation:** In the space provided below, state any litigation (including bankruptcies) involving your organization and either a federal, state, or local government agency as parties. This includes anticipated litigation, pending litigation, or litigation completed within the past twelve months. Federal, state, and local government applicants are not required to complete this section. If your organization is not involved in any litigation, please state below.

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SCCTU) is not involved in any litigation of any sort at this time.

Signed:

[Signature]

Robert K. Vierck  
Board Member and Project Coordinator  
299 Nimitz Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
bob@vierck.com