



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, Pennsylvania 16801



July 13, 2015

Trout Unlimited - National Office
1777 N. Kent Street
Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22209

To Whom it May Concern:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to support the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SCCTU) for this year's Gold Trout Chapter Award. The Service, through its Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, has restored over 340 miles of stream and riparian habitat in Pennsylvania and we depend on great partners to achieve on-the-ground results. The SCCTU is one such partner.

We were pleased to work with SCCTU on two projects in 2015 on world-famous Spring Creek. Sections of this stream are greatly impacted by farming and urban runoff. The chapter took the conservation lead on an in-stream trout habitat restoration project near State College, and an invasive plant control and riparian buffer restoration downstream. At both project sites, chapter volunteers stepped up to make landowner contacts, secure project funding, provide project materials and implement construction. Their members showed up to plant trees, seed and mulch, and even provided food that kept the work moving along. Following that, SCCTU volunteers took the communications lead and highlighted our projects on the chapter's website and Facebook pages - invaluable in promoting our shared conservation message. The SCCTU does this for these and many more projects throughout the watershed. There is also a true spirit of community engagement as the chapter not only organized volunteers, but also coordinated with local townships, community organizations, and local businesses to make these projects a reality. Our experience with SCCTU is only the tip of the iceberg. Other activities include the Veterans Service Program and "Y Trout" – two great community outreaches.

We look forward to partnering with SCCTU on more projects throughout the watershed and heartily endorse them for Trout Unlimited's Gold Trout Chapter Award.

Sincerely,

Adam M. Smith
Fish and Wildlife Biologist