Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries:

History of Wild Trout Management

Stephen J. Reeser
District Fisheries Biologist
Liberal Harvest Regulations = Over-Exploitation
1950's
The 1960's: Fishing—For—Fun

Catch and release regulations of 1961; Rapidan and Staunton
1976-1979 VA Game Commission
Coldwater Stream Survey

41 counties surveyed
2,028 stream miles with wild trout identified
Virginia's Wild Trout Streams: Classes I-IV

2,300 miles
707 streams
Wild Brook Trout Streams

2,204 miles
7 inch minimum size limit to protect fish to spawning size
Additional Special Regulation Waters
Time of Year Restrictions for working in wild trout streams

brook and brown trout  October 1 – March 31
rainbow trout  March 15 – May 15
Study Area: 6th level watersheds

- Extirpated 21%
- Predicated extirpated 8%
- Reduced >50% 28%
- Predicated Reduced >50% 7%
- Intact >50% 14%
- Predicated Intact >50% 17%
- Absent: Unknown History 5%

M. Hudy
The Virginia Trout Stream Sensitivity Study

... initiated in 1987

Long-term monitoring sites were selected to represent relatively pristine watersheds and regional bedrock distribution.

- **Regional surveys:**
  - 1987, 2000, and 2010 (n = 460)

- **Quarterly monitoring:**
  - continuous since 1987 (n = 67)

- **Intensive monitoring:**
  - weekly and storm-flow sampling, with continuous discharge gauging since 1992 (n = 3)
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National Forest Shenandoah National Park

R. Webb VDGIF, USFS, NPS monitoring fish populations in selected VTSSS streams 1990-present
Genetic Characterization of SW Virginia Brook Trout Populations based on the CK-A2* locus
An Analysis of Wild Trout Anglers in Virginia
2001-2003

Stephen J. Reeser and Larry O. Mohn
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Vulnerability of Brook Trout Patches to Climate Change
VDGIF Long-Term Coldwater Stream Temperature Monitoring Project

- Collecting hourly observations of water temperature (year-round)
- 72 different streams
- SW VA, Blue Ridge, Alleghany Highlands, Valleys
- Freestone and Spring Creeks
- National Forest and Private Land
- Started 2011
Continued collaboration with partners on research and management projects targeting wild trout in Virginia.