

LYCOMING COUNTY CLEAN WATER PLAN NEWSLETTER

August, 2021

BMP Showcase:

Plunketts Creek Berm Removal

A Northcentral PA Conservancy berm removal project along Plunketts Creek in State Game Lands 134 is nearly complete. The berm was built to protect the site when it was a propagation farm for the PA Game Commission raising turkeys then pheasants. Since the farm is no longer being used in that way, the berm could be removed to allow the stream access to its floodplain. This will provide ecological benefits by reconnecting the Creek to its floodplain and recreate the habitat that once would have been all along the stream. It would also provide community benefits by reducing flood impacts. Learn more [here!](#)

Regenerative Agriculture

Regenerative ag has been defined in many ways, and its definition continues to evolve with time, practices, research, and new information. Regenerative ag is an holistic approach to ag that focuses on the interconnection of farming systems and the ecological system as a whole. The concept of regenerative farming is not new. It was used by indigenous communities centuries ago, long before industrial ag occurred. It consisted of farming practices based on pre-modern farming principles that work with the world's natural systems instead of against them.

There are 5 essential principles to regenerative farming: 1. Minimizing soil disturbances, 2. Soil coverage, 3. Increased plant diversity, 4. Keeping living roots in the soil as much as possible, 5. Integrate animals into the farm as much as possible.

Some regenerative ag BMPs include diverse crop rotation, multi-species cover crops, no- and low-till farming, soil management, and rotational grazing.

Regenerative ag systems offer societal, economic, and environmental benefits such as: increasing farming productivity, building and improving soil health and fertility, increasing the production of nutrient-dense foods, increasing the land's ability to filter and retain water.

Re-introducing regenerative ag practices into farming is one of the best solutions to assist in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. It is essential in benefitting and improving ecological and human health in our communities.

- [Sudan Smith, Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

CAP News

1. We're up to 46% N (up 12% from 41%), 39% P (down 45% from 71%). To achieve these results, we added more BMPs associated with specific projects that are already planned or have recently been implemented. MS4 projects were also included. The decrease in P is due to a reduction in certain agriculture BMPs.

2. We're coming into our last month of our CAP's planning phase, and will move into our implementation phase in October.

3. We will be continuing to accept projects, programs, initiatives, resource requests, and policy recommendations well beyond our CAP's due date of Sept 30. We will have the opportunity to amend our CAP documents in 2 years.

Testimonies

It's a way to take action and move new and existing efforts forward

"In every county there's a Comprehensive Plan, and within that plan almost every county will have a goal in there about clean water. Unfortunately, most of these goals aren't detailed. A CAP can provide the details and the strategy to achieve those goals. Bedford is going through a Hazard Mitigation Plan update this spring. During drafting we are consciously considering CAP implementation opportunities related to stream restoration to include in the plan."

-Mike LaSala, CAP Coordinator, Lebanon, Bedford, and Lancaster

Announcements

-This will be our last newsletter edition during the planning phase of the CAP.

-Newsletters during the implementation phase of the CAP will likely occur bi-annually.

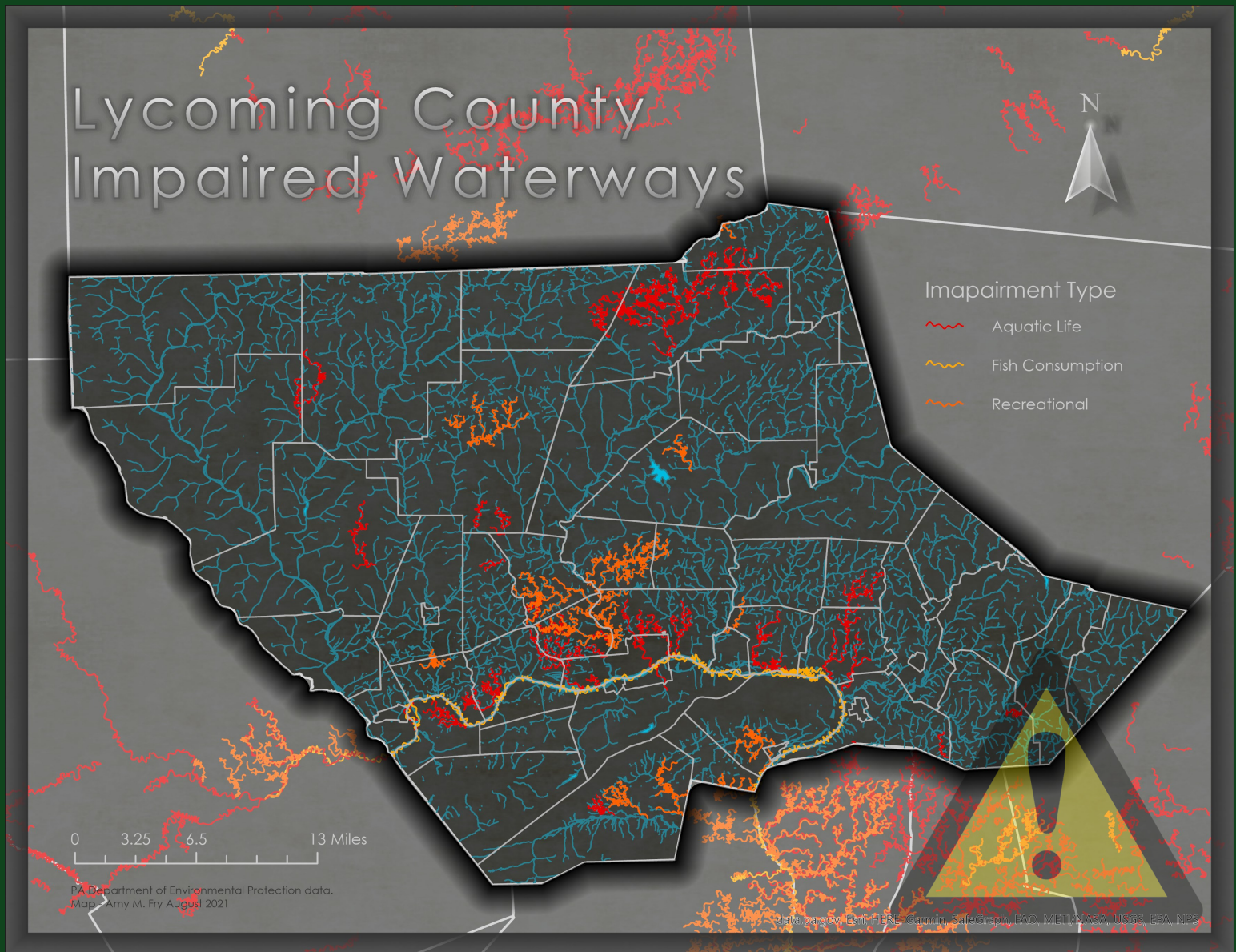
-We will be publically presenting our CAP to the Lycoming County Commissioners on Oct 19.

-We will be presenting our CAP to the Lycoming County Planning Commission on Oct 21.

Visit lyco.org/CWAP for more updates and information!



Cartographer's Notes



About the Map

Lycoming County Impaired Waterways

This map depicts data that can be found on DEP's integrated water quality monitoring and assessment interactive map. We've selected streams in the county where aquatic life, fish consumption, or recreation has been impaired. While this data is compelling on its own, a broader story begins to be told when one looks at the "impairment source" and the "impairment cause". For us, much of the impairment source is from agriculture, road or residential runoff, urban runoff/storm sewers, channelization, and pollution from mining fossil fuels. The cause of impairments are attributed to organic enrichment/low oxygen, habitat alterations, flow modification, siltation, pH imbalance, and the presence of metals. These issues are far-reaching, and it is critical that we take a collaborative and multi-faceted approach if we ever hope to improve these impairments—that's what the CAP is all about!

-Amy M. Fry

Coordinator's Notes

As we prepare for our final submissions, we'll also adjust our newsletter schedule. This will be our last newsletter edition during the planning phase of the CAP, and newsletters during the implementation phase of the CAP (Oct 2021-Oct 2025) will likely occur bi-annually. As we close this chapter of our CAP, I look forward to seeing our projects take root—together. THANK YOU!



Eve Adrian, Lycoming County Natural Resource Planner
eadrian@lyco.org