

Potter County Conservation District

- The Potter County Conservation District is dedicated to establishing innovative conservation practices with leadership and education through partnership with the community we serve.
- It is our goal to foster stewardship of our natural resources by inspiring current and future generations to preserve the legacy of conservation.
- We are a subdivision of state government created to administer conservation work within its boundaries.
- We were the first District established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, November 28th, 1945.
- We employ 6 full time staff.



**Potter County
Conservation District**

**107 Market Street
Coudersport, PA 16915
(814) 274-8411 ext. 4
www.pottercd.com**

Conservation District Programs and Responsibilities

- Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (Earth Disturbance Activities)
- NPDES Permits
- Stream and Wetland Encroachment General Permits
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- Nutrient Management Program
- Environmental Education
- Watershed Program Assistance/Stream Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Projects
- Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume (Paved) Roads Program for Municipalities.
- Farmland Preservation



Potter County Watershed Characteristics

- Pennsylvania is second only to Alaska in the miles of streams it contains.
- Potter County, Pennsylvania contains 3,131 miles of waterways within its borders.
- This vast water network has been integral to the development of the county and the surrounding region.
- The county has an abundance of exceptional value and high quality, naturally producing trout streams.
 - Nearly 60 streams are designated Class A Wild Trout Streams by the PA Fish and Boat Commission.
 - Approximately 27% are classified Exceptional Value.
 - Approximately 56% are classified High Quality.



Watershed Characteristics Continued

- Potter County is also home to the Eastern Triple Divide located near Gold. This location forms the start of three major watersheds: the Allegheny, Chesapeake Bay, and Genesee.
- Potter County has a total land area of 1,082 square miles (692,480 acres).
 - 32% is located within the Allegheny Watershed
 - 51% is located within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
 - 17% is located within the Genesee Watershed.



Conservation District Water Programs and Projects

Stream Restoration

- Uses PFBC approved fish habitat structures to restore stream banks.
- 1 Project can save several tons of sedimentary pollution to the stream per year.
- Added bonus of providing fish habitat
- Work well in areas where infrastructure has been built close to the stream



Before



After

Conservation District Water Programs and Projects

Water Monitoring

- Uses modern in-stream monitoring devices to keep track of water quality.
- Monitors for Temperature, Conductivity, and Water Depth
- Can be deployed easily but must be maintained frequently
- Would not be possible without landowner cooperation and permission.



Conservation District Water Programs and Projects

Landowner Assistance and Permitting

- Perform field visits for landowner when they feel they have an erosion problem.
- Write GP-1 Permits for Conservation District projects as well as projects being funded by land owners.
- Attempt to find grant funding to help landowners install a bank stabilization project.



Conservation District Water Programs and Projects

Trout Habitat – Large Woody Debris

- Restores streams to natural status without invasive use of equipment.
- Creates trout habitat including scouring and overhead cover.
- Great for areas of State Forest.
- Cannot be used near infrastructure or habitation.



Conservation District Water Programs and Projects

Aquatic Organism Passage

- Improve aquatic organism passage through culverts and other structures
- Helps to improve genetic diversity of sensitive species such as brook trout.
- Often creates a more adequate structure for stream crossing than existing structures.



Conservation District Water Programs and Projects

Agricultural Projects

- Protect waters by reducing non-point source pollution to streams from animal waste and sediment.
- Promotes the use of cover cropping to help stop erosion in farm fields
- Cost share Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help producers implement new management ideas.
 - Stream bank fencing, animal heavy use areas, roof gutters, manure storages, diversions, etc.

Education

- Host several events and field days every year for students including:
 - My Growing Tree (1st Grade), Conservation Field Days (5th Grade), Envirothon (9-12), Farm and Fishes Tour
- Assist with other programs as requested:
 - Black Forest Conservation Camp, Career Days, Mock Interviews.
- Ag Education
 - Penn/York Ag-stravaganzia, Crops and Planting Clinic, Pasture Walks



Questions?

www.pottercd.com



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