

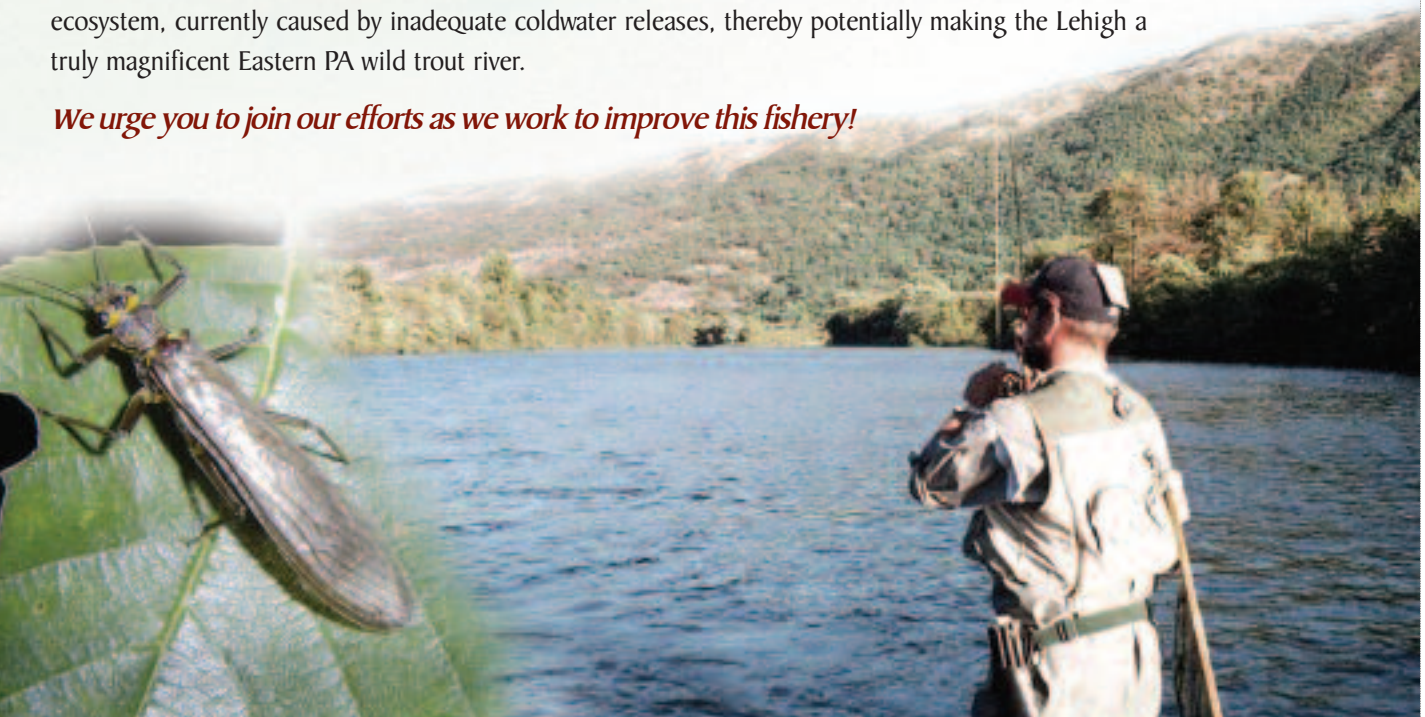
The Lehigh River originates on the Pocono Plateau at an elevation of 2,100' flowing southeasterly to its confluence with the Delaware at Easton, PA. In 1961 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) built Francis E. Walter Reservoir (FEW), located 9 miles southeast of Wilkes Barre, to provide flood control and dependable water supply to downstream communities on the Lehigh River. Due to the recent relocation of the road from the upstream face of FEW to atop the breast and the addition of Recreation as an secondary project purpose, the USACE is considering improving recreational opportunities; meanwhile, preserving the Corps primary mission of flood control.

While historically having an average depth of 50', the changes to the access road have increased the potential depth of FEW to approximately 200'. Like most tailwater rivers, which flow from deep reservoirs, water management is critical and will be monitored continuously to enhance the fishery, aquatic ecosystem and overall recreational opportunities.

The make-up of the River below FEW is one of a classic trout river. Pocket water, deep pools, long gravel bars and whitewater extend for almost 50 miles – from FEW downstream to the vicinity of Walnutport. Healthy quantities of insects such as mayflies, caddisflies and stoneflies along with forage fish can be found throughout the River system.

While trout manage to survive the historic low flows and high temperatures of the Lehigh River, summertime survival is dependent on the many high quality coldwater tributaries supplying the river with trout friendly water temperatures during the key months of June, July, August and September. Improved management of FEW would ease the stress of the coldwater ecosystem, currently caused by inadequate coldwater releases, thereby potentially making the Lehigh a truly magnificent Eastern PA wild trout river.

We urge you to join our efforts as we work to improve this fishery!



Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance
Attn: Membership
22 Hughes Street
New Ringgold, PA 17960
www.thelehighriver.org

Studies, Modeling and Key Objectives

Why the need for a Study:

To change management of a Federally operated dam, studies must be completed to determine potential risks, benefits and cost for modifications (if any). Recommendations are then fowarded to Congress for authorization.

The Study and Modeling is to focus on the following:

1) How much water can be safely stored in Francis E. Walter (FEW).
2) How to sustain a release of water not to exceed 55 F.
3) Determine optimal minimum releases to sustain the fishery.
4) Provide conclusions on limiting factors, necessary improvements, additional recreational and economic benefits.

Key Objectives for the LCFA:

- Assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Philadelphia District (USACE) to obtain federal funding for the performance of necessary studies and modeling to determine the maximum lake elevation that will not jeopardize the primary purpose of FEW, which is flood control.
- Provide assistance in obtaining non-federal sponsors for necessary studies and modeling.
- Provide assistance to the USACE in development of a "Scope of Work" prior to initiation of necessary studies and modeling.
- Provide awareness of economic benefits to operational changes with FEW to Congressional and State Legislators as well as local governments and chambers of commerce.
- Obtain support from various user groups of the Lehigh River.

LCFA is a 501-c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductable. Membership is good for one calendar year.

Dedicated to the coldwater resource!

Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance

Our mission is to obtain a consistent release of coldwater (55 degree F) from the Francis E Walter Reservoir through better utilization of Walter's storage capacity and discharge options, in an effort to improve overall flows, protect habitat and enhance the Lehigh River's wild trout fishery.

www.thelehighriver.org

LCFA Membership Application

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Phone _____

Memberships

- ☐ Individual Membership - $25

Sponsorships

- ☐ Silver - $50
- ☐ Gold - $100
- ☐ Corporate - $250
- ☐ Platinum - $500

Please make checks payable to the Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance and mail to:
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Thank you for your *support!*