



LEHIGH COLDWATER FISHERY ALLIANCE

www.thelehighriver.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Funding Secured for Coldwater Study at Francis E. Walter Reservoir and Lehigh River

The Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance (LCFA) recently announced the Francis E. Walter and Lehigh River Coldwater Modeling Study has been funded through the FY08 Energy and Water Bill. The Federal portion, or \$175,000 was allocated through the Army Corps of Engineer's 'Planning Assistance to the States,' program. To participate in the program a 50% non-Federal cost-share partner is required. In the winter of 2006 the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources committed to the non-Federal portion through a letter of intent addressed to the Commander of the Philadelphia District. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will provide in-kind services.

Formed in 2005 the LCFA immediately initiated discussions with the Corps' Philadelphia District on how to begin the process of looking at and improving Francis E. Walter Reservoir's coldwater release capabilities – specifically how can a steady coldwater release be achieved. It was at these meetings where the scope of work was outlined as well as a means to fund the Study was mapped out. Now, with all funding secured the two-phase Study can commence.

"The Study will model various release scenarios from Francis E. Walter, which will include different lake levels and tower modifications, and what impact the numerous downstream coldwater tributaries might have on preserving the coldwater down through the road-less Lehigh Gorge State Park. Also, to be incorporated into the modeling will be how the coldwater discharge from Beltzville Reservoir into the Pohopoco Creek, a tributary of the Lehigh, can be better utilized to extend trout favorable temperatures even further downstream. Essentially this Study will look at how to maximize coldwater for as many miles as possible," said Dean Druckenmiller, President of the Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance.

The modeling will take into account an enormous amount of data, all of which needs to be programmed into the model. The modeling effort will take place at the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, MS. Along with modeling water temperatures the Study will also analyze impacts on water chemistry.

Druckenmiller also mentioned, "Throughout the entire modeling process the reservoirs' primary purpose of flood control is first and foremost."

The LCFA is a 100% volunteer organization with a dedicated core group of participants and supporters. To find out more about the LCFA, please visit their website at <http://www.thelehighriver.org>

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