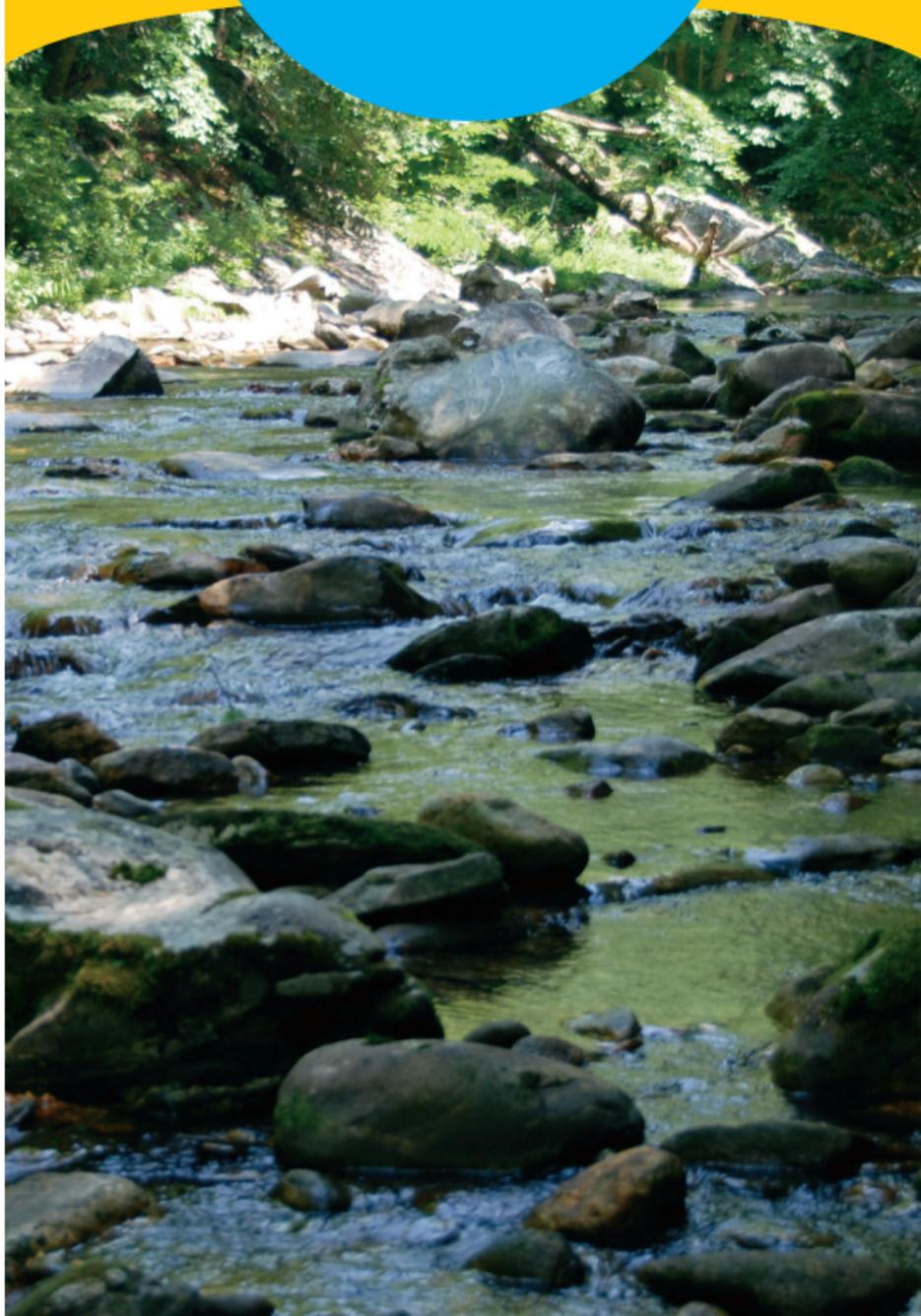




Trout
are cool
fish!



Science
You Can
Use!

Trout Are Cool Fish!

Why Should You Care About Trout?

Trout are valued as food, for recreational fishing, and for their beauty. Trout eat insects and other fish, and are an important part of fresh, cold-water streams in North America.

Did You Know?

Trout scales have growth rings! When new hard tissue is added around the edges, the scales grow. They can be read just like growth rings in a tree.

A trout can look and focus out of both corners of each eye simultaneously, which means it can see in almost every direction at once.

Trout, like most other fish, cannot regulate their own body temperature. Their bodies are the same temperature as the water in which they swim. Trout are uncomfortable in water above about 68°F (20°C), and become severely stressed as the water temperature rises to near 80°F (26.6°C).

Eastern hemlocks grow in eastern mountain areas near streams. These hemlocks shade the streams where trout live. When hemlocks are killed by the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect, the stream temperatures can rise. Rising stream temperatures may cause trout populations to become stressed or even decline.

What Are Scientists Doing to Help?

Scientists study a variety of impacts to trout stream habitat, including impacts from climate change, wildland fire, invasive species, and soil erosion. Scientists provide their findings to forest managers so that managers can lessen these impacts, or protect trout streams from these impacts.

Take Action!

Stream temperatures over 68°F cause stress in trout. When stream temperature is 68°F or higher, do not fish for trout! Do not cut trees or shrubs that shade mountain streams, and report any cutting that you see.

Read "Woolly Bully: Estimating the Effect of an Invasive Insect on an Area's Water Cycle,"
www.naturalinquirer.org/Woolly-i-24.html

Read "Did They Make the Gradient? Climate and Stream Temperatures Now and Into the Future,"
www.naturalinquirer.org/Gradient-a-111.html

Adopt a Stream by visiting www.adopt-a-stream.org



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