

As many of us know, not all the Mekan's length is so delightfully trouty.

Last summer, a collaborative effort by Grant Brown (EDTU), John Tucker and Bob Hasse, and others, with great assistance from the DNR's Shawn Sullivan, enabled me to prepare and submit a timely and complete joint application from EDTU and CWTU chapters to the Trout and Salmon Foundation for funds to improve the Mekan. We asked the T&S F to match the \$5,000 put into the Mekan Restoration Project by TU (\$2,500 from CWTU, and the same from EDTU).

Here's what what was in the application:

"The proposed Mekan River Project will span a total of up to 2,500 feet of stream bank, at an initial investment of \$10,000. The river has lost significant habitat for all year classes of trout, and has many straight lengths of wide, shallow and featureless flats - trout-free and warm. Spawning habitat is being lost every year at an increasing rate.

Shawn Sullivan (Wisconsin DNR supervisor, Wild Rose Fisheries Habitat Station) examined every State section of the Mekan and wrote...that the best access and fishability is the section below Highway 21. This had work done in the 60's but 90% of the overhead cover is gone. 80% of the material is there. It would entail building 20-30 lunker structures and purchasing more rock. Shawn went on to explain that the structures could be built out of oak and rock that is readily available, and that \$10,000 would likely cover a majority of the necessary materials.

The Central Wisconsin Chapter and the Elliott Donnelley Chapter in cooperation with other TU chapters, the Wisconsin DNR, and others propose to stabilize bank erosion, and enhance habitat for trout and macro-invertebrate populations on the Mekan River in Waushara County. Most of the labor is being provided by volunteers from various TU chapters, other conservation minded individuals, Wisconsin DNR staff, and the DNR Habitat Crew out of Wild Rose. The work on the Mekan River will take place at or around...locations identified by Shawn Sullivan in his communication above."

On Thursday of last week, I received a letter from the Foundation letting me know that its Board of Directors had voted in September to grant \$4,000 in support of our project. A check for \$4,000 was enclosed. Doug Conover, EDTU's treasurer has informed me that EDTU's check for \$2,500 is on its way to me, and I'll be sending both checks on to Scott Grady next week.

I hope that this level of funding and cross-chapter collaboration motivates all our members to participate in next year's stream workdays. We should have no shortage of materials, and I anticipate strong DNR support.

Tight Lines!

Alistair Stewart