How Townships Can Use PA’s Dirt, Gravel, Low Volume Road Program To Protect Recreational Uses in Streams

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DGLVR PROGRAM BASICS

- Work of PA Chapter of Trout Unlimited!
  - Established in 1997 under PA Motor Vehicle Code Title 75 Sec 9106
    - 25,000 miles of unpaved roads in PA
    - 17,500 miles are owned by townships
  - Funds are used to implement environmentally sensitive management practices; 50/50 match
  - Funding comes from fuel tax and license fees and flow from State Conservation Commission (Dept of Ag) to county conservation districts to townships
  - Funding also to DCNR’s Bureau of Forestry for dirt road management in state forests
  - Low volume roads were added to the program in 2015; defined as roads that receive 500 vehicle trips or fewer per day
  - Program support and training through Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads at Penn State
On the Ground: In 2017, the DGLVR Program:

- Completed 492 contracts in 333 separate municipalities
- Replaced 98 stream crossings (culverts and bridges)
- Replaced more than 600 road drainage culverts (crosspipes)
- Installed more than 800 new road drainage culverts (crosspipes)
- Placed more than 400,000 tons of road fill
- Placed approximately 80 miles of Driving Surface Aggregate
- Installed more than 18 miles of underdrain

DGLVR Program 2018 Status Map

- 336 Dirt and Gravel Contracts completed in 2017
- 156 LVR Contracts completed in 2017
- 955 municipalities have completed a contract since 1997

See other side for project descriptions
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Road/stream crossings
- Road surface
- Road base
- Vegetation management
- Road bank management
- Road ditch and outlet stabilization
- Off right-of-way practices
- Paved low volume road practices
WHAT HAPPENS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

• Trained conservation district staff administer the program

• Adopt QA/QC requirements and ranking criteria approved by the district’s Quality Assurance Board

• All local government entities and road-owning entities are eligible

• Must ensure that one person who is going to oversee the project completes the two-day training course.
CHESTER COUNTY DGLVR PROGRAM

Budget 2018-2019
- $100,000 for dirt roads
- $226,983 for low volume roads

Projects completed to date:
- 32 dirt and gravel road projects covering 12 miles
  Total expenditures: $590,365
- 4 low volume road projects covering 2 miles
  Total expenditures: $726,197
CHESTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT CRITERIA

- Special protection waters
- Proximity of project area to the stream
- Improved public safety
- Benefits for downstream fish populations
- Abatement of stormwater velocity or volume
- New entity to program
- Negative impact on water quality
- Any required permits completed
BROWER’S BRIDGE
VALLEY WAY ROAD