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The Problem:

The Bark River in Bayfield County has been designated a catch and release trout stream for brook trout. This was meant to protect coaster brook trout and study if it was feasible to have a reproducing coaster brook trout population. Both the federal and state agencies have backed this program.

The Bark River has a short main stream bed, of about 3/4 mile that flows from surrounding hills. Approximately in the 1990's the adjacent timber on the river was clear cut and erosion washed sand into the stream bed. The main river is repairing itself but it does need help. The Wisconsin DNR has done minor habitat work on the small tributaries on the highland. This does not help the hatched fry to find enough food to survive and grow.

It is possible to make the Bark River a cooperative project with interested trout fishing people and the DNR. Most of the work that is needed on the main stream can be done by volunteers with supervision.

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin DNR should "Fast Track" the main stream of the Bark River for habitat improvement and

WHEREAS, the use of volunteer help will create tremendous publicity for the coaster brook trout and it is possible that we will know within a few years if the coaster brook trout is feasible and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources take immediate action to start working on the main stream of the Bark River

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