

LeTort Spring Run Watershed Conservation Plan

I. Introduction

For hundreds of years man has been drawn to the banks of the LeTort Spring Run. From the earliest Native Americans through the times of European Settlers to the present day inhabitants, the LeTort Spring Run has served as a means of food, water, work and more recently recreation. As life around it has changed, the LeTort has remained essentially unchanged to become revered as one of the finest limestone trout streams in the nation. It is with this in mind that the LeTort Regional Authority was formed to continue the preservation of this unique stream .

Since its incorporation in 1974, The LeTort Regional Authority has made the preservation and protection of LeTort Spring Run its goal. During these 25 years the Authority has created a nature trail along a section of stream, initiated a conservation easement program, jointly monitored the water quality with the U.S. Geological Survey on a weekly basis and was instrumental in having the LeTort Spring Run designated a component of the Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers system in 1988.

In continuing preservation and protection efforts, the LeTort Regional Authority recently initiated the preparation of this comprehensive plan detailing past and present conditions and management options for future conservation concerns about the LeTort Spring Run and its watershed. Plan information was obtained through previous reports and observations, a detailed stream and watershed field evaluation and map study and landowner comments from a distributed survey.

This plan was prepared under contract by Walter N. Heine Associates Inc. with assistance from Natural Lands Trust, the LeTort Regional Authority, the Authority's Executive Director and the Rivers Conservation Plan Steering Committee Members. Base mapping, was prepared by the Department of Public Works at the Carlisle Barracks. Funding for the plans preparation was provided by a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Rivers Conservation Grant with matching funds provided by the LeTort Regional Authority and Carlisle Barracks.

II. Project Area Characteristics

The project plan focuses on the characteristics of the watershed, separating it into three parts, (upper, middle and lower), discernable by unique and disparate qualities and environments. The map on page 2 shows the approximate areas of these three surface watersheds.