

# Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council

Hampstead \* Manchester \* Mt. Airy \* New Windsor  
Carroll County Health Department



\* Sykesville \* Taneytown \* Union Bridge \* Westminster  
Carroll County Government

## WRCC Meeting Summary January 28, 2026

### **Attendees:**

#### Municipalities:

- Kevin Hann, Chair, Hampstead
- Jim Wieprecht, Vice Chair, Taneytown
- Zac Amoss, Westminster
- John Breeding, Mount Airy
- Gary Dye, New Windsor
- Greg Howell, Westminster
- Mayor Perry Jones, Union Bridge
- Rodney Kuhns, Manchester
- Matt Leister, Manchester
- Jim Roark, Hampstead
- Kevin Rubenstein, Sykesville
- Dick Swanson, Mount Airy

#### CC PLM:

- Brenda Dinne
- Glenn Edwards
- Elyssa Greene
- Chris Heyn, PLM Director
- Claire Hirt
- Byron Madigan
- Mitch Masser
- Denise Mathias
- Zach Neal
- Janet O'Meara

#### Health Department:

- Richard Brace
- Nicole Bowman

#### CCG Others:

- Andy Watcher, CC DPW
- Bryan Bokey, CC DPW
- Jason Green, CC DPW
- Lexi Biondo, CC M&B

#### Guest Speakers:

- Neal Eshleman, DNR
- Mark Staley, DNR

#### Others:

- Andrew Grosko, Patapsco Valley Trout Unlimited

### **1. Opening Statement**

#### **Chair**

- n/a

#### **Vice Chair**

- Mr. Wieprecht, acting as Chair in Mr. Hann's absence, opened the meeting at 2:30 pm.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Summary – December 17, 2025**

Approval of the December meeting summary was discussed. No changes were made. No meeting was held in November.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Dick Swanson and seconded by Rodney Kuhns to approve the December 17, 2025, meeting summary. Motion carried.

**3. 2025 Assessment of Headwaters UT 6 Big Pipe Creek – Neal Eshleman, DNR**

- Mr. Eshleman shared a PowerPoint with results from a recent study of the watershed for Unnamed Tributary 6 of Big Pipe Creek, located in the Manchester area. Brook trout densities are currently cyclically low, and the populations have never been more fragmented, both of which are concerning. The project sought to identify stressors on these fish and the impact of the landscape. Maryland Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Cold Water program has an effort to repopulate this species.
- This information represents an opportunity to coordinate with DNR and other groups to try to mitigate impacts, especially where projects could also address NPDES MS4 requirements. PLM staff will follow up to discuss potential restoration projects.

**Reference/Attachment:**

- *PowerPoint: UT Big Pipe Creek Watershed Assessment*

**4. Water Resource Element (WRE 2024) Update – Brenda Dinne**

- A public information session was held on January 14, 2026. One member of the public attended.
- All public hearings have been scheduled. The Carroll County, Manchester, and New Windsor Planning Commissions will hold a joint public hearing on February 4, 2026. The remaining hearings will be completed on February 23, 2026.
- Comments were received from the State agencies on January 20, 2026.
- The comments received from the State agencies, neighboring jurisdictions, and the public as a result of the public review period will be compiled. Staff will develop recommended changes where appropriate and share with the municipal staff and Planning Commissions.

**Reference/Attachment:**

- <https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/planning-land-management/comprehensive-planning/land-use-functional-plans/functional-plans-and-reports/water-resources-element/>

**5. Municipal Stormwater Projects Update – Janet O'Meara**

- Ms. Hirt reviewed the status of the projects.

**Reference/Attachment:**

- *Municipal Project Status, January 2026*

**6. Legislative Update – Brenda Dinne**

- Ms. Dinne reviewed the proposed bills on the attached table. These are bills relevant to water resources, environment, and planning that seemed more pertinent to bring to the attention of the municipalities.
- Key concerns related to SB 189/HB 34 Municipalities - Open Drainage Inlets - Required Grating Systems (Mason's Law) were discussed.

**Reference/Attachment:**

- *WRCC Legislative Update – 2026 MD General Assembly Proposed Water/Environment/Planning Legislation*

**7. PFAS Discussion**

- Mr. Swanson will share the letter the Town of Mount Airy sent out regarding PFAS.
- Taneytown met with MDE regarding financial capacity for funding related to PFAS mitigation projects.

**Reference/Attachment:**

- *n/a*

## 8. Other

- Data Center Processing Deferral: The Board of County Commissioners are considering putting a deferral in place for processing of development plans for data centers. This would allow staff to research data centers and draft requirements for the Board to consider adopting to the County Code.
- Shamrock Farms: This project may not be happening in Carroll County due to its location in Tier II waters.
- 2025 NPDES MS4 Annual Report: Hardcopies of the annual report will be provided to the municipalities in February.
- Good Housekeeping Plans (GHPs): The GHPs have been sent out. The relevant municipal staff should be familiar with the GHP and any tracking mechanisms.
- February Meeting: The next meeting will be held on February 25.

### *Reference/Attachment:*

- *n/a*

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made by Dick Swanson and seconded by Matt Leister to adjourn the January 28, 2025, meeting. Motion carried.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- ☐ *Regular Monthly Meeting – February 25, 2026*

# UT Big Pipe Creek Watershed Assessment

Mark Staley <sup>1</sup>  
Neal Eshleman <sup>1</sup>  
Adam Eshleman <sup>1</sup>  
Art Senkel <sup>2</sup>  
Orman Morton <sup>3</sup>



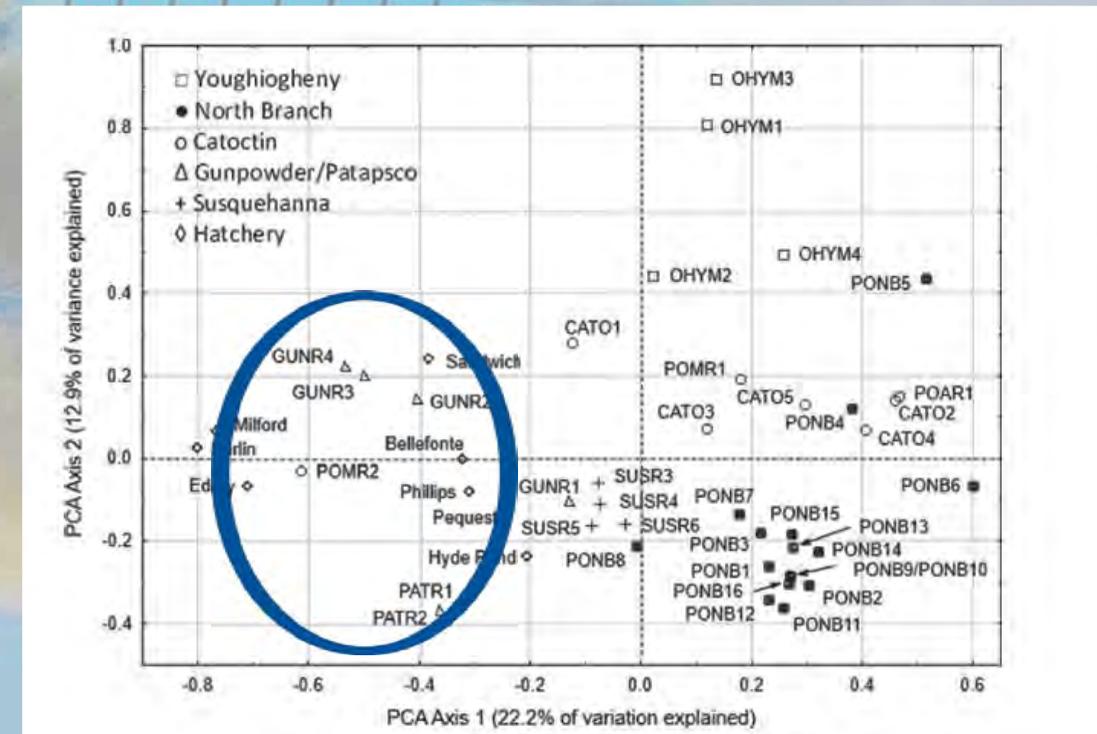
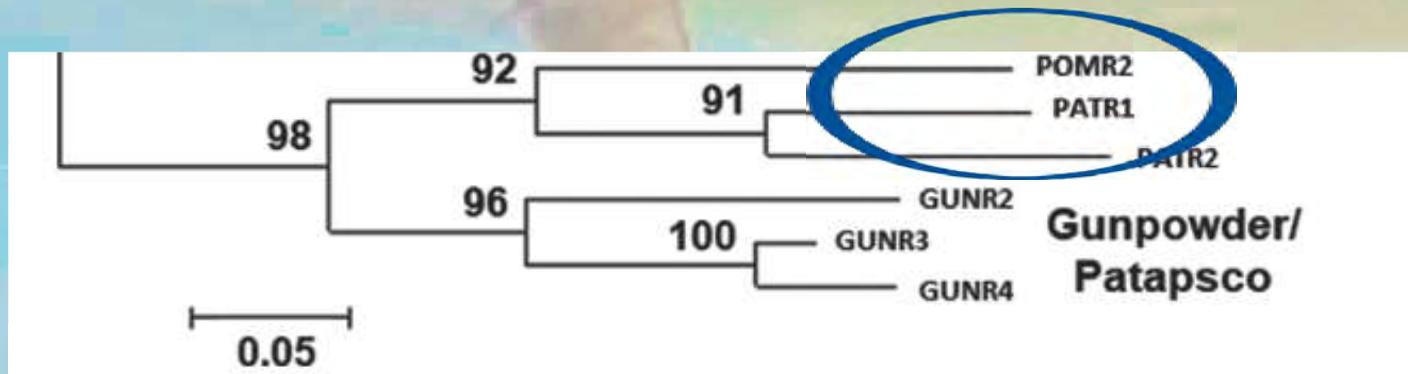
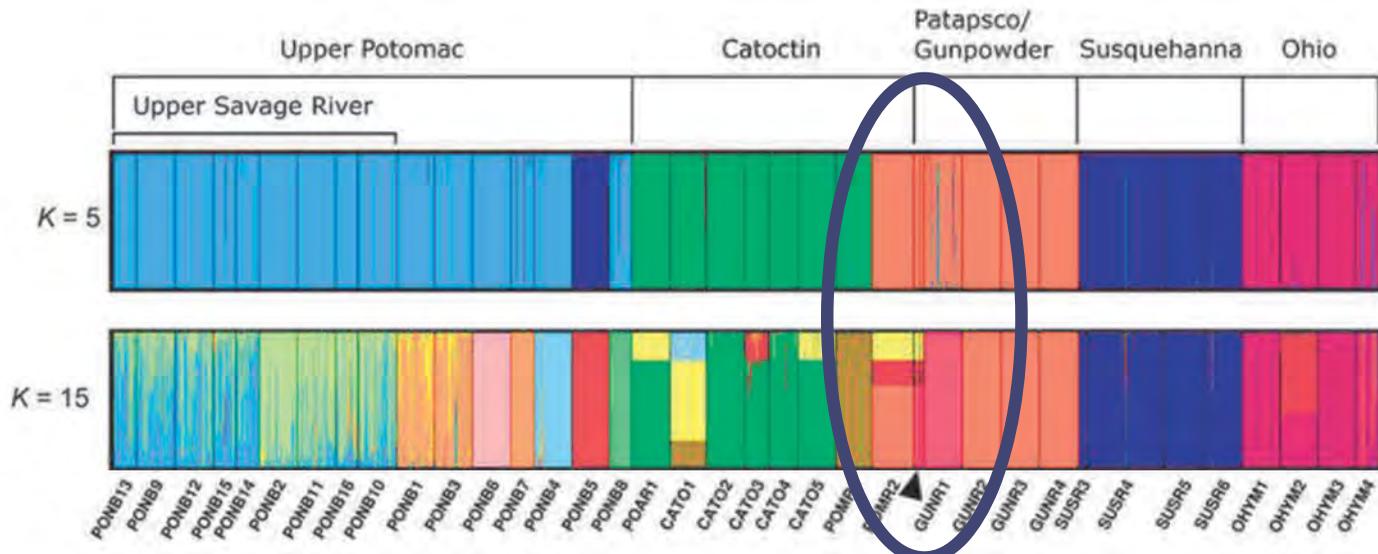
# UTBP: Brook Trout Background

- Native brook trout population first documented in this tributary in 2017
  - In depth temperature, benthic macroinvertebrate, and fish study conducted in 2018
  - MDNR Freshwater Fisheries established a long-term monitoring station, with annual temperature and brook trout population monitoring
- Only known native brook trout population in eastern Monocacy River drainage
  - UTBP is a genetically unique strain, more similar to Gunpowder and Patapsco than Catoctin fish
  - Closest genetically to extirpated Patapsco strain, potentially important for bkt reintroduction efforts
  - Isolated brook trout populations are at higher risk of extirpation
- Brook trout densities in Piedmont region are currently in a cyclical low period

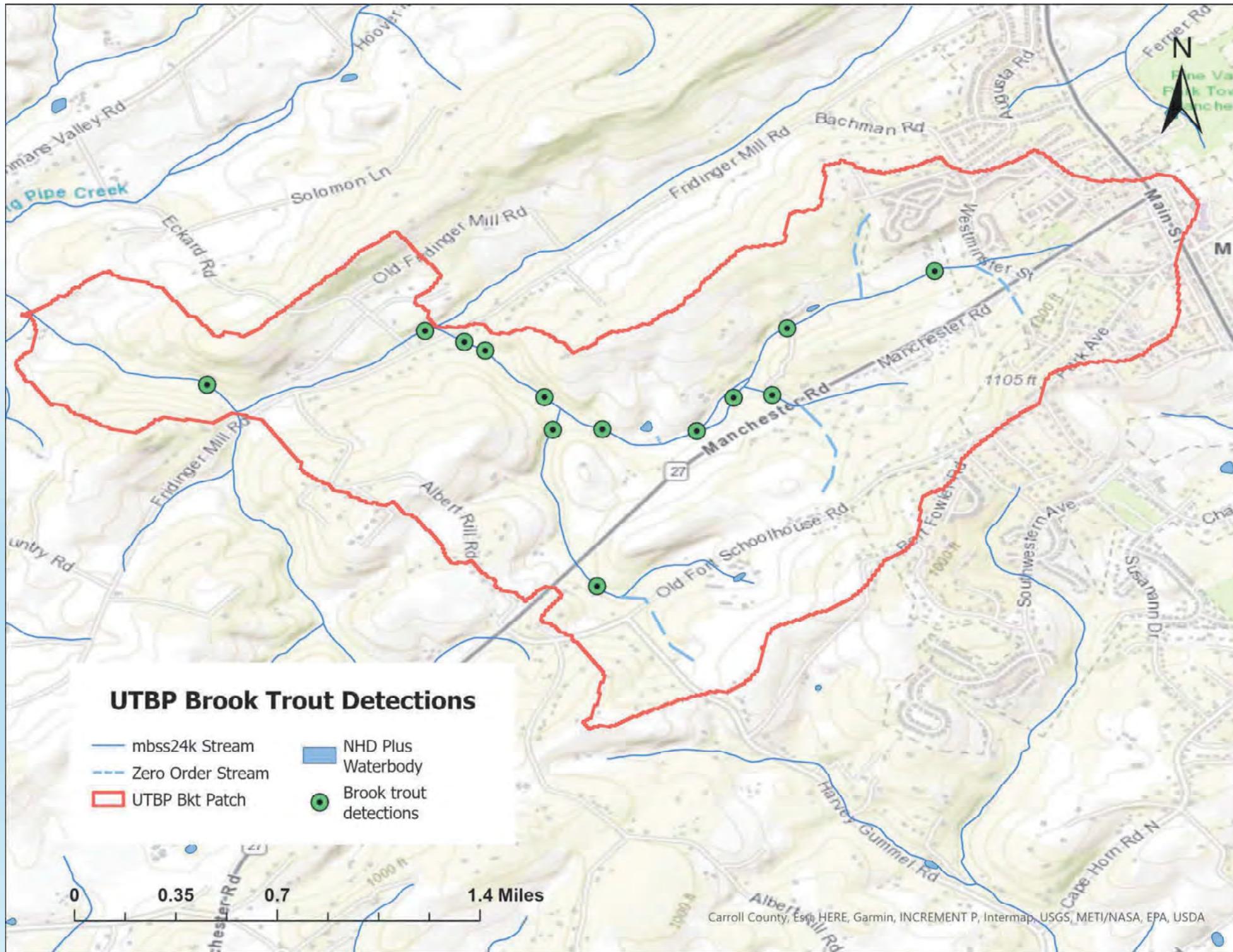
# UTBP: Brook Trout Genetics

STRUCTURE OF BROOK TROUT POPULATIONS IN MARYLAND

1107



Source: Morgan et al., 2021



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  - Isolated brook trout populations are at higher risk of extirpation
- Brook trout densities in Piedmont region are currently in a cyclical low period
- **Joint Monitoring Effort between Trout Unlimited Patapsco Valley Chapter (PVTU) and Maryland DNR Freshwater Fisheries Program to conduct a watershed assessment**
- **Monitoring took place during the Summer and early Fall of 2025**

# UTBP: Project Goals

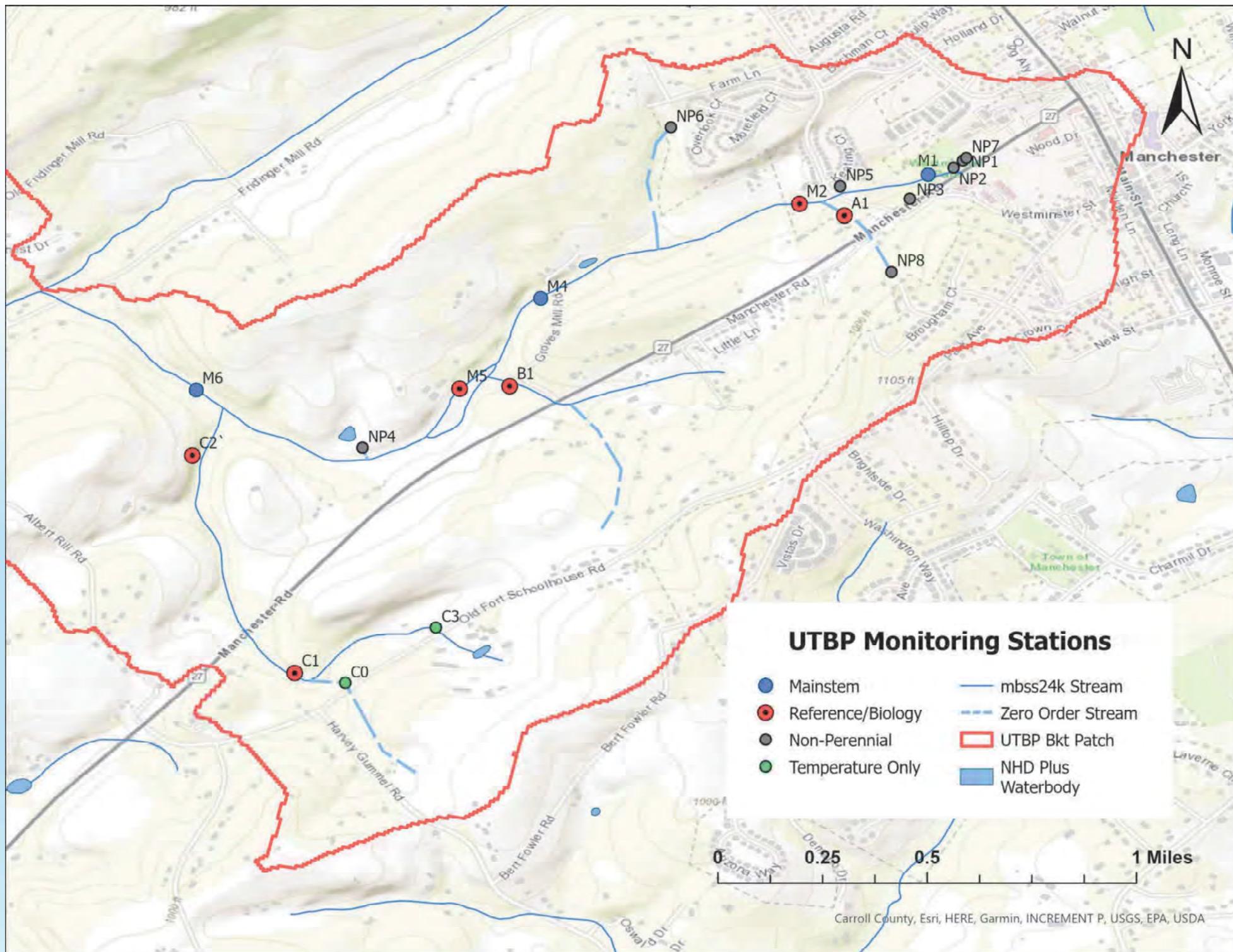
- Conduct an in-depth biological assessment of the health of fish and macroinvertebrate populations in the watershed
- Determine sources and quantify thermal inputs in the watershed
- Identify stream reaches with thermal refugia critical for brook trout
- Assess habitat and identify sources of erosion and sediment
- Evaluate thermal impacts of stormwater management structures and untreated stormwater conveyance channels
- Determine any other biological stressors in the watershed (e.g. conductivity)
- Identify specific projects to rectify sources of biological, thermal, habitat, or chemical stressors

# UTBP: Methods and Equipment

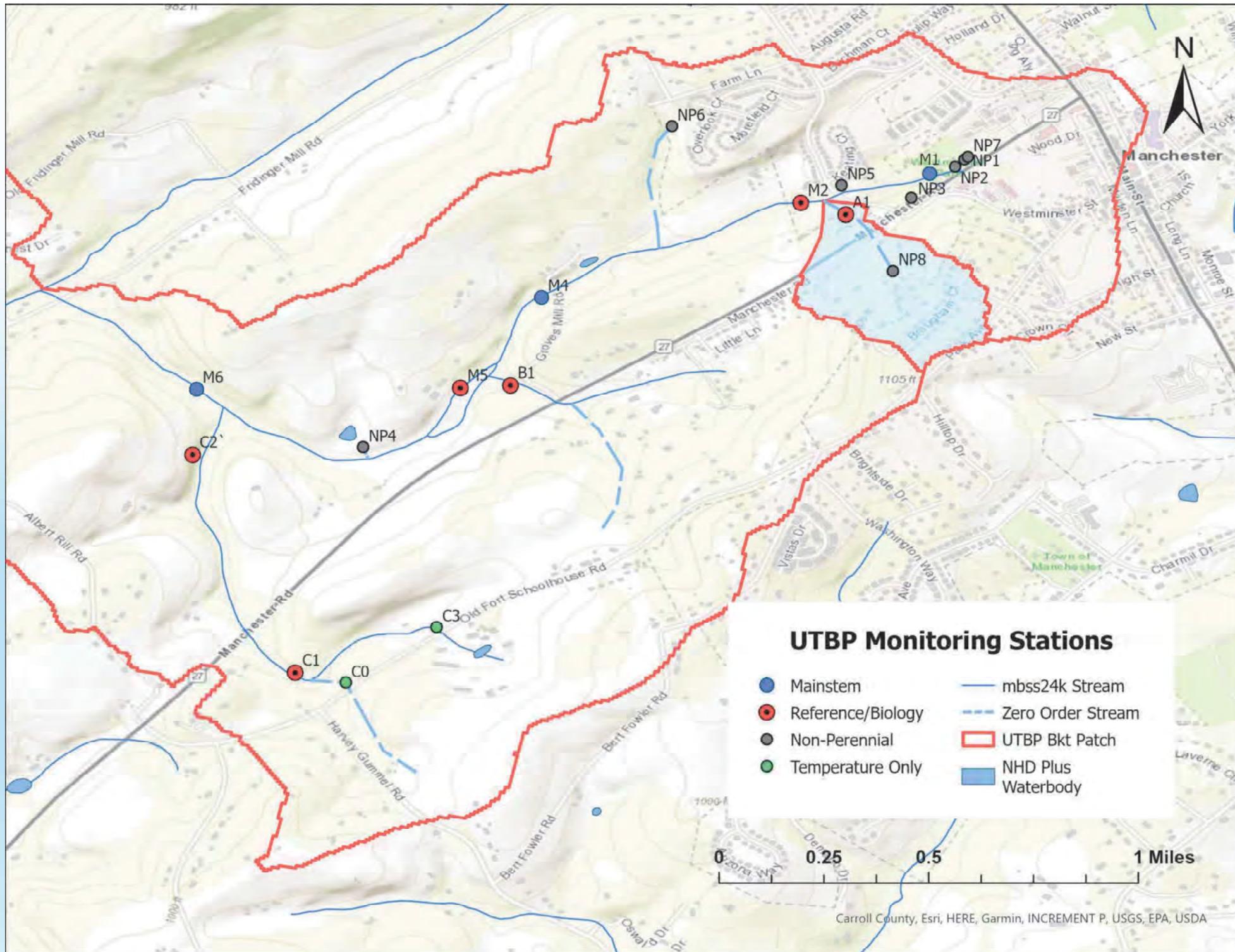
- HOBO ProV2 temperature loggers
  - Continuous logger stations using DNR methodology
- HOBO U20L level logger
  - Pressure transducer used to measure stream stage (level)
- HOBO U24 conductivity logger
  - Measures temperature and true conductance
- HOBO MX2203 (water detect)
  - Intermittent channels only flowing during storm events
- HOBO MX2205 (dual probe)
  - Used for intermittent flow channels, perennial channels for baseflow and stormflow temps



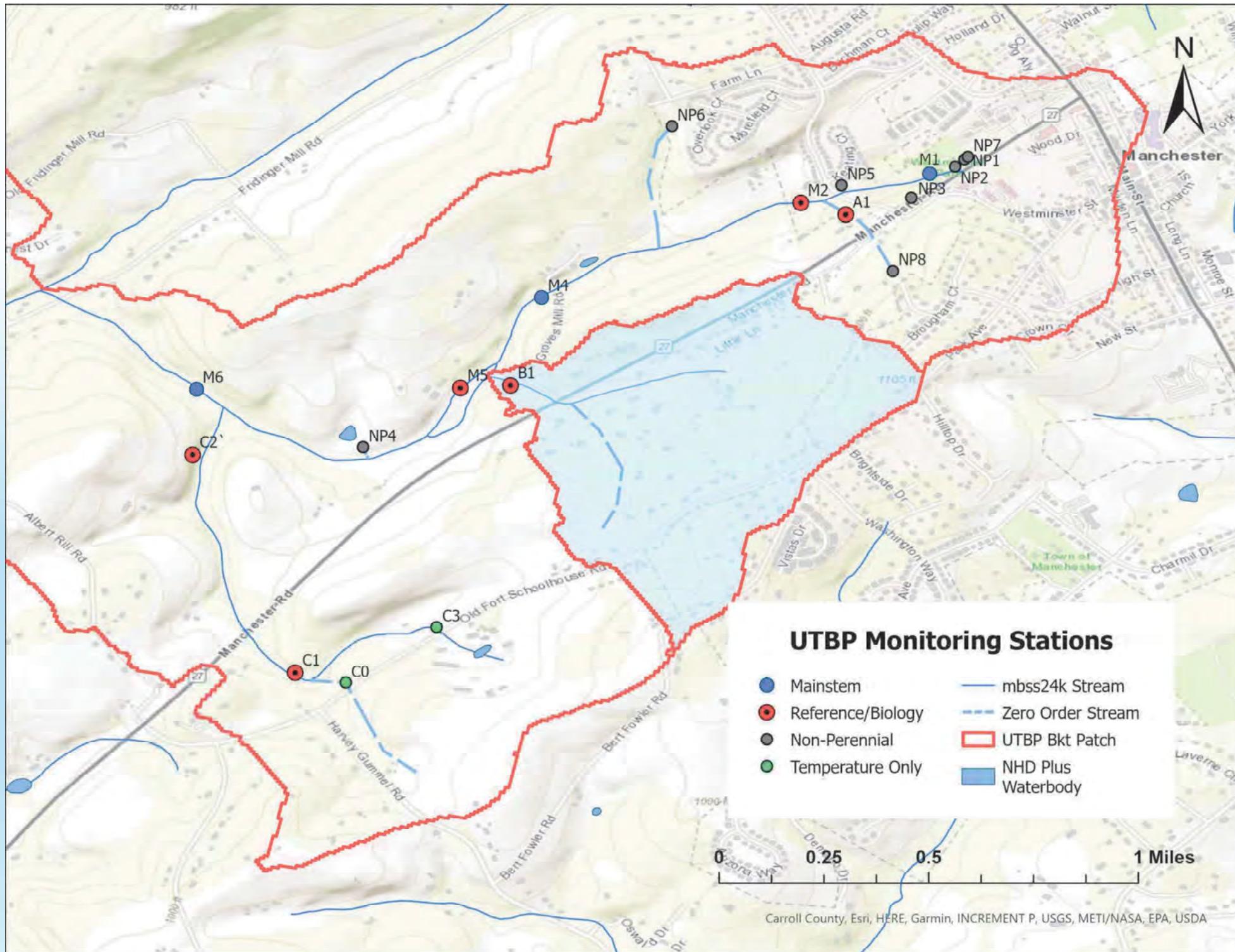




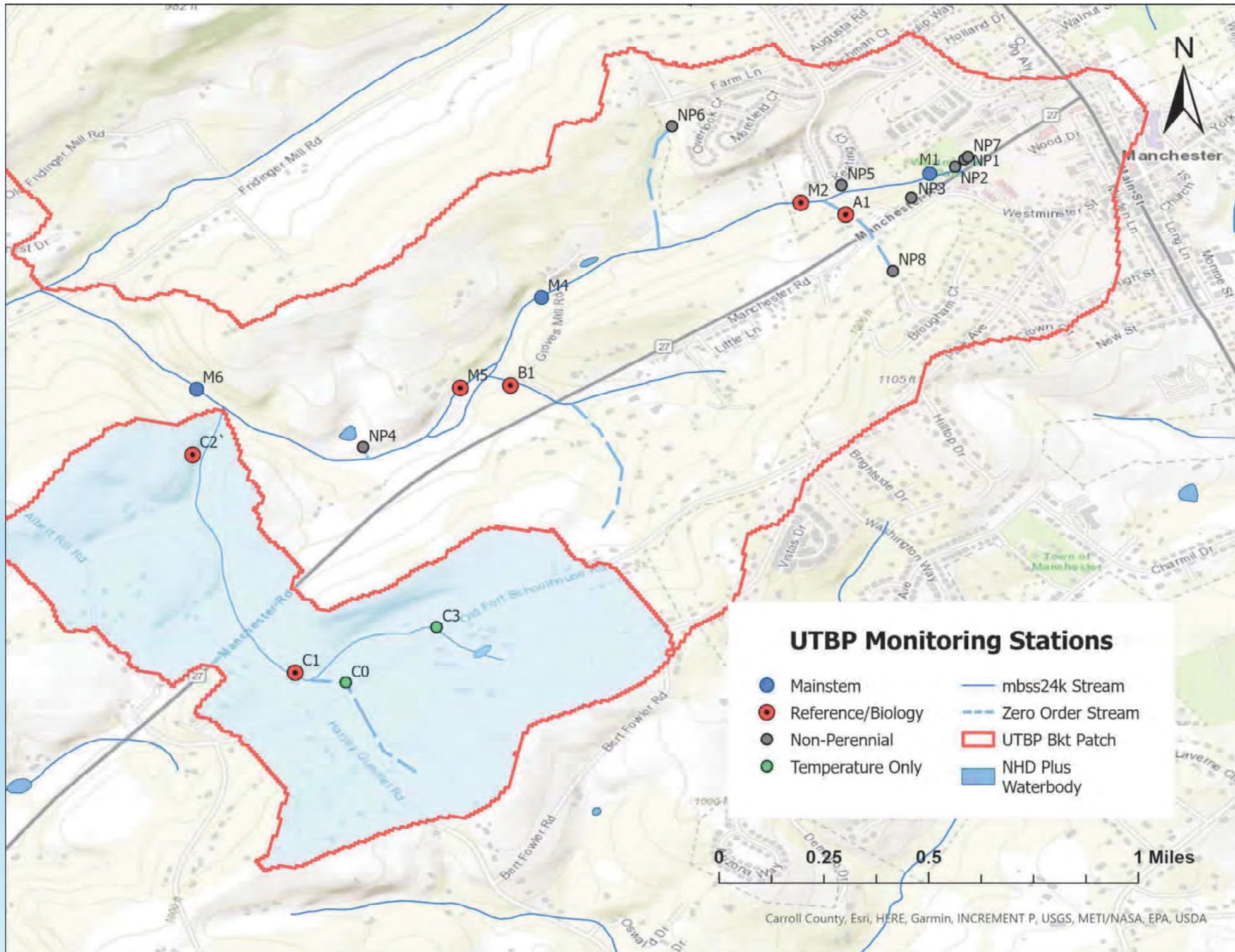
A



B

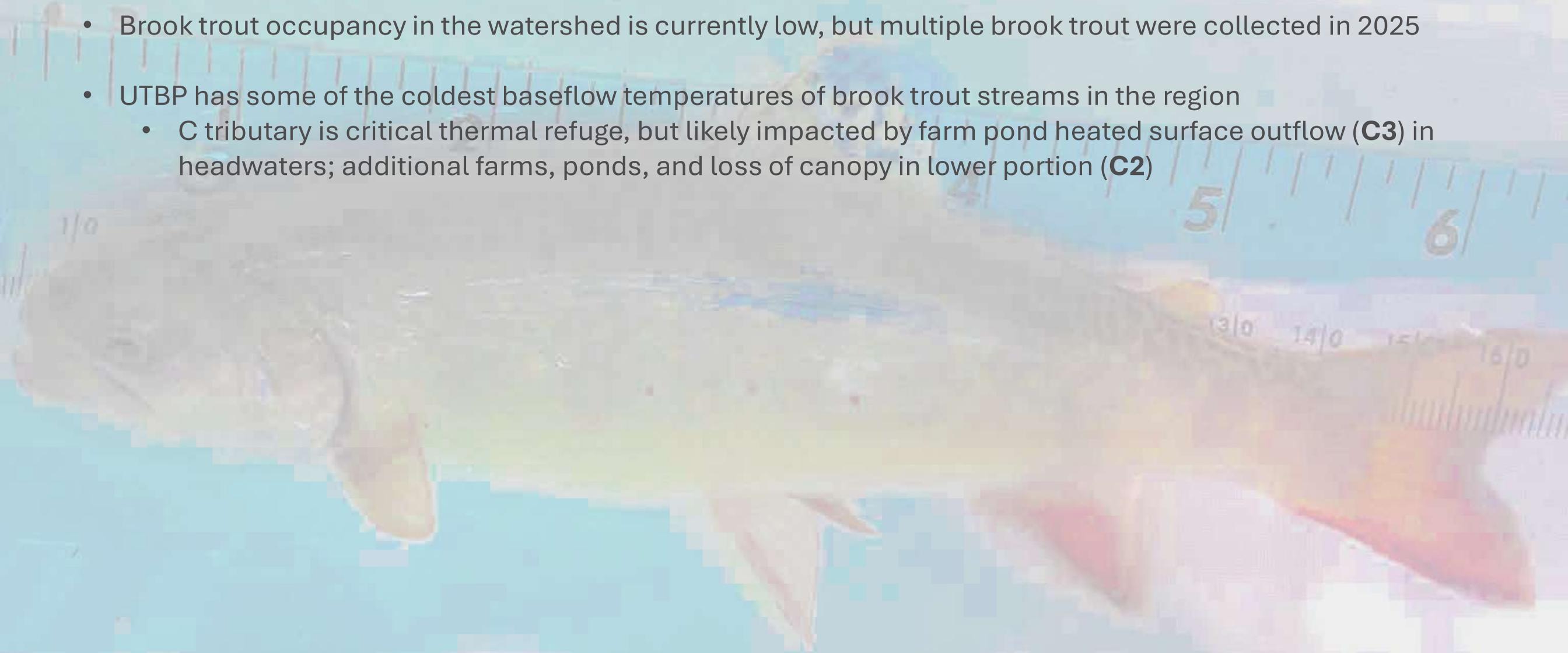


C



# UTBP: General Findings

- Brook trout occupancy in the watershed is currently low, but multiple brook trout were collected in 2025
- UTBP has some of the coldest baseflow temperatures of brook trout streams in the region
  - C tributary is critical thermal refuge, but likely impacted by farm pond heated surface outflow (**C3**) in headwaters; additional farms, ponds, and loss of canopy in lower portion (**C2**)

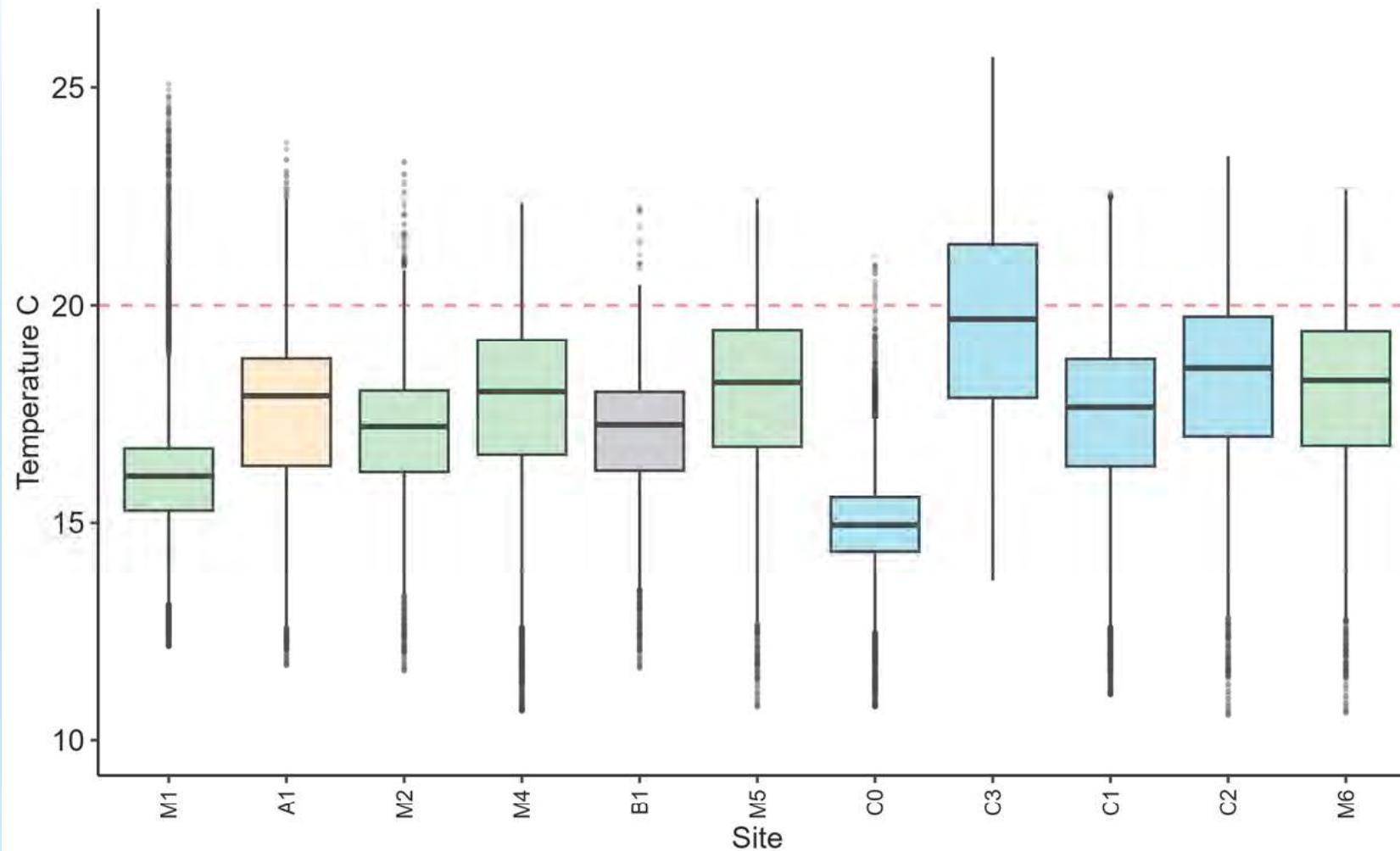


# UTBP: Summer Temperatures

UTBP Summer Temperature by Site/Tributary

\*C3 (pond) temps 7/15 - 8/31 only

Group A B C M



Upstream

Downstream

# UTBP: General Findings

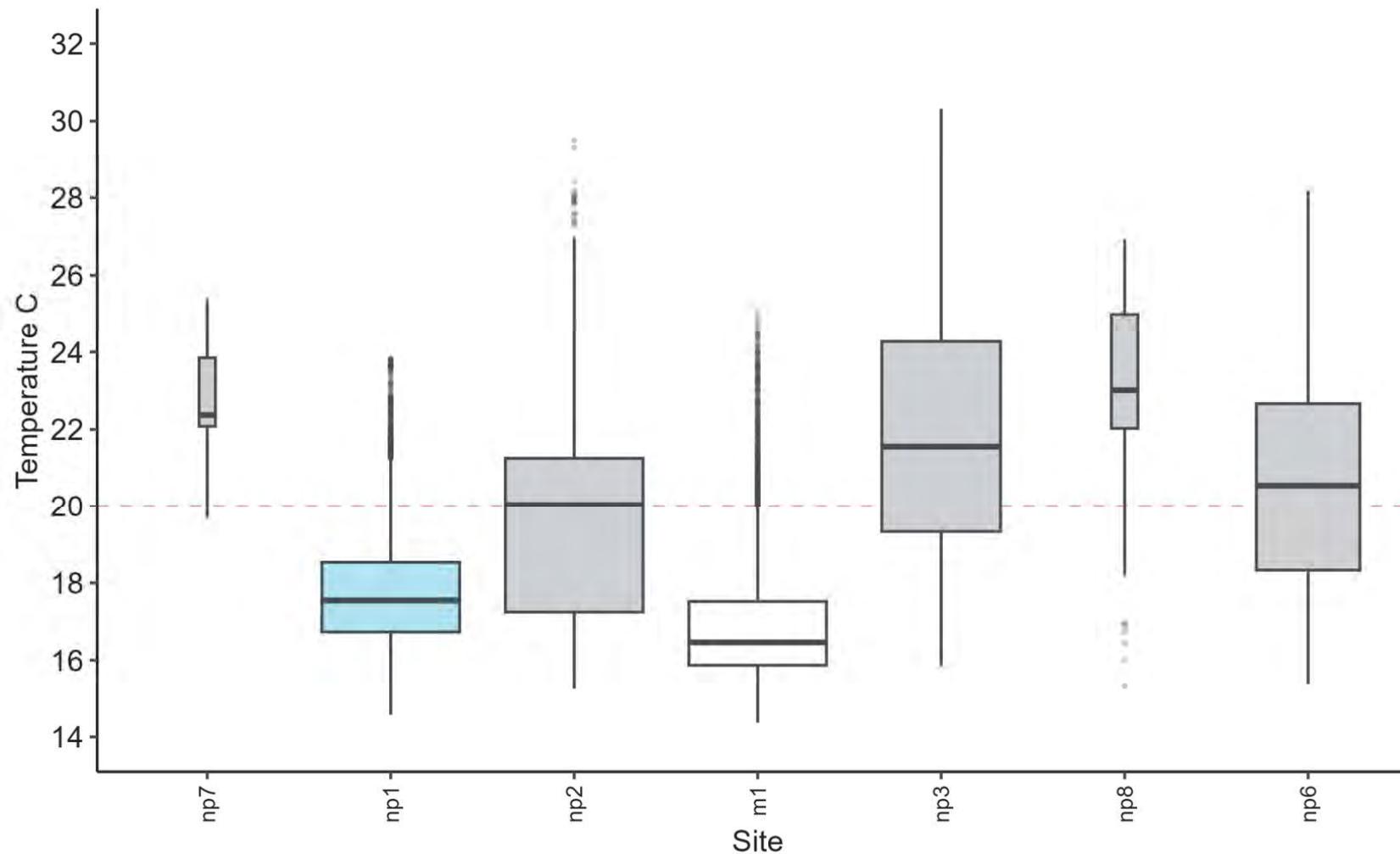
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- **UTBP temperatures highly impacted by stormwater, both treated and untreated**
  - **Untreated runoff in headwaters (NP2, NP3)**
  - **Treated stormwater from dry pond (NP6)**

# UTBP: Stormwater Temperatures

UTBP Headwaters Summer Stormwater Event Temperatures

box width = total flow duration

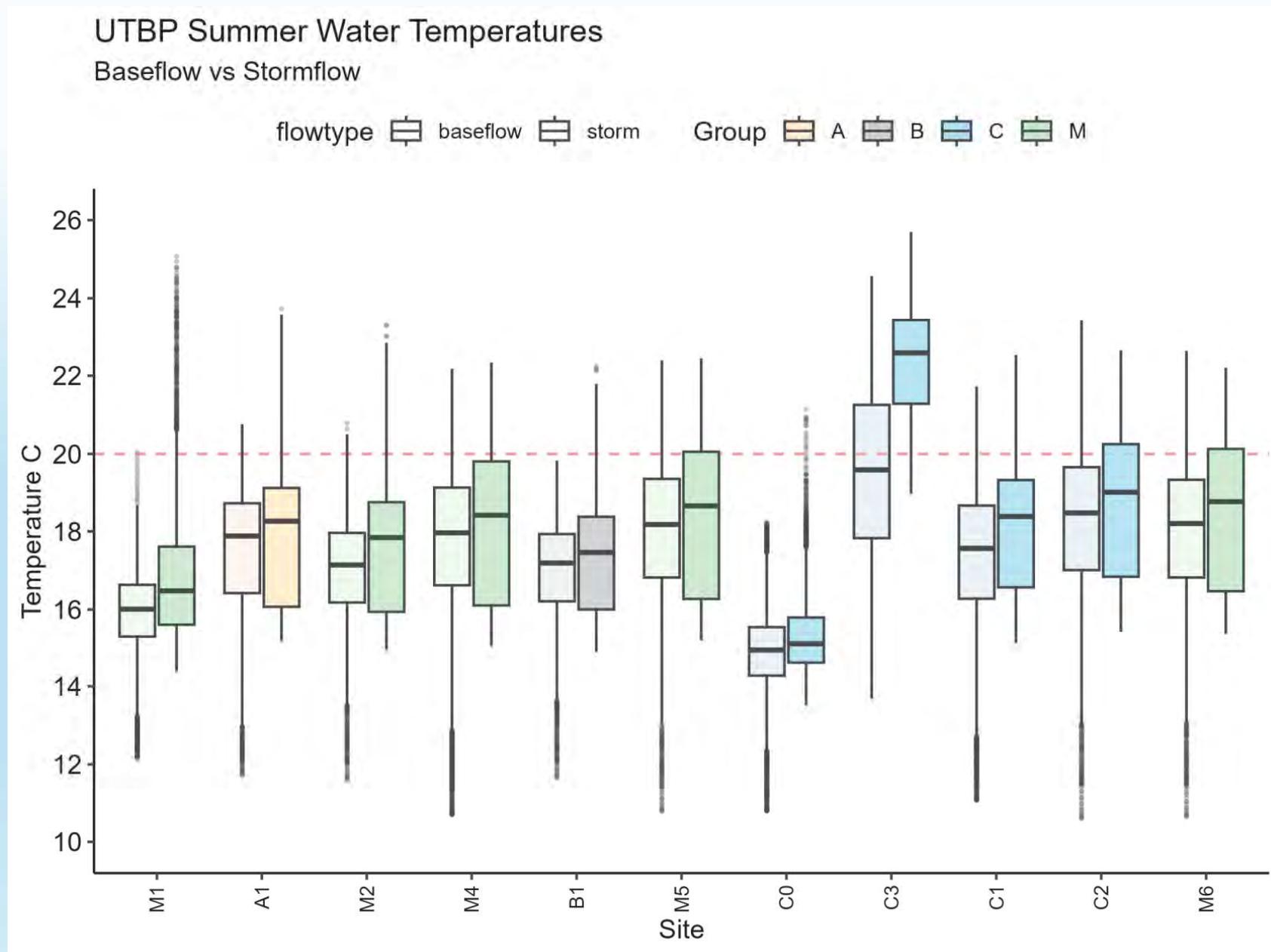
Flowtype ephemeral intermittent perennial



Upstream

Downstream

# UTBP: Baseflow vs. Storm Temperatures

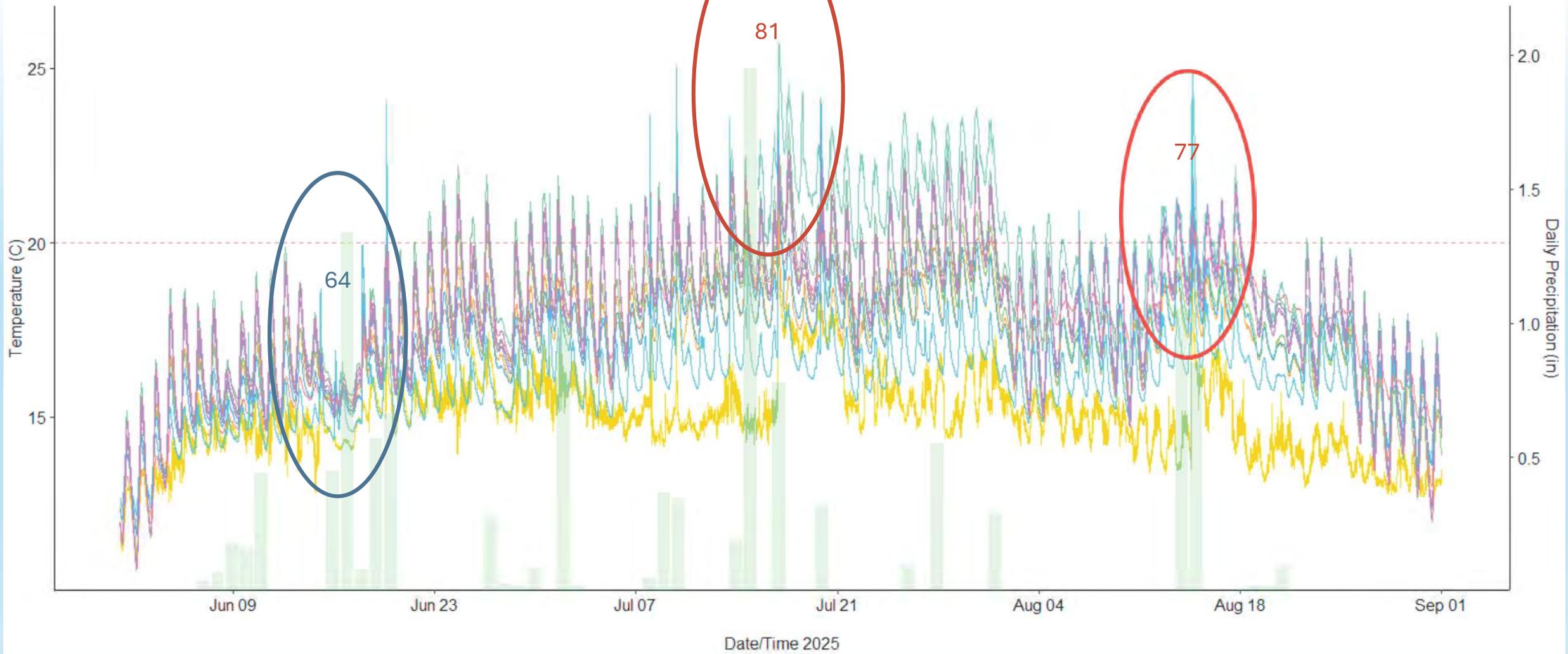


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  - Treated stormwater from dry pond (NP6)
  - **Ambient air temperatures/time of day major driver of runoff temperature**

# Summer continuous temperatures

site A1 C1 M1 M5  
B1 C2 M2 M6  
C0 C3 M4

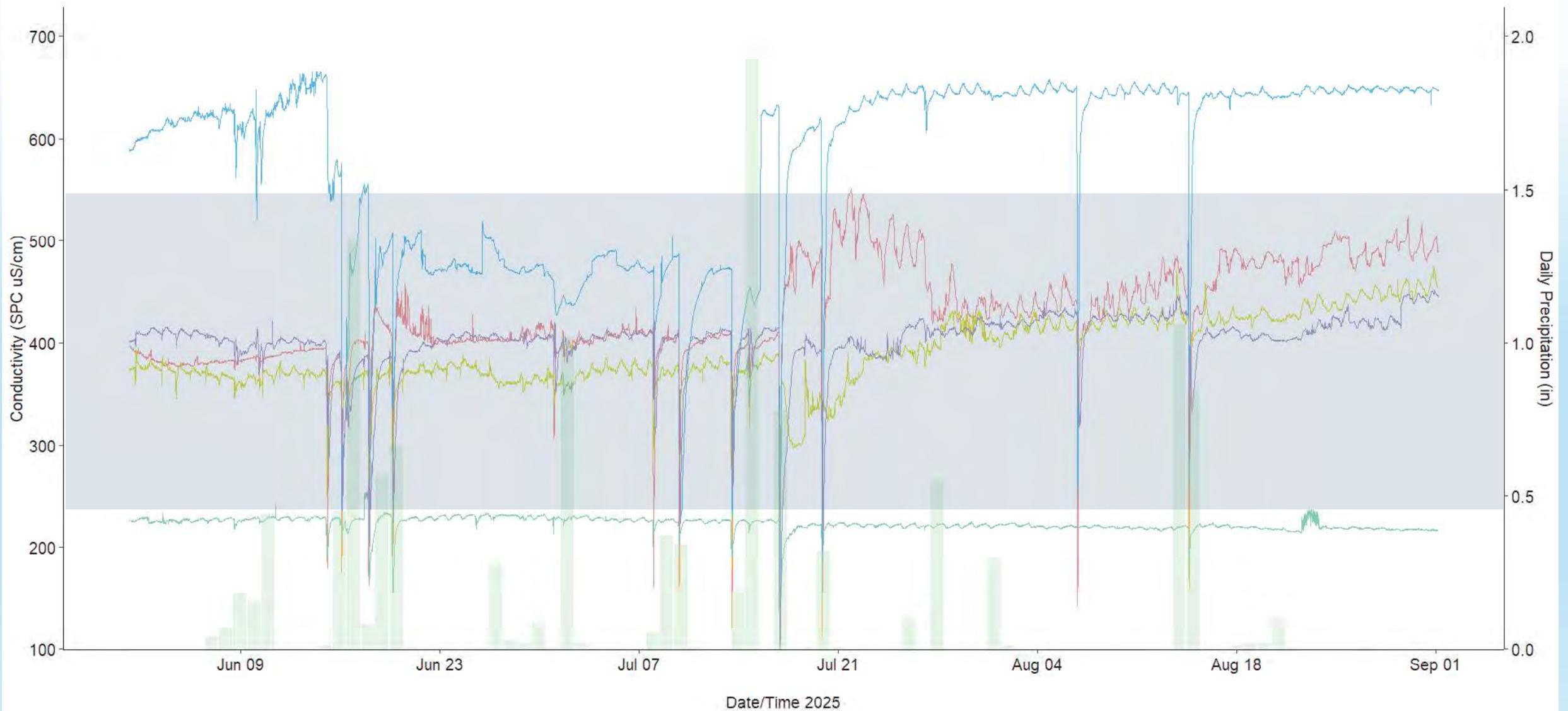


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- **Elevated conductivity in headwaters may be stressor on macroinvertebrate and fish community**
  - **Conductivity decreases moving away from development; C tributary unimpacted**
  - **Skatepark spring conductivity measured > 950 uS/cm, mainly comprised of ions related to road salts**

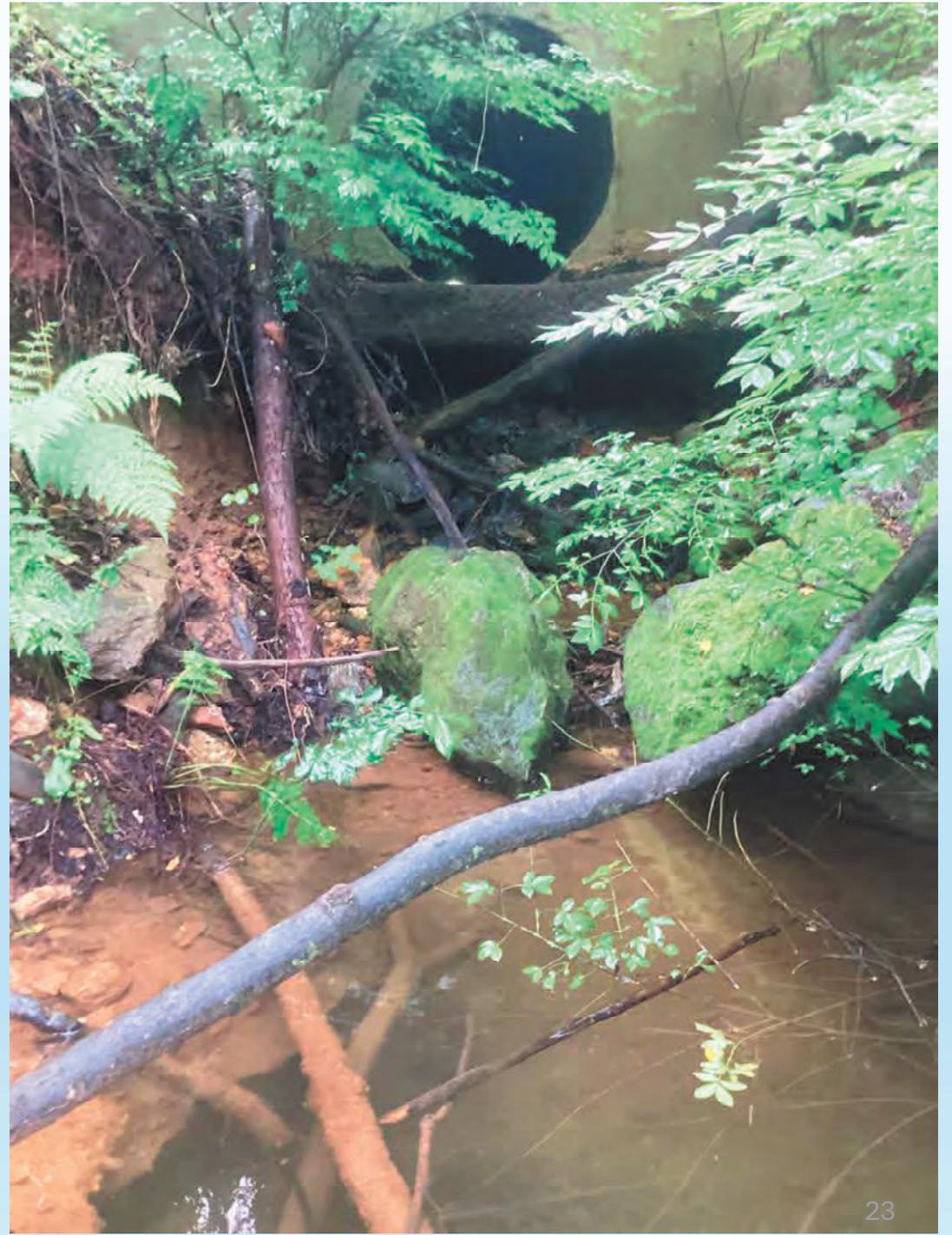
# Summer continuous conductivity

Site — A1 — B1 — C2 — M2 — M5



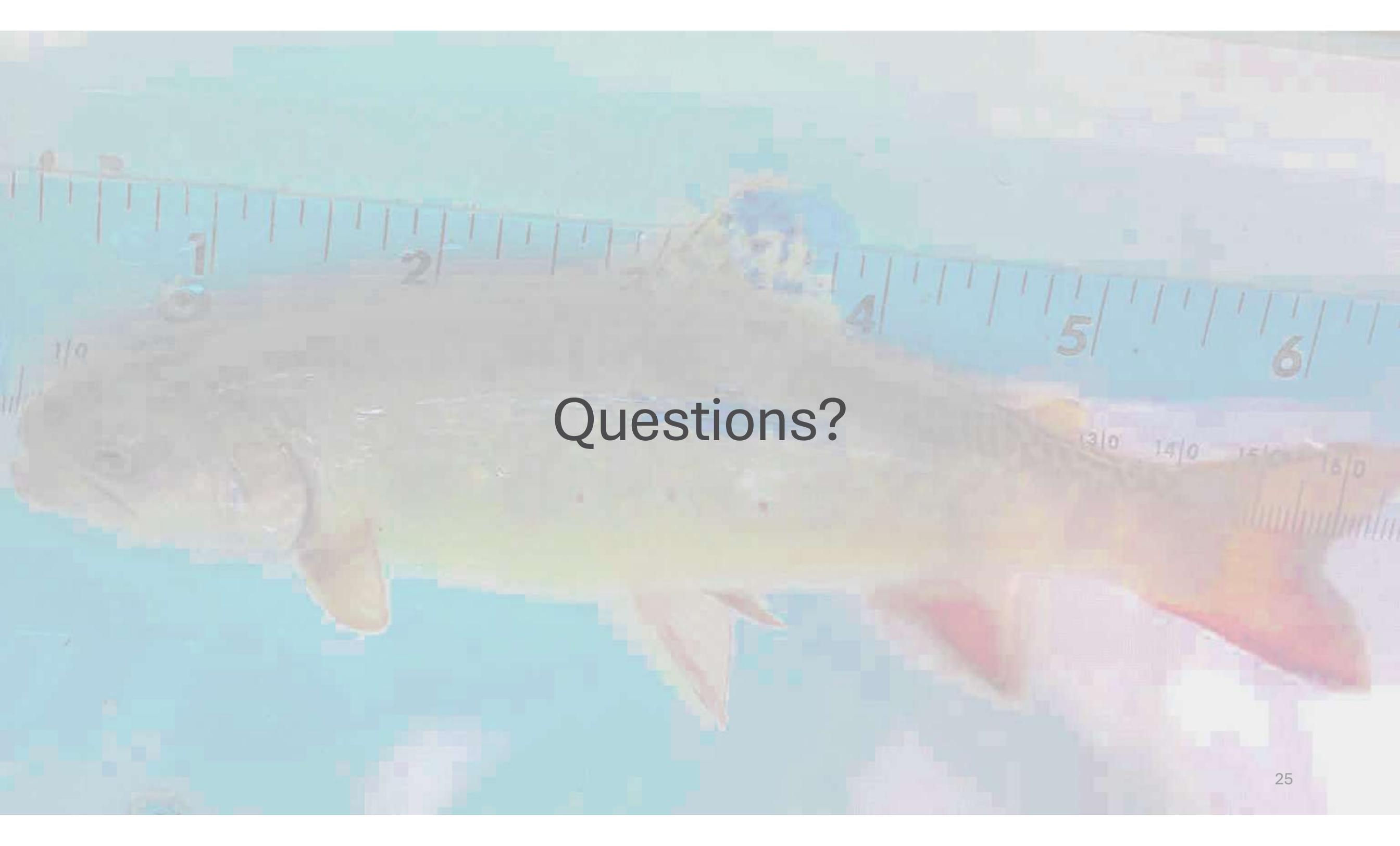
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- **Infrastructure and safety issues**
  - **Town of Manchester spring system in disrepair and no longer functional, causing exposed piping, gullies, and headcuts**
  - **Multiple SHA culverts under Rte. 27 are in disrepair causing erosion and sedimentation**



# UTBP: Possible Actions

- Reduce thermal load of stormwater, particularly in headwaters, to improve temperatures in brook trout occupied reaches
  - **Limit impervious cover**, conserve open space, tree plantings
    - Stranko et. al., 2011 – “brook trout essentially never found in watersheds > 4% impervious area”
    - UTBP watershed at M5 (**19.5%**), Upper most bkt detection (M2) **38%!!!**
  - Infiltrating stormwater BMP's on **NP2** and **NP3** for existing development, infiltrating BMP retrofit on **NP6**
  - Carroll County may have experience with some SWM BMP approaches (?)
- Address thermal impacts of farm ponds to improve temperatures in “C” tributary
  - Riser retrofit and bottom withdrawal, cold water bypass, pond removal
  - Pursue tree planting opportunities
- Discuss with SHA ability to stabilize Rte. 27 outfalls, reducing erosion and repairing infrastructure
- Repair spring structures and discharge cold water into stream, secondary benefit of reducing erosion
- Investigate source of groundwater chloride contamination, possibly pursue salt brine in recharge area of skatepark spring



Questions?