

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – April 2021

### TRUTTA ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS



Emy Parham, President of [Trutta Environmental Solutions](#), answered questions to share more about her company's work, her role in aquatic conservation, and why she and Trutta Environmental Solutions participate in the TRBN. Thanks for sitting at the table with us, TES!

#### What part of our freshwater aquatic ecosystem do you really admire?

I am a water resource professional, but also a mom. I love watching my son and his friends enjoy the area's beautiful lakes, rivers, and streams. Keeping the waterways and surrounding vegetation clean and healthy is my priority so that my child and his future kids will have the beautiful Tennessee streams to play in for years to come.

#### What is your role with Trutta Environmental Solutions?

I am the President of Trutta and Director of Business Operations. I am certified as a Qualified MS4 Stormwater Compliance Professional by the American Stormwater Institute and direct our company's efforts to help local municipalities comply with stormwater regulations.

#### What is the mission of Trutta Environmental Solutions?

Our mission is to provide watershed managers with powerful, integrated, and timely solutions to difficult water resource management problems. We accomplish this by blending modern computer modeling techniques with practical, science-based field methods. Our [High-Definition Stream Survey \(HDSS\)](#) method provides a "virtual tour" of the waterway while providing GPS, depth, side scan imagery, velocity and water quality information and other data linked to each



second of the high definition video. This rapid, data-rich and inexpensive stream survey method is a powerful tool for water resource management.

### **How did Trutta Environmental Solutions come about?**

Trutta Environmental Solutions is a partnership of the owners' previous (separate) companies. Parham & Associates Environmental Consulting focused on water resource modeling techniques. Trutta Consulting which focused on river mapping. By combining our companies, we have been able to vastly improve the HDSS method and make the surveys more affordable and the results more useful to managers and the public.

### **How can people get involved or connected with Trutta Environmental Solutions? What type of assistance could you provide to members?**

While we often work with government agencies, utility companies and watershed groups, Trutta has also worked with private organizations like Trout Unlimited to collect river data to help improve recreational (fishing, boating) on streams and rivers and we have assisted them on their river clean up days. As local governments work on compliance with the federal government MS-4 initiatives, these types of stream clean-up and public awareness campaigns can have quite a positive effect on our waterways. We are happy to work with anyone interested in helping in these efforts.

### **What has been your favorite project?**

While most surveys in creeks and rivers in the Tennessee River Basin have unique and beautiful areas, our work on the [Duck River](#) has been very rewarding. We have surveyed 155 miles of the river downstream of Normandy Dam for numerous different projects. From our first project with TDEC supporting their TMDL modeling, the HDSS results have been used by a variety of organizations including governmental, utilities, and NGOs, to help better manage the most biologically diverse river in Tennessee. It has been great to see the HDSS StreamView videos collected for a different project used in novel ways to answer emerging questions for infrastructure siting, habitat assessment or even the best places to go fishing and kayaking. When we did the first survey, we had hoped its results would be broadly useful to river managers and this has been proven through wide range of collaborative projects that have occurred since then.

### **Anything special happening this year?**

We are excited to use our HDSS methods to work with localities on their stormwater compliance efforts. The great thing about our methods is that we can quickly identify and prioritize the areas where mitigation efforts are most needed to get the most bang for the buck for these local

governments. Because of our use of cutting-edge technology, we are able to deliver a huge amount of high-quality data for an affordable price. We have also created software to take the results of the HDSS field surveys and apply them to Stream Corridor Assessments, Habitat Suitability Models, Functional Uplift Determinations and Recreational Use Assessments so that the results of a single survey can be even more quickly and broadly applied to a range of management issues. Having the ability to address multiple issues with one survey facilitates collaborative projects and allows for more inclusive management results.

### **Tell us about your involvement in the Tennessee River Basin Network?**

We have been involved with the TRBN for many years. We have attended meetings, given presentations and exhibited our products. TRBN has been great for keeping abreast of the latest issues in the basin and providing our thoughts on how these issues may be addressed. TRBN meetings are excellent opportunities for professional networking and creating friendships with other water people throughout the basin. Trutta has conducted HDSS surveys on streams and rivers throughout the Tennessee River Basin including the Duck River, Paint Rock River and Bear Creek and numerous others smaller streams and the TBRN has been an excellent way to inform the broader community of the results.

### **Is there anything else that you would like to add?**

While we have still been out in the field surveying streams and rivers throughout the pandemic, we are really looking forward to being able to attend meetings again to hear about the latest work in the Tennessee River Basin. If you would like to learn more about the HDSS approach, [CLICK HERE](#) to view a presentation hosted by the USFWS Conservation Training Institute on the use of HDSS for fish and habitat assessment.