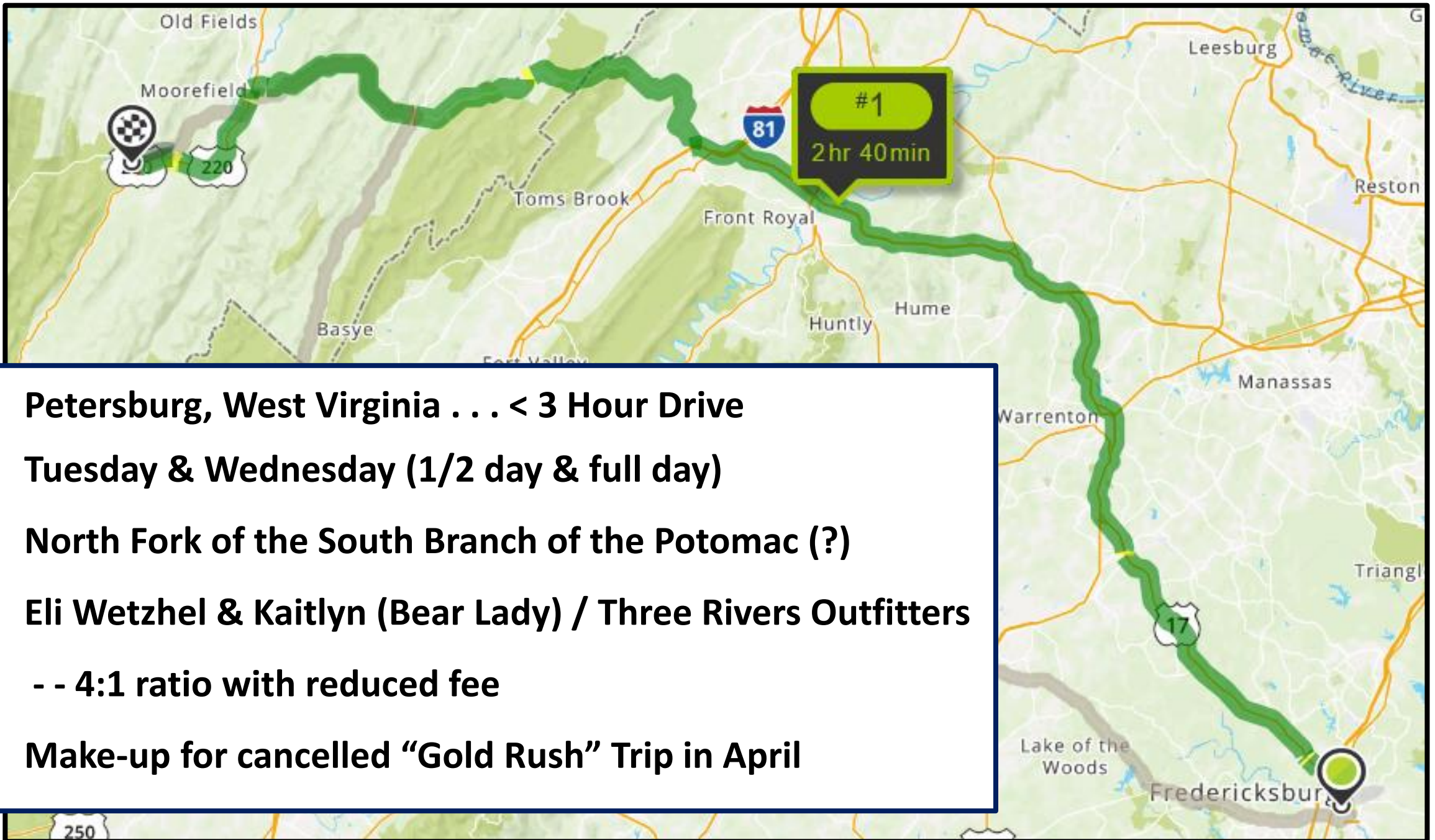


# Prospecting for Gold

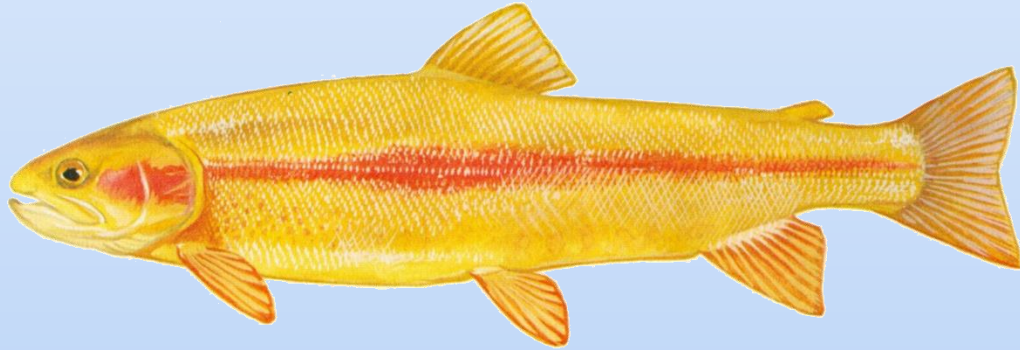


**(West Virginia) Golden Rainbow Trout**



- **Petersburg, West Virginia . . . < 3 Hour Drive**
- **Tuesday & Wednesday (1/2 day & full day)**
- **North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac (?)**
- **Eli Wetzhel & Kaitlyn (Bear Lady) / Three Rivers Outfitters**
  - - 4:1 ratio with reduced fee
- **Make-up for cancelled “Gold Rush” Trip in April**

- **Looking for Golden Rainbows, Tigers, & the WV Slam**



# **(West Virginia) Golden Rainbow Trout**

- **Naturally Occurring Rainbow Mutation**
- **Noted, separated, & selectively bred at Petersburg Hatchery in 1955**
- **Six years of selective breeding = the WV Golden Rainbow**

# **(West Virginia) Golden Rainbow Trout**

- **Stocking for close to 50 years (1963 WV Centennial)**
- **1:10 Golden to Rainbow Ratio . . . ~100k per year**
- **Eggs cannot be exported, but other States have programs**

# **(West Virginia) Golden Rainbow Trout**

- **Not Everyone's a Fan**
  - **"Beautiful only to the ecologically illiterate"**  
**(Native Fish Coalition – July 2019)**
  - **Unnatural Kitsch Sport Fish**
    - **Growth Rate, Size & Strength**
    - **Too Easy to see and Catch**
    - **Highly susceptible to Natural Predation**



**UNNATURAL  
INVASIVE  
SPECIES**

# **(West Virginia) Golden Rainbow Trout**

- **The Counter Position**
  - **All Rainbows outside the Pacific Rim are transplants (invasive)**
  - **At least 43 selectively bred rainbows variations**
    - - **Growth rate, aggressiveness, taste**
  - **Can naturally spawn**

**(Note: See *An Entirely Synthetic Fish* by Dr. Anders Halverson**

# **(West Virginia) Golden Rainbow Trout**

- **Golden Colored Trout**

- **WV Golden Rainbow - - rainbow hybrid**

- **Palomino Trout - - cross between Golden & Rainbow**

- **The true Golden Trout**

- - **Western species / sub-species**

- - **Californian, Kern River, Little Kern**



- **Easy to See, Challenging to Catch**
  - **Fish of 100 casts & 99 refusals or false strikes**
  - **Factors:**
    - - **Food Preference**
    - - **Depth misperception**
    - - **Hold positions / currents**
    - - **No Discernable Strike /Attack Pattern**



# And Some Other Interesting Fish



**WV Brown**



**Spawning Creek Chub**

# Prospecting for Gold



**(West Virginia) Golden Rainbow Trout**