

Request to use Fisheries Habitat Account funds to remove the Washburn Mill Dam, Colebrook

John Magee
Fish Habitat Biologist
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Fisheries Habitat Program

- Good for fish.
- Good for all the wildlife that depend on healthy water and habitat.
- Good for us.
- We work with many partners
- Watershed/landscape level



Two topics:

Fisheries Habitat Account

- Provide funding to projects – only with Commission approval

Fisheries Habitat Program

- Technical Assistance to projects
- Research



Overview

- One State-wide Fish Habitat Biologist
- Several Regional Fish Biologists – but mostly one who works in habitat program
- Multiple project partners on most projects
- Fisheries Habitat Account – RSA 214:1-g
 - \$1 from each license sold goes into the account
 - ~\$150,000 each year

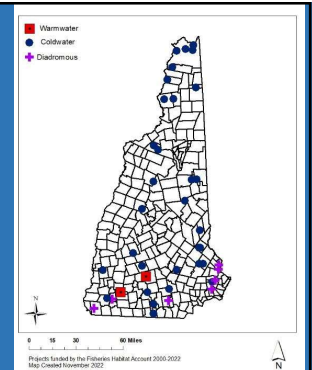


Approach

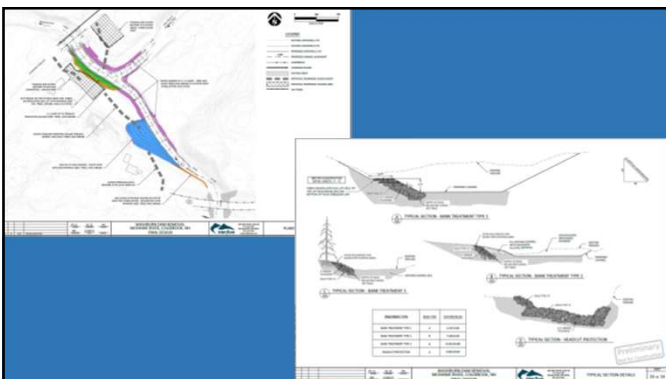
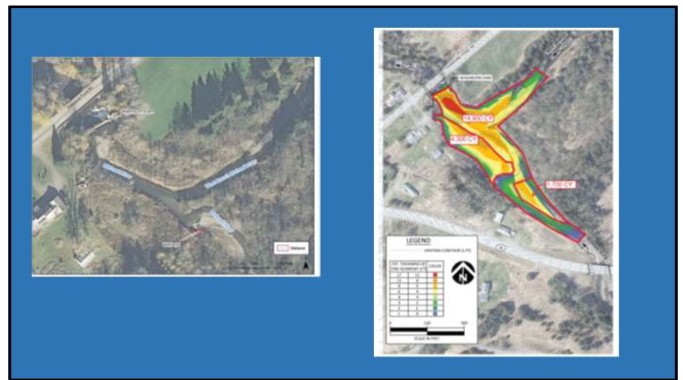
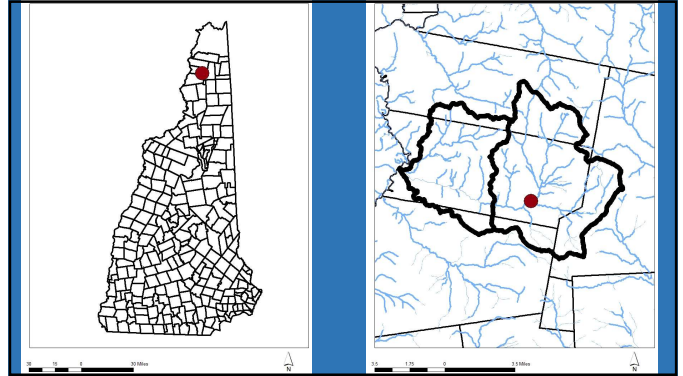
- Common theme: use natural processes
 - Fish are adapted to these processes, so the best way to restore/enhance habitat is to mimic these processes,
 - Focus on Watersheds as much as possible,
 - Typically costs much less to let Nature do most of the work
- Biggest angling bang for the buck
 - Rating Method

Fisheries Habitat Account expenditures

Fisheries Habitat Program Would completely cover the map



Primary Species – Brook Trout



Partners and Timeline

American Rivers
NH Department of Environmental Services
NH Fish and Game Department

Started project in 2019; removal in 2023 or 2024.

Consulting Engineer: Inter-fluve



Project Rating Criteria	Point Value	Score
1. The project protects healthy fisheries habitat in a natural aquatic system. The following (existing and potential future) attributes will be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian buffers • % impervious area in the watershed upstream of the project area • % area in watershed protected • Number of impacting stream crossings per mile of stream • Proportion of fine flowing (to dams) habitat • % watershed in agriculture • Other attributes as necessary 	20	0
2. The project re-establishes the natural functions, processes, or linkages among the components of the watershed. NO = 0 pts; Some/match = 3-5; Fully yes = 15 pts	15	15
3. The project reconnects fragmented aquatic habitat that provides fish with access to historic spawning, nursery, or rearing grounds	15	15
4. The project increases the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of fish and other aquatic species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 species = 0 pts • 1 species = 5 pts • 2-3 species = 10 pts • 4 or more species = 15 pts 	15	15
5. The project increases recreational fishing opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None = 0 pts Some/match = 5 pts High = 10 pts 	10	5

Rating Method

6. The project benefits fish species in greatest need of conservation. None = 0 1 species = 5 pts 2-3 species = 10 pts	10	10
7. The project targets fish habitat that is identified as a priority in a formal document. NO = 0 pts YES = 5 pts	5	5
8. The project is using matching funds that equals or exceeds the amount of Fisheries Habitat account requested funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No matching funds = 0 pts 2:1 match = 2 pts 2:1 match = 3 pts >2:1 match = 5 pts 	5	5
9. The project is being officially supported by multiple partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 partner = 1 pt 2-3 partners = 3 pts >3 partners = 5 pts 	5	5
Total Score		75

Rating Method

Notes:

Only land conservation projects can score >0 for Criteria #1, so the total possible points for restoration projects is 80.

The Department has wanted to restore connectivity at this site for many years, and the project is one of the highest priority connectivity projects for the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund, which has provided substantial funding.

Funder	Amount	Status
UCR-MEF	\$820,000	Requested December 2022, Decision April 2023
US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$300,000	Requested November 2022, Decision Spring 2023
NHFGD-FHA	\$75,000	This request (~7% of total project costs)
Total Cost Estimate	\$1.1 million	

Total available in Fisheries Habitat Account (1/4/2023) = \$968,500




John Magee
 Fisheries Habitat Research and Management Coordinator
 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
 603-271-2744
John.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov