

FY06 PFW Program Notable Accomplishment – New England Field Office

State: Massachusetts – Habitat Improvement

Name: Ballou Dam Removal

Location: Becket, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

Service Point-of-Contact: Eric Derleth
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HabITS number: 40406

Congressional District: MA01

Project Narrative: A partnership effort including the USFWS's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Fisheries Program, MA Riverways Program, NOAA, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, FishAmerica Foundation, Sweetwater Trust, Northeast Utilities Inc., and the town of Becket, MA have collaborated to remove the 12-ft high Ballou Dam in Becket, MA. This project when combined with the removal of the Silk Mill dam (2003), located approximately 0.5 miles upstream, will restore access to 8 miles of Yokum Brook for target coldwater fish species including Atlantic salmon and eastern brook trout. Additionally, approximately 500 feet of river channel that is totally filled with impounded sediments will be restored with the removal of Ballou Dam. Yokum Brook is a tributary of the Westfield River and is a priority watershed in interagency efforts to restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River system. Channel habitat restoration will include the installation of rock weirs (cross vanes) and the incorporation of large woody material in a restored step-pool system in a village setting, while protecting local infrastructure including an elementary school parking lot and town road. Project construction is scheduled for October, 2006.

Restoration Technique: Dam Removal, Stream Channel Restoration, Education and Outreach

Project Size: Fish Passage Restoration: 8 miles
Stream Channel Restoration: 500 feet

Project Benefits: This project will restore 8 miles of fish passage to the upper watershed of Yokum Brook, a tributary of the Westfield River. The project also will contribute to interagency efforts to restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River watershed and support MA Department of Fish and Wildlife efforts to enhance movement and habitat for native eastern brook trout. Community involvement in the project is significant because a local elementary school is adjacent to the project site and will use the project as an educational topic for the students.

Timeframe: September, 2006 – October, 2007.



Caption: Ballou Dam on Yokum Brook in Becket, MA scheduled for removal in fall, 2006.