

Lake Champlain Aquatic Habitat Connectivity

Fish Passage in the Connecticut River Watershed

Groton Dam, Wells River, Groton, Vermont
Longitude: -72.25350 Latitude: 44.22130



Before



After

Left: Groton Dam before. Right: After demolition.

Site description: The Wells River begins at the outlet of Ricker Pond in the town of Groton, VT. The river flows southeast to the Connecticut River at the village of Wells River. The south branch is a good brook trout stream that goes up to the State's only fly fishing pond.

Problems / history: The dam is old and has breached in the center leaving a height barrier for fish and other aquatic organism passage, also the right side of the dam that remains is affecting sediment transport dynamics.

Objective and Method: To allow fish and aquatic passage, while restoring natural sediment transport. Removal of this structure will provide flood resiliency and fish passage in all flow regimes. Additionally, it directly benefits recreational use, aesthetics, and instream and riparian stability. It will directly address the Remove the remaining dam structure will open up 22.31 miles into a protected Vermont State Forest, which has extensive hardwood, conifer and spruce-fir. This high elevation has a diverse ecosystem and stream habitat types that support native brook trout populations and associated biota. This directly supports the goals of the North Atlantic LCC.

Partners and Funding: Funding and support for this project came from American Rivers(AR), Connecticut River Watershed Council(CRWC), Green Mountain Coffee Roasters(GMCR), NH Charitable Foundation(NHCF), Patagonia, State of VT, Trout Unlimited(TU) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cost:	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>AR</u>	<u>CRWC</u>	<u>GMCR</u>	<u>NHCF</u>	<u>VT</u>	<u>Patagonia</u>	<u>TU</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	\$10,900	\$15,000	(IK-\$2,000)	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$120,900