

Lake Champlain Aquatic Habitat Connectivity

Fish Passage in the Winooski River Watershed

Marshfield 8 Dam, Marshfield Vermont



Before



After

Left: A view of the dam before construction. Right: Winooski River after.

Site description: The high elevation headwater reaches of the Winooski River are recognized as significant trout waters. The establishment of the natural condition of the river is a high priority to the Service and our Partners. The brook trout community will re-establish 4 miles of their native habitat upstream of the Marshfield Dam and reconnect a total of 19 miles once the barrier is removed.

Problems / history: In 1999 a fish kill eliminated the brook trout community for five miles upstream of the Winooski River. Because of the location of the Marshfield Dam on the main stem of the river, brook trout community cannot reestablish the effected community.

Objective and Method: The objective is to remove the barrier located on the mainstem of the Winooski River to provide aquatic organisms access for 19 consecutive miles of stream. The landowner is supporting of this project. The LCFWRO and our partners have identified this project as "high priority" in that it will directly benefit native brook trout populations. Removing the barrier completely will insure that fish passage and stream system dynamics are restored to this section of the Winooski River.

Partners and Funding: Funding and support for this project came from the Trout Unlimited, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Winooski River Friends Group, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cost:	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>VTDEC</u>	<u>TU</u>	<u>FWR</u>	<u>VTFWS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	\$43,000	\$179,000	\$750	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$226,750