

Upper Connecticut River Aquatic Habitat Connectivity: White River Watershed

Upper and Lower Eaton Dams, First Branch White River, Windsor County, Royalton, VT

Longitude: -72.514982 Latitude: 43.832124



Left: Upper Eaton Dam before removal (WRP). Right: Lower Eaton Dam before removal looking upstream (WRP).



Left: Upper Eaton Dam after removal (USFWS). Right: Lower Eaton Dam, looking downstream, during removal (USFWS).

Site description: Located in Royalton, Vermont the Upper & Lower Eaton Dams are the first two dams on the First Branch of the White River; both dams were inactive and are barriers to aquatic organism passage and sediment continuity; and the landowners support a dam removal project.

Problems / history: The dams block natural stream function and aquatic organism passage to 15 miles of upstream habitat. The section of the First Branch was listed as "impaired" for bacteria in 2016 and water quality monitoring indicated that fine sediments deposits behind the dams may be harboring bacteria populations. Removing the dam will restore the natural sediment regime, and will remove the conditions for bacteria to thrive.

Objective and Method: The removal of the dams will address an upstream water quality issue, improve flood resiliency, restore sediment transport and restore fish passage to 15 miles of habitat for brook trout, dwarf wedgemussel, sea lamprey, and American eel.

Partners and Funding: Funding and support for this project came from the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (funding), Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited (funding), Vermont DEC (funding), White River Partnership (project management), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (technical assistance, funding-NFPP).

Budget:

UCRMEF	GUVTU	VDEC	WRP	USFWS	TOTAL
\$107,640	\$2,920	\$61,500	\$8,848	\$50,000	\$230,908