

Hear from members of the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership:

“This is an important step towards our goal of recovering the Musconetcong River,” said Carl Alderson, NOAA marine resources specialist. “It took hundreds of years for the resources of this beautiful river to become so impaired. We are happy to be a part of this effort and we look forward to seeing the river return to what it once was.”

“When it comes to native fish passage and habitat restoration, a strong partnership is by far the most effective method to achieve your goals,” said Brian Cowden, coordinator of Trout Unlimited’s Musconetcong Home Rivers Initiative. “Trout Unlimited remains committed to restoring the Musconetcong watershed for both trout and anadromous fish while improving water quality throughout the watershed.”

“American Rivers is honored to be recognized with this award and we are proud to be part of such a hardworking, successful partnership,” said Laura Craig, Ph.D., associate director of river restoration for American Rivers. “From a Wild and Scenic designation to the removal of outdated dams, the Musconetcong River and its communities have seen great successes. But our work isn’t done, and American Rivers looks forward to continuing our restoration efforts with the partnership to ensure a healthy, vibrant river for future generations.”

“The New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership is partnership of private corporations, federal and state government, conservation organizations and academia whose goals are to protect, enhance and restore important aquatic habitats and water quality in New Jersey,” said Russell Furnari, representative for the partnership and manager of environmental policy for PSEG Services Corporation. “This project is an example of how partnerships can bring about positive results and significant environmental benefits. We are proud to be a partner in the removal of these dams and efforts to restore fish passage on the Musconetcong River.

“The National Park Service believes partnering with communities is the best way to protect America’s rivers,” said Paul Kenney, the river manager for the National Park Service’s Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

“Through partnerships with municipal, state, and federal agencies as well as many private entities, the North Jersey RC&D Council develops and manages programs and projects that promote the conservation and improvement of the region’s resources and protect the area’s quality of life,” said Grace Messinger, executive director of the council, which is a regional nonprofit organization serving Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties. “It has been an honor for North Jersey RC&D to be a part of this partnership effort focusing on the Musconetcong River. We have been working in partnership for numerous years with many of the groups and agencies already involved. It is through hard work, dedication and collaboration that work such as dam removals are accomplished. North Jersey RC&D is committed to continuing to improve the fish passage and habitat for the Musconetcong as well as to improve water quality for the entire watershed.”

“USDA-NRCS has been active in the Musconetcong watershed for decades, but we greatly advanced the conservation effort in the watershed when we joined forces and worked together through the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership,” said Carrie Mosley, NRCS New Jersey state conservationist. “No one group or organization can achieve the level of success that the partnership has attained. NRCS is quite proud to have worked with our conservation partners and friends in this endeavor, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future.”

"Removal of obsolete dams on the Musconetcong River not only benefits migratory fish and improves habitat for trout, but also builds long-lasting, collaborative partnerships between federal and state agencies, conservation groups, corporate sponsors, and landowners that have far-reaching habitat restoration possibilities," said Eric Schradling, acting field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New Jersey Field Office.

“The work of the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership has been so successful because each partner brings a unique set of skills to the project,” said Beth Styler Barry, Musconetcong Watershed Association executive director. “Restoration projects are complex; they involve issues ranging from an understanding of hydrology and local aquatic life to having respect for local history. Together we have the expertise and knowledge to get the job done well.”

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