

Virginia Field Office

Veterans Memorial Park Dam Removal Project



Pigg River Kayaker

Credit: Creek Freak Paddling Club

The Veteran's Memorial Park Dam Removal Project is located in the Town of Rocky Mount, Franklin County, Virginia. The dam is located immediately adjacent to Veteran's Memorial Park on the Pigg River and is approximately 80 feet wide and 6 feet tall. Local citizens routinely visit the park and use it as an access point to fish for rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, rock bass, and largemouth bass. The Pigg River is classified as a Trout Heritage Water by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Federally endangered Roanoke logperch is also found in this section of the Pigg River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing removal of the dam to

restore fish passage for the Roanoke logperch, an important activity to aide in recovery of the species. Restoring connectivity of the upstream and downstream sections of the Pigg River will also benefit the game fish that are present. In addition, the project will eliminate a safety hazard for recreational boaters as well as anglers. Completely removing the dam will cost considerably less than retrofitting the dam to eliminate the dangerous hydraulic in front of the dam.

PROJECT GOALS

- **Recover endangered Roanoke logperch**
- **Restore passage for native fishes**
- **Assist county in fully implementing blueway development plan**
- **Eliminate significant safety hazard to the public**

Similar safety hazards on the Blackwater River resulted in two drowning deaths in 2009. The project will also add stream miles to the Franklin County blueway system. The



Roanoke logperch

Credit: Conservation Fisheries, Inc.

blueway currently ends 850 feet upstream of the dam and removal of the dam will extend the blueway.

The Town of Rocky Mount is the owner of the dam and the Service is responsible for project management and construction supervision. The Service is funding the removal of the dam and the Town of Rocky Mount will fund bank stabilization and vegetative buffer plantings after removal is complete. Work on the project is expected to begin Summer 2010 and will be completed by Fall 2010.

Virginia Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061
1 804/693 6694
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield>

<http://www.contaminants.fws.gov>
<http://www.fws.gov>
1 800/344 WILD

Federal Relay Service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

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Veterans Memorial Park Dam

Credit: David Byrd, USFWS

