



# Habitat Restoration for Eastern Brook Trout- Lake Champlain, VT

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sedimentation, increased water temperature, barriers to passage and lack of riparian vegetation have been identified as the major threats to Vermont's brook trout population. The project includes has two principle efforts underway, 1) installation of livestock fencing, alternative water systems, and planting native trees and shrubs to restore degraded riparian areas. The project will leverage funding already in place for the establishment of riparian buffers in the Browns River Watershed. Much of the project area is impacted by agricultural use and residential development, the establishment of riparian buffers would address all three of the major threats. 2) The project involves replacement of an existing failed culvert with a bridge to allow for the year round upstream movement of brook trout on Stevensville Brook. The project will provide year round upstream movement of brook trout in Stevensville Brook. The Stevensville Brook Culvert Replacement project will serve as a demonstration project for other state agencies and local municipalities.



*Culvert causing a passage barrier to brook trout in Stevensville Brook  
(Courtesy Chris Smith- USFWS)*

## PROJECT STATISTICS

Location: Rockingham County, VT  
Initiated: 2004  
Estimated Year of Completion: 2007  
Congressional District: VT00  
Watershed Status: Reduced  
Landownership Status: Private

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Approximately 2 mi. stream restored
- 10 ac. riparian forest restored
- Livestock fenced from 2 mi. of stream
- Alternate water sources provided for cattle
- Elimination of fish barrier through culvert replacement
- Demonstration area for culvert replacement



*Riparian Restoration on Upper Browns River  
(Courtesy Chris Smith –USFWS)*

## PARTNERS

- *U.S D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *Private Landowners*
- *Winooski Natural Resources Conservation district*
- *Lamoille Natural Resources Conservation District*
- *Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation*

### For more information contact:

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