

Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund

Grant Awards 2016 – 2020

2020 Grants

American Rivers received \$601,102 to support the continued removal of the Gale River Dam in Bethlehem.

The **Connecticut River Conservancy** received three grants totaling \$181,300:

- \$47,700 for design, permitting, and outreach related to the proposed removal of significant recreational hazards at remnant dams located in North Stratford, NH (Lyman Falls) and Guildhall, VT (Wyoming Paper Co).
- \$58,300 for engineering design and permitting for the ongoing Kimball Brook dam removal project.
- \$75,300 to conduct fourteen riparian buffer plantings in floodplain forests and former agricultural lands throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.

White River Partnership received \$186,858 to work in partnership with Vermont River Conservancy to restore 60 miles of river connectivity by removing the Hyde Dam located in East Bethel, Vt.

The **Northern Forest Canoe Trail** received \$6,000 to enhance accessibility, safety, and the protection of riparian resources by developing portage and river access trails along the Upper Ammonoosuc River at the Red Dam and the Brooklyn Dam sites in Groveton.

The **Vermont River Conservancy** received two grants totaling \$35,882:

- \$9,583 to develop a portage trail at Beecher Falls, along the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail.
- \$26,299 to acquire a 6.5 acre parcel adjacent to the Connecticut River in Thetford, Vt. It would be managed in collaboration with the Thetford Conservation Commission and used primarily as a nature preserve with a campsite for paddlers as part of the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail.

The **Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests** received \$46,200 to support the Ammonoosuc River Protection Project in Bethlehem, NH which will permanently conserve 257 acres including 1.8 miles of frontage on the Ammonoosuc and seven feeder streams, including Haystack Brook.

The **Trust for Public Land** received \$102,000 to purchase and permanently conserve — in partnership with the Town of Hanover — a 250-acre property in the Mink Brook watershed that will become a new, municipally-owned town forest.

Trout Unlimited received \$49,320 to add six miles of strategic large wood additions in seven headwater tributaries across five high priority MEF watersheds including Willard Stream, Blodgett Brook, Clough Brook, Paul Stream, and Cutler Mill Brook.

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2019 Grants

American Rivers was awarded \$110,100 to restore connectivity to 30 miles of the Gale River by removing the South Branch Gale River Dam in Bethlehem, New Hampshire.

The Connecticut River Conservancy received five grants:

- \$129,674 for 2019 restoration work at Pine Mill Dam & Clark Pond Dam;
- \$6,950 for a planning & feasibility assessment of the removal of the remnant dams at North Stratford, NH (Lyman Falls) and Guildhall, VT (Wyoming Paper Co) in order to remove significant recreational hazards.
- \$9,597 for riparian buffer restoration on the Jacobs Brook in Orford.
- \$7,426 for riparian buffer restoration on the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.
- \$109,108 for the final engineering design for removal of Harvey's Lake Dam in Barnet, VT.

The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire received \$7,000 for acquisition and permanent protection of land adjacent to TNC's Maidstone Bends Preserve.

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission was awarded \$13,160 for the preparation of a petition to designate the White River mainstem as an *Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW)*.

In partnership with Trout Unlimited, the **Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife** was awarded \$54,000 to improve Brook Trout habitat by strategically adding large woody material to approximately 19 miles of the Paul Stream Watershed over three years.

The Vermont River Conservancy has been awarded two grants:

- **\$9,994** to complete a recreational access path stabilization project along the Nulhegan River.
- **\$4,079** for a portage and access trail improvement project along the Connecticut River at Dodge Falls in Bath, NH, including the installation of a 15-20 step stone staircase, a bog bridge over a seep, and corridor definition and clearing.

The White River Partnership received \$107,640 to restore 30 miles of connectivity by implementing a project to remove the Upper & Lower Eaton Dams, which are the first two dams on the First Branch of the White River.

2018 Grants

The Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust received three grants to support land conservation efforts along the Connecticut River:

- \$63,300 for conservation of a 200-acre parcel located at the confluence of the Connecticut and Ammonoosuc Rivers in Bath;

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- \$35,500 for conservation of a 12-acre parcel that will conserve important shoreland and floodplain habitat along the Ammonoosuc River in Bath; and
- \$19,025 to protect 33 acres of floodplain forest and other riparian habitat in Haverhill.

The Connecticut River Conservancy received three grants totaling \$278,102:

- A \$247,802 grant will support removal of the Norwich Reservoir Dam along Charles Brown Brook in Norwich, Vermont;
- \$25,300 will support final riparian restoration and monitoring of the East Burke Dam removal site on the East Branch of the Passumpsic River in East Burke, Vermont; and
- A grant of \$5,000 will enable engineering design for removal of the Harvey's Lake Dam along the Stevens River in Barnet, Vermont.

The Nature Conservancy's New Hampshire Chapter received a two-year, \$23,000 grant to support outreach to Connecticut River landowners to promote land conservation along high-priority reaches of the upper Connecticut River, including the Maidstone Bends.

Trout Unlimited received \$30,000 to continue in-stream restoration along the Black Branch of the Nulhegan River in northeastern Vermont.

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife will use a three-year, \$40,789 grant to establish new populations of the federally-endangered Jesup's milk-vetch on several sites along the Upper Connecticut River.

The Vermont River Conservancy was awarded two grants totaling \$11,437 to support canoe-campsite development and management along the Connecticut River.

The White River Partnership received two grants totaling \$95,204 to support two dam-removal projects:

- \$57,109 will help purchase land to facilitate removal of the Hyde Dam on the Second Branch of the White River; and
- \$38,095 will support engineering design for eventual removal of Upper and Lower Eaton Dams on the First Branch of the White River.

2017 Grants

Connecticut River Joint Commissions was awarded \$5,000 to support revised public education materials.

Connecticut River Watershed Council of Greenfield, Mass. received three grants:

- \$27,600 for final engineering design plans for removal of the old Norwich Reservoir Dam on Charles Brown Brook in Norwich, VT;
- \$57,500 for removal of the Geer Dam, a former small hydro dam on the Ompompanoosuc River in West Fairlee, VT; and

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- \$149,500 for removal of Clark Pond Dam and Pine Mill Dam plus related fish passage improvements on Clark Brook in Haverhill, NH.

Hanover Conservancy was awarded \$5,000 for the South Esker conservation project in Hanover, NH.

Trout Unlimited received three grants:

- \$58,000 for in-stream Brook Trout habitat restoration in the Yellow Branch and Black Branch watersheds of the Nulhegan unit of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Vermont;
- \$13,000 for tributary restoration in the West Mountain Pond watershed in Maidstone, VT; and
- \$29,300 for the final year of in-stream restoration activities within the Nash Stream State Forest in northern New Hampshire.

The Trust for Public Land of Montpelier, VT was awarded \$50,000 to support the Victory Hill conservation project in Victory, VT.

Vermont Land Trust of Montpelier, VT received \$50,000 to support the Halls Brook Watershed project to expand the Newbury Town Forest in Newbury, VT.

Vermont River Conservancy of Montpelier, VT was awarded two grants:

- \$4,500 to develop an overnight shelter and trail access to the Nulhegan River at the confluence of the main stem and East Branch in Bloomfield, VT; and
- \$2,550 to support paddler and angler access along the Passumpsic River in Passumpsic Village in Barnet, VT.

White River Partnership of South Royalton, VT, was awarded \$69,348 for planning and engineering to remove the Hyde Dam, which would restore 60 miles of free-flowing habitat on the Second Branch of the White River in Vermont.

2016 Grants

Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust of Sugar Hill, NH received three grants:

- \$68,000 to conserve a 203-acre parcel in Bethlehem, part of the Clean Water/Healthy Trout initiative;
- \$47,700 to conserve the 117-acre Lawrence parcel in Franconia, also part of the Clean Water/Healthy Trout initiative; and
- \$76,550 to conserve a 150-acre parcel along the Connecticut River in Bath.

Appalachian Mountain Club of Gorham, NH received \$7,000 to support an update to the MEF Priority Conservation Area and Priority Connectivity Projects reports, using new and recently revised data, such as updated Wildlife Action Plans for New Hampshire and Vermont.

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Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District of St. Johnsbury, VT was awarded \$30,000 to replace a culvert with a bridge on the Water Andric River in Danville, VT, reconnecting eight miles of river habitat.

Connecticut River Watershed Council of Greenfield, MA received four grants:

- \$5,000 for riparian buffer plantings on a conserved parcel along the Connecticut River in Haverhill, NH;
- \$5,000 for pre-removal planning for three small dams along Clark Brook in Haverhill, NH;
- \$42,375 for engineering design and permitting to remove a dam on the Ompompanoosuc River in W. Fairlee, VT; and
- \$206,435 for engineering design, permitting and removal of East Burke Dam on the Passumpsic River in East Burke, VT, restoring 99 miles of free-flowing habitat.

The Nature Conservancy/New Hampshire of Concord, NH was awarded \$114,856 to conserve a 48-acre floodplain parcel along the upper Connecticut River in New Hampshire.

The Nature Conservancy/Vermont of Montpelier, VT was awarded \$92,625 to complete the protection of Great Guildhall Swamp, a large A-ranked spruce-fir-tamarack and northern white cedar swamp that drains directly into the Connecticut River near Guildhall, VT.

Trout Unlimited received \$84,997 to complete a comprehensive assessment of more than 750 stream crossings in 19 New Hampshire towns in the Upper Ammonoosuc River watershed.

Vermont River Conservancy of Montpelier, VT was awarded two grants:

- \$5,000 for a public access, water quality and riparian lands restoration along the Passumpsic River; and
- \$12,500 to support conservation of riparian lands and public access at the covered bridge across the Connecticut River in Columbia, NH.

White River Partnership of South Royalton, VT, was awarded \$95,920 to support removal of the Sargent/Osgood/Roundy dam in Randolph, VT, reconnecting nearly 100 miles of free-flowing habitat along the First Branch of the White River.