

Request to use Fisheries Habitat Account funds to restore Atwell Brook, Groton

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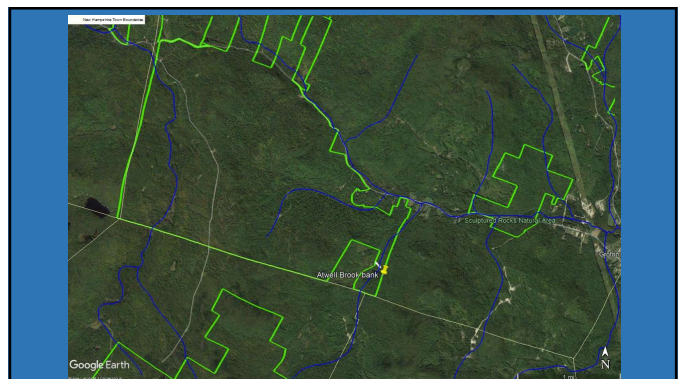
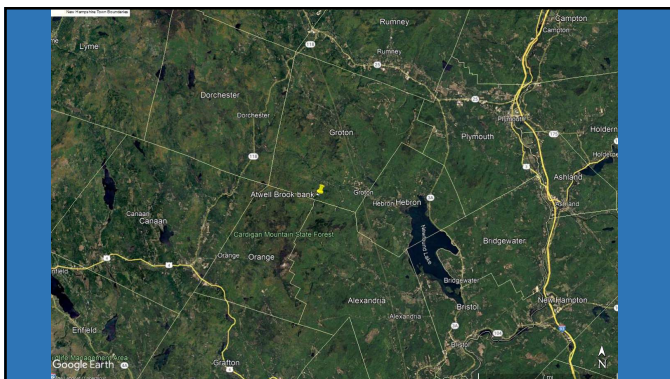
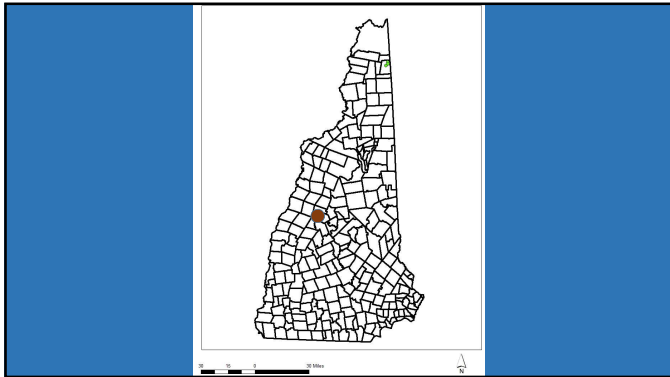
Presented to:
NH Fish and Game Commission, January 17, 2023

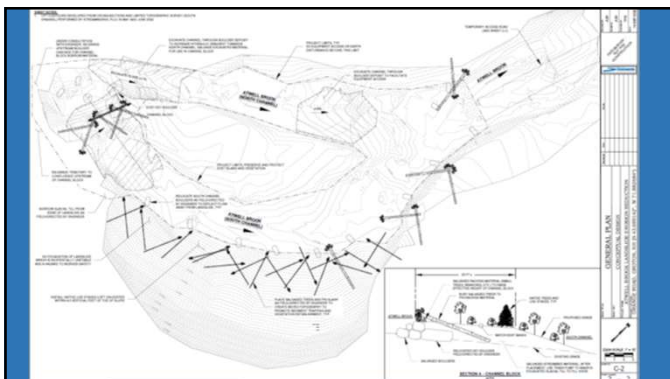
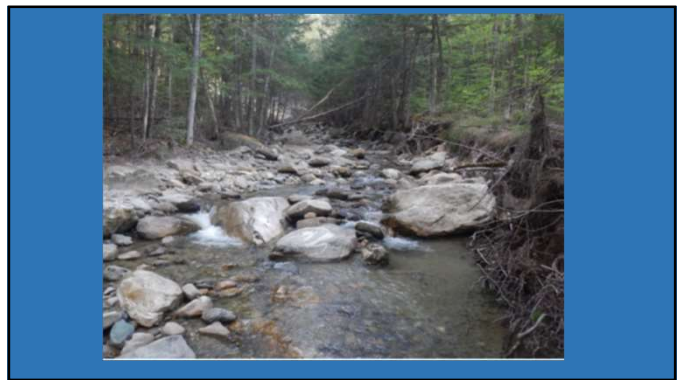
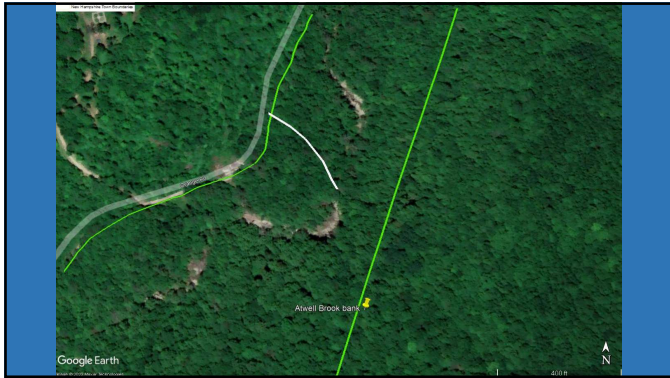


Primary Species – Brook Trout



But also fish in Cocker mouth River and Newfound Lake due to massive sediment erosion






Partners and Timeline

Newfound Lake Regional Association
NH Fish and Game Department
who else?

Started project in 2019; removal in 2023 or 2024.

Consulting Engineer: StreamWorks
Potential training opportunity for NH Air National Guard



Rating Method

Project Rating Criteria	Point Value	Score
1. The project protects healthy fisheries habitat in a natural aquatic system. The following (existing and potential future) attributes will be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian buffers % impervious area in the watershed upstream of the project area % area in watershed protected Number of impacting stream crossings per mile of stream Proportion of free flowing (no dams) habitat % watershed in agriculture Other attributes as necessary 	20	0
2. The project re-establishes the natural functions, processes, or linkages among the components of the watershed NO = 0 pts; Somewhat = 3-15; Fully so = 15 pts	15	15
3. The project reconnects fragmented aquatic habitat that provides fish with access to historic spawning, nursery, or rearing grounds.	15	15
4. The project increases the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad diversity of fish and other aquatic species 0 species = 0 pts 1 species = 5 pts 2-3 species = 10 pts 4 or more species = 15 pts	15	15
5. The project increases recreational fishing opportunities None = 0 pts Somewhat = 5 pts High = 10 pts	10	5

Rating Method

6. The project benefits fish species in greatest need of conservation None = 0 1 species = 5 pts 2+ species = 10 pts	10	5
7. The project targets fish habitat that is identified as a priority in a formal document. NO = 0 pts YES = 5 pts	5	0
8. The project is using matching funds that equals or exceeds the amount of Fisheries Habitat account requested funding No matching funds = 0 pts 2:1 match = 2 pts 2:1 match = 3 pts 2:1 match = 5 pts	5	3
9. The project is being officially supported by multiple partners 1 partner = 1 pt 2-3 partners = 3 pts >3 partners = 5 pts	5	5
Total Score		63

Notes:

Only land conservation projects can score >0 for Criteria #1, so the total possible points for restoration projects is 80.

Although the erosion at the site appears to be natural, it has had a major negative impact on the habitat of Atwell Brook, and significant sediment is still travelling downstream into the Cocker mouth River and into Newfound Lake, and both waterbodies have significant fisheries.

Funder	Amount	Status
NHDES ARM		Will apply in 2023
NHDES 319		Will apply in 2023
NHFGD-FHA	\$50,000	This request (~36% of total project costs)
Total estimated cost	\$140,000	

Total available in Fisheries Habitat Account (1/4/2023) = \$968,500




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