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Thankfully the weather was cooperative and didn’t result in any major setbacks. (And fortunately Hurricane Ida spared our project areas.) |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |   The winter months have continued to be just as busy as everyone has been buried in all the planning, permitting, grant writing, and other tasks that are necessary to ensure everything is in good order for this coming field season. Along with looking forward to another successful year in 2022, I am pleased to announce we’ve welcomed three new staff to our team – Phil McGovern, Jesse Vadala, and Ed Hansalik. Read more about them below.    ***For more information on TU’s work in New England, please reach out to Amy Wolfe, director of TU’s Northeast Coldwater Habitat Program. Her email is***[*amy.wolfe@tu.org*](mailto:amy.wolfe@tu.org)***.*** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ~~~~ | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **MASSACHUSETTS** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | TU’s field crew implementing chop-and-drop large wood habitat in Rice Brook, Charlemont, Mass. | | | |   In the Deerfield River watershed, the Deerfield River Watershed Chapter continues its efforts to study the river’s wild trout population, including spawning activity and fish movement, with the goal of improving flow regimes to benefit trout. Concurrently, the TU National field crew got to work with the chapter to improve large woody habitat in Rice Brook. After identifying the stream as a thermal refuge for trout — excellent groundwater inputs that keep the stream cold year-round — the chapter got in touch with the primary landowner, the Warfield House Inn, and several surrounding landowners to secure their buy-in and permission to work on their land.    They secured the permits and the project coordinator secured funding through a [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzIzNg/index.html).    The chapter has also been e-fishing the stream and setting data loggers in partnership with USGS Sylvio O. Conte Research Lab to monitor the trout population before and after the large wood installation. Approximately 0.8 mile was completed in the project area in 2021 and we will be returning to complete another 0.8 mile in 2022. To learn more, visit this [great interactive map](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzIzNw/index.html) of the woody habitat work completed so far. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | A fresh large wood addition under high flow conditions. Large wood not only provides cover and macroinvertebrates for trout, but also slows down flood water during storms. | | | |   In Berkshire County, Trout Unlimited staff are partnering with local agencies and non-profits to assess culverts and determine suitable locations for a variety of “nature-based solutions,” the blanket term the state uses to describe most non-infrastructure projects that improve habitat and flood resiliency, and that reduce erosion and sedimentation to improve water quality. Nature-based solutions can include floodplain connection projects, large wood habitat restoration, dam removals, riparian plantings, and stormwater management. All share the goal of slowing down and spreading out flood waters while creating cold, clean, resilient watersheds. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | The remaining undersized and perched culvert on a tributary to Kinne Brook. | | | |   The Housatonic River watershed, which is the focus of this assessment, contains hundreds of miles of groundwater streams and designated coldwater resources by the state. Maintaining and improving these brook trout strongholds is a priority for brook trout resilience. A portion of this project will focus on the towns of Lenox, Stockbridge, New Marlborough, and Pittsfield. This project is funded through the [Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzIzOA/index.html).    Having replaced one of two priority undersized culverts along Kinne Brook in Chester, Mass., in the early months of 2020, TU is continuing our work to now replace the second undersized culvert. We are in the final stages of design approval through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, as well as completing fundraising for construction through the recent infrastructure bill funding. Additionally, TU will be working with a private landowner downstream of the culvert replacements on a bank stabilization project and adding large woody habitat through a portion of the mainstem.    ***For more information on TU’s work in Massachusetts, please reach out to Erin Rodgers at***[*erin.rodgers@tu.org*](mailto:erin.rodgers@tu.org) |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ~~~~ | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **BATTENKILL HOME RIVERS INITIATIVE** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | Strategically adding wood improves the health of streams. | | | |   TU’s Battenkill Home Rivers Initiative (HRI) is entering its third year. It is a momentous year, as more than double the amount of coldwater stream miles will be restored throughout the watershed than during the first two years. Importantly, it means that we have made it past the initial two years for which the project was funded. The sustainability of the HRI is due in large part to the wonderful partners TU has throughout the watershed. [Orvis](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzIzOQ/index.html) was generous enough to donate their 2021 Giving Tuesday proceeds to the HRI. The company’s $50,000 donation celebrates the legacy of Leigh H. Perkins.    In 2021, TU worked with landowners in Rupert, Vt., to initiate work on a tributary to White Creek. This work entailed strategic wood additions and a variety of [beaver dam analogs (BDAs)](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0MA/index.html). In total, a quarter mile of stream was treated. TU will complete up to 1 additional mile of restoration work on this tributary in 2022.    TU expanded temperature monitoring efforts throughout the Vermont portion of the watershed, adding another [Mayfly Sensor Station](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0MQ/index.html). |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |   A Vermont Watershed Grant award from 2020 was also utilized to conduct outreach and site visits to landowners along the Green River and Battenkill. Two sites were surveyed for potential restoration project designs, and funding was secured from Watersheds United Vermont (Clean Water Design/Implementation Block Grant) to complete 30% designs for a project on the Green River.    TU looks forward to continuing to engage with members and supporters through volunteer events happening again in 2022. Those events include a [spring trash clean-up](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0Mg/index.html) (April 2), [a riparian tree planting](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0Mw/index.html) (April 23), and many more opportunities throughout the year, including our third annual fall redd survey event.    ***To learn more about the Battenkill Home Rivers Initiative, please contact Jacob Fetterman at***[*jacob.fetterman@tu.org*](mailto:jacob.fetterman@tu.org)***.*** |  |  | | --- | |  |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ~~~~ | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **MAINE** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | For more than 25 years, TU and multiple partners have been working to reopen the Kennebec River for Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish.    Past TU advocacy resulted in the removal of the Edwards and Fort Halifax Dams, restoring populations of 3 million to 5 million river herring and a world class fishery for American shad; the listing Atlantic salmon in the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment as endangered; the addition of the Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers to the listed population; and the [Penobscot River Restoration Project](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0NA/index.html). Meanwhile, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, working with TU and other volunteers, pioneered an Atlantic salmon egg planting program in the Sandy River that has resulted in the nation's best egg-to-adult-return, producing more than 12,000 salmon smolts in the spring of 2021. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | TU volunteers helped rescue Atlantic salmon from a below a Kennebec River dam when the fish were trapped during a dewatering event. | | | |   But four large hydropower dams that lack effective fish passage sit between the Sandy River and the ocean. A [long-term advocacy project](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0NQ/index.html) is underway to use federal dam relicensing, the Endangered Species Act, and state water quality standards to improve fish passage on the river, preferably by removal of all four dams. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | TU is busy working on strategic wood additions on streams in Maine, including in the Pleasant River watershed. | | | |   In the spring of 2021, [volunteers from TU helped rescue salmon trapped below the Kennebec’s lowest dam](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0Ng/index.html). They documented the event, which trapped at least four adult salmon, two of them badly injured, and filed comments with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, triggering an investigation by NOAA Fisheries and increased attention on the Kennebec’s fish passage inefficiencies.    With funding from a $1.5 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant from the USDA/NRCS, the Trout and Salmon Federation, and others, in August of 2021 TU completed Phase 2 installations of large wood to restore habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon and brook trout in Ashworth Brook, a tributary to the Middle Branch of the Pleasant River. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | One of three dams on Frost Gully Brook that is set to be removed in 2022. | | | |   The Appalachian Mountain Club owns and manages nearly 100,000 acres in the Middle Branch and West Branch of the Pleasant River, all of it habitat for brook trout and much of it designated critical habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon. Combined with work in 2021, we have now completed restoration of just under 1 mile of habitat in Ashworth Brook. We also planned another 1.5 miles of work on the Middle Branch and other tributaries for the summer of 2022.    Looking ahead to the 2022 field season, we have completed fundraising and final design plans for three dam removals on Frost Gully Brook, to improve habitat, lower water temperatures, and improve access to spawning and thermal refuge habitat for a recently discovered population of sea-run brook trout in Freeport, Maine.    ***To learn more about TU’s work across Maine, please reach out to Jeff Reardon at***[*jeffrey.reardon@tu.org*](mailto:jeffrey.reardon@tu.org)***.*** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ~~~~ | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **NEW HAMPSHIRE** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | As this map shows, replacing culverts with bridges has reconnected miles of coldwater habitat in the Beebe River watershed. | | | |   Trout Unlimited’s New Hampshire team had a busy year in 2021 as our full and part-time crew dove into a lot of field assessment work, major construction projects and community outreach. After two years of limited activity due to Covid-related restrictions, our team finally got back into the field to do what we do best — rebuilding and restoring aquatic habitat.    Across New Hampshire, our crews rebuilt instream habitat by installing just over 7 miles of strategic wood addition (SWA) work. We also continued to work with the state to assess more than 50 road crossings in and around the Lake Winnisquam region. Our team also participated in raising more than $8.5 million dollars in grant funding of which over $7 million is earmarked for New Hampshire projects. This has allowed our team to initiate or complete full engineering design plans for 10 new projects this past year, implement or prep three new bridge projects, and prepare to remove two dams in 2022.    TU’s work on Indian Stream was featured in this [great video](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0Nw/index.html) from our longtime partner, The Forestland Group. TFG manages the 146,000-acre Connecticut Lakes tract in northwestern New Hampshire that includes the headwaters of the Connecticut River, the largest river in New England. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | A new bridge within the Beebe River watershed will connect habitat previously divided by a perched culvert. | | | |   Our highlight project from 2021 is the Perch Pond Road restoration effort in Campton. This project was a continuation of our ongoing efforts to restore complete connectivity for aquatic organism passage across the entire Beebe River watershed, a river system located along the southern border of the [White Mountain National Forest](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0OA/index.html).    This past season we worked with the Town of Campton, New Hampshire Fish and Game, the Grafton County Conservation District, and the Webster Land Group to install a 30-foot bridge across one of the last three impassable aquatic barriers throughout the entire watershed. It was a great project reconnecting an additional 7 miles of instream habitat throughout this Beebe River tributary. As we wrap up this project, we will be installing another mile of SWA work in this drainage in 2022 to rebuild the instream habitat to further enhance brook trout spawning.    ***For more information on Trout Unlimited’s efforts in New Hampshire, reach out to Colin Lawson at***[*colin.lawson@tu.org*](mailto:colin.lawson@tu.org)***.*** |  |  | | --- | |  |      |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ~~~~ | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **RHODE ISLAND** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | Rhode Island Priority Waters partners participate in a site inspection. From left: Corey Pelletier (RIDEM), Glenn Place (Rhode Island chapter), Jon Vander Werff (Save the Sound), Bob Maietta and Kassi Donnelly (Pawcatuck Wood Watershed Association), Brian O'Connor (Protect Rhode Island Brook Trout). | | | |   Better known as the Ocean State for its beaches and saltwater marshes, the smallest state in the U.S. has a surprisingly large amount of native brook trout water.    Flowing through 300 square miles in Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut, the 110 miles of the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed are comprised of seven distinct major rivers and dozens of small streams and ponds. Fueled by springs from groundwater aquifers bubbling under the forest floor, these streams are the best chance for brook trout to thrive in the face of climate change.    For several years, the [Rhode Island Chapter](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI0OQ/index.html), in partnership with agencies and other nonprofits, has been helping assess and monitor the many small streams that make up the Upper Wood River. Thanks to an [Embrace A Stream grant](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1MA/index.html) and other support, volunteers have been taking water temperatures, tracking brook trout populations, restoring in-stream habitat, and building community around the conservation efforts in this important watershed. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | The Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed was identified as a TU Priority Water in Rhode Island. | | | |   Recently, this partnership was further bolstered through TU’s Priority Waters process, an initiative of [our new strategic plan](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1Mg/index.html) to identify a network of rivers and streams where shared focus and effort could make a significant impact for native and wild trout.    Gathering for a day-long meeting to review the latest science and data collected on all rivers in Rhode Island, followed by a site walk of potential project sites, the partners brought their diverse interests and perspectives to the discussion about a shared commitment to the future of brook trout.    As a result, the Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed was identified as a TU Priority Water. The designation itself is important in helping focus resources on the watershed, but what matters most in the coming months and years is the community commitment rallying behind the river.    ***If you’re interested in learning more about TU’s work in Rhode Island, planned projects and goals for the Wood River, and ways you can help shape and support that work, please email***[*rhodeislandchapter@tu.org*](mailto:rhodeislandchapter@tu.org)***or visit***[*https://rhodeisland.tu.org*](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1Mw/index.html)***.*** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **CONNECTICUT** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | TU has completed 24 projects on Salmon Creek. | | | |   Since 2012, TU has partnered with the local community and private landowners to complete the [Salmon Creek Enhancement and Restoration Project](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1NA/index.html) with a grant secured from the [General Electric Natural Resource Damages](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1NQ/index.html) (NRD) fund administered by the Connecticut Council of Trustees.    Additional funding from the NRD was secured in 2018 to finish the full scope of the Salmon Creek work. To date we have [completed 24 projects along Salmon Creek](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1Ng/index.html), which includes two projects completed in 2021 that extended our previous work at the [Lime Rock Park Raceway](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1Nw/index.html).    This year will be our final year working on Salmon Creek, and we will wrap up this work with a five-year summary of our monitoring data to determine how we did and to see how our work has contributed to improving habitat for native and wild trout. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | Lime Rock Park Raceway has been a key partner in TU’s restoration efforts on the Salmon Kill, also known as Salmon Creek. | | | |   Farther downstream, TU is still working with local partners to restore [Macedonia Brook](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1OA/index.html) in Kent, Conn. A riparian restoration project completed in the fall of 2020 in partnership with the Kent School will continue again this spring for an Earth Day Event.    TU, in partnership [Housatonic Valley Association](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI1OQ/index.html)and the [Kent School](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI2MA/index.html), will begin discussions about additional restoration activities on Macedonia Brook. Federal funding secured by our partners will make this long-term vision a reality. Over the next five years we anticipate our focus to move from Salmon Creek to Macedonia Brook as we continue to ramp up our efforts on this important tributary to the Housatonic River. Cold connected tributaries are critical for trout. As the Housatonic warms, trout can move into the tributaries to find coldwater pools to feed and spawn.    ***For more information on TU’s Connecticut work, please contact Tracy Brown at***[*tracy.brown@tu.org*](mailto:tracy.brown@tu.org)***.*** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **VERMONT** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | Connecticut River Valley members David Wein, Noah Wein, and Paul Gudewicz help Project Coordinator Erin Rodgers with netting and data collection during e-fishing on Vose Brook prior to habitat restoration. | | | |   We had a busy summer in Vermont in 2021 completing over 10 miles of large wood habitat restoration and continued planning for several dam removals and culvert replacements scheduled for 2022.    The TU field team worked with the Connecticut River Valley Chapter in the headwaters of the Deerfield River to implement approximately 1.8 miles of large wood habitat restoration on Vose Brook and 0.2 mile of large wood habitat restoration on Heather Brook, both in Searsburg.    These coldwater tributaries to the Deerfield River are well connected streams that flow from the [Green Mountain National Forest](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI2MQ/index.html) through private lands before connecting to the mainstem, making these streams vital thermal refuges and spawning/nursery habitat.    Half of the restoration work completed on Vose Brook was done with permission from [Great River Hydro](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI2Mg/index.html). The chapter members also lent their support to the project by helping with e-fishing prior to implementation, and they will continue to help with monitoring as the project matures.    This project was funded through an award from the Vermont Watershed Grant (funded through brook trout license plate sales), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the US Forest Service, and generous donations from the local community. Check out this [great interactive map of the project work](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI2Mw/index.html). |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |   Continuing our work with the Green Mountain National Forest, the TU field team revisited Corporation Brook to modify some in-stream habitat placed in 2020, and to expand the work in the watershed. Overall, we completed work on over 1.5 miles of Corporation Brook, a tributary to the White River in Rochester, in addition to the 0.6 mile completed in 2020. We’ll finish the last half-mile of stream habitat restoration work in 2022 and move into another to-be-determined stream system afterwards. This project has been funded in part by the US Forest Service and the [Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI2NA/index.html).    In the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, the TU field crew worked with the [NorthWoods Stewardship Center](http://troutunlimited.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zNTkxNTc2JnA9MSZ1PTQyMzMwNjE4NCZsaT0zNDQzMzI2Ng/index.html" \t "_blank) to train a second field team and complete over 5 miles of large wood stream habitat in tributaries to the upper Connecticut River, including Clough Brook, Cutler Mill Brook, Willard Stream and Stony Brook.    All habitat restoration work was done on private land, 3 miles of which belong to Weyerhaeuser, Inc. These private partnerships are vital to habitat restoration across the state since private land comprises roughly 85% of land ownership in the state. This project was funded in part by the Upper Connecticut Mitigation and Enhancement Fund. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | USFWS staff dismantling the concrete dam on Broad Brook, Guilford, VT. (Photo by Ron Rhodes, Connecticut River Conservancy) | | | |   In partnership with Connecticut River Conservancy, TU helped support the removal of a small dam on Broad Brook in Guilford. The small run-of-the-river dam was once used to create a swimming hole for the landowners but had since filled in with sediment. Connecticut River Conservancy and US Fish and Wildlife Service completed the removal and in-stream restoration, reconnecting a half-mile of upstream habitat to several miles of downstream habitat.    An upcoming project is planned for Box Cover Brook, which flows about 2.5 miles from its headwaters on the Green Mountain National Forest, through Great River Hydro lands, and into the very southeast corner of Somerset Reservoir. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | | --- | | The undersized and perched culvert of Box Cover Brook, August 2021. | | | |   Just 500 feet upstream from where the stream enters the reservoir, the brook flows under a recreation and logging trail through a deformed and undersized culvert that is perched under most stream flow conditions. TU staff have completed a topographic survey and initial design to replace the culvert with a wider, open-bottom structure that will reconnect the lower 500 feet to the stream’s headwaters, allowing for complete aquatic organism passage.    Several private landowners along Utley Brook in Landgrove reached out to the Bennington County Conservation District and Trout Unlimited with concerns about erosion, incision, and a lack of habitat in what should be a trout-friendly coldwater stream. TU staff completed a topographic survey of the area and will be designing suitable natural structures to help slow down and spread out high waters, as well as add much-needed trout habitat and cover to the stream channel. We hope to permit the project and complete construction in 2023.    As part of the $1.8 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program award to TU through the Natural Resource Conservation Service, TU is accomplishing strategic wood addition in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The early cornerstone of work in Vermont will focus on The Conservation Fund’s Northfield Ridge property in Granville. Over 8 miles of streams on the property have been assessed for large wood habitat suitability with 4.2 miles in line for implementation in 2022 in partnership with Redstart Natural Resource Management. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **NEW STAFFERS** |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Trout Unlimited’s staff in New England has welcomed a few new members to the team.    **Phil McGovern** joins TU as a full-time stream restoration technician and field manager in the Northeast Coldwater Habitat Restoration Team, focused largely in Vermont, Massachusetts and New York.    **Jesse Vadala** is the full-time engagement coordinator for the Northeast Coldwater Habitat Program covering NY and CT.    **Ed Hansalik** is a part-time stream restoration specialist for the Northeast Coldwater Habitat Program, focused largely in New Hampshire and Vermont. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |   Phil grew up in the Northeast but after earning his first bachelor's degree from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Co., in 2004, he moved out to Alaska where he began his career trail building for a non-profit based out of Southeast Alaska. During his time in Alaska, he advanced his career, working for Chugach State Park, Alyeska Ski Resort, and Chugach Powder Guides. While living in Alaska, Phil spent many evenings at the fishing hole down the street trying to catch silver salmon but usually ending up with pink salmon.    In 2011, Phil moved to Oregon with his wife and two kids, where he first served as the leader of a Northwest Youth Corps crew in the Klamath Basin before joining the Fremont-Winema Forest Service as a wilderness trail technician. While in Klamath Falls, Phil returned to school and earned a second bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Oregon Tech. While working on his degree, he helped implement several beaver dam analogues in Northern California and decided that stormwater and stream restoration were where he wanted to focus his career.    After graduation, Phil spent time working for SHN Engineering as a staff engineer, but after yet another smoky summer in Southern Oregon and with Covid-19 spreading across the country, Phil and his family relocated to Vermont in 2020. When not at work wood-loading stream corridors, you will find Phil with his family in Manchester, Vermont, where they enjoy swimming in creeks, mountain biking, skiing, and pouring fresh maple syrup on just about everything. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |   Originally from Newburgh, N.Y., Jesse currently lives in Albany. Jesse returned to his native state to be closer to family and start one of his own after four years of living in Austin, Texas, and seven years of touring as a musician. He took an apprenticeship at a coffee company and has continued to build a career for himself as a coffee roaster, educator, and independent consultant within the industry.    Beyond this work, Jesse has been a youth mentor and volunteer outdoors advocate for the local communities in Newburgh and in Albany where he now resides. As project coordinator for the Shred Foundation (a nonprofit organization that teaches snowboarding and alternative career paths to underprivileged youth) and Vice President of the Clearwater Trout Unlimited Chapter, Jesse has remained quite busy engaging with the local community on many fronts.    His love of fly fishing and the outdoors was completely inspired by his father, Joseph Vadala, a lifelong conservationist, and avid outdoorsman. Jesse’s “A-ha!” moment with fly fishing happened on a sunny June afternoon, along the banks of the Neversink Gorge. Having grown up fishing with ultralight spin fishing gear, Jesse was intimidated by the complexities of fly tying and fishing. But that day on the Neversink, a much older angler with an artfully delicate dry fly presentation on bamboo, spoke not a word but put on a visual clinic in technique. Inspired, Jesse ordered a new fly rod that very evening and gifted his spin gear to his nephew. The seasons that followed have brought immense joy and exciting explorations into the world of trout and the beautiful places they call home. |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |   Ed was raised on Long Island, N.Y. He attended Texas A&M University and received degrees in Soil and Crop Sciences and Agricultural Engineering. He worked as both a soil conservationist and as an agricultural engineer in Texas. Upon becoming a Professional Engineer in Texas within the USDA-SCS, he was promoted to Civil Engineer where he served several counties in Northeast Texas, both in supervisory and design/field engineering capacities. Design of structural and hydraulic structures as well as stream bank and grade stabilization structures, erosion control and environmental/agricultural waste treatment and storage predominated his design workload. He was appointed as the project manager of a multi-county interagency “Hydrologic Unit Project” in 1992, working closely with state and federal regulating agencies in developing alternative strategies to address eutrophication of streams and reservoirs feeding the Dallas western suburbs and was given the EPA “Environmental Excellence – Non-Point Source Pollution” award for his work in that arena.    Ed was transferred to New Hampshire in 1997 with his wife, Anne and four children. In New Hampshire, he worked in similar engineering roles which also included a significant amount of effort and time working on emergency watershed protection activities after significant catastrophic weather events. Much of the work in the New Hampshire period of his employment with the USDA-NRCS involved drainage, hydraulics and hydraulic structures and environmental/resource conservation practices. He also had the opportunity to work with Trout Unlimited on a few projects in Northern New Hampshire. Ed has been self-employed for the last six years as owner of Valid Home Inspections. His primary work areas have been Vermont and New Hampshire. He enjoys bird and deer hunting – when he finds the time – and he also enjoys salt and freshwater fishing. | | | | |  | | | |

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