

Connecticut River Aquatic Habitat Connectivity

Fish Passage in the White River Watershed

Marsh Brook on Marsh Brook Rd Road, Rochester Vermont



Before



After

Left: A view of the Marsh Brook culvert outlet on Marsh Brook road showing the undersized culverts with minimal fish or aquatic organism passage. **Right:** New Marsh Brook culvert at the Marsh Brook road crossing designed for fish and aquatic organism passage as well as flood resiliency.

Site description: Marsh Brook in Rochester Vermont is a headwater tributary to the White River and supports a thriving fishery including Atlantic salmon and a wild brook trout population. In combination with the repairs to another road crossing structure downstream on Marsh Brook, this new culvert will allow native brook trout to access over 2.5 miles of critical thermal refugia and spawning habitat.

Problems / history: Multiple culverts in Rochester Vermont were in need of emergency repair following the flooding from tropical storm Irene in August of 2011. Following tropical storm Irene many of the emergency fixes were designed to quickly open roads for vehicle traffic, but not always allow for fish and aquatic organism passage. Working closely with FEMA and the town of Rochester the US Fish and Wildlife Service has provided technical assistance, engineering designs, and project over site to ensure projects allow both fish and aquatic organism passage.

Partners and Funding: Funding and support for this project came from the US Forest Service, FEMA, Town of Rochester, White River Partnership, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>WRP</u>	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>FEMA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$132,000	\$144,000