



## Connecticut River Joint Commissions Partnership Projects *Basin 14: Stevens-Wells-Waits-Ompompanoosuc*

### 2006

#### **Waits River Watershed Interconnectedness**

**Grant awarded: \$2,000**

*Submitted by: Bradford Conservation Commission*

*Project location: Bradford, VT*

This project engaged high school students and their families in activities that demonstrated relationships between uplands, forests, wetlands and water quality in order to guide informed land use decisions in the Waits River Watershed.

#### **Wells River Phase I Geomorphic Assessment**

**Grant awarded: \$2,000**

*Submitted by: Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District*

*Project location: Ryegate, Groton and Newbury, VT*

This award partially funded a Phase I stream geomorphic assessment of the Wells River Watershed and provided needed information to guide efforts to protect and restore the Wells River and its tributaries.

#### **Ompompanoosuc River Water Quality**

**Grant awarded: \$1,100**

*Submitted by: West Fairlee Conservation Commission*

*Project location: Norwich, Thetford, West Fairlee and Vershire, VT*

The purpose of this project is to sample and analyze water of the Ompompanoosuc River at nineteen locations over the summer of 2006 to monitor water quality and attempt to identify sources of pollution.

#### **Dragonflies of the Connecticut River Mainstem**

**Grant awarded: \$2,500**

*Submitted by: New England Institute for Landscape Ecology*

*Project location: Three sites along CT River: Wells River, Hartland, Springfield*

The intent of this project is to survey three stretches of the Connecticut River for dragonflies and damsel flies that are largely restricted to habitats along large rivers.

#### **Aquatic Invasive Plants Outreach & Survey**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Submitted by: Sullivan County Conservation District*

*Project location: CT River from Brattleboro to Canaan*

The goal of this project is to raise awareness about preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants in the CT River, by holding a series of workshops and field trips that focused on invasive plant identification and control.

### 2005

#### **Peacham and Barnet Water Quality Study**

**Grant awarded: \$3,000**

*Submitted by: Peacham Conservation Commission*

*Project location: Peacham & Barnet, VT*

The community participants collected and analyzed baseline water quality data from East Peacham Brook and parts of the Stevens River in order to identify threats. This established and fortified a partnership between Barnet and Peacham with respect to river resources in this area.

#### **Blood Brook *E.coli* Monitoring**

**Grant awarded: \$1,500**

*Submitted by: Norwich Conservation Commission*

*Project location: Norwich, VT*

This grant supported the continued monitoring of *E.coli* levels in the Blood Brook watershed utilizing a state grant for laboratory services.

## **2004**

### **Stevens River Watershed Assessment**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: Barnet & Peacham, VT*

*Submitted by: Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District*

The county conservation district, Stevens River Watershed Council, and local volunteers conducted a Phase I geomorphic assessment of the Stevens River and three key tributaries, surveyed bridges and culverts, examined stream stability and land uses both current and historic, and held a public forum to present results to landowners.

### **West Branch Ompompanoosuc Mini-Watershed Plan**

**Grant awarded: \$4,000**

*Project location: Strafford & Thetford, VT*

*Submitted by: Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Commission*

The regional commission drafted a preliminary mini-watershed plan to address the top issues, threats, and concerns facing the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River, based upon community comments and scientific data, and in cooperation with the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council and the Strafford Conservation Commission.

### **Town-Wide Wetlands Resources Inventory**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: Bradford, VT*

*Submitted by: Bradford Conservation Commission*

The local conservation commission coordinated a professional wetlands resources inventory for the town of Bradford, and engaged tenth grade students in a study of vernal pools in the Waits River watershed. An educational component was incorporated through a partnership between the Bradford Conservation Commission, Oxbow High School, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's Community Mapping Program.

### **Upper CT River Important Bird Areas Project**

**Grant awarded: \$4,500**

*Project location: VT and NH Towns along the Connecticut River*

*Submitted by: Audubon Vermont*

Audubon Vermont worked with the Audubon Society of New Hampshire to map and identify Important Bird Areas in the Upper Connecticut River corridor. These efforts were the first steps in protecting habitat critical to birds along this significant migratory flyway, and engaging local volunteers in monitoring and conserving these sites.

## **2002**

### **Elizabeth Mine Restoration Project**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: South Strafford and Thetford, VT*

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Mine Study Group*

Funds helped the study group review and critique EPA plans for the Elizabeth Mine, work with community members in understanding those plans, and continue to monitor the biological health of the Ompompanoosuc River downstream of the site.

### **Ompompanoosuc River Project**

**Grant awarded: \$3,000**

*Project location: South Strafford and Strafford, VT*

*Submitted by: Newton Elementary School*

Building on data already gathered by students working on erosion issues with the Strafford Select Board, students and ecological consultants worked together to diagnose and remediate a site along the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

## **2001**

### **Elizabeth Mine Restoration Project**

**Grant awarded: \$3,200**

*Project location: South Strafford and Thetford VT*

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Mine Study Group*

The grant allowed the Study Group to continue its efforts to design and implement a remediation plan for the Elizabeth Mine, which has been sending acidic leachate into the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

## 1999

### **Connecticut Valley Integrated Crop Management Project**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project Location: Caledonia Co., VT*

*Submitted by: Caledonia County NRCD*

Funding was used to support work with farmers in Caledonia County to better manage nutrients and pesticides, thereby reducing the potential for non-point pollution. This project further developed a partnership between the Caledonia County NRCD, UNH and UVM Extensions, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### **Elizabeth Mine Restoration Project**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project Location: South Strafford and Thetford, VT*

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Mine Study Group with Vermont Association of Conservation Districts*

The Elizabeth Mine has been labeled as one of the "hot spots" on the Connecticut River by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and as Vermont's worst non-point source of pollution by the Water Quality Division of the Agency of Natural Resources. This grant assisted the Elizabeth Mine Study Group in organizing a cooperative, community-based environmental and historic restoration project to clean up metal laden acid mine drainage at the abandoned mine site, and to document the mine's historic significance.

### **Upper Valley Connecticut River Wetlands Project**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project Location: Thetford & Norwich, VT; Lyme, NH*

*Submitted by: Upper Valley Land Trust*

The Upper Valley Connecticut River Wetlands Project continues UVLT's land conservation work along the Connecticut River in Lyme, New Hampshire, and Thetford and Norwich, Vermont. In 1999, the project will include conservation of riverfront farmland and provision of cartop boat access in addition to protection of shoreland and wetland.

## 1998

### **Elizabeth Mine Remediation Project**

**Grant awarded: \$2,500**

*Project Location: South Strafford, VT*

*Submitted by: Elizabeth Mine Study Group (White River NRCD pending)*

This grant supported a multi-phase project to educate the public and coordinate efforts to remediate the metal laden acid mine drainage flowing from the abandoned Elizabeth Mine into Copperas Brook and the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

### **Riverbank Inventory Project - Waterford to Hartford, VT**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project Location: multi-community, VT*

*Submitted by: Caledonia County NRCD*

An inventory was made of the Vermont bank of the Connecticut River from Moore Dam in Waterford through the town of Hartford. The inventory indicated stretches with bank erosion and the type and extent of riparian buffers.

### **Upper Valley Connecticut River Wetlands Project**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project Location: Thetford & Norwich, VT; Lyme, NH*

*Submitted by: Upper Valley Land Trust*

This project increased the Upper Valley Land Trust's organizational capacity to protect water quality and wildlife habitat along the Connecticut River by securing conservation easements, management agreements, and fee title acquisitions on key wetland tracts and shoreland buffers in Thetford and Norwich, VT and Lyme, NH.

---

The Connecticut River Joint Commissions' Partnership Program offers grants of \$500-5000 to communities and organizations within the Connecticut River Watershed for projects that implement the Connecticut River Management Plan and the Connecticut River Scenic Byway Plan. For more information, see [www.crjc.org/partnership.htm](http://www.crjc.org/partnership.htm).

**Total grants provided in this basin: \$74,300**