



Restoring Wetlands Through Wetland Reserve Program



Judd Brook before WRP fish passage restoration

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), now Wetland Reserve Easements, was/is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to restore and protect wetlands on their property and focus on restoring hydrology and plants as well as protecting wildlife and migratory birds. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. In 2013, Roy and Deb Stever worked with NRCS to protect 65 acres of wetlands in Easton, NH (Grafton County). The restoration effort included removing a water control structure blocking Judd Brook (pictured above) which was a barrier to Eastern Brook Trout movement. The Judd Brook also flows through the White Mountain National Forest. The previous landowners blocked the stream and had a cistern on the side to use as their water source. NRCS worked with the Stevers to remove the obstruction and filled the cistern, restoring hydrology to the site and stream passage to the fish. The project was completed at the end of June and, just after the plants on the banks of the stream were planted, the area sustained torrential rain. Soon after the rains, Mr. Stever inspected the stream and found the plantings and streambank in tact, thanks to the project. (See photo by Mr. Stever on next page.)



United States Department of Agriculture

