



HOOSIC RIVER RESTORATION

Adams, Massachusetts

Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment

As of: February 2012

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

DESCRIPTION

Three separate Corps flood damage reduction projects have been constructed along the Hoosic River to protect surrounding towns. A tributary of the Hudson River, the Hoosic River is one of the few ecosystems in Massachusetts still featuring a viable, self-sustaining population of wild trout. Flood damage reduction features, including a concrete flume and rip-rap levees, have contributed to conditions unsuitable for the perpetuation of wild trout populations. This study will seek to investigate environmental degradation problems along the Hoosic River, but budgetary and policy constraints will limit alternatives to those which will not alter the existing flood damage reduction capacity of the channel, and that will not alter its high velocity portions. Options to be considered may include the creation of additional stream cover, the modification of the natural bottom portions of the channel to create habitat, similar modifications in the trapezoidal riprap portions of the channel, and the altering of the drop structures for habitat improvement.

AUTHORIZATION

Section 1135(b) of WRDA, 1986, as amended

STATUS

The feasibility phase was initiated in February 2002 and subsequently suspended due to funding shortfalls. The study was reinitiated in 2006 as federal funds became available, and the scope of the study was modified in coordination with the non-federal sponsor, a consortium of interests represented by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Detailed computer hydraulic and hydrologic modeling is currently being done at the Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, MS, to ensure that any modifications will not impact the flood damage reduction capacity of the channel. In addition, stream temperature modeling is currently being conducted at the Corps' New England District on the above-referenced alternatives, to determine whether they are effective in reducing the diurnal and overall temperatures within the flood control channel. A draft feasibility report has been prepared and is currently undergoing the required reviews. Public release of the feasibility report is currently scheduled for Spring 2012.

STUDY COST

Estimated:		<u>\$1,100,000</u>
	Total	\$1,100,000

CONTACT

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CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION

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