



FISHERIES TROUT HABITAT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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Habitat Improvement Projects

Norfolk Tailwater at the Confluence with the Bull Shoals Tailwater

This project consisted of restoring approximately 450 feet of riverbank. Approximately 925 tons of large boulders were hauled to the site and work began in early March of 2008 but had to be halted due to high water levels as a result of severe flooding on the Buffalo River and Crooked Creek followed by floodgate releases and high water levels. The project was completed in February 2009.



Norfolk Tailwater at the confluence with the Bull Shoals Tailwater Before/During Project



Norfolk Tailwater at the confluence with the Bull Shoals Tailwater After Project

Program personnel attended an on site meeting with all interested contractors and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning the 1135 Project below Bull Shoals Dam. The main objective of this project is stream bank protection and placing in-stream habitat structure to improve the survival of young trout. Materials needed for this project are currently being hauled to the project site. Bids have been opened and we are waiting for the contract to be awarded. Work is scheduled to begin in May 2009. Any interested groups or individuals who have comments or suggestions regarding this project are welcome to contact us.

Program personnel attended the annual Friends of the Norfolk Hatchery meeting on March 27th to discuss the plans for habitat improvement and improved access to Dry Run Creek. The next step in this project is to meet with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to determine what permits are necessary to begin construction. Anyone wishing to view the plans can stop by the office.



Dry Run Creek, Baxter County

Landowner Assistance

A streambank stabilization project on the Norfolk tailwater at River Ridge Inn owned by Jim Smith was completed.

Tim and Eli completed a rehabilitation plan for a site on Mill Creek (Izard Co.) that had been cleared by a previous landowner prior to the 2008 floods. The new landowner had requested a plan to revegetate and stabilize the streambank.

Tim and Eli inspected a site on the White River near Batesville where the landowner is experiencing serious problems due to the clearing of riparian vegetation prior to constructing his home.

Program personnel assisted a private contractor by hauling boulders to a streambank stabilization project for Porter Elms on the Norfolk tailwater.

Former AG&FC Director's Steve Wilson's property on the White River was visited to inspect damage caused by the 2008 flood. Repair alternatives were discussed.

Program personnel assisted two private landowners with the completion of their 404 permit applications.

Assisting Others

Eli and Tim both spent several days assisting with the Northern Snakehead Eradication project in Eastern Arkansas. Eli also assisted with the test run that was held prior to the project. Program personnel assisted Baxter County with the organization of a work crew to help clean debris from the roads following the ice storm.

Several large boulders were provided to help with the repairs to the Parker Bend Angler Access Facility on the Beaver Tailwater.

Four large trees and rootwads were hauled to the LB Access on the Spring River to assist with the stabilization project being constructed by the Commission Construction Crew.

Several days were spent hauling materials from Ruskin Heights in Fayetteville to the West Fork of the White River for an upcoming river restoration project being conducted by the Watershed Resources Conservation Center.

Meetings/Presentations

Tim and Eli attended the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's annual meeting that was held in Bentonville.

Tim attended a BUM meeting in Benton to discuss the new state pay plan. Eli and Tim attended a staff meeting in Benton to discuss proposed regulation changes.

Tim and Eli attended a meeting of the Trout Management Team and Eli attended a Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting regarding the Bull Shoals and Norfolk tailwaters.

Tim attended the annual banquet of the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Fayetteville.

Tim, Eli, and Trout Management Biologist Paul Port boated the Beaver tailwater with Bruce Ritter of Trout Unlimited to discuss upcoming habitat and access improvements.

Program personnel attended a meeting in Murfreesboro on the Little Missouri River to discuss the Skinny Water Project.

Larry Rider met with Lane Johnson with NRCS (Harrison office) to discuss program projects and objectives. We are planning to meet in the near future with Lane and other NRCS employees to discuss cooperative projects that will meet program objectives and provide additional funding.

Material Acquisition

Program personnel collected large hardwood trees that were destroyed on Farview Farm at Gassville (Baxter County) in the February tornado that traveled across the state. These trees will be used in future habitat improvement projects.



Large trees and rootwads from Farview Farms