



### **Project 6-5 French River Headwaters Riparian Tree Planting**

**Background:** In the headwaters of the French River, a DNR Fisheries hatchery operations dam flooded the entire riparian area of about two miles of stream. The dam was removed in 2008 but the lack of large trees in the riparian area increases water temperature and sedimentation from the dam deteriorated fish habitat.

**Problem Statement:** The channel within the old impoundment is devoid of tree cover. Stream flows are likely warming significantly through this reach.

**Goals:**

- 1) Increase the number of large trees in the riparian area to help reduce stream temperatures.
- 2) Provide additional energy to the aquatic food web in the form of leaf litter.
- 3) Provide for future woody debris habitat.

**Priority:** Medium

**Task Duration:** 2-3 years

**Potential Mechanism:** CWL, GLRI, TS

**Partnering Organization(s):** DNR Fisheries, AFF

**Estimated Cost:** \$25,000

**Comments:** Historic air photos going back to 1948 show no forested riparian area in the headwaters of the French River.

**Special Considerations:** This reach is a Fisheries Aquatic Management Area, and therefore is protected from forest harvest.

**Accomplishments:**

**Measure(s) of Success:** Cooler water temperatures (temperature logger will be placed in restored reach and project will be evaluated as shade trees mature), large woody debris inputs creating fish habitat

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*Vision Statement: Maintain, protect, and restore healthy cold water ecosystems with relatively stable flows and a diversity of habitat for fish and wildlife to enhance our quality of life.*

*For project information: [www.lrcd.org/links/lsc\\_projects.htm](http://www.lrcd.org/links/lsc_projects.htm)*