



Project 8-3 Lester River Tributary 10 Channel Restoration

Background: A private dam on Tributary 10 to the Lester River is near failure. This dam was installed before the permitting process, therefore maintenance is not permitted.

Problem Statement: Impoundments such as these create loss of baseflow through evaporation, and increases in water temperature, which can affect all downstream reaches. These impacts can be mitigated by restoring a free flowing channel. This structure is also a fish barrier during most flows, but may be passable under certain flow conditions. The impoundment has been in place for a long time, and has likely accumulated a large amount of sediment. A catastrophic failure of the structure would result in large quantities of sediment released to the Lester River in a relatively short period of time. It would be much better for the stream system to reconstruct a natural channel and remove the impoundment in a planned manner. The stream valley is wide enough to possibly include an off channel pond as part of the restoration project.

Goals: Restore fish passage, stream temperatures and base flows by creating a natural channel through the existing impoundment.

Priority: Moderate

Task Duration: 3 years

Potential Mechanism: GLRI, LSOHC, NFPP

Potential Partnering Organization(s): DNR, NRR1

Estimated Cost: \$250,000

Comments: The landowner was informed that dam restoration work would not be permitted, but work was done without a permit within the last 2 years.

Special Considerations: Structure and restoration area is on private property and would require the consent/cooperation of the landowner. Depending on the funding source, a conservation easement may also be required.

Accomplishments:

Measure(s) of Success: Restoration of stream connectivity and elimination of temperature impacts.

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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