



**Project Title:** Tennessee Low Head Dam Removal Partnership

**Headline Title (2-5 words):** Tennessee Dam Removal

**Brief Summary (Abstract):** Low-head dams reduce or eliminate connectivity for aquatic and semi-aquatic species. This project will remove as many of these dams in Tennessee as funding supports both opportunistically and strategically.

**Project Location:** Tennessee (statewide)

**Partners:** The Nature Conservancy; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Ecological Services Offices in Cookeville, Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina); Divisions of Water Resources, Scenic Rivers and the Natural Heritage Program, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; American Rivers; Tennessee Clean Water Network; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; Harpeth River Watershed Association.

**Background:** Low-head dams create impediments for up and downstream movement of aquatic and semi-aquatic species. Dams being addressed by this group are no longer fulfilling their intended purpose, are likely in a poor state of repair and can be a threat to human health and wellbeing.

**Project Goals:** Remove low-head dams in Tennessee working with partners and landowners

**Strategy Goals Implemented:** Goal 1, Strategy 1.3.2- Restore degraded habitats as appropriate to support a diversity of species assemblages and ecosystem structure and function; Strategy 1.3.3- Restore or enhance areas that will provide essential habitat and ecosystem services during ecosystem transitions under a changing climate.

Goal 6, Strategy 6.1, Action 6.1.3 Identify and partner with key stakeholder groups to help develop and distribute key climate change and adaptation messages tailored for their interest groups as well as the broader public.

**Climate Impacts Addressed:** stream warming due to ponding behind the dams and heating of waters; potentially reduced stream flows related to increased evaporation from a warmer climate; species connectivity to cooler upstream waters; increase available lotic habitat in ponded footprint.

**Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps):** Currently underway; expanding partnerships and seeking funding. Implementing removal on 1 project and beginning the process on several others.

**Project Outcomes:** Restored stream connectivity and improved climate resiliency particularly in watersheds with SGCN species.



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

**Funding Sources:** Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage funds, and State Wildlife Grant funds.

**Photos/Attachments:**

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