



# Foster's Online

New

Dover, N.H.

'More Local News, More Of

**News Menu**

- [Fosters Home](#)
- [Lakes Region](#)
- [Region](#)
- [Local N.H.](#)
- [Local Maine](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Homefinder](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Classified](#)
- [Search](#)
- [Site Index](#)

Thursday, August 14, 2003

[E-mail This Article](#)

## Dam's future undetermined in Greenland

By PETRA LINNEHAN

Democrat Staff Writer

GREENLAND — Whether the only dam in the Winnicut River will be dismantled will largely depend on the outcome of a feasibility study, which is taking place over the next few months.

Representatives from various state agencies listened to comments at a public session in Greenland last night but had to defer many answers to a later date once more data and information about the dam and river will be available.

The dam's owner, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, is considering removal of the dam, built in the 1950s to improve fish passage and restore the river to its original flow into the Great Bay, said Cheri Patterson, a marine biologist for the department.

A fish ladder, which is part of the dam, is ineffective in its current form, Patterson explained. Fish and game is particularly concerned with the river herring and the rainbow smelt, which are considered part-time residents, coming to the river only to spawn.

Smelt, a small and weak fish, cannot use the fish ladder at all. Also, for many river herrings it is ineffective.

Eric Hutchins, a fisheries biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, which is funding the dam removal feasibility study, said removing the obstacle for rainbow smelt would be a "unique fisheries aspect to this dam." The fish would like to spawn further upstream to get away from the tidal fluctuation but the dam is in the way.

The dam was constructed in the 1950s for waterfowl habitat protection, for fire protection and recreational fishing, said Stephanie Lindloff, river restoration coordinator of the state Department of Environmental Services. It is a reconstruction of earlier dams, which date as far back as 1670.

A majority of tributaries of the Great Bay are dammed, said Lindloff. With the dam in the Winnicut River being the only one of significance it is a rare opportunity to restore a large portion of the Green Bay watershed to free flowing, she explained.

Some residents were concerned how the dam removal could affect water levels.

Other dam removal projects show it is rare for water tables to be significantly impacted, said Lindloff.

But, more concrete answers will come from the study, officials said. The study will also try to answer how the Greenland Fire Department will be impacted, which draws water from the river.

**Advertisers!!!**  
[Check Out Foster's Upcoming Special Sections](#)

**Foster's Print Ads**  
[Click Here To View All](#)

- Automotive**
  - [Dick Poulin Chevrolet](#)
  - [Dick Poulin Chevrolet](#)
  - [Granite Ford](#)
- Education**
  - [Jackson Hewitt](#)
  - [Jackson Hewitt](#)
  - [McIntosh College](#)
  - [McIntosh College](#)
  - [McIntosh College](#)
- Employment**
  - [Granite Ford](#)
  - [Development Scvs](#)
  - [Development Scvs](#)
  - [Holy Rosary Credit Union](#)
  - [Huggins Hospital](#)
  - [McDonalds](#)
  - [National Employment](#)
  - [National Employment](#)
  - [St Ann Home](#)
  - [St Ann Home](#)
- Real Estate**
  - [Thompson Real Estate](#)
  - [Masiello Group](#)

At least two more meetings are scheduled over the next four months and the public is encouraged to provide additional input.

The cost for dam removal varies depending on site conditions but mostly ranges between \$30,000 and \$175,000, Lindloff said.

More information, which will guide the decision-making, should become available over the next few months with a draft study scheduled to be completed by December.

For input and more information contact 868-1095.

© 2003 Geo. J. Foster Company