

Focus ON THE FOUNDATIONS



FishAmerica Foundation

Dam Removal Benefits Fisheries in New Way

Valuable fisheries habitat created from dam remnants

In Big Bigby Creek, near Sandy Hook, Tenn., and just an hour southwest of Nashville, smallmouth and rock bass have received a big boost in habitat benefits.

Using a new approach to habitat restoration, the [World Wildlife Fund](#), the [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), the [Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency](#) and local landowners partnered to remove the Sandy Hook Dam, a small concrete mill dam, and removed the



The Sandy Hook Dam on Big Bigby Creek prevented fish passage in six miles of fisheries habitat. The dam altered stream flow and fish passage as well as negatively affected the in-stream fisheries habitat.

exposed metal pipe, immediately opening six miles of habitat for bass. The FishAmerica Foundation, through its partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Fish Passage Program, provided a \$60,000 grant to complete the project.

Once the dam was removed, the group went one step further to restore habitat. It used the dam's remnants to create small riffle-pool habitat along the stream. These riffle pools create areas with slower moving water, which provide protection and resting sites for fish.

Big Bigby Creek is a tributary in the Lower Duck River watershed. The Lower Duck is one of the most aquatically diverse freshwater systems in the world and is renowned for its abundance of fish species. The headwaters of Big Bigby Creek provide an important refuge for fish in the Lower Duck River watershed.

The final phase of the project will occur this spring when project partners reshape and stabilize the stream-banks along the former dam site.

For more information, contact the foundation's Executive Director, [Johanna Laderman](#), x245. ■



Restoration partners use heavy equipment to remove the Sandy Hook Dam.



Water now flows freely along six miles of Big Bigby Creek after the dam's removal.



The partners recycled remnant pieces of the concrete dam to create riffle pools, greatly enhancing fish habitat along Big Bigby Creek.

Future Fisherman Foundation

Fishing for Funding

The Future Fisherman Foundation is [embracing the challenge](#) of finding additional funding to support operations into 2009. The foundation has received numerous inquiries from program participants, educators and industry partners seeking guidance on how to provide support and donations.

Those wishing to help the foundation can make a tax deductible, charitable donation [online](#) or by mail to Future Fisherman Foundation, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420, Alexandria, VA, 22314. You also may request a donor letter to distribute to your network by contacting foundation Executive Director [Anne Danielski](#) or Manager of Education [Teresa Rodriguez](#). Donors

also have the option of sponsoring staff outreach and development or donating items to raffle at upcoming fundraising projects.

For more than 20 years, the Future Fisherman Foundation has worked nationwide to create nearly a million conservation-minded anglers through creative programs and partnerships such as Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, *Physh Ed* and after-school programs with the Boys & Girls Clubs.

“Please help us sustain our programs so that the foundation can continue to play a pivotal role in facilitating opportunities for children, families and communities to experience the joys of fishing while fostering environmental stewardship,” said Danielski. ■



Courtesy of Florida Sportsman Magazine