

# TWIN RIVERS RESTORATION PROJECT

In April 2006, the inter-agency Batten Kill Study Team found that the chronic loss of trout cover in the Batten Kill main stem, a result of past river channel alterations and encroachments, the loss of forested riparian areas, and the removal of in-stream large woody debris and other cover structures, is likely to be the single largest cause of the documented decline in brown trout populations in the Kill. Lack of cover exposes fish to increased predation and environmental stresses. The Twin Rivers Restoration Project, begun in 2006 and concluding in 2008, will install large wood clusters, coarse rock substrate, and other natural elements to increase cover in the pools in this half-mile reach by 20% or more.

Partners in the Twin Rivers Project are the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance, Bennington County Conservation District, U. S. Forest Service's Green Mountain National Forest, U. S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Orvis Company, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Southwestern Vermont chapter of Trout Unlimited, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's River Management Program, William and Joan Lesko, and other private landowners.

