



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Maine

Conservation Innovation Grant



Stream Connectivity Outreach and Implementation

Grantee Name: Project SHARE

Agreement Number: 69-1218-13-7

Period Covered: Sept. 2013-Aug. 2016

Funded Amount: \$57,000

The full title of this project is "**Stream Connectivity Outreach and Implementation: Raising the ecological bar on road/stream crossing restoration.**"

Innovation: Through a joint effort of several members of a statewide Stream Connectivity Working Group, demonstrate and transfer promising conservation technologies throughout the state via educational outreach and training for project managers.

Focus: Increase public awareness of negative ecological impacts of traditional, undersized round culverts and to increase the capacity to address the landscape scale problem through educational outreach.



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Working with stakeholders (including NRCS), Project SHARE established a stream habitat restoration program that has received national attention by developing tools to assess, design, implement and monitor road/stream connectivity restoration projects.

Maine Audubon was instrumental in spearheading the logistical component of this outreach to landowners, municipalities, NGOs, and State and Federal agencies. Under this CIG, this information was delivered and marketed to EQIP-eligible landowners throughout Maine through Soil and Water Conservation Districts and NRCS District Conservationists. The project concluded that "increased outreach, training opportunities and demonstration projects presented in a voluntary, cooperative setting are a viable means of increasing the capacity to implement ecologically sound road/stream crossings" in Maine.

Accomplishments Included:

- Held 24 Stream Smart workshops to different groups to include town officials, engineers, contractors, consultants, foresters, land trusts, and federal and state agency staff.
- Developed new Field Technical Stream Smart assesment workshop.
- Produced Stream Smart construction demonstration videos and a Stream Smart Field Assessment video: available at maineaudubon.org/streamsmart/
- Organized workshops presenting road crossing assessment and design, and with the Maine Forest Service presented Stream Simulation Design Courses.
- Presented stream habitat restoration information and methods at six demonstration sites in Maine.

NRCS seeks innovative projects that highlight partnerships and projects to develop innovative conservation on private agricultural and forest lands.



The challenges of the "Old School" round culvert (above) and benefits of the "New School" open bottom arch culvert (below) were presented to landowners as part of the "Stream Connectivity Outreach and Implementation" CIG.



Images courtesy of Project SHARE

Outreach success for this CIG depended on several groups including:

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| Maine Audubon | Maine Coastal Program |
| USDA-NRCS | Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection |
| The Nature Conservancy | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | NOAA |
| Project Share | Maine Coast Heritage Trust |
| Sustainable Forestry Initiative | Casco Bay Estuary Partnership |
| Maine Forest Service | Maine Rivers |
| | Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife |