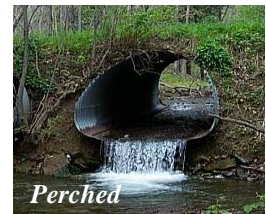
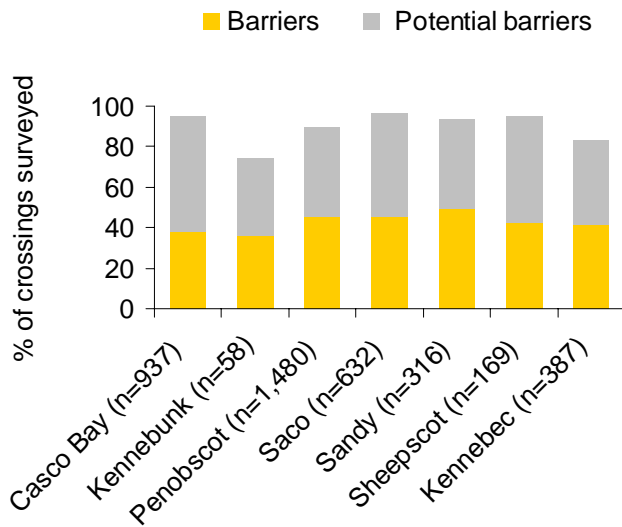


# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STREAM-SMART ROAD CROSSINGS



## BACKGROUND ON STREAM BARRIERS

Undersized, perched, and blocked road culverts block the movements of fish and wildlife and also prevent stream processes that are critical to maintaining quality habitat for those species. Undersized culverts can also be less likely to pass heavy storm flows that are more common today. Culverts with these problems are often referred to as barriers, because in many ways they act like dams. ***Replacing road crossings with structures that recreate natural stream conditions benefits fish and wildlife but also helps lower maintenance and safety liabilities shouldered by road owners.***



## THE CHALLENGE: REMOVING THOUSANDS OF BARRIERS

Recent surveys show that several common problems at road crossings lead to a high incidence of stream barriers in Maine. ***Up to 90% of culvert crossings have some characteristics that hinder or block passage for aquatic organisms during part of the year.*** About 40% of all culvert crossings are likely to be year-round barriers. These barriers threaten and undermine the recovery and conservation of highly prized and economically important species like as Eastern brook trout, Atlantic salmon, and alewife. Progress in removing thousands of barriers across Maine can only be achieved incrementally over decades, but many opportunities exist to start making progress today.

**STREAM-SMART  
ROAD  
CROSSING  
DESIGN**

Stream-smart road crossings are designed to make the crossing “invisible” to the stream so natural water flows, sediment, large woody debris and passage of fish and wildlife are once again supported. In general, designs for stream-friendly road crossings seek to at least meet, but preferably exceed the stream’s width and match the elevation and alignment of the streambed. This allows crossings to match the depth and velocity of flows found outside of the immediate influence of the present crossing – in other words, natural conditions to which fish and wildlife are adapted.



**FUNDING  
AND  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE**

Where the priorities of road owners and stream restoration grant programs overlap on the same section of stream, some options are available for reducing the costs of using stream-smart design principles. For projects that most closely meet the immediate goals of individual programs, grants and technical assistance may be available. Most funding is offered as a cost-share, with some requiring that up to 100% of the grant award be matched in value by other funding or services. Examples of some of these programs that can aid road owners in planning and installing stream-friendly crossings:

- NOAA Community-Based Habitat Restoration Programs  
[www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (private road owners)  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service  
[www.easternbrooktrout.org/formsubmit.aspx](http://www.easternbrooktrout.org/formsubmit.aspx)
- Trout Unlimited Embrace-A-Stream Program
- Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (streams associated with wetlands)  
[www.maine.gov/dep/land/nrpa/ILF\\_and\\_NRCP/MNRCP/](http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/nrpa/ILF_and_NRCP/MNRCP/)
- Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership  
[www.cwrp.org/maine.html](http://www.cwrp.org/maine.html)

Grant programs potentially offering cost-share or technical assistance for road crossing replacement projects that meet specific program goals.

Program	Eligible applicants	Average or max award amount	Match <sup>1</sup>	Application deadline	Web link	Program focus and comments
<b>NOAA</b>						
The Nature Conservancy	most all	25,000-85,000	100	April	<a href="http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html">www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html</a>	Fish, shellfish, and other species
FishAmerica Foundation	non-profit	10,000-75,000	75	May	<a href="http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html">www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html</a>	Marine, anadromous, estuarine game fish and T&E species
American Rivers	most all	150,000 max	100	December	<a href="http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html">www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html</a>	Diadromous fish
Estuary Restoration Act	most all	100,000-1,000,000	50	TBD	<a href="http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html">www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html</a>	Estuaries
Gulf of Maine Council	most all	40,000-125,000	100	February	<a href="http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html">www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/northeast.html</a>	Diadromous fish; stream, estuarine, marine habitats
Trout Unlimited	most all	25,000-50,000	100	January	<a href="http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/crp.html">www.habitat.noaa.gov/funding/crp.html</a>	Diadromous fish
<b>NRCS</b>						
Wetland Habitat Incentive Program	private	50,000/yr	≥10	September	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial">www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial</a>	Pays up to 90% of project costs
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	private	300,000/6 yrs	25	rolling	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip">www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip</a>	Agriculture or forestry landowners
<b>USFWS</b>						
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture	most all	50000	100 <sup>2</sup>	August	<a href="http://www.eastbrooktrout.org/forms/submit.aspx">www.eastbrooktrout.org/forms/submit.aspx</a>	Priority Subwatersheds; requires USFWS sponsorship
Fish Passage Program	most all	25,000 max			<a href="http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/FWSMA/fishpassage/FPPrgs/R5/Region5.htm">www.fws.gov/fisheries/FWSMA/fishpassage/FPPrgs/R5/Region5.htm</a>	
Gulf of Maine Coastal Program	most all	5,000-50,000		rolling	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/GOMCP/funding.html">www.fws.gov/GOMCP/funding.html</a>	
<b>Other</b>						
Casco Bay Estuary Partnership	most all	25,000 max	varies	rolling	<a href="http://www.cascobayestuary.org">www.cascobayestuary.org</a>	Tidal restrictions & high priority barriers Casco Bay Watershed
Maine Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership	most all	5,000-35,000		March	<a href="http://www.cwrp.org/maine.html">www.cwrp.org/maine.html</a>	Offers services and funds
Maine Coastal Program	municipalities & commissions	5,000-50000	25 <sup>2</sup>	December	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/spo/landuse/docs/FY12_competitive_grant_program.pdf">www.maine.gov/spo/landuse/docs/FY12_competitive_grant_program.pdf</a>	
Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program	most all			July	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/nrpa/ILF_and_NRCP/MNRCP/">www.maine.gov/dep/land/nrpa/ILF_and_NRCP/MNRCP/</a>	Streams with assoc. wetlands
Bring Back the Natives	most all	25,000-100,000	200	January	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&amp;CONTENTID=22394&amp;TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm">www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Charter_Programs_List&amp;CONTENTID=22394&amp;TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm</a>	Priority species, including river herring

<sup>1</sup> The percentage of the award amount in non-federal match (e.g. cash, materials, or services) that must be applied to the project, unless otherwise noted (see <sup>2</sup> below).

<sup>2</sup> Match of any origin is acceptable