

# Old Stream Protection Project (Phase I)

## #2004R-25 - WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Old Stream

Location: T31 and T37 – Washington County

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed

Project Sponsor: Washington County SWCD

Project Duration: March 2005 – September 2006

Grant Amount: \$60,000

Local Match: \$26,000 (local), \$20,000 (ME Dept. Ag.)



### PROBLEM:

The State of Maine has listed the Machias River as a NPS Priority Watershed because it contains endangered wild Atlantic Salmon. Old Stream is the highest priority subwatershed of the Machias River since it contains more high value Atlantic Salmon spawning and rearing habitat than any other tributary to the Machias River.

NPS pollution in the form of sediment is identified in the “Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan” as one factor hindering the recovery of Atlantic Salmon populations because of its detrimental effect on spawning and rearing habitat. A 2003 NPS survey of the Old Stream watershed north of Route 9 identified 27 NPS sites that cumulatively contribute many tons of sediment to Old Stream. A second survey identified another 20 sites in the Old Stream watershed – south of Route 9.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of the project was to apply BMPs at 20 high priority NPS sites from the 2003 Old Stream watershed survey to reduce sedimentation and improve fish passage.

In addition, the project aimed to educate landowners (primarily timber companies) and their road maintenance crews on proper BMPs so that would implement them on other projects and avoid similar problems in the future. Public outreach was conducted through press releases at the beginning and end of the project.



Arch culvert installed to stabilize stream crossing and improve fish passage.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project installed a variety of erosion control BMPs to fix 20 NPS sites in the northern portion of the Old Stream watershed.
- Projects included two bank stabilizations; 11 culvert replacements or new installations with BMP stabilization; and seven roadside ditch stabilizations with turnouts.
- Staff estimated that the project reduced pollutant loading to Old Stream by 150 tons of sediment each year (USEPA Region 5 Method).
- Atlantic Salmon Commission biologists plan to perform embeddedness surveys as a means of gathering data on the effects of sedimentation in the stream and the positive effect of fixing the above mentioned NPS sites.



## PROJECT PARTNERS:

Project SHARE  
Maine Department of Agriculture  
Machias Watershed Council  
Malcolm French, landowner  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Atlantic Salmon Commission

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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