

A Working Partnership to Restore Atlantic Salmon Habitat in Downeast Maine



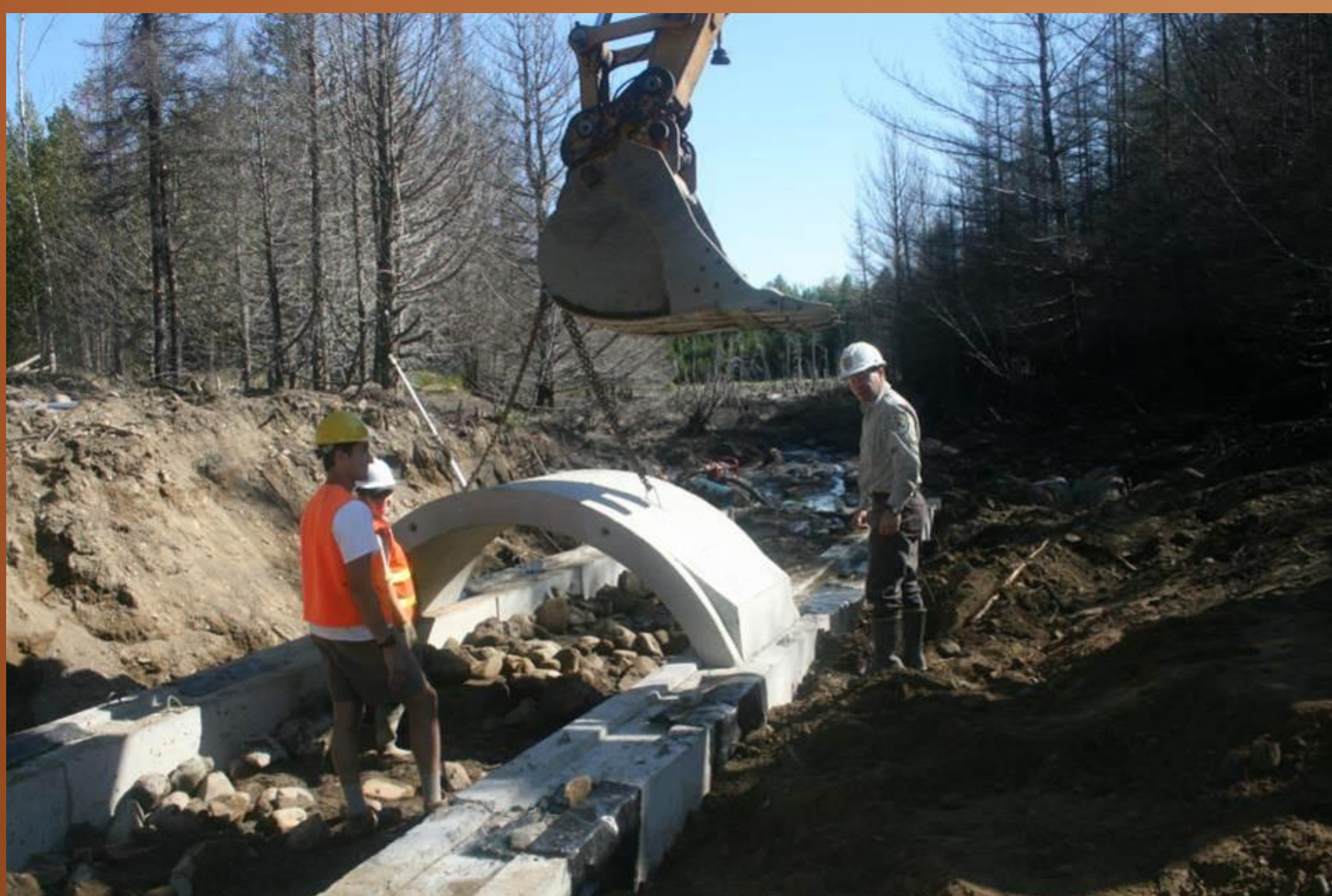
Head pond formed by an earthen dam on Trout brook in Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. Photo Credit: Project SHARE



Using refuge equipment to remove the Trout brook dam, with water control in place. Photo Credit: Project SHARE



Students from the University of Maine Machias planting seedlings along the decommissioned earthen dam at the Middle brook site in Moosehorn. Photo Credit: Project SHARE



Project SHARE and USFWS crew members starting to place cast arch culvert sections. Photo Credit: Scott Craig



Project SHARE and USFWS crew members placing the final section of a new arch culvert. Photo Credit: Scott Craig



USFWS employees pose atop a new fish-friendly arch culvert in the East Machias drainage. Photo Credit: Scott Craig



Head pond formed by an earthen dam on Alder brook in Moosehorn. Photo Credit: Project SHARE



Culvert removal at the Flatiron brook site in Moosehorn. Photo Credit: Project SHARE



Mulching and seeding the decommissioned earthen dam at the Flatiron brook site. Photo Credit: Project SHARE

In Downeast Maine a partnership has developed between Project SHARE, an organization with a mission to restore Atlantic salmon habitat in Downeast Maine, and Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. In 2012, SHARE was asked to lend their expertise in the removal of five impoundments in Moosehorn NWR. Staff and equipment was provided from Moosehorn NWR to the project management of Steve Koenig, SHARE's Executive Director, in order to complete the removal of the impoundments and decommission earthen dams. Upon completion of the project Bill Kolodnicki, Refuge Manager, was asked if he would be willing to collaborate on projects outside of the refuge in the future. He answered with an enthusiastic "YES".

In 2014, Moosehorn and Aroostook NWRs provided staff (Mike Krug, Brandon Harriman and Kirk Cote) and heavy equipment to help Project SHARE on two open-bottom arch culvert installations and culvert removals at four other sites in SHARE's restoration focus areas in the Narraguagus and East Machias Watersheds. Scott Craig and Serena Doose from the USFWS Maine Fishery Resources Office (MEFRO) provided on-site project management and funding was provided by NOAA, USFWS, and landowner contributions. Students from the University of Maine Machias assisted with post-construction monitoring and erosion control at the East Machias arch culvert site.

In 2015, Project SHARE, USFWS-MEFRO, and Moosehorn NWR will once again work together on six to eight habitat connectivity projects in the Narraguagus and East Machias Watersheds.

"The opportunity to assist with the fish passage projects in Downeast Maine not only taught our staff how to install arch culverts but empowered them to utilize the skills that they learned to benefit fish and wildlife on and off Refuge lands. The ease of installation of the precast arch culverts is not only a game changer in how road crossings are constructed, but their utilization will be a substantial cost savings to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I look forward to future collaborations with our partners to promote wildlife conservation throughout the region."

-Steve Agius, Assistant Refuge Manager

"Maine Fishery Resources Office (MEFRO) staff has been working independently with Moosehorn Refuge and Project SHARE on restoring Ecological Stream Function in Downeast Maine Salmon Rivers since 2005. In 2014 we combined efforts (expertise) of all three organizations and the results have demonstrated that we can collaborate to help private landowners restore cold water salmonid habitat in strategic high priority areas."

-Scott Craig, Project Leader MEFRO