On-The-Ground Projects

Spotlight on Shoreys Brook Diadromous Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration

Located in South Berwick, ME this project will restore approximately 800 feet of habitat for diadromous fish species and enhance approximately 4.3 miles of habitat in Shoreys Brook. The Great Works Regional Land Trust completely removed a partially-breached dam and restored the streambed to its approximate original condition in 2011, and is coordinating with the Maine Department of Transportation to replace a failing perched culvert with an open-arch culvert in the summer of 2012. The project was identified as a priority by the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership.

Former dam on Shoreys Brook

The former dam was located at head-of-tide on Shoreys Brook, approximately 1,500 feet upstream from its confluence with the Salmon Falls River. The culvert is located upstream of the dam. Shoreys Brook is a small, second-order stream surrounded by upland forest. The multi-habitat property, through which the brook runs, is managed to promote wildlife and biodiversity and the greater watershed includes upland forest, forested wetland, and open marsh.

The dam and the failing culvert together rendered Shoreys Brook impassable to diadromous fish species. Additionally, significant erosion has a negative impact on Shoreys Brook and the Salmon Falls River, and the eroded stream bank presents a significant public safety hazard. Dam removal and culvert replacement should allow resumption of normal in-stream flows that, over time and assisted by stream restoration efforts, will provide access to suitable diadromous fish habitat. The project should also eliminate the ongoing source of sedimentation discharging into the Salmon Falls River, eliminate the potential for Shoreys Brook to create a new channel due to erosion, and eliminate a significant public safety hazard.

With the assistance of US Fish and Wildlife Service funds, Great Works Regional Land Trust contracted with a local vendor to remove the partially-breached dam. Many additional partners (federal, state, private, and non-governmental organizations) have or will contribute to various components of the project.

In 2012, the project was expanded to include the replacement of a failing bridge located upstream of the original project site, which could take place as early as 2013.

Project text and photo provided by Great Works Regional Land Trust.

For more information on the Partnership visit us at:
www.atlanticfishhabitat.org