



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Central New England Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
151 Broad Street
Nashua, New Hampshire 03063



October 1, 2020

Jeff Stern, Environmental Planner
Androscoggin River Watershed Council
P.O. Box 1541
Bethel, ME 04217

Subject: Letter of Support for the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Grant

Dear Mr. Stern,

The Central New England Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office fully supports the Androscoggin River Watershed Council in their project to restore fish passage in Lone Pine Brook on Lone Pine Rd, a tributary to Mollidgewock Brook, which leads directly to the Androscoggin River. Northern New Hampshire has high quality brook trout habitat. Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture lists the area of high priority for reduced watershed (1.66). This project will open up 3 miles of habitat used for thermal refugia and spawning grounds and improve resiliency by reducing risk of flooding and road damage.

Maintaining and supporting intact brook trout habitat is vital to the survival of the species in the face of climate change. Brook trout are listed as a Tier III species in the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Northeast Region Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) Program Strategic Plan as "Species of Conservation and Management Concern". This project is in line with the Strategic Plan for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program: FY2016-2020 (Plan).

Thank you for your hard work on these vital conservation efforts and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are a proud partner and supporter of these efforts.

Sincerely,

Jaime Masterson
Fish Biologist