Big Brook Culvert Replacement & NRCS Multi-state RCPP Grant

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TROUT UNLIMITED

Northeast Coldwater Habitat Program

Northeast Coldwater Habitat Program (NCHP) ~ What We Do…

Stream Connectivity & Habitat Development

- Culvert Assessment & Restoration
- Instream Habitat Restoration
- Stream Bank Stabilization
- Project Design & Engineering
- Post Restoration Monitoring
- Dam Removal

Staff Overview

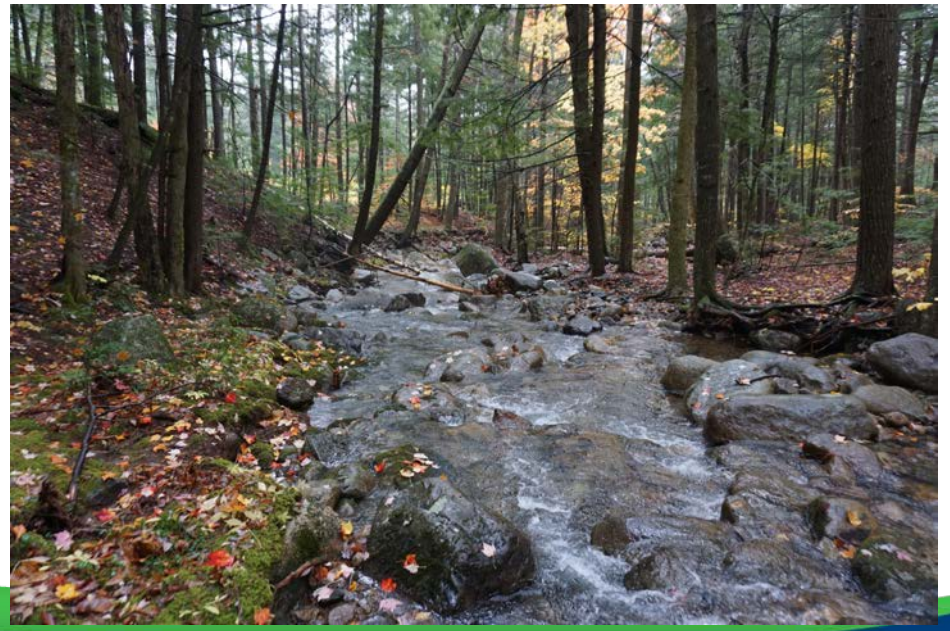
- Colin Lawson: New England Restoration Coordinator
  Focusing on eastern MA, NH & southern ME
- Erin Rodgers: Western NE Restoration Coordinator
  Focusing on western MA and southern VT
- Joel DeStasio: New England Field Manager
  Working primarily on Large Wood Habitat Projects across the NE area
- Jeff Tenley: Stream Restoration Specialist ~ Engineering Services
  Working on Projects across New England and New York

- Other NE Staff: Tracy Brown (western Connecticut & Upstate NY), and Jeff Reardon (ME)

Big Brook Restoration Project

Excellent Coldwater Tributary to the Swift River Overview

Reconnecting close to 2.2 miles of coldwater stream channel.



Passaconaway Road & Big Brook Road Crossing

Granite slab stone culvert

- Crossing Dimensions: 9 ft wide by 8 ft high
- Some of the granite header stones are 26 ft long

Completely Impassable Crossing
~
2.5 ft perch
&
8 ft deep scour hole downstream.

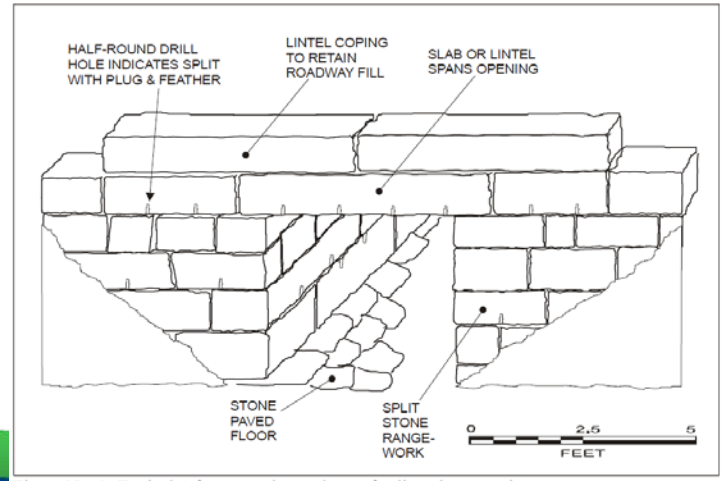


Figure No. 2: Typical 4-foot stone box culvert of split and cut granite quarry stone

What is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

"Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to resource concerns at a landscape scale."

- In our case **CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD: CPS 395** ~ Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
  Definition: Improve, restore, or maintain the ecological functions of a stream and its adjacent floodplain and riparian area.

Project Goals for SWA's

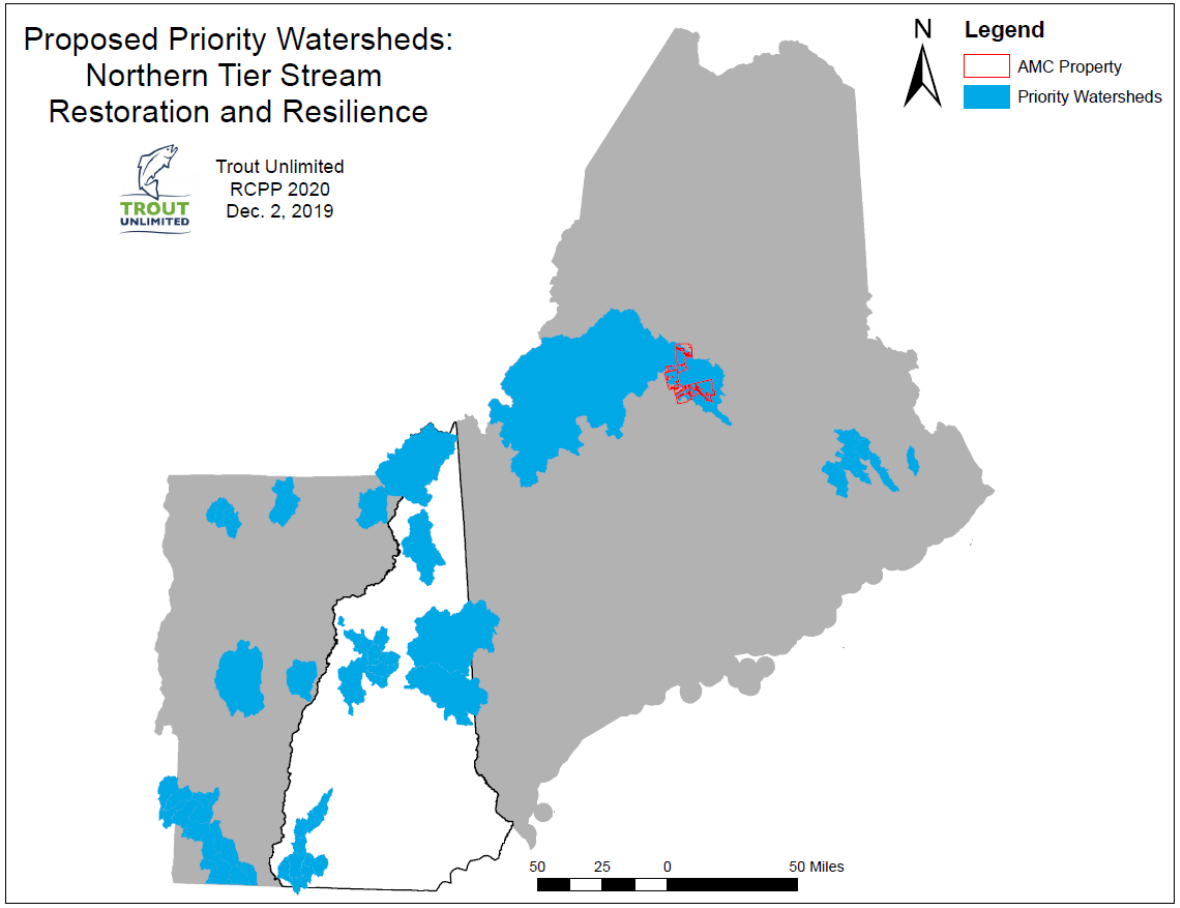
Making a difference in our streams:

- Making a significant difference at a landscape scale
- Creates coldwater refugia
- Protects habitat diversity
- Improves flood resiliency
- Invites species diversity

Project Goals ~ Figuring out the Innovation & Funding

Primary Resource Concerns:

- Aquatic Habitat
- Climate Resilience



Primary Goal / Objective:

1. Our goal is to substantially improve in-stream habitat in high priority brook trout and endangered Atlantic salmon watersheds in the northern tier New England states.

Project ~ Northern Tier Forests

1.8 Million Dollar Grant ~ Deliverables:

- 75 Miles of instream restoration across ME, NH & VT
- 200 Acres of invasive species management

<u>TU's grant responsibilities</u>:

- site assessments
- project planning
- partner outreach
- project monitoring
- project implementation

Equipment Used:

- Gas powered chainsaws
- Hand operated grip hoist (i.e. large come-along)
- Various hand tools (e.g. axes, rock bars, etc.)

Adding Large-Wood to Streams

Weeks after installation

One year after installation

Adding Large-Wood to Streams

Day of installation

Four years after installation

Adding Large-Wood to Streams

Day of installation

Four years after installation

Thank you…

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Avalanche Brook,
Somewhere in the White Mountain National Forest
near Waterville Valley, NH ~ that's all I can say…☺
Photo: TU