



StreamSmartMaine.org

Connecting fish  
and wildlife habitat  
while protecting roads  
and public safety.



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES for ROAD CROSSINGS

### Replacing Road Crossings

Undersized, perched, and blocked road culverts obstruct the movements of fish and wildlife and also prevent stream processes that are critical to maintaining quality habitat for those species. Undersized culverts can also be less likely to pass heavy storm flows which can damage roads. *Replacing road crossings with structures that recreate natural stream conditions benefits fish and wildlife but also helps lower maintenance and safety liabilities shouldered by road owners in the long run.*

Stream Smart road crossings are designed to make the crossing “invisible” to the stream so natural water flows, sediment, large woody debris and passage of fish and wildlife are once again supported. Stream Smart crossings reconnect habitat and also protect roads and public safety, which saves money in the long term. These improved crossing structures may come with increased cost in the short term, however.

### Funding and Technical Assistance

Fortunately, there may be options for reducing the costs of using Stream Smart design principles. Most funding is offered as a cost-share, with some requiring that up to 100% of the grant award be matched in value by other funding or services. They also often have specific geographic or natural resource priorities, so be sure to check with individual programs for guidance.

Examples of programs that can aid road owners planning and installing stream-friendly crossings include:

- **NOAA Community-Based Habitat Restoration Programs**  
fisheries.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
(for private road owners)  
nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
easternbrooktrout.org/funding-opportunities
- **Trout Unlimited Embrace-A-Stream Program**  
tu.org/conservation/watershed-restoration-home-rivers-initiative/embrace-a-stream
- **Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program**  
(for streams associated with wetlands)  
mnrep.org
- **Municipal Stream Crossing Upgrade Grant Program**  
maine.gov/dep/land/grants/stream-crossing-upgrade.html
- **The Nature Conservancy**  
Contact Hadley Couraud at  
hadley.couraud@tnc.org for more information.

For additional info see **StreamSmartMaine.org**

# Grant Programs for Road Crossing Replacement

	Eligible Applicants	Average or Max Award	Match <sup>1</sup>	Application Deadline	Program Focus
NOAA	Coastal & Marine Habitat Restoration fisheries.noaa.gov funding-opportunities#funding-opportunities Contact: Matt Bernier matthew.bernier@noaa.gov	\$100,000 to \$1,000,000	Varies	TBD	Recover T&E species Rebuild fish populations
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program local service centers/NRCS Maine (usda.gov)	\$450,000 over life of Farm Bill	No match required. <sup>3</sup>	Fall	Natural resource concerns
NRCS	Regional Conservation Partnership Program nracs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/me/programs/farmbill/rcpp/ Contact: Chris Reidy (207) 990-9554; Christian Fox (860) 460-4040	\$450,000 max per contract; no Farm Bill max	No match required. <sup>3</sup>	Fall	Aquatic organism passage
	Eastern Brook Trout Join Venture easternbrooktrout.org/funding-opportunities	\$50,000	100 <sup>2</sup>	TBD	Priority Subwatersheds Requires USFWS sponsorship
USFWS	Fish Passage Program fws.gov/GOMCP/funding.html	\$25,000 max			Sea run fish
	Gulf of Maine Coastal Program fws.gov/GOMCP/funding.html	\$5,000 to \$50,000		Rolling	
OTHER	Casco Bay Estuary Partnership cascobayestuary.org/about-us/grant-opportunities	\$25,000 max	Varies	Rolling	Tidal restrictions & high priority barriers Casco Bay Watershed
	Maine Coastal Program maine.gov/dmr/mcp/grants/index.html	\$5,000 to \$50,000	Varies	TBD	
	Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program mnrpc.org	Varies by year		June	Streams with assoc. wetlands
	Bring Back the Natives nfwf.org/bbn/	\$25,000 to \$100,000	200	Spring	Priority species, including river herring
	Municipal Stream Crossing Upgrade Grant Prog. maine.gov/dep/land/grants/stream-crossing-upgrade.html	\$5,000 to \$125,000	Varies	TBD	Improve public safety, fish habitat and flood protection

<sup>1</sup>The percentage of the award amount in non-federal match (e.g. cash, materials, or services) that must be applied to the project, unless otherwise noted. <sup>2</sup>Match of any origin is acceptable.

<sup>3</sup>Additional project implementation funding could be needed.

## Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Federal Funding Opportunities for Fish Passage

In 2021 Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to invest in our nation's failing infrastructure in the face of Climate Change. The law will provide \$550 billion in new spending over five years to improve our infrastructure. Some of the funds made available through this historic law provide opportunities to improve fish passage. This is an outline of the major components of the law that can be used to address fish passage challenges.

	Eligible Applicants	Amount	Match	Program Focus
NFWF	<p><b>America the Beautiful Challenge</b> nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge</p> <p>State agencies, Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations, local governments, educational institutions</p>	Total \$85M; Grants range from \$250K - \$1.5M		To streamline grant funding opportunities for new conservation and restoration projects around the U.S.
NOAA	<p><b>Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants</b> noaa.gov/infrastructure-law Apply through Grants.gov</p> <p>Institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American tribal governments</p>	Total \$3B; Grants range from \$1M - \$15M		To take action in the areas of habitat restoration, coastal resilience, and weather forecasting infrastructure.
USFWS	<p><b>National Fish Passage Program</b> fws.gov/program/national-fish-passage</p> <p>Non-governmental organizations, states, tribes, local governments, businesses</p>	Total \$200M	No match necessary for individual project. Overall: 50% match in each region	
USACE	<p><b>Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program</b> sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/CAP/Section-206-Aquatic-Ecosystem-Restoration/</p> <p>States, Tribes, non-governmental organizations where there is no maintenance required; non-powered dams only</p>	Total \$115M; No cap on grant size.	No match necessary	To restore fish and wildlife passage by removing dams and other in-stream barriers
FEMA	<p><b>High Hazard Dams Program</b> fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/dam-safety/rehabilitation-high-hazard-potential-dams</p> <p>State agencies only, but non-governmental organizations expected to be eligible as subrecipients</p>	Total \$75M; Grant size TBD	Minimum 35% non-federal funds required	To repair, remove, or rehabilitate dams classified as "High Hazard" in the National Inventory of Dams

# Federal Funding Opportunities for Fish Passage

(continued)

	Eligible Applicants	Amount	Match	Program Focus
<p><b>National Culvert Removal, Replacement &amp; Restoration Grant Program</b>  <a href="https://whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf#page=31">whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BUILDING-A-BETTER-AMERICA_FINAL.pdf#page=31</a></p>	<p>States, Tribes, local governments</p>	<p>Total \$1B</p>	<p>Minimum 20% non-federal funds required</p>	<p>To improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish by improving culverts or weirs, or using infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over weirs.</p>
<p><b>Local and Regional Project Assistance Grants (RAISE)</b>  <a href="https://transportation.gov/RAISEgrants">transportation.gov/RAISEgrants</a></p>	<p>State, public agencies, Tribal governments, local government</p>	<p>Total \$7.5B</p>		<p>To provide supplemental funding for grants to the State and local entities for projects that will have significant local/regional impacts, including projects to rehabilitate a culvert and to improve habitat for aquatic species.</p>
<p><b>Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration &amp; Protection Program</b></p>		<p>Total \$250M</p>	<p>35% non-federal funds required</p>	<p>To design, study and construct aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects to improve habitat, including restoration, passage, or removal of barriers.</p>
<p><b>Sec 247 Maintaining and Enhancing Hydroelectricity Incentives</b>  <a href="https://energy.gov/eere/water/section-247-maintaining-and-enhancing-hydroelectricity-incentive">energy.gov/eere/water/section-247-maintaining-and-enhancing-hydroelectricity-incentive</a></p>	<p>Existing hydropower facilities only</p>	<p>Total \$553M; Grant size up to \$5M per project.</p>		<p>To support grid resilience, dam safety, and environmental enhancements at existing eligible hydropower facilities</p>
<p><b>Clean Water Act State Revolving Funds</b>  <a href="https://epa.gov/cwsrf">epa.gov/cwsrf</a></p>	<p>Barrier removal is an eligible project; funds available for planning &amp; construction.</p>	<p>Total \$44B available under IIJA as low-interest loans that are often converted to grants.</p>		<p>A federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects</p>