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Scott Craig
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Maine Fishery Resources Office
306 Hatchery Rd.
East Orland, Maine 04431

Mr. Craig:

I am writing to strongly support the grant application from Project SHARE to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) for funding the project titled ***Restoration of Natural Hydrology and Habitat Complexity in the Machias River, ME: EBTJV.***

Project SHARE has a strong record of carrying out successful projects within their downeast Maine focus area. The rivers and streams of downeast Maine have suffered the same destructive past practices as other areas – namely the effects of many dams and degradations associated with log driving. These coastal drainages also tend to be low gradient systems, so that any impounding or flow impediments caused by legacy log driving dams have the potential to drastically affect sediment transfer and thermal profiles. Hence, addressing these issues in known healthy brook trout habitats is a laudable effort. The re-distribution of in-stream structures from acting as partial barriers to structures that facilitate sediment transport, pool and cover formation, and decrease impounded areas that tend to retain warmer waters, can only benefit brook trout habitats. We expect that this strategy will increase the overall quantity of optimal holding areas for all size classes of trout during thermally stressed and low flow periods.

We heartily support this project and it certainly fits well with Maine's EBTJV objectives and priorities for maintaining and improving 'the best of the best' brook trout habitat. The Machias River is a gem!

Best regards,

Merry Gallagher
Research Fishery Biologist
Maine Coordinator for the EBTJV