

Leonard's Mills Fishway

Project: Maine Forest and Logging Museum Dam, Blackman Stream, Penobscot River Watershed

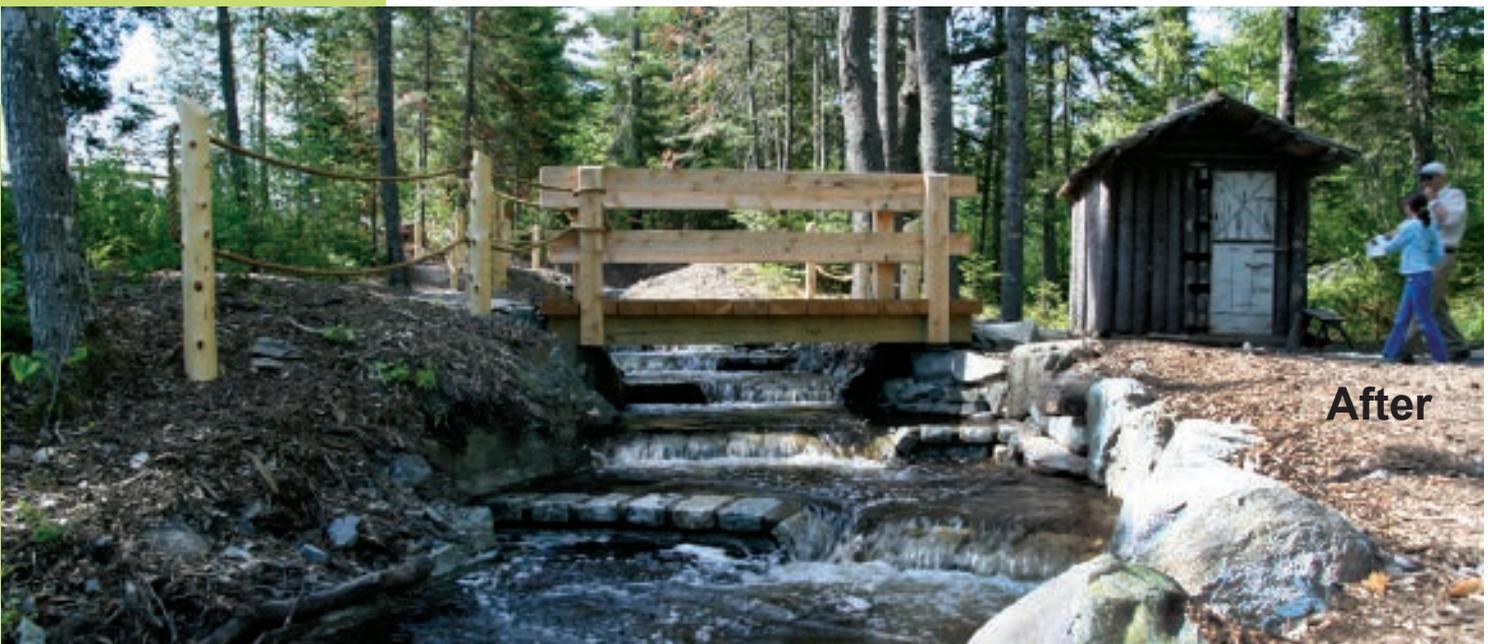
Before

Tributary: Blackman Stream, a tributary to the Penobscot River in central Maine, has a drainage area of 46 square miles and contains a total of 34 river miles. The stream flows into the east side of the Penobscot in Bradley, Maine. The watershed includes four ponds: Chemo, Davis, Holbrook, and Parks Pond. These are relatively shallow ponds with ideal spawning habitat for sea-run alewives.



Over the past decade, ASF and its Maine Council have improved fish passage at four sites on Blackman Stream.

Problem: With more than 2,000 acres of ponds, the Blackman Stream watershed once supported robust runs of alewives. In fact, 'Mattamiscontis' is the name Native Americans gave to Blackman Stream that translates to alewife. A series of blockages in the first mile of stream blocked all migration of sea-run in to the watershed. In 2001, the Atlantic Salmon Federation Maine Council (ASF-MC) worked with the Maine Department of Transportation to build a fishway in a large culvert under Route 178. Subsequent storms breached a second remnant dam and ASF-MC volunteers removed the stop logs from an abandoned water works dam a little further upstream leaving the historic Leonard's Mills Logging Museum Dam as the last blockage below Chemo Pond.





Solution: The Atlantic Salmon Federation along with its Maine Council worked with the museum to design a fishway that fit in with the historic character of the historic site. After two years of design, permitting, community outreach and fundraising, 17 rock and pool weirs were constructed around the dam. A short Denil fishway, faced with local rock was built at the top to moderate the high and low flows. Several badly needed repairs to the historic dam were also made as part of the project.



Anticipated Results: The Maine Department of Marine Resources began stocking alewives into Chemo Pond in 2010 and the first returns are expected in 2014. Over time, we expect a run of 350,000 alewives in to Chemo Pond. American eel and resident fish species are also expected to benefit.

Of particular importance are the educational benefits of this project, as over 3,000 visitors come to the museum and the fishway has already become a big attraction. As a self-sustaining run takes hold, we anticipate even greater public visitation to the site.



Partners: The design was completed by Stantec Consultants and constructed by Linkel Construction, both of Topsham, Maine. Funds for the fishway came from ASF and its Maine Council, the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, the NOAA Fisheries' Community-Based Restoration Program and Gulf of Maine Council, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the Davis Conservation Foundation, Maine Corporate Wetlands Partnership, the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program and the Orvis Company.

Total Project Costs: \$285,000
Project Completion: November 2009

