



Project 9-1 French River Pool Habitat Restoration

Background: The easement reaches of the French River above and below the Lismore Road contain several old habitat improvements that have been degraded by an extreme rainfall event that triggered heavy flooding. The floods moved gravel and rocks from roads and the streambed downstream into areas that were previously deep enough to harbor trout even when water levels were low. Small pools and runs were filled, seriously limiting habitat suitable for holding trout regardless of flow conditions. In addition, the area upstream from these structures has very little in the way of water suitable for harboring adult trout either during low flows or in the winter. The stream does not provide the diversity of habitat that is suitable for adult trout on a year round basis.

Problem Statement: Improve stream habitat in the French river in the easement reaches above the Lismore Road to provide increased habitat for adult trout.

Goals:

1. Repair and restructure the existing habitat improvements as necessary.
2. Excavate streambed in natural bends and/or former pool locations to provide water deep enough to harbor trout during periods of low flows and in the winter
3. Install the instream structures/woody debris necessary to protect the new pools from future high water events and provide maintenance flows during low water periods.

Priority: Medium

Task Duration: 2 years

Potential Mechanism: CPL, LCCMR, TS

Potential Partnering Organization(s): DNR, TU, IWLA

Estimated Cost: \$100,000

Comments:

Special Considerations: A DNR AMA easement exists on these reaches.

Accomplishments:

Measure(s) of Success: Identify improvement of abundance and size structure of brook and brown trout through DNR electro fishing survey at annual index site below Cant Road.

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Vision Statement: Maintain, protect, and restore healthy cold water ecosystems with relatively stable flows and a diversity of habitat for fish and wildlife to enhance our quality of life.

For project information: www.lrcd.org/links/lsc_projects.htm