

#### **United States Department of Agriculture**



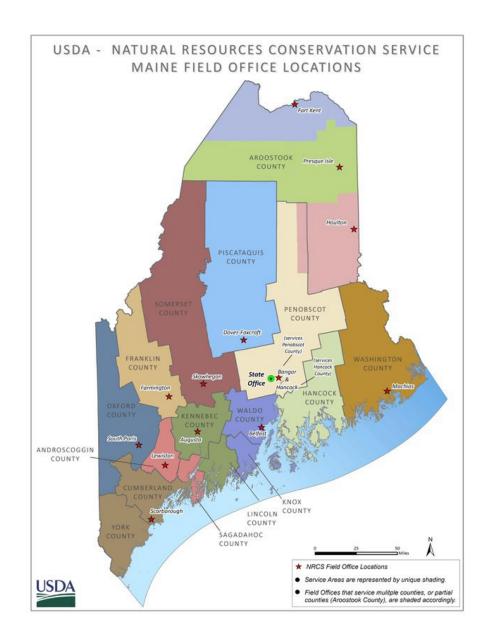


Resources for Landowners and Land Managers
NRCS Technical and Financial Assistance Opportunities

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/







#### **NRCS Background:**

- 14 area field offices
- Private Landowners on Private Land
- Acreage size
- We are not regulators
  - Voluntarily

#### Resource Concerns

- soil, water, air, plant, energy, human, and animal
- Aquatic Habitat for fish and other organisms
- Provide TA and FA Assistance









### **Technical Assistance**



- Conservation plan:
  - Developed based on the landowner's goals
  - ID resource concerns/opportunities
  - Conservation practices
- Specialists:
  - Fisheries Biologist
  - Engineering







# **Enhanced Aquatic Opportunities in Maine**



- AOP is a priority resource
- AOP and instream habitat are exempted from needing a forest management plan
- Multiple FA opportunities:
  - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)









# Financial Assistance for Aquatic Restoration Opportunities

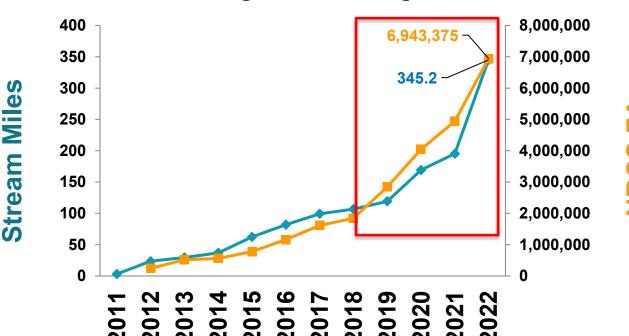
#### All Funding is competitive Cost Share Reimbursements Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

- \$450,000 cap per farm bill
- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) cap of \$900,000

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- NRCS works closely with partners
- Ability to work with larger landowners
- Project AGI waiver
- No Farm Bill payment limitation, contract limitation of 450,000

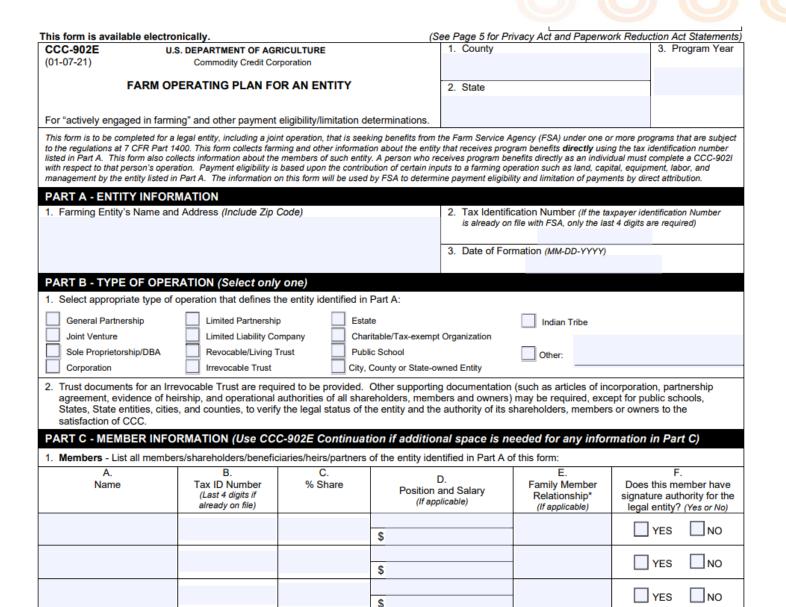
#### Maine NRCS and Partner Accumulative Aquatic Organism Passage Effort







### 902E





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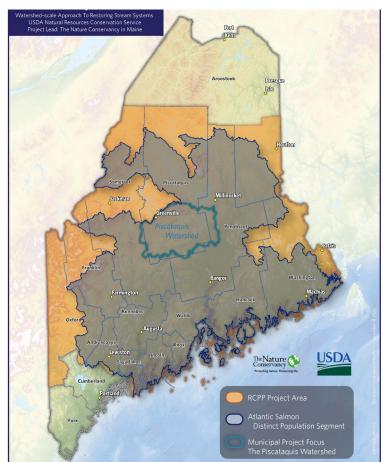
# **FA Opportunities for 2024**

# **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):**

- Local pools, dependent on annual allocation
- State aquatic pool, \$500,000 to \$1,000,000

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

 Watershed Approach to Restoring Stream Systems, \$1,100,000

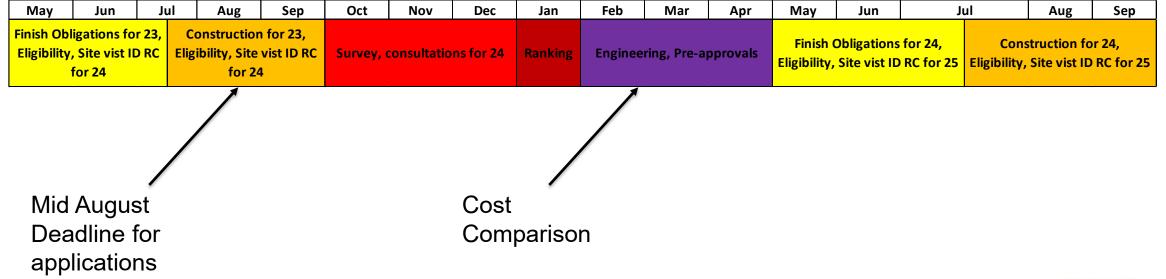






### **Service Timeline**









#### **United States Department of Agriculture**

# Questions?

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RCPP Program Related Questions contact me Ben Naumann Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships and Initiatives

ben.naumann@usda.gov (207) 990-9504 Individual AOP and Instream habitat projects contact:

County field office or Chris Reidy

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