

**U.S DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
FISCAL YEARS (FY) 2024-2025 WILDLIFE CROSSING PILOT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: Caribou Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Crossings Project

Project Type: Large Culvert Replacement with Habitat Connectivity

Project Location: Rural: Caribou, Maine

Funds Requested: \$9,344,000

Non-Federal Funds Matched: \$2,336,000

Other Federal Funds: \$0

Total Project Cost: \$11,680,000 (*excluding previously incurred costs*)

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UEI #: MP59EXMVEMJ7

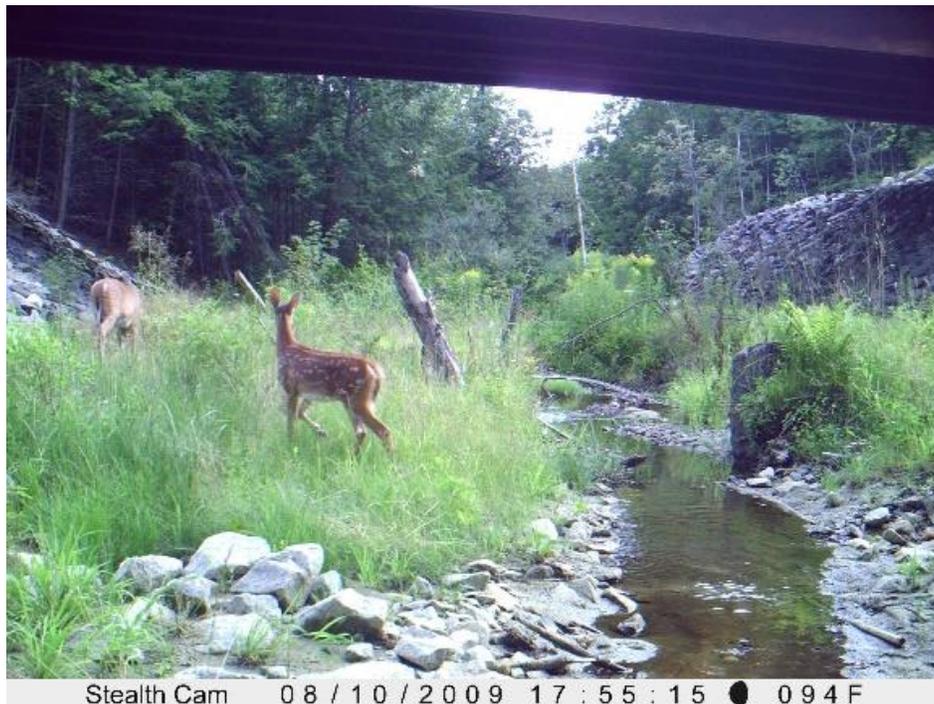


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Project Abstract

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is seeking \$9,344,000 (80%) from a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2024-2025 Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) Grant. The total cost of the Project is \$11,680,000, of which \$2,336,000 (20%) will be matched by MaineDOT.

The Caribou Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Crossings Project (the Project) will target a reduction of Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) with moose (*Alces alces*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and, remove two documented barriers to fish and wildlife passage, improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species, resolve flooding issues, improve structural deficiencies of the existing culverts on Route 164 and Route 1 in rural Caribou, Maine. On Route 164, the Project proposes to construct an open bottom pre-cast concrete arch culvert, approximately 30 feet wide, by 17 feet high, by 96 feet long and will incorporate a simulated natural stream channel with a raised shelf along the top of the channel bank to provide passage for moose, deer, and other large wildlife. The design for Route 1 will occur upon award of the grant, however generally will apply a similar approach to ensure a simulated natural stream channel with a raised shelf along the top of the bank to provide passage for large wildlife to cross. Man made and natural barriers will be constructed to encourage animals to pass through the proposed culvert. Improving these crossing on Main Street/Route 164 and downstream under Route 1 will provide reliable, safer access to the downtown area for all road users in this historically disadvantaged community.

The Project will:

- a) Prevent deaths and serious injuries along two rural roads by reducing WVCs by providing a wildlife underpass targeting moose and white-tailed deer;
- b) Restore habitat connectivity by removing two documented barriers for moose, white-tailed deer, federally protected Atlantic salmon, brook trout, and Canada lynx; and
- c) Improve the state of good repair along two critical roadway in rural Maine.

The Project strongly aligns with the two Primary Merit Criteria, the six Secondary Merit Criteria and prioritizes and supports the USDOT's strategic goals as follows:

Safety is improved by providing a new wildlife crossing structure under Routes 164 and 1 with manmade and natural barriers to facilitate crossing of the roadway.

The proposed project will help mitigate against *climate change* and promote *sustainability* by making the roadway more resilient to extreme precipitation and flooding events.

The project is located within an area of persistent poverty and MaineDOT has an updated Public Involvement Plan to ensure *equity* during its public involvement process.

MaineDOT will partner with Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to provide free, public *education and outreach* events regarding efforts to reduce WVCs, improve habitat connectivity and strategies to address other priority crossings in the region.

MaineDOT incorporates the priorities of *workforce, development, job quality and wealth creation* by creating good-paying jobs that include strong labor standards.