

Wilson, Dexter and Berry Ponds Watershed Survey

#2005R-02

Waterbody Name: Wilson Pond, Dexter Pond, Berry Pond

Location: Wayne, Monmouth, Winthrop – Kennebec County

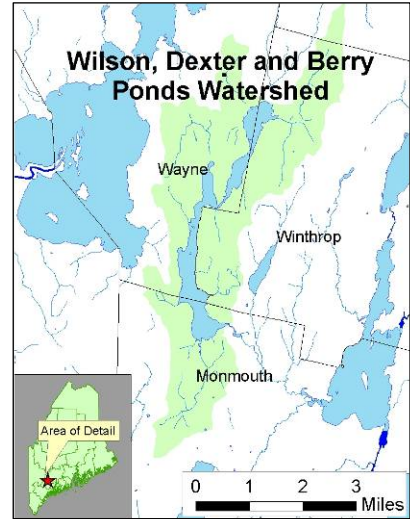
Waterbody Status: Impaired (Wilson Pond), NPS Priority Watersheds

Project Grantee: Cobbossee Watershed District

Project Duration: March 2005 – September 2008

319 Grant Amount: \$7,518

Local Match: \$5,088



PROBLEM:

Wilson, Dexter, and Berry Ponds lie on the northwest fringe of the Cobbossee chain of lakes and outlet via Wilson Stream into Annabessacook Lake. Wilson is a moderate-sized scenic lake located primarily in the Town of Wayne, with substantial shore frontage in the Towns of Monmouth and Winthrop. The three ponds drain a total land area of 15 square miles. Predominant land uses in the watershed are forest, agriculture (hayland, orchards, pasture and a currently idle dairy farm and associated row crops), residential, gravel pits and light commercial.

In the early 1990's Wilson began exhibiting an abrupt reduction in water clarity while the two upstream ponds have exhibited average but consistent water clarity. Wilson Pond was placed on the DEP's list of impaired waters due to increases in total phosphorus concentration, reduced water clarity and depletion of dissolved oxygen in bottom waters. Wilson Lake's TMDL report was completed in 2007. NPS sources in the watershed include eroding camp and public roads, shoreline erosion and agricultural runoff.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project was designed to conduct a volunteer survey of the combined watersheds of Wilson, Dexter and Berry Ponds with the purpose of identifying priority NPS problem sites. A Steering Committee comprised of the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD), Kennebec County SWCD and the Berry Dexter Wilson Watershed Association guided the project.

Low citizen participation required CWD to obtain volunteer assistance from local high school students. Initial field work ended in November 2005 and results were mapped by Kennebec County SWCD in July 2006. After data reliability problems were found, CWD staff resurveyed four of the 13 survey sectors in Fall 2006. Additional shortcomings were identified with data collected earlier (unclear site locations affected the ability to map all sites). During the spring 2007, CWD initiated work on the Wilson Pond TMDL Report, which improved results and made additional field data available for assessing priority sites.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- All of the Wilson, Dexter and Berry Ponds watersheds were successfully surveyed, and 81 problem sites were identified. Two-thirds of the problem sites were associated with town and private roads.
- Survey results were summarized in the *Wilson, Dexter, Berry Watershed Survey Report* (2008) and incorporated into the *Wilson Lake Phosphorus Control Action Plan and TMDL Report* (2007).
- Watershed land cover information was determined and mapped using GIS and included in the watershed survey report.
- The survey project laid the foundation for mitigation efforts in the watershed. CWD was awarded a 319 grant for the *Wilson Pond Water Quality Improvement Project* (#2009RT06), which will begin in April 2009.



NPS Site on Private Driveway



NPS Site on Tappan Farm Road in Winthrop

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Berry, Dexter, and Wilson Ponds Association

Kennebec County SWCD

Monmouth Academy High School Students

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tony St. Peter, DEP – (207) 287-2116, tony.stpeter@maine.gov

Bill Monagle, Cobbossee Watershed District – (207) 377-2234, [cwg@fairpoint.net](mailto:cwd@fairpoint.net)

Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2009) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2008 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW-0973 2009. Augusta: MDEP.