

Cobbossee Lake Water Quality Protection, Phase I

#2007RR06

Waterbody Name: Cobbossee Lake

Location: Winthrop, Manchester, West Gardiner, Readfield, Litchfield, Monmouth – Kennebec County

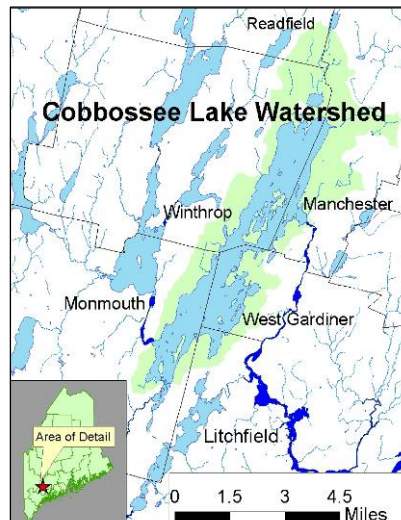
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk

Project Grantee: Kennebec County SWCD

Project Duration: April 2007 – December 2008

319 Grant Amount: \$72,609

Local Match: \$79,072



PROBLEM:

Cobbossee (or Cobbosseecontee) Lake is a large lake with a surface area of approximately 5,238 acres and direct watershed of 26.9 square miles. The lake supports a large recreational fishery and recreational boating, and is a backup drinking water supply for the City of Augusta. The lake has been continuously monitored by the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) for over 30 years and the CWD has implemented a number of water quality improvement projects over the years. From 1996 to 2002 Cobbossee Lake experienced a gradual increase in water clarity and the minimum secchi disk reading did not fall below two meters. Due to this sustained improvement, Cobbossee Lake was removed from the impaired list in 2006. While the lake has been delisted, its water quality is still sensitive and continued NPS abatement work is needed to protect it.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to protect the recovering water quality of Cobbossee Lake by reducing the phosphorus load through the treatment of NPS pollution sites such as camp roads and shorefront property. To work towards this goal, the major entities working in the watershed collaborated in a project that combined education, outreach, technical assistance and construction.

The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (Friends) conducted 'LakeSmart-Start!' visits with interested landowners and the Friends' Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) installed conservation practices such as bank stabilization and buffers. CWD staff presented information about low impact development to the planning boards of the four watershed towns. Kennebec County SWCD spearheaded the construction of BMPs on roads and provided overall project management and outreach. Completed construction projects included a large buffer planting at a public beach, stabilization of a major causeway in collaboration with the Maine Department of Transportation, and installation of frequent check dams in a 2,500 foot long ditch.



Friends' YCC take a break while installing a buffer

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project installed 29 BMPs at eight different locations. BMPs included road crowning and rebuilding, creating and stabilizing ditches, constructing plunge pools, planting buffers, installing and armoring culverts, and stabilizing the shoreline of an eroding causeway.
- The Friends's YCC completed another 12 projects and installed BMPs including shoreline riprap, vegetated buffers, erosion control mulch and a dripline trench.
- Annual pollutant loading to Cobbossee Lake was reduced by an estimated 33 tons of sediment, 33 pounds of phosphorus, and 65 pounds of nitrogen per year (EPA Region 5 Method and WEPP Model).
- The project carried out workshops on gravel road maintenance and proper ditch stabilization; low impact design presentations to four town planning boards; and 26 'LakeSmart-Start!' visits.



Stabilization of eroding causeway banks



Culvert stabilization project

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Youth Conservation Corps

Cobbossee Watershed District

Maine Department of Transportation

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

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