

Dexter Lakes NPS Watershed Project (Phase II)

#2008RR05

Waterbody Name: Lake Wassookeag and Puffers Pond

Location: Dexter – Penobscot County

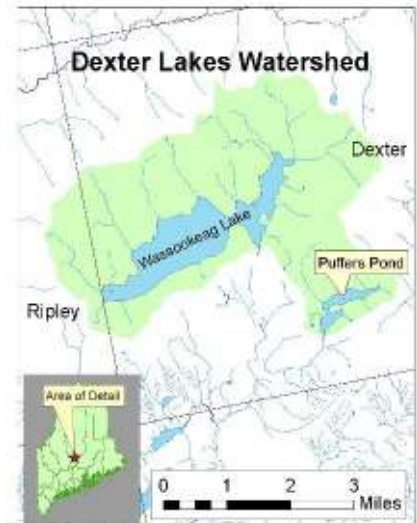
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed (Lake Wassookeag)

Project Grantee: Penobscot County SWCD

Project Duration: May 2008 – September 2010

319 Grant Amount: \$70,000

Local Match: \$49,190



PROBLEM:

Lake Wassookeag and Puffers Pond are exceptional waters and important resources to the Dexter area. Lake Wassookeag is a public water supply, and both waterbodies support cold water fisheries that contribute to the local economy. The Dexter Lakes are part of the larger Sebasticook River Watershed, which the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife lists as home to many “rare and endangered species”.

DEP and local volunteers have collected water quality data for Lake Wassookeag since 1975. Lake Wassookeag’s water quality is considered to be above average and the potential for nuisance algae blooms is low. However, increases in watershed impervious areas, exposed soil, buffer removal and new housing developments threaten future water quality. The Dexter Lakes Association partnered with Penobscot County SWCD to complete a DEP-funded NPS Pollution Watershed Survey in 2005. The survey documented 68 NPS sites within the watersheds of Lake Wassookeag and Puffer’s Pond. 43% of the sites identified in the survey were associated with camp roads, and 22% of the sites were associated with town roads.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of the project was to protect and improve the water quality of the Dexter Lakes by reducing soil erosion and polluted runoff that flows into the lakes. To achieve this goal, conservation practices were installed at 25 NPS sites identified in the 2005 watershed survey. Work was done on residential lots, town and private roads, the town boat launch and beach, and private driveways.

The project also provided technical assistance to landowners, hosted “Dexter Lakes Day” in 2008 and 2009, sponsored Cooperative Extension’s *Watershed Stewards* program and held a gravel road workshop. Articles in the local Eastern Gazette, the Rolling Thunder Express and Penobscot County SWCD newsletter advertised project activities and promoted watershed stewardship.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- A total of 25 NPS sites were fixed in the watershed, thereby reducing annual pollutant loading into the lakes by an estimated 196 tons of sediment (Region 5 Method and WEPP Model).
- Nineteen individual watershed property owners received technical assistance during this project.
- Project staff partnered with University of Maine Cooperative Extension to host the *Watershed Stewards* program. Fourteen stewards participated in the program, and they agreed to complete 20 hours of community service in the Dexter Lakes watershed in return for the training they received.
- “Dexter Lakes Day” was held in 2008 and 2009 with over 100 people attending in 2008 and 40 in 2009.
- The project held a gravel camp road maintenance workshop focused on using the “Frontrunner” device for grading camp roads.
- Project staff partnered with the Dexter Lakes Association, UMaine Cooperative Extension and the Town of Dexter to create “Water Logs”, short articles covering water quality topics. In total, “Water Logs” and other news related to the project appeared in 7 newsletters and 15 newspaper articles.



One of many cross drain culverts installed on Bear Lane as part of a road stabilization project



Elk Lane ditch stabilization

PROJECT PARTNERS:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dexter Lakes Association
Town of Dexter
Bear Lane Association

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2011) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2010 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW-1205 2011. Augusta: MDEP.