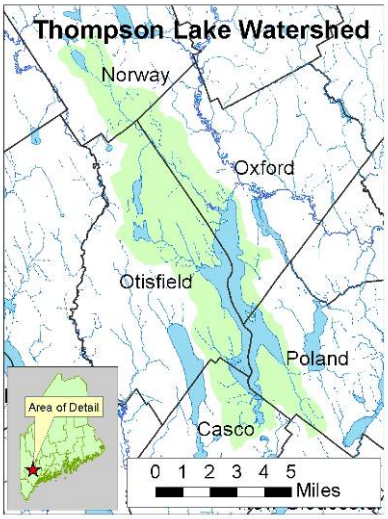
Thompson Lake Watershed Survey – Southern Section

#2009RR08

Waterbody Name:	Thompson Lake
Location:	Casco, Poland, Oxford, Norway, Otisfield – Cumberland, Androscoggin, Oxford Counties
Waterbody Status:	NPS Priority Watershed
Project Grantee:	Thompson Lake Environmental Association
Project Duration:	March 2009 – April 2011
604(b) Grant Amount:	$16,190
Local Match:	$17,187



PROBLEM:

Thompson Lake is a large, high quality lake that covers 4,225 acres. The lake is a regional attraction with two public launches, a private marina, public beach, and three summer youth camps. The watershed covers 35 square miles and includes 1,200 seasonal and year-round residences. The lake's water quality, has been monitored since 1977, and is considered to be excellent, with an average water clarity of 8.8 meters and little dissolved oxygen depletion. However, concerns remain about NPS pollution from shoreline development and the watershed's extensive network of town and private gravel roads.

In addition to its monitoring and invasive plant programs, Thompson Lake Environmental Association (TLEA) has focused efforts on watershed stewardship for many years. They conducted partial watershed surveys in 1995 and 1999, partnered on Section 319 grants, and started a summer Youth Conservation Corps in 2002. In 2008, TLEA took the initiative to fund a survey of the Otisfield section of the watershed. In 2010, they received a Section 319 grant (#2010RR08) to fix many of the 95 identified sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The original project purpose was to identify, document, and prioritize soil erosion sites in the southern section (Poland and Casco) of the watershed. Since some grant funds remained after completing the survey of this area, the following spring TLEA was able to also complete a survey of the remaining northern portion of the watershed (Oxford, Norway and northern Otisfield). Survey methods were based on those outlined in the DEP publication, *Citizen's Guide to Lake Watershed Surveys*. Letters about the project were mailed to all watershed property owners. Twenty four volunteers participated in the survey in 2009 and 10 volunteers participated in 2010.

There were 106 erosion sites identified in the 2009 survey and 143 sites were found in the 2010 survey. Survey data was combined into the report, *Thompson Lake Watershed Survey – Southern and Northern Sections* (March 2011). BMP designs were also completed for four high priority sites. Presentations on the project were delivered to the towns and at the TLEA annual meeting, and numerous articles appeared in local newspapers and partner newsletters.

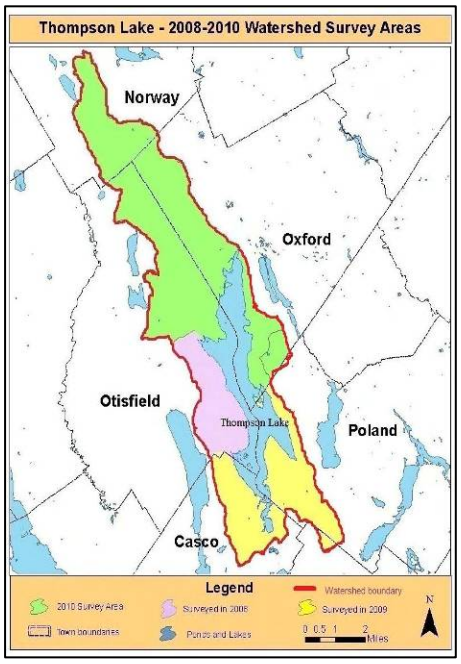
PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and volunteers surveyed portions of the watershed in Poland, Casco, Oxford, Norway, and northern Otisfield. When combined with the 2008 Otisfield survey, the entire watershed was completed. In total, 249 erosion sites were documented. Most identified sites were associated with residential areas (129 sites), private roads (25 sites), town roads (25 sites), and driveways (21 sites).

- The *Thompson Lake Watershed Survey – Southern and Northern Sections* was completed in March 2011. The report summarizes watershed survey findings and lists specific descriptions and recommendations for identified sites.

- Engineered designs were completed for four of the high priority sites identified in the survey (exceeding the workplan goal of three designs).

- TLEA took the initiative to prompt action on problem sites by sending letters to all property owners with identified sites; organizing field visits of town road sites with the road commissioners and town managers in Poland and Casco; and targeting YCC work on watershed survey sites.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Town of Poland
Androscoggin Valley SWCD
Oxford County SWCD
Town of Casco
Cumberland County SWCD

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