

# Thompson Lake Watershed Management Plan Implementation Project

#2001R-10

Waterbody Name: Thompson Lake

Location: Oxford, Casco, Poland, Otisfield, Norway  
Oxford, Androscoggin & Cumberland Counties

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most At Risk

Project Sponsor: Androscoggin Valley SWCD

Project Duration: March 2001 – December 2005

319 Grant Amount: \$119,443

Local Match: \$171,891



## PROBLEM:

Thompson Lake 4225 acres has excellent water quality. However, the lake is vulnerable to a decline in water quality due to the very low flushing rate (0.2 per yr) and high potential for new development in the 35 sq mile watershed. Vulnerability modeling conducted by the Maine DEP estimates total phosphorus concentrations in the lake could increase by one part per billion within the next 20 years if efforts are not taken to mitigate the effects of existing and future development. This could cause a significant decline in water clarity.

Two NPS watershed surveys of the watershed documented over 225 specific land use problems that adversely effect water quality and aquatic habitat. A broad range of land uses was identified, including eroding state, town, and camp roads, eroding and unstable areas associated with the lake shore development, construction sites and existing house lots.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of the *Thompson Lake Watershed Management Plan* (December, 2000) is to maintain or improve water quality by reducing existing sources of polluted runoff and preventing or minimizing future sources. The project implemented several activities described in the Plan: development of a Youth Conservation Corps to help install BMPs at NPS sites and build community watershed stewardship; technical assistance to watershed landowners and town officials (Planning Boards & Code Enforcement Officers); installation of conservation practices at high priority NPS sites; and public outreach.



## **PROJECT OUTCOMES:**

- A Youth Conservation Corps created for Thompson Lake demonstrated its value as an effective delivery system to prompt adoption of BMPs and educate residents about watershed stewardship. Over 4 years the YCC installed BMPs at 83 NPS sites. In 2005 the YCC completed its 4th year of services using solely local funds. TLEA made a firm commitment to continue the YCC and has received support contributions from towns, watershed citizens, and private foundations.
- BMPs were constructed at 13 NPS sites. An innovative treatment (sliplining a large culvert) was demonstrated at The Heath in Casco. Demonstrations were completed on both public and private roads, at a logging site, and in shoreland areas.
- 67 technical assistance visits were provided to property owners, municipalities, and other agencies, many resulting in the installation of conservation practices. Improvements were made on at least 47 technical assistance sites. One significant road site was treated by MDOT, utilizing federal funds to control runoff and sedimentation to Potash Cove in Poland; the site had been identified in the survey as a high priority site, and nominated as a mitigation project by project staff.
- Planning assistance, site review, and training for CEOs and planning board members provided targeted services that answered immediate needs and established procedures for long-term resource protection.
- Education occurred through landowner contacts, contractor education and demonstration of highly visible demonstration site and an Annual Lake Awareness Day involving 100 to 300 5th and 6th grade students.

## **PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Thompson Lake Environmental Association

Oxford County SWCD

Camp Agassiz

Watershed Towns

Maine Department of Transportation

Natural Resources Conservation Service



**Members of the YCC Oversight Committee visit a work site with local property owners.**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2006) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2005 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW0758. Augusta: MDEP.