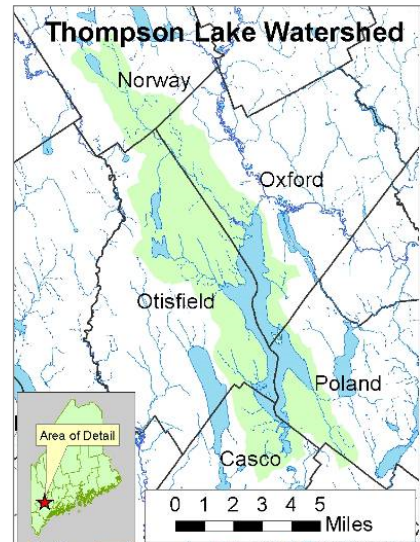


Thompson Lake Watershed Protection Project Phase IV, Casco and Poland #2014RR07

Waterbody Name:	Thompson Lake
Location:	Casco, Poland, Oxford, Norway and Otisfield - Cumberland, Androscoggin and Oxford Counties
Waterbody Status:	NPS Priority Watershed
Project Grantee:	Cumberland County SWCD
Project Duration:	March 2016 – December 2016
319 Grant Amount:	\$82,073
Local Match:	\$74,845



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, which has been monitored since 1977, is considered to be excellent with average water clarity of 8.8 meters and little dissolved oxygen depletion. However, there are concerns 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, started a summer Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) in 2002, and partnered on 319 grants from EPA. Watershed surveys were updated from 2008-2010 with a combination of independent funding and a 319 grant (#2009RR08). In 2010-2012, a Phase III 319 grant project (#2010RR08) addressed 18 priority NPS sites and provided 10 residential matching grants in the town of Otisfield. The *Thompson Lake Watershed Protection Plan* was completed in 2013.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the Phase IV project was to significantly reduce pollutant loading associated with erosion sites located in Casco and Poland. Fourteen priority sites were targeted for abatement projects, and another 16 sites were targeted for work by the YCC. The project also visited past BMP installations to assess site conditions and maintenance needs. Letters were sent to each landowner to share this information and prompt maintenance where needed. Information about previous and Phase IV abatement projects was added to Thompson Lake's NPS Site Tracker. Project outreach included presentations at two town council meetings and two annual TLEA meetings, four TLEA newsletter articles, and a final project summary sheet.



2014 Thompson Lake YCC Crew

Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2017) "Nonpoint Source Management Program 2016 Annual Report,". Augusta: MDEP.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- A total of 12 NPS Abatement Projects were completed including three road sites, four driveways, one boat launch, two rights-of-way, and two lake access sites. Estimated pollutant load reductions associated with these projects totaled 27 tons of sediment and 23 pounds of phosphorus per year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Road Model).
- The Thompson Lake Youth Conservation Corps installed conservation practices at another 16 projects in Casco and Poland in 2014 and 2015.
- Project staff trained TLEA volunteers to evaluate site conditions, BMP function and maintenance needs at past BMP installations. Volunteers visited 33 sites, and documented their findings. They then followed up with road associations and landowners by letter or by personal contact providing suggested actions and information on available resources.



Heath Road Boat Launch (Before) – This site was severely eroded due to heavy use as an unofficial boat launch and snowmobile access



Heath Rd. Boat Launch (After) – Split face blocks were installed in a terraced manner. Stone riprap and geotextile were placed around the blocks to support the road shoulder and pavement edge.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Thompson Lake Environmental Association
TLEA Youth Conservation Corps
Town of Casco
Town of Poland

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

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