

Androscoggin Watershed Roadside Erosion Control Project, Phase II #2000-04

Waterbody Name: Androscoggin River Watershed

Location: Androscoggin, Franklin, Sagadahoc and Oxford Counties

Waterbody Status: N/A

Project Sponsor: Androscoggin Valley SWCD

Project Duration: April 2000 - June 2004

319 Grant Amount: \$80,530

Local Match: \$253,859



PROBLEM:

Roadside erosion and sedimentation is one of the major causes of NPS pollution in Maine. Roadside erosion has been documented as a major contributor of sediment and nutrients to lakes and streams in watershed surveys in the Androscoggin River watershed and throughout the state. The lack of understanding about soil stabilization, a resistance to change and insufficient funding can be a handicap for local road crews and town officials and can be difficult to overcome. Proper maintenance and the prevention of chronic erosion within roadside ditches and at culvert crossings could be a major step to healthier streams, lakes and rivers.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to expand the use of conservation practices on road construction and maintenance projects throughout the Androscoggin River watershed in order to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation in streams and lakes.

This was accomplished by offering educational workshops, roundtable discussions and field training as well as by providing technical assistance and construction oversight to municipal and state road crews. In all, 240 municipalities within the watershed were offered the opportunity to participate including road foremen, road crews and town officials. Maine DOT road crews and one New Hampshire town also participated in the training.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The education component of this grant included: 7 direct mailings of a project newsletter to 240 towns; 9 workshops about various topics and offered throughout the watershed; and 7 presentations and displays at outreach events.
- Technical assistance was provided to 18 communities and 12 others received more informal help. Roadside erosion control BMPs were installed at 9 sites with cost-sharing from the grant. 39 communities benefited from a demonstration project.
- The construction projects consisted of installing several culverts with proper sizing and outlet protection; reshaping and stabilizing roadside ditches; installing waterbars and ditch turnouts for runoff discharge to a stable buffer; and maintaining and stabilizing several miles of gravel roads.
- Soil loss was computed for one site (Newry stream crossing) and was estimated at 36 tons per year.
- Improvement at the sites in Auburn, Minot, Raymond, Greenwood, Greene and Fayette made a positive and direct impact on water quality of abutting streams or ponds. Fish habitats were significantly improved because of enhancements at stream crossings.
- The project generated \$200,000 more match contribution than was required and 1700 hours of volunteer participation for the successful completion of this project. The project was highly appreciated by local as well as state road crews, and all were disappointed that the grant could not continue to provide them with an education and discussion venue, technical assistance and project seed money.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Maine Local Roads Center, Maine Department of Transportation

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

39 Towns

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2005) “Nonpoint Source Management Program Annual Report 2004,” Document# DEPLW0701 2005. Augusta: MDEP.