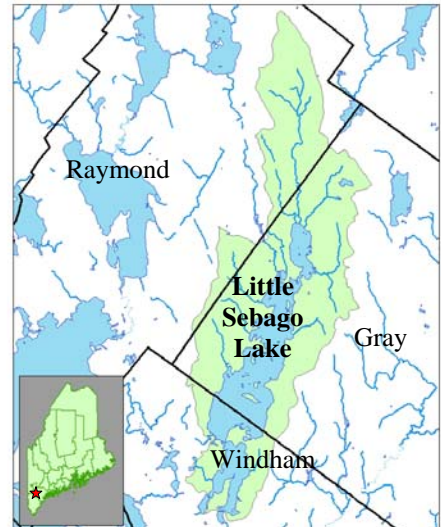


Little Sebago Lake Watershed Survey, 2003

#2003P-02

Waterbody Name: Little Sebago Lake
Location: Gray and Windham - Cumberland County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most At Risk
Project Grantee: Cumberland County SWCD
Project Duration: April 2003 – November 2004
319 Grant Amount: \$16,042
Local Match: \$17,685



PROBLEM:

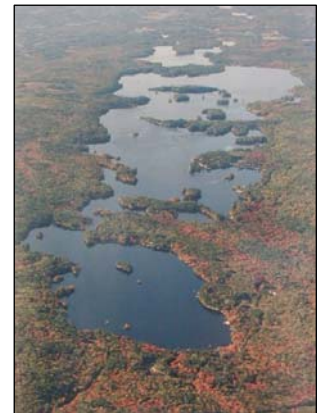
Little Sebago Lake has a surface area of 1898 acres, numerous perennial tributaries and three distinct basins. Its watershed covers 13.3 square miles and is part of the larger Pleasant River and Presumpscot River Watersheds. The lake's shoreline is heavily developed with over 1200 seasonal camps and year-round homes and an extensive network of private roads. The lake also has a state-owned boat ramp, a private 43-site campground and Aimhi Lodge, a commercial operation with 23 rental units.

The pond has been monitored since 1975, and the data indicates that the lake has moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion in late summer. As a result, Little Sebago Lake is listed on the NPS Priority Watersheds list and list of lakes "Most at Risk from New Development" under the Maine Stormwater Law. In 2002, the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA) and Maine DEP conducted a survey of the northern watershed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

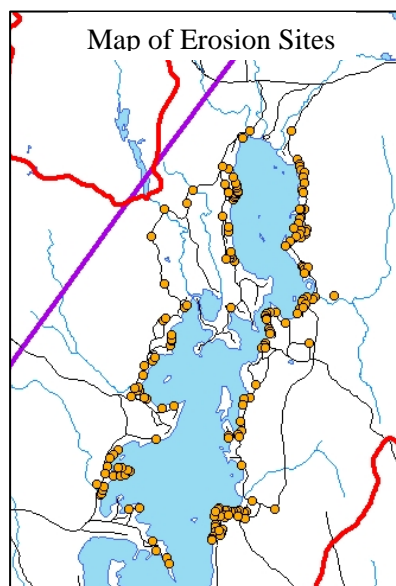
The purpose of the project was to identify, document and prioritize soil erosion sites in the southern half of the Little Sebago Lake Watershed and to recommend conservation practices for each site. Survey methods were based on those outlined in a *Citizen's Guide to Lake Watershed Surveys*. On May 17, 2003, 14 volunteers were trained to identify erosion problems, rate water quality impact and develop recommendations. The survey area was divided up into ten sectors, and volunteers and technical staff completed the survey over the summer. In total, 130 sites were identified that are impacting or have the potential to impact the lake. Engineering designs were developed for five of the high priority sites.

Technical staff compiled the survey data, developed maps and created the ***Little Sebago Lake Watershed Survey Report***. Survey reports were distributed to the public; and a presentation was delivered at the LSLA's annual meeting; a lake cruise was held for municipal officials; and project updates appeared in local newspapers and on local cable access channels.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and volunteers surveyed the southern half of the Little Sebago Lake Watershed. Since the northern half was surveyed in 2002, the entire 13.3 square mile watershed has now been surveyed.
- The survey documented 130 erosion sites. They also developed preliminary recommendations for each site and rated the impact to the lake and cost and technical level required to fix each site.
- Engineering designs were completed for five high priority sites identified in the survey. These designs and the initial landowner contact established through this project will help lay the groundwork for implementation work in the watershed.
- The *Little Sebago Lake Watershed Survey Report: Part II – South of Lyon’s Point* (June, 2004) was produced. The report summarizes watershed survey findings, lists specific information on each identified site and outlines next steps for watershed stewardship.
- The project steering committee distributed copies of the report to the municipal officials, 70 households and 8 road associations around the lake with identified erosion problems. The residents and road associations with identified erosion sites also received a customized letter attached to the report explaining their specific issues and recommendations.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Little Sebago Lake Association

Town of Gray

Town of Windham

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.