

Meduxnekeag (Drews) Lake Restoration Project

#2002R-24A WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Meduxnekeag (Drews) Lake

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed

Location: Linneus, New Limerick, Oakfield
Aroostook County

Project Sponsor: Southern Aroostook SWCD

Project Duration: January 2003 – April 2005

319 Grant Amount: \$54,000

Local Match: \$25,736 (local), \$18,000 (ME Dept. Ag.)



PROBLEM:

Meduxnekeag Lake is a 1,200 acre lake located in the upper watershed of the Meduxnekeag River. Its watershed covers 16.5 square miles and includes 3 towns. Meduxnekeag Lake is also known as Drews Lake and is on the NPS Priority Watershed list as a result of declining water quality. The 2000 Water Quality Assessment Report indicates the lake is partially supporting organic enrichment and dissolved oxygen problems. There is a low dissolved oxygen in the bottom half of the lake (the bottom 8 meters of this 15 meter deep lake has less than 3 ppm). In addition, a draft water quality trend analysis of water clarity completed by the Maine DEP indicates a declining water quality trend.

The lake has experienced increased year round use, increased development and redevelopment of shorefront property. In the summer of 1998 the Maine DEP, through an Americorps volunteer, worked with the Drews Lake Property Owners Association (DLPOA) to conduct a volunteer watershed survey of the residential section of the watershed. Their work identified poorly installed culverts, eroding driveways, poor ditching, and a lack of buffers as sources of water pollution. A survey of the remainder of the watershed (mostly industrial timber land) was assessed as part of a 319 project in 2001.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

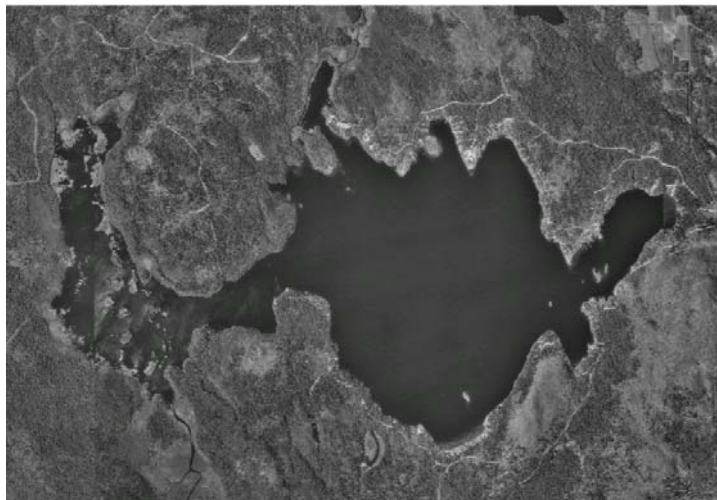
This project worked to address the NPS pollutant sites identified in the two watershed survey projects. The Southern Aroostook SWCD worked with the municipalities and residential landowners to correct these sites by providing both technical assistance and utilizing grant moneys for cost share.

This project targeted road and driveway related erosion control issues. It originally attempted to do work on both the North & South Shore Roads, but the landowner of the South Shore Road was not cooperative so all work was done on the North Shore Road area. Project outreach included numerous meetings with DLPOA and a BMP tour at the end of the project.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project addressed many of the most serious road related issues on the north shore of the lake. Ditches were established and/or properly shaped and stabilized; culverts and ditch turnouts were installed; and roads were crowned. High velocity ditch sections and culverts were armored.
- The project's total estimated annual pollutant load reduction was 54 pounds of phosphorus, 108 pounds of nitrogen and 54 tons of soil (Region 5 Method).
- Numerous best management practices were installed on over four miles of camp roads in the watershed.
- DLPOA was a key partner in helping identify problems and work with landowners to install BMPs. They have a long-term commitment to the well being of the watershed and will maintain an active role in maintaining the BMPs and monitoring the lake.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Drews Lake Property Owners Association

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.