Northern Stream Protection Project

#2003R-18 - WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Northern Stream

Location: T18 and T19 – Washington County

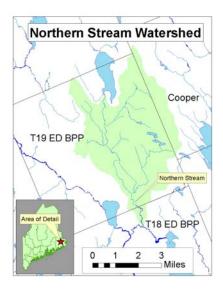
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed

Project Sponsor: Washington County SWCD

Project Duration: January 2004 – February 2006

Grant Amount: \$60,000

Local Match: \$22,000 (local), \$20,000 (ME Dept. Ag.)



PROBLEM:

The East Machias River is listed as a NPS Priority Watershed because it contains endangered Atlantic Salmon. Northern Stream is considered the highest priority tributary of the East Machias River since it contains the most productive spawning and rearing habitat of any subwatershed in the East Machias drainage.

In 2002 the East Machias River NPS Watershed Survey identified 28 high priority NPS sites in the Northern Stream subwatershed, which cumulatively contribute many tons of sediment to the stream. NPS pollution in the form of sediment is identified in the "Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan" as one factor hindering the recovery of Atlantic Salmon populations because of its detrimental effect on spawning and rearing habitat.

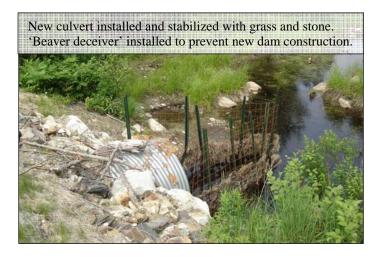
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This primary purpose of the project was to install BMPs at 22 high priority NPS sites from the Northern Stream watershed survey. The project also educated landowners (timber companies) and their road maintenance crews on proper BMPs so that they may implement them on other projects and avoid similar problems in the future. Press releases were submitted at the beginning and end of the project to update the community about the project.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project successfully fixed 22 NPS sites in the Northern Stream watershed. Projects included two bank stabilizations; 14 culvert replacements or new installations with BMP stabilization; and six roadside ditch stabilization with turnouts.
- The project reduced the amount of sediment washing into Northern Stream by an estimated 2000 tons of sediment annually (USEPA Region 5 Method).
- Atlantic Salmon Commission biologists will perform ongoing embeddedness surveys as a means of gathering data on the effects of sedimentation in the stream and the positive effect of fixing the above mentioned NPS sites.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Maine Department of Agriculture East Machias Watershed Council Malcolm French, landowner Atlantic Salmon Commission

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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