

Togus Watershed NPS Reduction Project

#2004R-06

Waterbody Name: Togus Pond
Location: Augusta, Chelsea – Kennebec County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Impaired
Project Sponsor: Kennebec County SWCD
Project Duration: March 2004 – October 2006
319 Grant Amount: \$85,198
Local Match: \$57,644



PROBLEM:

The Togus Pond watershed covers 36 square miles and includes Togus Pond, Little Togus Pond, Lower Togus Pond and Togus Stream. This watershed is a subwatershed of the Kennebec River. Water quality in Lower Togus Pond is considered below average based on measures of water clarity, total phosphorus, and Chlorophyll-a. Potential for nuisance algal blooms is high. Togus Stream does not attain dissolved oxygen levels, has high temperatures and drains Togus Pond, which is prone to algal blooms due to the effects of heavy shoreline development. In 2004 an NPS watershed survey was completed. The project documented over 100 problem NPS pollution sites including residential sites, commercial business sites, and town/state roads.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project sought to reduce NPS pollution in the Togus Pond watershed by implementing BMPs and providing technical assistance on documented medium and high priority problem sites. Voluntary remediation and technical assistance was available for lower priority sites. Of the 100 identified NPS sites, 30 were targeted for repair. Town, state and private roads, private driveways and shorefronts, and commercial properties were initial BMP candidates. One workshop was held in each of the subwatersheds (Togus Stream, Togus Pond and Lower Togus Pond) to discuss NPS site problems relating to roads, riparian areas and shorelines and to promote conservation practices.

Despite several staff changes, the project was well-run and successful in its objectives. It was found that the final six Steering Committee meetings were unnecessary due to strong local interest spurred by a City of Augusta decision to cease town maintenance of private roads near Togus Pond. Although this contributed to reduced project match, the end (and favorable) result was increased interest and cooperation by landowners and road associations for managing camp road maintenance and repairs.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- 36 NPS sites were fixed by installing rip-rap, planting buffers, and stabilizing ditches and culverts. This exceeded the project goal of 30 sites.
- The project reduced NPS pollutant loading by an estimated 24 tons of sediment and 24 pounds of phosphorus each year (WEPP Method).
- 643 feet of shoreline were stabilized on upper Togus Pond.
- Technical assistance was provided to more than 52 landowners, significantly more than the 30 originally planned.
- Three workshops were conducted to promote BMPs for roads, shorelines and riparian areas.
- The project helped generate local interest and commitment to watershed stewardship. There was also increased enthusiasm for forming road associations.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Togus Pond Association

Towns of Chelsea, Pittston, Randolph and Augusta

Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission

The Friends of Kennebec Salmon

Trout Unlimited

Togus VA Hospital

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2007) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2006 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW0836 2007. Augusta: MDEP.