

Old Stream Protection Project (Phase II)

#2005R-25 - WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Old Stream

Location: T31, Wesley, Northfield – Washington County

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed

Project Sponsor: Washington County SWCD

Project Duration: March 2005 – September 2006

Grant Amount: \$30,000

Local Match: \$18,000 (local), \$20,000 (ME Dept. Ag.)



PROBLEM:

The State of Maine has listed the Machias River as a NPS Priority Watershed because it contains endangered wild Atlantic Salmon. Old Stream is the highest priority tributary of the Machias River as it contains more high value Atlantic Salmon spawning and rearing habitat than any other tributary of the Machias River.

An ongoing NPS survey performed in the Old Stream watershed (south of Route 9) identified 30 high priority NPS sites that cumulatively contribute many tons of sediment to Old 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. In 2004 – 2005, Phase I of the Old Stream Protection Project fixed 20 of the 27 NPS sites identified in the northern portion of the Old Stream watershed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

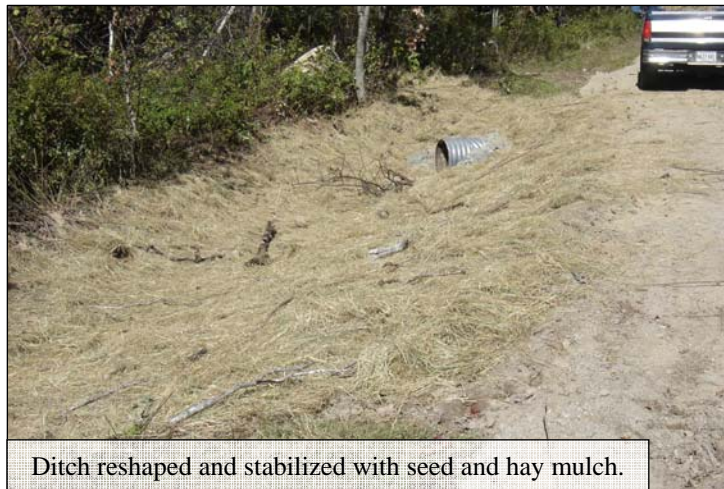
This goal of this project was to reduce sedimentation and improve fish passage in Old Stream by installing BMPs at 20 high priority NPS sites identified in the southern portion of the Old Stream watershed.

The project educated landowners on proper BMPs so that they may implement them on other projects and avoid similar problems in the future. Public outreach also included press releases at the beginning and end of the project.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed 20 NPS sites in the southern portion of the Old Stream watershed using a variety of BMPs. Projects included four bank stabilizations; eight culvert replacements or new installations with BMP stabilization; three roadside ditch stabilization with turnouts; and five road crossing removals with stream restoration and bank stabilization.
- Project staff estimated that the project reduced the amount of sediment washing into the Old Stream by 96 tons annually (USEPA Region 5 Method).
- 85% of the NPS sites identified in the Old Stream watershed survey have been fixed through the Old Stream Protection Projects – Phase I and Phase II.
- 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.



Ditch reshaped and stabilized with seed and hay mulch.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Maine Department of Agriculture

Maine Woodland Properties

Atlantic Salmon Commission

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.