

Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project, Phase I

#2004R-02

Waterbody Name: Little Sebago Lake

Location: Gray and Windham, Cumberland County

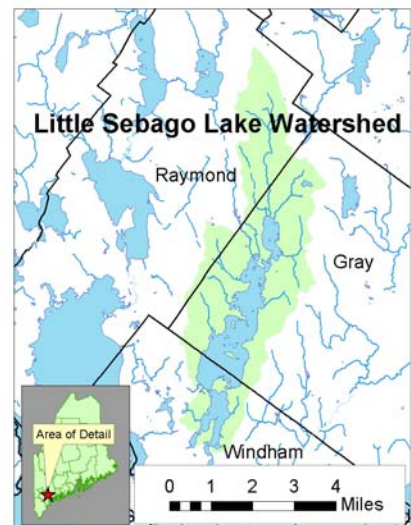
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk

Project Sponsor: Cumberland County SWCD

Project Duration: March 2004 – January 2008

319 Grant Amount: \$99,839

Local Match: \$92,215



PROBLEM:

Little Sebago Lake has a surface area of 1,898 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 1,200 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.

Lake monitoring data collected since 1975 indicate that the lake has moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion in late summer. In 2002 and 2003, the Cumberland County SWCD, Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA) and Maine DEP completed NPS surveys of the entire watershed and identified 327 erosion sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to reduce soil erosion and export of sediment and phosphorus into Little Sebago Lake. Conservation practices were installed at a total of 80 sites throughout the watershed. The work included improvements at 14 high priority sites including 10 private roads, one town road, two rights-of-way to the lake and one residential property. Forty-one matching grants were used to install buffers, rain gardens, waterbars and other conservation practices, and 29 landowners received technical assistance. Surplus funds in the project budget were also used to help support the summer Youth Conservation Corps in 2007, which resulted in the completion of an additional 25 sites.

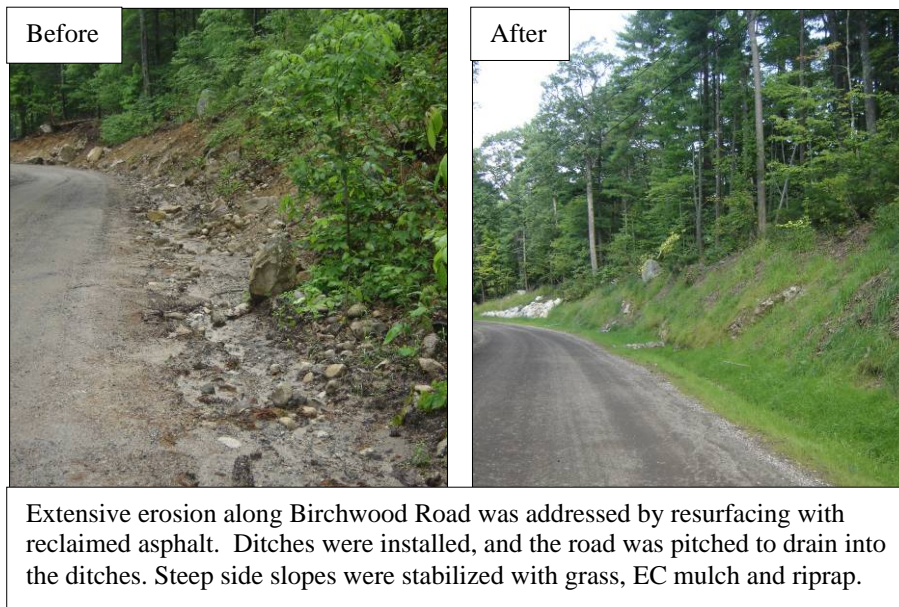
Public outreach included a "Cruise the Buffers" tour, which was held in the summer of 2004. Nineteen people attended a gravel road maintenance workshop in May 2004. Local residents also attended volunteer "work parties" in October 2004 and August 2005 to learn about and install a variety of conservation practices on a right-of-way and a residential property. Project activities were advertised in the four local newspapers and at the lake association's annual meetings. The project was administered in conjunction with another 319 project (#2004R-24B), which also extended from 2004 – 2008.



Volunteers build and install waterbars to divert runoff away from lake.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed erosion problems at 14 priority watershed sites. This work prevented an estimated 27 tons of sediment and 24 pounds of phosphorus from reaching the lake each year (US EPA Region 5 Method).
- Twenty-four (24) native plant matching grants were awarded, which resulted in the installation of over 1,000 native plants. Seventeen (17) residential conservation matching grants were also awarded to help landowners install waterbars, rubber razors, infiltration steps and other small residential BMPs.
- Near the end of the project, extra funds remaining in the project budget were reallocated to help support the 2007 summer Youth Conservation Corps season. This summer program, which started in 2006 through the *Phase II* project (#2006R-04), hires local high school students to install erosion control practices and vegetated buffers for watershed landowners. As a result, *Phase I* completed an extra 25 projects and the *Phase II* project will now have extra funds for YCC work in 2008.
- Project staff provided technical assistance to 29 landowners and road associations – far exceeding the goal of 18 in the project workplan.
- BMP designs were completed and landowner outreach was initiated for four priority sites that will be addressed through the *Phase II* project.



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 (2008) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2007 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW-0913 2008. Augusta: MDEP.