

Upper Prestile Stream Main Stem 1 Watershed Survey

2011PT18

Waterbody Name: Upper Prestile Stream

Location: Easton, Presque Isle, and Westfield-Aroostook County

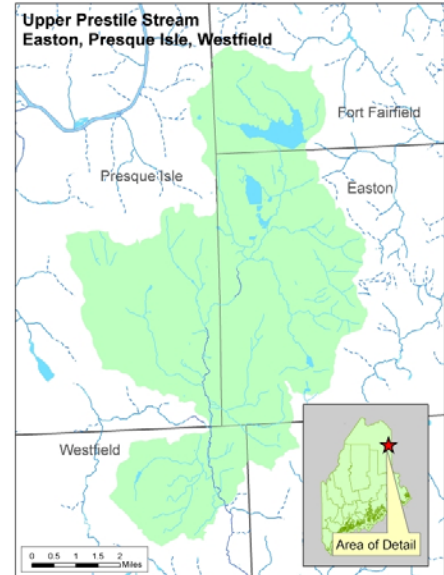
Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed

Project Grantee: Central Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District (CASWCD)

Project Duration: January 2013-December 2013

319 Grant Amount: \$8,336

Local Match: \$6,798



PROBLEM:

The Upper Prestile Stream Main Stem 1 subwatershed is a 5,494 acre drainage for a 6.1 mile long segment of Upper Prestile Stream above the main bridge crossing in Westfield. In 2009, a TMDL assessment report and a watershed based plan (WBP) for Upper Prestile Stream & Christina Reservoir watershed was completed. The Upper Prestile Stream subwatershed is a significant source of polluted runoff to Prestile Stream according to the Generalized Watershed Loading Function Model used to develop the TMDL. Prestile Stream watershed is on the NPS Priority Watersheds list. In 2005, CASWCD used a 319 program grant awarded through the DEP, to develop a watershed management plan for the entire Prestile Stream watershed. The watershed plan calls for continuing subwatershed surveys to determine the sources of NPS pollution in need of attention. CASWCD has previously surveyed Christina Reservoir, Frost, Allen, Williams, and Getchell brooks. A 319 BMP implementation project was completed for the Christina Reservoir subwatershed and a volunteer stream monitoring group assisted in collecting storm event data.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The watershed survey was performed using guidelines outlined in *Stream Survey Manual Volume I: A Citizen's Guide to Basic Watershed, Habitat and Geomorphology Surveys in Stream & River Watersheds*. Natural resource professionals from USDA-NRCS, Maine Forest Service (MFS), MDEP and CASWCD trained students from University of Maine Presque Isle environmental studies class to assist in the survey. Since the major land uses in this watershed are agriculture and forestry, a special agriculture and forestry based data sheet was developed. Surveyors identified and rated NPS pollution sites for potential pollution impact and recommended BMPs for each site. Students were accompanied by a natural resource professional during the survey. The survey was performed predominately in the spring after snowmelt before fields were plowed. An initial flyover of the watershed was completed with the assistance of the MFS. Survey observations, locations and recommended BMPs were recorded in NPS Site Tracker and presented to watershed landowners.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The survey identified 25 NPS sites; 7 were documented as high or medium impact and were the focus of outreach efforts. Seventeen (17) of the identified sites were cropland, 2 sites farm field roads, 2 public roads sites, 2 stream channels, 1 site on pasture/hay land and a 1 recreational trail.
- The Maine Forest Service assisted the CASWCD with surveying the forested land (31% of the landscape) within the Main Stem 1 by providing a helicopter flight and technical assistance. No NPS problem sites were found on forestlands within the Main Stem 1.
- Educated and empowered Main Stem 1 landowners as well as survey volunteers with a greater understanding of NPS pollution and the significance of water quality. This has enabled the students to practice and educate others about conservation stewardship
- Completed an assessment of NPS sites in *Upper Prestile Stream Main Stem 1 Watershed Survey* and produced a report documenting survey findings.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Maine Forest Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service & Farm Service Agency
University of Maine at Presque Isle, Environmental Studies Program.

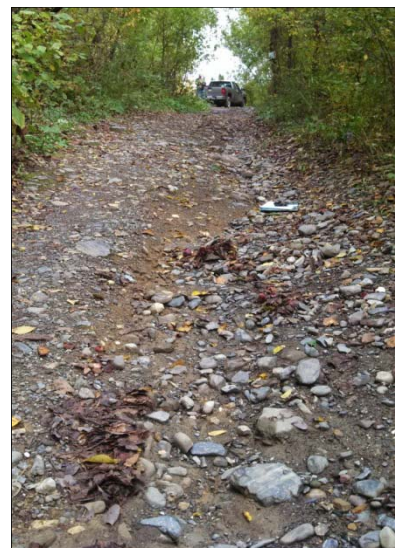
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Soil erosion from a farm field.



Gully erosion on an ATV trail with a 10% slope.

Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2014) "Nonpoint Source Management Program 2013 Annual Report," Document # DEPLW-1269. Augusta: MDEP.