

Middle Range Pond Improvement Project: Watershed Assessment

#2002R-21B WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Middle Range Pond
Location: Poland, Androscoggin County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk
Project Sponsor: Androscoggin Valley SWCD
Project Duration: May 2003 – August 2005
319 Grant Amount: \$6,000 (WIFAP)
Match: \$8,002 (local), \$4,000 (ME Dept. Ag.)



PROBLEM:

Middle Range Pond is a 382-acre pond that is part of a chain of three ponds. Middle Range Pond's direct watershed covers 5 square miles and the ponds flow into the Little Androscoggin River. The ponds are known as a top fishing spot with stocked brown, brook and rainbow trout. The public boat launch and State Park on Lower Range Pond also attract recreational use to the ponds. A restaurant, summer camp and several informal fishing and swimming spots are also located on the shores of Middle Range Pond.

The DEP and volunteers have monitored water quality on all of the ponds since 1980, and data indicates that all three are above average based on clarity, total phosphorus and chlorophyll. However, there is low to moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in deep parts of all three ponds during lake summer months.

In 1993 the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD) and Range Pond Environmental Association conducted a cursory survey of the entire Range Ponds Watershed. This survey was followed by the Range Ponds Watershed Project from 1995 through 1998. This 319 grant project fixed erosion problems on 7 state and town road, 2 camp roads, and 6 residential sites. Workshops, technical assistance and teacher trainings also helped raise awareness and stewardship. Due to heavy development pressures and significant remaining problems around Middle Range Pond, RPEA and AVSWCD decided to focus their next phase of work in this part of the watershed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to identify, document and prioritize soil erosion sites in the Middle Range Pond watershed. The project was also intended to raise community awareness and prepare for the BMP Implementation phase of the project.

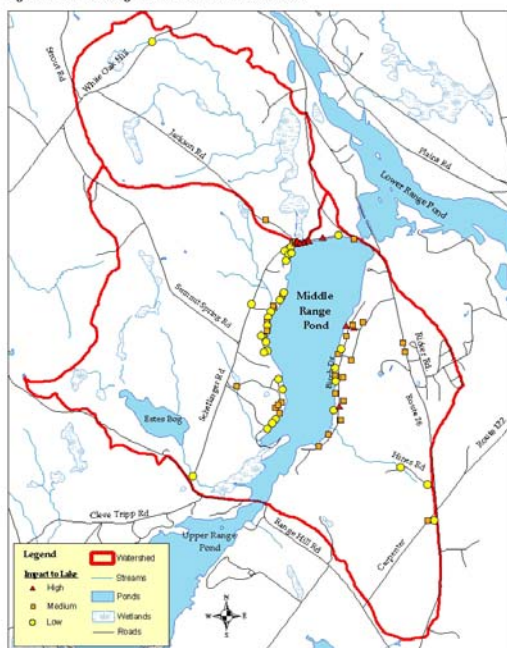
15 volunteers were trained to identify erosion problems and develop recommendations. Volunteers and technical staff completed the survey over the summer and identified 70 sites. Project staff made landowner contacts, preliminary designs and soil loss estimates for 7 priority sites from the survey. Outreach and education included press releases to local papers, a presentation at the 2005 RPEA annual meeting and publication and distribution of the *Middle Range Pond Watershed Survey Report*.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and 15 volunteers completed an erosion survey of the Middle Range Pond Watershed.
- The survey documented 70 erosion sites. The project developed preliminary recommendations for each site and rated the impact to the lake and cost and technical level required to fix each site.
- Engineering designs, landowner contacts and soil loss estimates were developed for 7 high priority sites identified in the survey. This work helped lay the foundation for the *Middle Range Pond Improvement Project, Phase I – Implementation*, a 319 grant project that started in 2004.
- The *Middle Range Pond Watershed Survey Report* (November, 2004) was produced. The report summarizes watershed survey findings, lists specific information on each identified site and outlines next steps for watershed stewardship.
- The project focused public attention on several long-standing and chronic erosion problems. As a result, the Town of Poland has committed to fixing several severe high priority areas. In addition, numerous landowners and the Town of Poland have requested technical assistance from AVSWCD.

Figure 2. Middle Range Pond Watershed Erosion Sites



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Range Pond Environmental Association
Town of Poland
Maine Department of Agriculture
Maine Department of Transportation

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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