



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



For immediate release

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Conservation program funding available for agricultural and woodlot producers in the Sheepscot & Dyer River Watersheds

ROCKPORT, ME (April 23, 2021) – USDA conservation program funding is available to assist agricultural and woodlot producers in the Sheepscot River and Dyer River Watersheds and sub watersheds who are interested in improving water quality.

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (KLSWCD) recently received a grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide outreach for this National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). The Sheepscot River and Dyer Brook Watersheds are considered high-priority areas with water quality concerns.

In 2016, “(t)he Dyer River, a Class B freshwater stream, has been assessed by Maine DEP as not meeting water quality standards for the designated use of aquatic life, and (was) placed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters under the Clean Water Act.” Land use within watersheds directly impacts the health of water resources. Effective implementation of conservation practices ensures the quality of watersheds.

Of interest along the Sheepscot River and Dyer Brook are conservation practices that control soil erosion and contain nutrient runoff. Practices such as vegetated buffers, manure management structures, improved stream crossings, or other trapping practices would be eligible. Towns included in this initiative are portions of Somerville, Whitefield, Jefferson, Alna, Newcastle, Wiscasset, Edgecomb and Pittston in Kennebec County. See included map of focus area.

Interested farmers and woodlot managers may be eligible for cost share funding to implement conservation practices. Producers along the Sheepscot and Dyer Rivers and tributaries are strongly encouraged to contact Peter Abello, District Conservationist at the USDA-NRCS by phone (207) 480-3937 or email peter.abello@usda.gov.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and other private landowners and managers. KLSWCD is a non-regulatory community leader that responds to local natural resource concerns. Our mission is to provide assistance in the conservation of soil and water resources for our community through proactive efforts, actions, and education.

For more information, contact USDA-NRCS by phone 207-480-3937 or email peter.abello@usda.gov, or Knox-Lincoln SWCD at 596-2040 or julie@knox-lincoln.org



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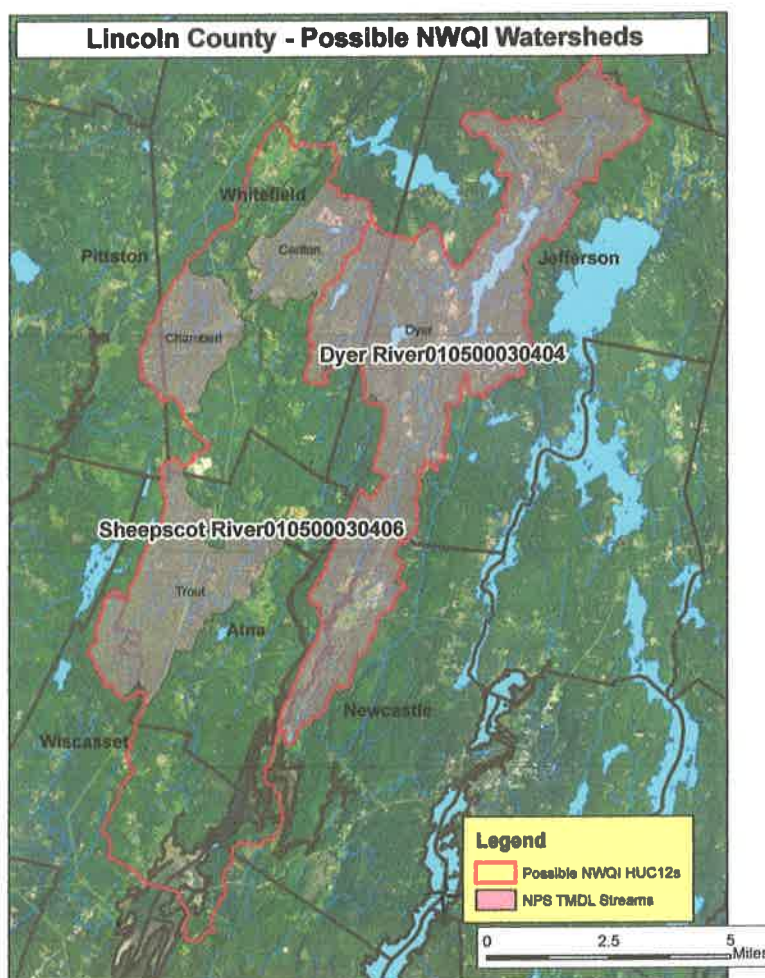


KNOX-LINCOLN
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

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Do you farm and/or manage a woodlot in the Sheepscot River or Dyer River Watershed? Are you interested in implementing conservation practices that protect water quality in these watersheds?

Contact Peter Abello to learn about conservation services and program funding available for agricultural and woodlot producers in the Sheepscot & Dyer River Watersheds



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