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This document is one of the project summaries from the EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants 2005 Annual Report published in December 2005. The reference number is EPA 840-R-06-001. You can find the entire document at <http://www.epa.gov/twg>.

EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005



2003 Grantee **UPDATE**

Meduxnekeag River

ME

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Soil erosion from agriculture and livestock activities
- Instream impairments
- Loss of fishery habitat, spawning, and nursery areas
- High levels of E. coli bacteria from improper sewage connections

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians are using an innovative combination of winter cover crops, mulching practices, and storm drain management to improve water quality. Progress so far includes:

- Assisting 20 growers to plant winter cover crops and apply mulch on 1,809 acres, saving an estimated 542 tons of soil
- Conducting a seminar, attended by 24 farmers, about mulching practices in potato growing
- Conducting a seminar, attended by 13 farmers, to demonstrate the use of innovative winter cover crops and mulching practices
- Initiating work on Winter Cover Study by compiling input from six growers
- Identifying and removing a sewer line connected to a storm drain with high levels of bacteria to prevent water contamination



Aerial view of the watershed.



The TWG project is helping minimize sediment buildup by working with farmers on conservation practices.

"This conservation practice (mulching) is the most 'makes sense' program we've done in years. I've even applied it on my own—on a farm next to the river but outside the project area."

**– Danny Corey
Farmer**