

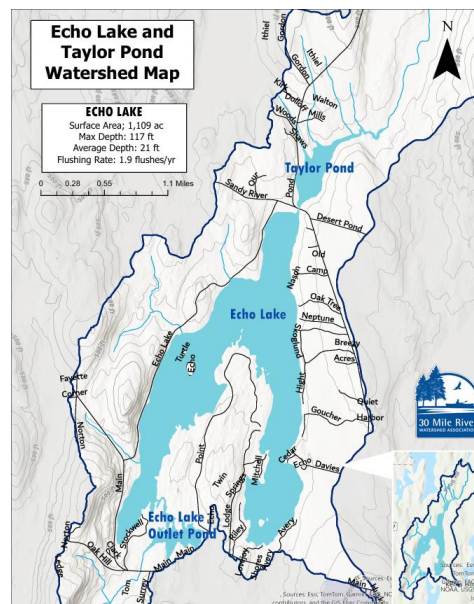
# ECHO LAKE WATERSHED SURVEY

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR A WATERSHED SURVEY

#### What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the total area of land that drains into a lake, stream, river or bay. Watersheds drain (or “shed”) water into lakes via streams or ditches, directly over the ground surface via roadways and development, or through groundwater. Everything that happens in a lake watershed has the potential to have an impact on the health of the lake, for better or for worse. No matter where you live – you are in a watershed! The Echo Lake and Taylor Pond direct watershed cover approximately 7.5 square miles in the towns of Fayette, Mount Vernon, and Readfield.



#### What is a watershed survey?

Locally-led watershed surveys such as this one have been used successfully for decades throughout Maine to document threats to water quality. During a survey, trained volunteers work alongside technical leaders, surveying the watershed by foot and by car, to identify sources of erosion and polluted stormwater runoff. Information gathered during the survey will give us a better understanding of the watershed's condition, provide solutions for landowners, and information needed to apply for grant funding to fix priority problems.

#### What would be the objective of my work?

Your primary objective, with assistance from a technical leader, would be to locate points of erosion that could negatively affect water quality in Echo Lake. Eroding soil is caused by stormwater runoff and enables pollutants, in the form of phosphorus and sediment, to reach the lake. A second, but equally important objective is to help the watershed community understand how land use in the watershed influences lake water quality. Once their awareness is raised, people are more likely to change habits that are harmful to the lake. It may also be helpful for you to help navigate your team through your assigned sector. Often technical leaders are not as familiar with driving in the area.

### **How much time would be required of me?**

You'll need to commit to the survey day—It is recommended to plan a full 8-hour day. If your team does not finish, you will have to find a time that works for all of you to go back out and finish the sector. It is likely the survey won't take this long, but it is best to be prepared. An additional 1-2 hours is required to attend an online training session prior to the survey.

### **When and where does the survey take place?**

The survey date is Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The survey will run from 8:30am to approximately 4pm. All volunteers and tech leaders will meet at the Echo Lake Boat Launch for a prompt 8:30am start.

### **Will I receive training?**

A mandatory online watershed survey training will be put on by 30 Mile River Watershed Association and Maine DEP the week of the survey. Following this virtual "classroom training", you will accompany an experienced technical leader during the day of the survey who will provide additional "field training" on how to conduct a watershed survey.

### **Who will be out there with me?**

Usually, each group consists of two volunteers and one technical leader. The technical leader will provide the survey materials needed to document survey findings such as a tablet, maps, and landowner lists.

### **What's it like in the field? Would we be going on private property?**

The best way to investigate your section of the watershed is to walk it, but some areas of the watershed will require driving in a car to get around the watershed or to survey long sections of roads or driveways. The survey will have been well-publicized before the actual day of the survey, so the watershed residents should be aware of what you're doing, and leaders will be aware of properties where owners do not want their property surveyed. At each residence where your group would like to access the property, your group will knock on the door to ask permission prior to accessing their land.

### **What do I need to bring?**

- Clothing appropriate for light hiking outside and for the weather
- Water, lunch, and snacks.
- Bug spray, sunglasses, etc.

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### **Who do I go to with questions or to sign up to volunteer?**

Echo Lake Association:

Douglas Frantzen, ELA President

[djfrantzen@gmail.com](mailto:djfrantzen@gmail.com)



30 Mile River Watershed Association:

Ellie Hatt, Land Use Coordinator

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