

LANE POND
T4 R18 WELS (Comstock), Somerset Co., Maine
U.S.G.S. Penobscot Lake, Maine

Fishes

Brook trout

Minnows

Creek chub

Golden shiner

Physical Characteristics

Area — 24 acres

Temperatures

Surface — 70°F

Maximum depth — 14 feet

16 feet — 67°F

Principal Fishery: Brook trout

Lane Pond lies at the base of Green Mountain, about one mile to the northwest of Foley Pond. Like many other waters in the Penobscot River drainage it has been affected by logging activities that occurred many years ago. In 1921, an earth-fill dam was constructed on the outlet to increase the water storage capacity of the pond for driving logs. This dam enlarged what was probably once a much smaller natural pond at the headwaters of Lane Brook. Old stumps now found around much of the shoreline are the remains of the trees that were killed in the area flowed by the dam.

Logs have not been driven down Lane Brook for many years, and the dam has been abandoned. Alders, young spruce and firs are now growing all over the earth-fill that comprises the dam. The log sluiceway in the dam has deteriorated, and the cribwork on each side of it has collapsed. Beavers are now using the old sluiceway as the site for their dam.

Even though the old dam still holds several feet of water in Lane Pond, it is not a deep pond. Because of this, water temperatures are similar from top to bottom during the summer, and there is an adequate supply of oxygen for fish at all depths.

A population of wild brook trout inhabits Lane Pond. In addition, two minnow species are also present there. The golden shiners and creek chubs are quite abundant, and although they provide a source of food for the trout that grow to fish-eating size, they also compete with young trout for both food and space.

Few areas around the shoreline appear suitable for brook trout spawning. Good spawning habitat is found in a small, cool tributary that flows into Lane Pond on the southwest shore, near the outlet. Young-of-the-year brook trout were observed in this tributary, an indication that it is used as a spawning area and that it is important to maintaining the trout population in the pond.

The outlet below Lane Pond also provides good trout spawning and nursery habitat, and young trout were observed there as well. However, the deteriorated sluiceway in the old dam with the beaver dam in it prevents fish passage upstream into the pond from this outlet. Thus, young trout produced in the outlet, and adults that drop down from the pond, cannot move up into the pond. The removal of the beaver dam and sluice remains would lower the water level in Lane Pond, but it would open up the outlet as a spawning area that could contribute more trout to the population already in the pond.

Most use at Lane Pond probably occurs early in the fishing season. Evidence of campsites in the area around the outlet indicates that some anglers remain overnight. Access by vehicle to within ½ mile of the pond has recently been created by the construction of a gravelled logging road. A winter road and a foot trail provides access to the pond from this new road.

Lane Pond will be managed for its population of wild brook trout. It has been zoned as a remote pond to protect it from further improvements in access within ½ mile of the pond that could increase the fishing pressure there. As Lane Pond is very small, and its trout population is already limited to some extent by competition from minnow species, any increases in fishing pressure will probably be detrimental to fishing quality there. A regulation to prohibit the use or possession of live fish as bait should be established to prevent the introduction of other fish species that would increase competition for the brook trout.

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T4R18 WELS., SOMERSET CO., MAINE
AREA 24 ACRES

