## **PERMITTING**



## ~understanding environmental laws and requirements ~ and requirements

<u>Purpose:</u> Protection of Maine's watersheds is ensured through the goodwill of residents around the lakes and through laws and ordinances created and enforced by the State of Maine and local municipalities. The following laws and ordinances require permits for activities adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies.

**Shoreland Zoning Law**—Construction, clearing of vegetation and soil movement within 250 feet of lakes, ponds, and many wetlands, and within 75 feet of most streams, falls under the Shoreland Zoning Act, which is administered by the Town through the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Board.

**Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)** - Soil disturbance & other activities within 75 feet of the lakeshore or stream also falls under the NRPA, which is administered by the DEP.

Contact the DEP and Town Code Enforcement Officer if you have any plans to construct, expand or relocate a structure, clear vegetation, create a new path or driveway, stabilize a shoreline or otherwise disturb the soil on your property. Even if projects are planned with the intent of enhancing the environment, contact the DEP and town to be sure.

## How to apply for a Permit by Rule with DEP:

To ensure that permits for small projects are processed swiftly, the DEP has established a streamlined permit process called **Permit by Rule**. These one page forms (shown here) are simple to fill out and allow the DEP to quickly review the project.

- Fill out a notification form before starting any work. Forms are available from your town code enforcement officer, Maine DEP offices, or online at http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstand/nrpa/pbrform.pdf
- The permit will be reviewed by DEP within 14 days. If you do not hear from DEP in 14 days, you can assume your permit is approved and you can proceed with work on the project.
- Follow all standards required for the specific permitted activities to keep soil erosion to a minimum. It is important that you obtain a copy of the standards so you will be familiar with the law's requirements.

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Sec. (6) Movement of Rocks or Vegetation  Grant Sec. (7) Outfall Pipes			Sec. (13) F&W Creation of Natural Areas Sec. (18) Maintenance Dredging Sec. (13) F&W Creation/Enhance/Water Quality improvement					redging
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Part of the *Conservation Practices for Homeowners* Factsheet Series, available at: Maine DEP (800.452.1942); http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/materials.htm Portland Water District (207.774.5961); http://www.pwd.org/news/publications.php