



# Maine Lakes Society

FOR THE SAKE OF MAINE'S LAKES

## **More Information on Clean Water Rule:**

- **About the Clean Waters Rule (WOTUS):** Headwater streams represent 60% of all US waterbodies. They may seem insignificant if looked at individually, but they feed the entire aquatic system, like capillaries in the human body.
- The scientific evidence has unequivocally demonstrated that receiving waters – all the streams rivers and lakes we depend on for drinking water, food, transport and recreation -- are inextricably connected to the network of small streams that blanket the landscape.
- To repeal the Clean Waters Rule (WOTUS) is to reject science and revert to ignorance.
- Because the Clean Waters Rule (WOTUS) covers wetlands as well as headwater streams, important wetland benefits such as flood control, sediment control, nutrient uptake, wildlife habitat and travel corridors are jeopardized by the repeal.
- Nitrogen is necessary for life and is abundantly available in nature, but agricultural fertilizer use has more than doubled the amount of water soluble nitrogen in the environment. Too much of a good thing can backfire. High profile water quality problems such as eutrophication, hazardous algal blooms, hypoxia, toxic red tides, and the closure of shellfish harvesting grounds become more common when too much nitrogen enters the natural system.