



## WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

**Project Title:** Public Educational Access to Resources on Lakes in Maine

**Duration:** 9/1/97 - 8/31/99 (two years)

**Federal Funds:** \$39,523

**Non-Federal Funds:** \$39,114

**State Funds:** \$48,514

**Principal Investigators:**

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**State critical water issue addressed:** *Access to water resources information*

One of the key information issues hampering the efforts of researchers, water quality monitors, regulators, planners, and educators is poor accessibility to information about Maine lakes. Recreationally, aesthetically, and economically, lakes are important features in the state, with a recent report estimating that the total contribution of lakes to the state economy is over 9 billion dollars (Boyle et al., 1996). Most of Maine's population lives, works, or plays around our lakes, and 60 percent get their drinking water from lakes. There are over 260 local or regional lake associations that deal with issues of lake protection and management. However, access to the available information on Maine lakes is complicated by the number of agencies who independently collect and store these data, and the range of data formats which generally are not compatible.