

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Landowner Relations Office  
2016 Yearly Summary**

**Keep Maine Clean**

- On September 18, 2016, we organized and executed Landowner Appreciation Day with the Maine Warden Service and Forest Service staff, the largest ever statewide landowner appreciation day which essentially took over 28 30-yard dumpsters full of trash, **66 tons** (132,000 lbs.), out of the fields and forests on private property in Maine. The estimated disposal cost was \$17,000.



- Corporate sponsorship was secured with Kittery Trading Post for prizes valued at \$3000
- 80 Game Wardens
- 40 Forest Rangers
- 20 other IFW, DAFD departmental personnel (with use of heavy equipment)
- 400 volunteers
- 35 organized outdoor clubs

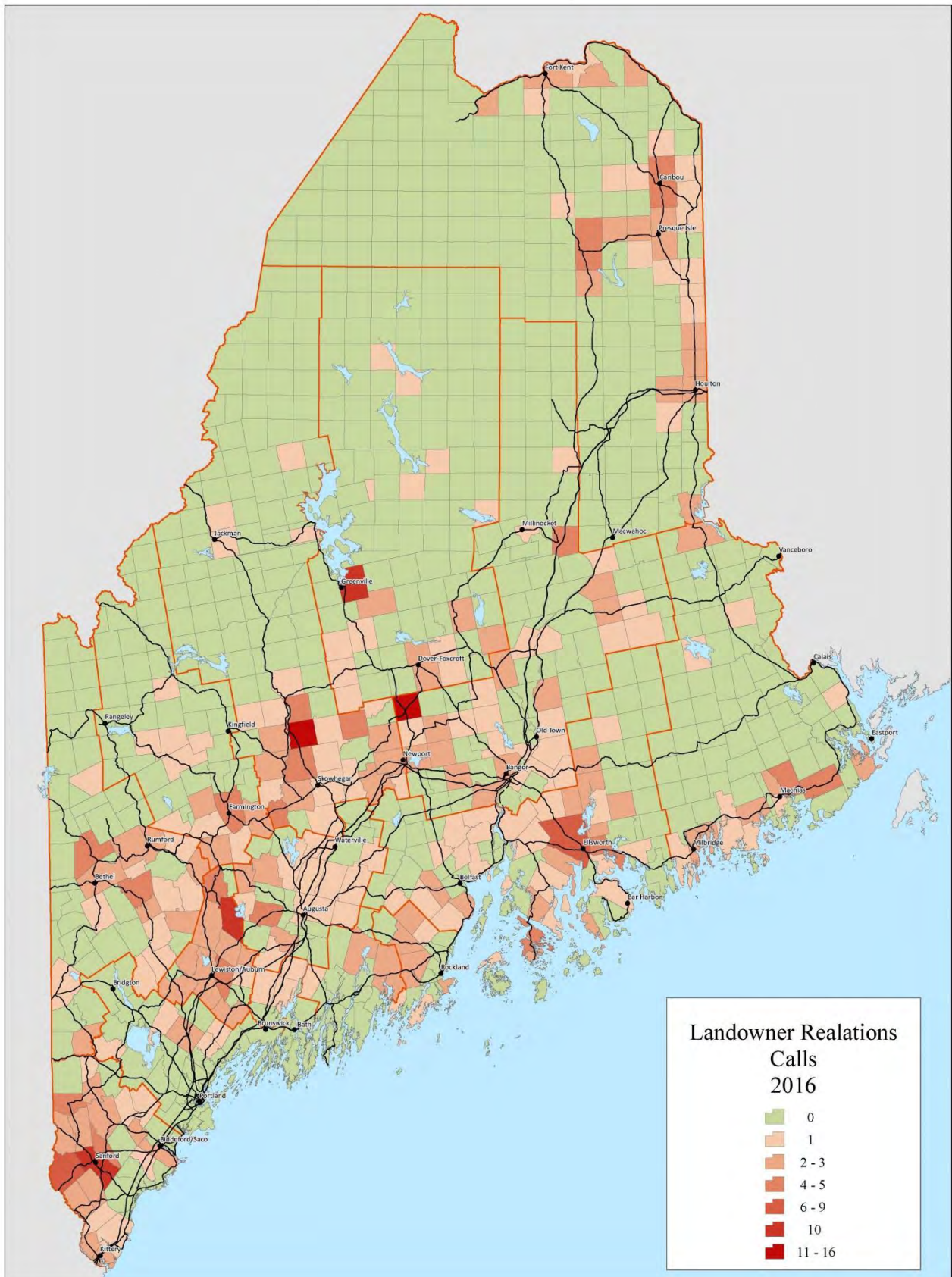


Tires, tires and more tires!!!

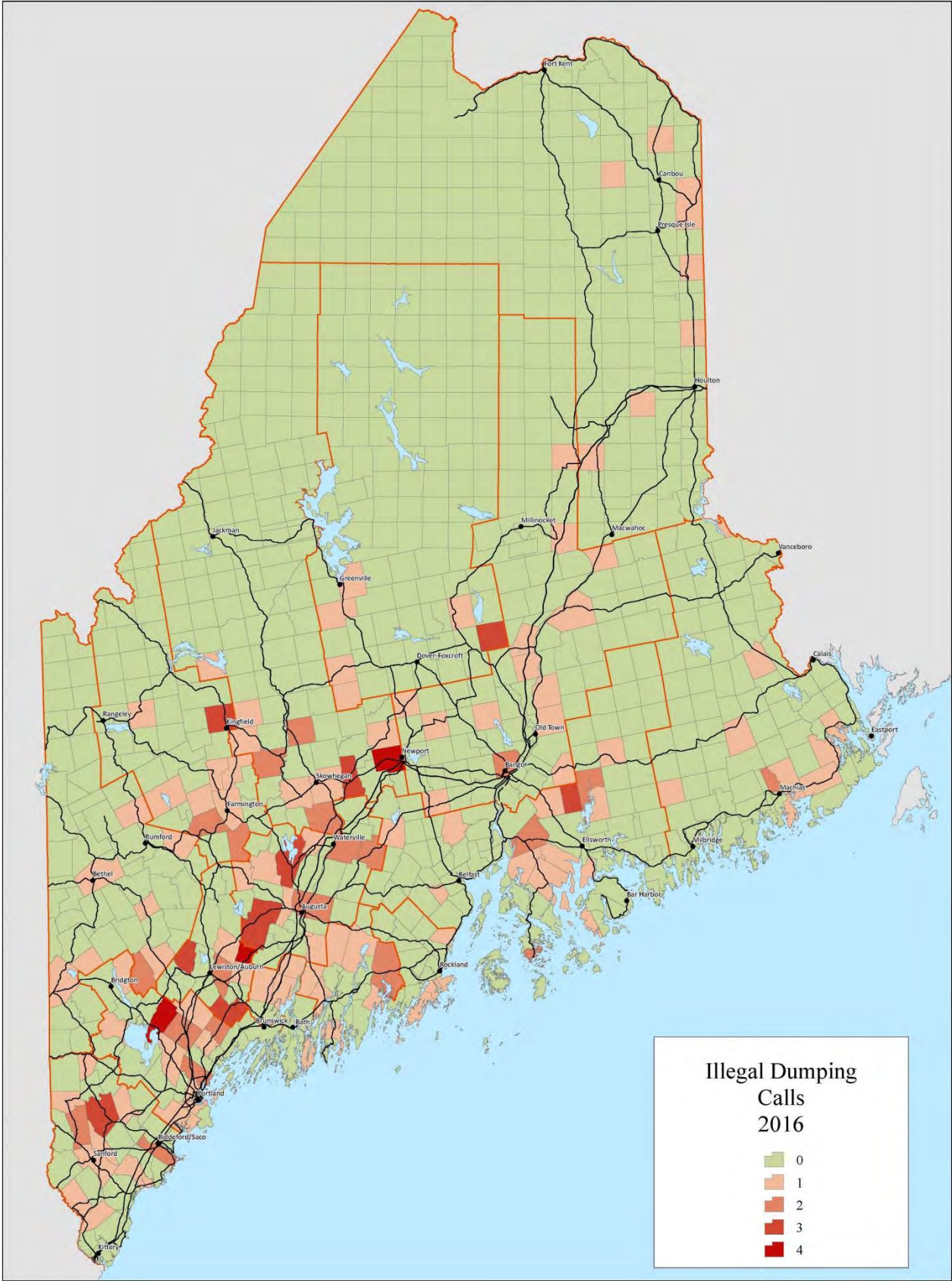
- Approx. 1000 hats were distributed to volunteers who participated in **Keep Maine Clean**, throughout the year (per law)
- 4000 Landowner Appreciation Prints were distributed to landowners (First edition)



**Landowner Relations Calls for Service**  
**Warden Service**  
518-general LOR

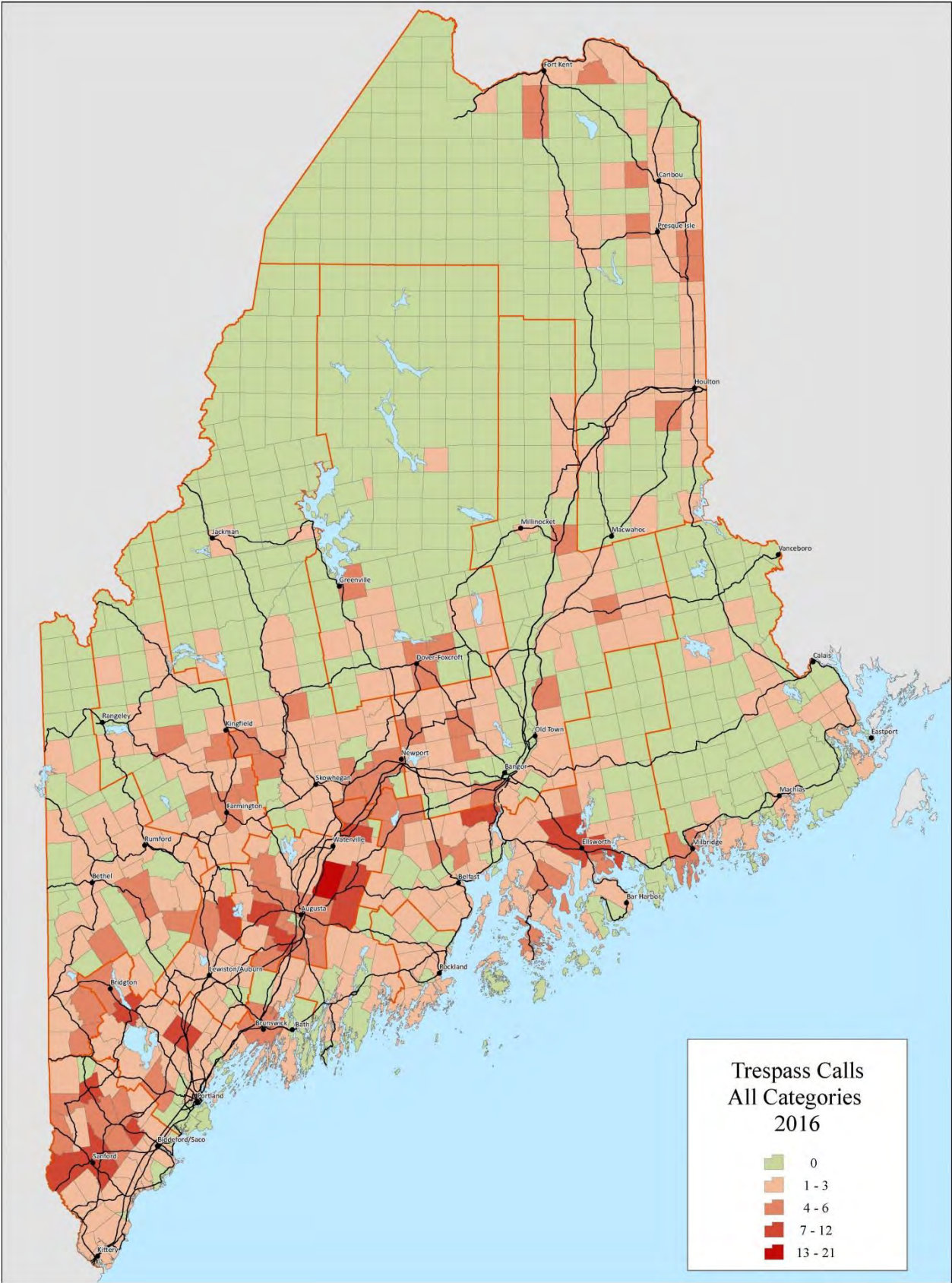


195-Illegal dumping

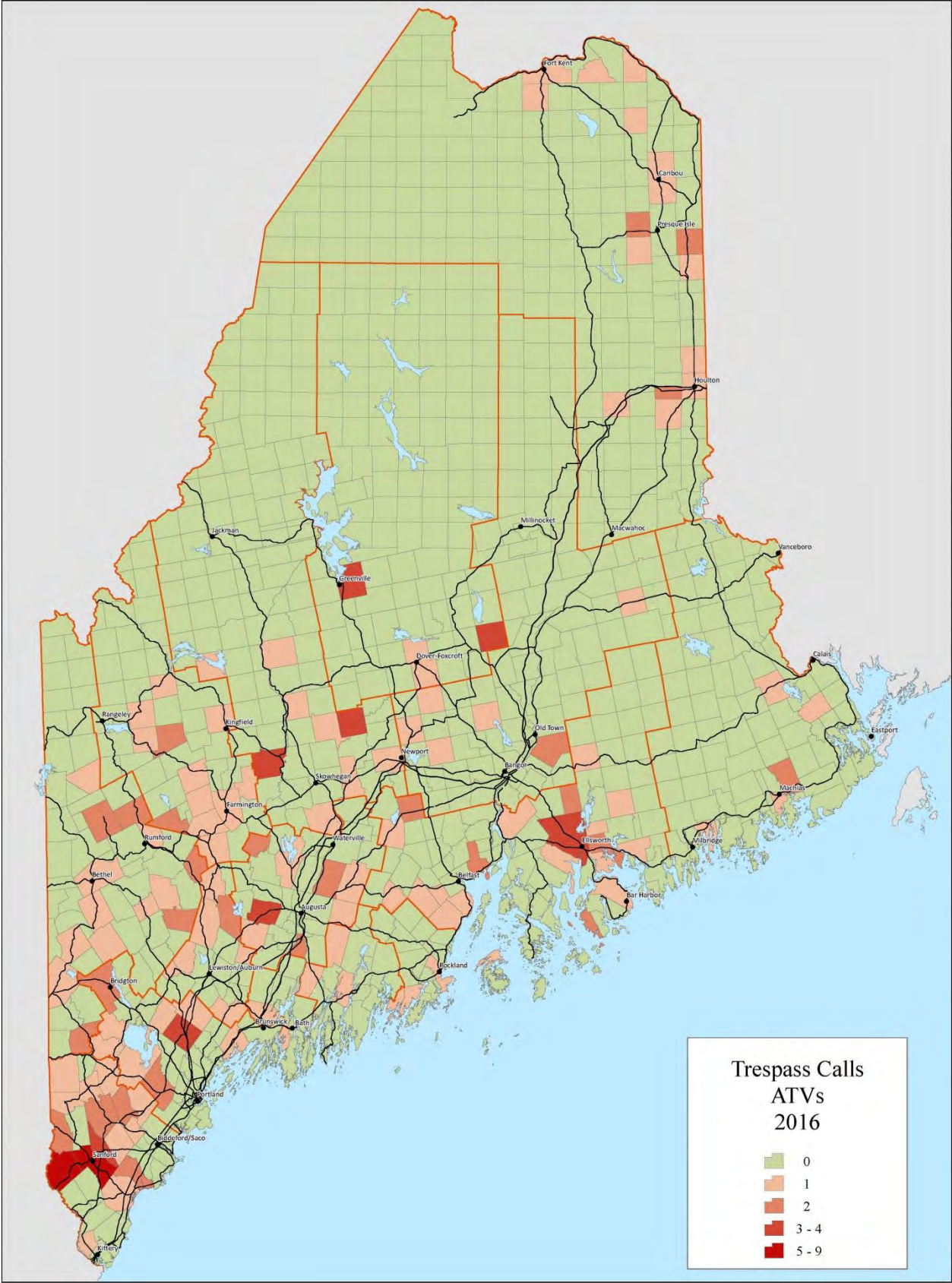




155-General trespass

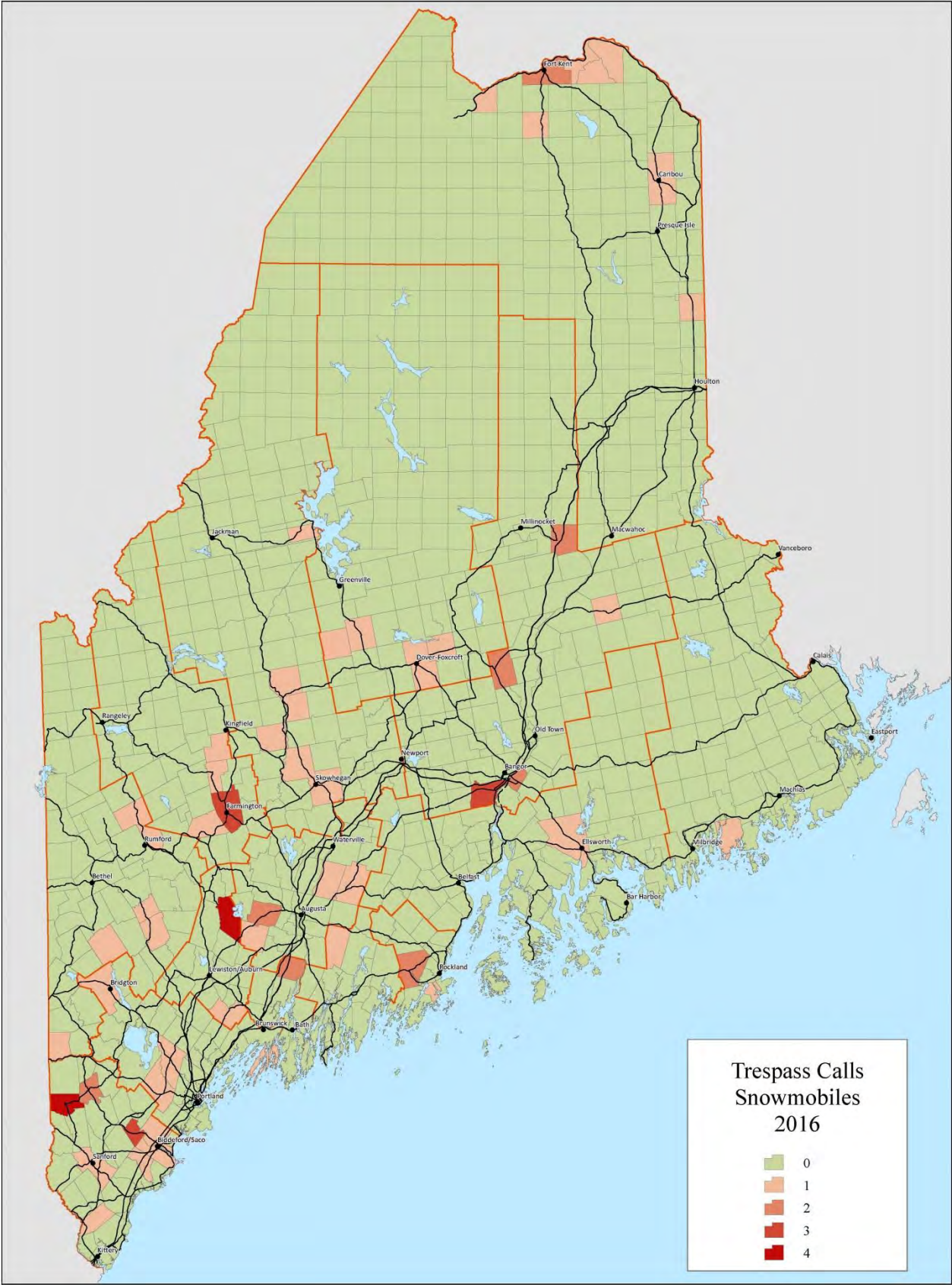


189-ATV trespass

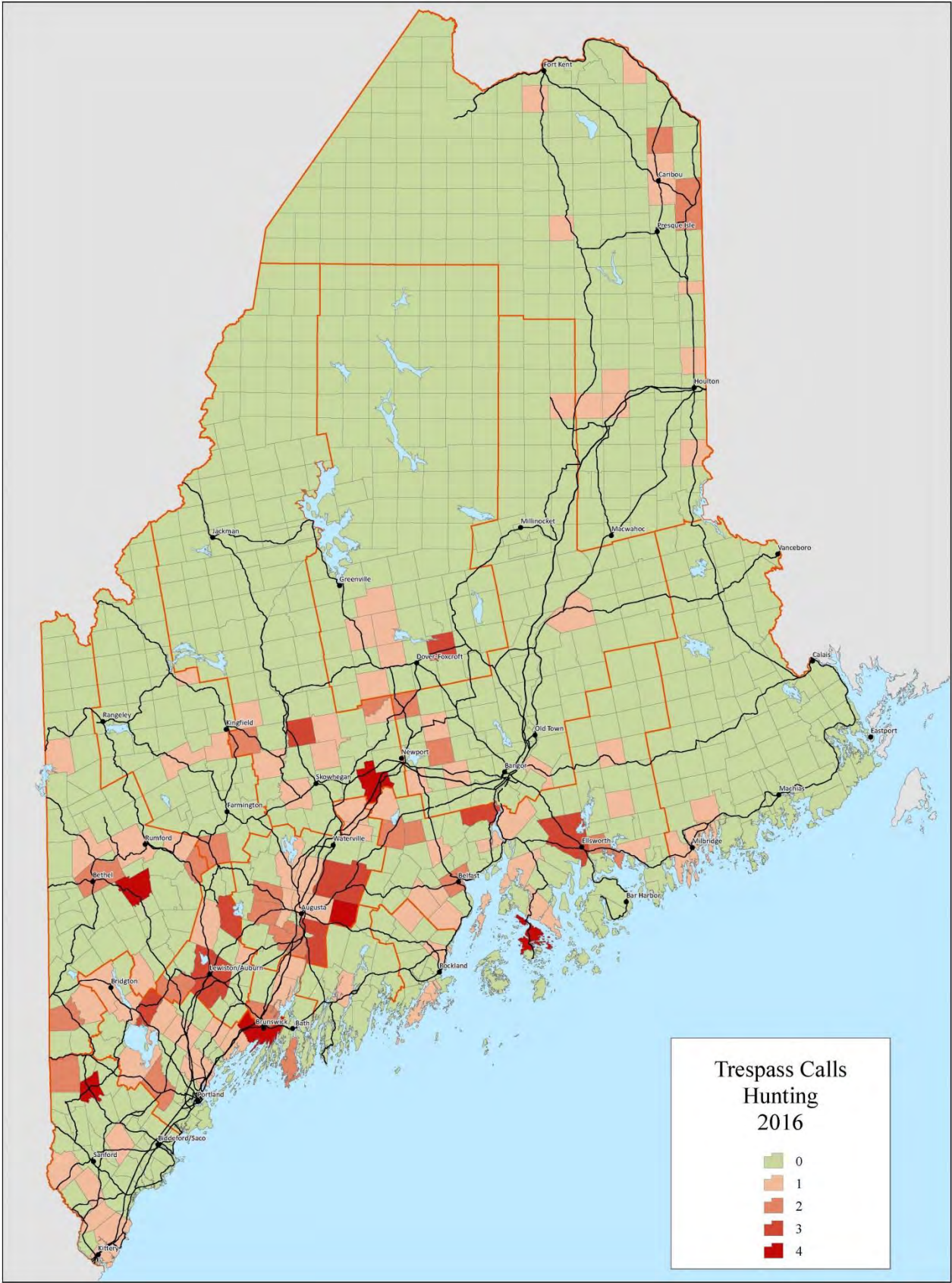




89-Snowmobile trespass







## Statewide Calls

- 19- Fishing trespass
- 3- Trapping trespass

## Specialized Landowner Relations Details

Several statewide specialized details were organized and run, where Warden Service focused strictly on landowner relation. Details ran from 4 to 8-hour blocks, knocking and talking, meetings, planning, enforcing, etc... direct line to landowners, resolving issues.

- Bingham- Brookfield Power trespass and land abuse ( Sgt. Chris Simmons , Wardens Jared Herrick and Chad Robertson)
- Saco & Biddeford- Assisted with Saco River clean up with, Saco River Salmon Club, Boy Scouts, supplied boats, Warden Service staff, trash bags and hats for volunteers (Wardens Carleton Richardson and Cody Louder)
- Readfield - Organized and assisted with several landowner abuse cases, cleanup or enforcement based (Warden Joey Lefebvre )
- Durham - Landowners , MSA illegal trail, organized detail, equipment and trail reroute (Warden Evan Franklin)
- Katahdin Iron Work - Multi-use Rail Trail abuse (ATV Coordinator for DACF Brian Bronson, Sgt. Glenn Annis , Warden Paul Mason, tribal members)
- Bangor - Bear management meeting for AFM warden staff, Bear Biologist Randy Cross & Jenn Vashon presentation
- West Gardiner - Herbie Mooreshed large landowner trespass ( Warden Bob Decker)
- Bridgewater - Gate crash on Prentiss and Carlisle property (specialized detail with Warden Kevin Pelkey)
- North Yarmouth – CMP pole line corridor, multi-use trail, coordinate with DACF, towns of Yarmouth, North Yarmouth, Cumberland, Falmouth, Snowmobile clubs and landowners (Warden Jeremy Judd)
- Westfield- Illegal tire dump on Smith Farms, organize enforcement action, cleanup detail (Warden Kevin Pelkey)



- Whiting - Landvest and Peter Gerrity, landowner criminal mischief and damage to woods roads. Coordinate with other agencies D.A.'s and staff (Warden Joe McBrine)
- Rangeley Lake - Don Breen landowner, snowmobile & ATV user groups, travel to Rangeley area, meeting in Massachusetts with landowner (Warden Pat Egan)
- St. Francis- Rankin Rapids Farm landowner, snowmobile abuse. Coordinate with staff and MSA. Specialized enforcement details, signs and meetings (Lt. Tom Ward, Wardens Gary Sibley and Adrian Marquis)
- North Maine Woods - Conflict with user groups Northeast Overland with land abuse, phone calls, meetings and enforcement (Warden Jim Fahey)
- Salem TWP - Maine ITS trail, landowners abuse, trail shut down, organized meetings with DACF, ATV, snowmobile and departmental staff for action plan (Wardens Dan Christianson and Kris MacCabe)
- Farmington - Water District and Porter Hill residence, snowmobile landowner abuse, meetings with landowners, signs and enforcement detail (Warden Kris MacCabe)
- Ft. Kent & St. Francis- Heritage trail, DACF and Warden Service details with cameras and documentation of right of ways. Landowner dispute (Sgt. Dan Menard , Warden Gary Sibley)
- Ashland- IFW biologist staff, supply with cracker shells, new shell guns and propane canons for landowner, wildlife conflicts (Regional Biologist Amanda Demusz)
- Marshfield- Property dispute for youth fishing regulation change. Meeting with fisheries staff, warden service, administrative staff, town managers, and surrounding landowners(Warden Joe McBrine)
- Sidney, Standish, Bangor- Taught Landowner Relations at three Ethics classes statewide over twenty attended at each (Corp. Rick LaFlamme)
- Augusta - Meetings with landowner corporations Wagner & Weyerhaeuser, DACF, discussion on land use polices and ATV usage
- Greenville - Scammond Road, multi-use for snowmobile, meetings with town officials, snowmobile clubs road associations, DOT for signage, enforcement details (Sgt. Bill Chandler)

- Lewiston & Auburn - Land abuse to private way, pit parties and snowmobile noise complaints, signs, cameras, gate, enforcement detail ( Wardens Dave Chabot and Troy Thibodeau)
- Lebanon- Trespass via ATV and snowmobile, signs cameras, detail (Warden Carleton Richardson)
- Sanford- Turf farm landowner Sam Morgan, destruction of property and trespass, meetings, details, cameras, signs cables, apprehended violators and restitution (Warden Carleton Richardson)
- Limerick- Large landowner / famer Tony Carroll, trespass and land abuse, signs, details (Warden Jake Scott)
- Fryeburg- Land Vest, Dave Degruttola Leavitt Plantation, illegal bear baiting, cameras, details, continue working with Regional Biologist Scott Lindsey to manage, (Warden Lucas Bellanceau)
- South Berwick- Tucker Farms large landowner in southern Maine dealing with abuse on property, met with local clubs organize enforcement details, signs, cameras clean up (Warden Mike Joy)
- Hollis - Assisted in securing an ATV trail in southern Maine, on State of Maine land with regional biologist and Warden Service staff. This effort eliminated land abuse on military facility, installed gate, signs, and work detail (Warden Jake Scott)
- Dexter- Landowners in that area having issues with ATV misuse, Enforcement detail with (Sgt. Chris Simmons, Wardens Josh Tibbets, Johnathan Parker and Jared Herrick)
- Solon- Hydro dam trespass, meeting with employees and residents in the area, signs, enforcement detail (Sgt. Chris Simmons, Wardens Jonathan Parker and Jared Herrick)
- Bethel - Organized meeting with landowners in Step Falls (public use issues on private property, with land trust land users) town meeting, D.O.T (Sgt. Kris Barboza)





Illegal use of private property at Step Falls in Bethel



Contractor illegally dumping 11 loads, Caught by Warden Alan Curtis  
Organized specialized cleanup detail as part of restitution, and paid \$2500 fine



Warden Troy Thibodeau working specialized detail for LOR



New trail on state land to alleviate surrounding landowner's burden





Cleanup that the Warden Service conducted in the Rainbow Lake area last fall and hauled out this winter. Wardens; Taylor Valente, Camden Akins, Bob Johansen, Kim Bates and Chris Roy.

### Speaking Engagements

- Town hall meeting guest speaker for snowmobile trail on CMP property, Yarmouth and North Yarmouth
- Town hall meeting in Sebec for ATVing, and Landowner Lake Association
- Meeting with AFM, Mexico, Rangeley snowmobile and ATV clubs ITS 117
- Downeast Land Vest
- Presque Isle, Meeting with large landowner McCrum, Smith, Irving, Grass, Madore families
- Guest Speaker Massachusetts Environmental Police for LOR and OHV program
- Guest speaker at the MSA show trail masters workshop
- Guest speaker at Maine ATV annual meeting
- Guest speaker UMO – Outdoor recreating
- Guest speaker at USDA annual meeting
- Guest speaker at the New England Regional Council Forest Engineering, 300+/- attendees



## **Information and Education on Landowner Relations**

**Published articles in Bangor Daily, SAM newsletters**

### Here's a Thought

Well, it's been 2 1/2 years since I took the Landowner Relations Specialist job in Augusta. Wow, time flies! We have implemented many good ideas and tools into the Landowner Relations Program. We have had a tremendous show of support from staff, organized land user groups (such as ATV, snowmobile, & sportsmen's clubs), as well as the landowner community. You have heard me say it time and time again, we are extremely lucky to have the traditions we all grew up with here in Maine, thanks largely to open access of land to recreate on.

This year, The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) teamed up with the Maine Forest Service and Kittery Trading Post, to sponsor the annual statewide Landowner Appreciation Day on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The focus of this event is to address the number one reason land is getting shut down here in Maine: illegal dumping! We had participation from approximately 35 clubs, 80 game wardens, 40 forest rangers, MDIFW engineering and safety staff, as well as Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry staff using heavy equipment. In ONE day, volunteers & staff picked up over 64 tons of trash from the fields and forest of Maine, most of which came from those private property owners who allow all of us to do what we love to do on their property. We awarded over \$3,500 in prizes for the most trash picked up by organized clubs. You would think, wow, what a great event, right? Well I can assure you we still need your help!

I have lived in Maine all my life and have seen a lot of changes. Housing developments pop up and get larger, diminishing the areas to recreate. Posted signs go up, for

all different reasons, faster than I can keep track of. The land we use to recreate on is changing rapidly. Everyone has their opinion on why that is. But one thing is for certain, something has to change! We need to try and teach responsible and ethical land use to ALL users. It doesn't matter if you tote a fishing pole, gun, backpack, skis, binoculars, or ride a snowmobile, ATV, or mountain bike. When a sign says Posted Private Property NO TRESPASSING; it means all of us! Imagine if the 94% of Maine that is privately owned gets posted NO TRESPASSING tomorrow, leaving only the other 6 % of land open to recreate on. It would be like you and 50 other fishermen, hunters, backpackers, bikers, etc... all trying to do that activity on an area the size of a football field, at the same time. That would be reality! Scary isn't it? Some will say it's never going to happen, or I have been doing it for twenty years, or I can go somewhere else. How about asking yourself what can I do to help, or what can I do to make a change for the future generations?

Every year billions of dollars are being spent on outdoor equipment and recreational activities here in Maine, a great deal is invested. Here's the cheapest investment. Take a youth, or new sportsman outdoors to practice good landowner relations. Show them the gift the landowners have given to us. Repay the favor. Take time to ask permission, and say thank you to a landowner in Maine!

Rick Laflamme

### Other Marketing Venues

- Radio talk with 106.5 Bob Deschaine regarding LOR, appreciation day
- Secured over 1500 new Outdoor Partners through membership program
- By promoting at all 10,000 departmental offered safety classes, license purchases
- Continue to post updates through website and publishing on Facebook and Twitter



## Public Access to Private Land is a Privilege, Not a Right



Maine offers nearly unlimited opportunities for enjoying the great outdoors thanks, in great part, to many private landowners who allow access to their property. Landowners who permit the use of their land for outdoor recreational activities are not only doing you a favor, they are placing their trust in you.

To demonstrate appreciation for the favor and to prove their trust is not misplaced:

- Ask for permission first
- Respect any and all special requests made by the landowner
- Understand clearly where you can and cannot drive or park your vehicle and abide by those restrictions
- If requested, provide the landowner, your name, address, phone number and vehicle description
- Consider using pre-printed [Landowner/Land user Courtesy Cards](#)
- Know the property boundaries of the land you have permission to use and stay within those boundaries
- Remember that railroad and utility corridors are not public rights of way and require permission for access
- If you see trash that someone else left, please pick it up
- Always obey the law
- Show your appreciation to the landowner and take the time to say thank you!

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## There is No Excuse for Land Abuse



Land abuse is a very serious problem in the State of Maine. Each year, access to private property is lost due to land abuse. If you see a violation occurring, contact Operation Game Thief at 1-800-ALERT-US or by visiting [www.maineogt.org](http://www.maineogt.org).

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**LEARN MORE**

[www.mefishwildlife.com](http://www.mefishwildlife.com)

### Meeting with Statewide organization

- American Forest Management, Warden Service, State Bear Biologist, Guides and hunters for bear management program on their property
- Landowners Sportsman Relations Advisory Board
- Maine ATV
- Maine Snowmobile Association
- Sportsman Forest Landowner Advisory group
- Regional sportsman clubs regarding landowner relations



### Meetings with Departmental Staff / other agencies

- Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner (regularly)
- Warden Service Command Staff (weekly)
- Met with entire MWS supervisory staff to develop expectations for Warden Service
- Information and Education staff
- Wildlife, Fisheries & Engineering staff
- Safety Administration staff
- Met with all Safety instructors, coordinators statewide, for consistent messaging regarding Landowner Relations. Included L.O.R and O.P pamphlet's into handout package and trash bag into over 10,000 new customers taught through program
- Meetings with Joe Higgins, Snowmobile coordinator DACF
- Meetings with Brian Bronson, ATV Coordinator DACF
- Meetings with Forest Service Chief Bill Hamilton DACF
- Meetings with Forest Service Regional Rangers Jeff Currier, Bill Greaves and Matt Gomes
- Meeting with DEP personnel (Downeast )
- Meetings with USDA

### Secured partnership/sponsorship of the LOR programs

- L.L. Bean- total donations \$2,500 value
- Kittery Trading Post- total donations over \$5,000 value
- Cabela's-total donations \$3,000 value
- North Maine Woods- \$1,500 towards trash bag program
- MSA- \$1,500 towards trash bag program
- SWOAM-\$1,500 towards trash bag program
- SAM-\$1,500 towards trash bag program
- Maine Professional Guides -\$1,500 towards trash bag program
- Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry-\$1,500 towards trash bag program
- Maine ATV-\$1,500 towards trash bag program
- Poland Springs-\$1,500 towards trash bag program

### Misc. & All other:

- Secured a booth at the Maine Agriculture show January 10-12, 2016. Worked with departmental staff for outreach. Distributed Landowner Appreciation prints free signs, law books, information & education pamphlet's to over 3,000 people



LOR Booth at the Agriculture Show

- Purchased tracks and winter accessories for UTV for Landowner Relations Program, to be utilized for winter access to land, trails and equipment transport for landowners
- Entire workload consists of a minimum of 40-hour work week, solely for LOR (roughly 1,920 hours.)
- Distributed over 100,000 signs free to the landowners of Maine to resolve and help with problems: Access by permission, ATV, snowmobile, no dumping, safety zone, motorized vehicle, information signs, etc.
- Produced Outdoor Partner pamphlet info. 50,000 copies
- Updated Landowner Liability pamphlets and printed 50,000
- Purchased range finders for every game warden and forest ranger to add to the LOR gear bags for sign placement, landowner law violations
- Warden Service staff attended over 640 speaking engagements
- Print and receive 5,000 Landowner Appreciation Prints for landowner (Second edition)
- Produced second year LOR trash bag program, printed and distributed 100,000 bag and secured 11 other partnerships

- Met with I.E. department, contracted outside marketing corporation for program analysis and deployment
- Developed a landowner education program to be distributed in school systems (deployed 5 education kits statewide)



- Secured \$40,000 for marketing and information campaign
- Developed and re-designed most LOR signs to include forest service logo
- We have produced a “Got Ya” photo and document library of violators we have caught in the act with the LOR relief gear kits.





Warden Dave Ross caught all these violators after a large landowner complained of some illegal activity on his property.

Hunting unsupervised

Hunting over bait

Unlabeled tree stand

No permission to hang stand

Unlabeled game camera

No permission to hang camera

ATV trespass

Theft of Pumpkins (for bait)

## Reorganized the LSRAB and established new board under L.D. 1321

### 2016 LSRAB Members

Rick LaFlamme	<a href="mailto:Rick.LaFlamme@maine.gov">Rick.LaFlamme@maine.gov</a>
CHAIR: Tom Doak	<a href="mailto:Tom@swoam.org">Tom@swoam.org</a> SWOAM
CO CHAIR: Bob Meyers	<a href="mailto:snowjob@mesnow.com">snowjob@mesnow.com</a> Maine Snowmobile Association
David Montague	<a href="mailto:dmontague@downeastlakes.org">dmontague@downeastlakes.org</a> Land trust
John Bryant	<a href="mailto:john.bryant@afmforest.com">john.bryant@afmforest.com</a> AFM
Jessica Leahy	<a href="mailto:Jessica.leahy@maine.edu">Jessica.leahy@maine.edu</a> University of Maine
Tom Abello	<a href="mailto:tabello@tnc.org">tabello@tnc.org</a> . Nature Conservancy
David Trahan	<a href="mailto:david.trahan@sportsmansallianceofmaine.org">david.trahan@sportsmansallianceofmaine.org</a> Sportsman Alliance of Maine
Don Kleiner	<a href="mailto:dkleiner@maineguides.org">dkleiner@maineguides.org</a> Professional Guides Association
Tami Kane	<a href="mailto:info@atvmaine.org">info@atvmaine.org</a> ATV Maine
Carl R. Guay	<a href="mailto:cguay34@gmail.com">cguay34@gmail.com</a> Maine Trappers Association
Clark Granger	<a href="mailto:clarkgranger@gwi.net">clarkgranger@gwi.net</a> Maine Farm Bureau

## Partnership with Maine Forest Service

# Landowner Relations Program Provides Kits to Maine Forest Rangers

- June 15, 2016 at 3:55 pm by [Emily MacCabe](#)
- The Maine Warden Service has been using the [Landowner Relations Relief kits](#) for almost two years now. In many landowner based complaints, the district warden has almost everything in their kit to correct, or help in resolving landowner's problems with misuse and abuse. Each district game warden in Maine has a relief kit issued to them, which includes tools such as signs, locks, chain, spray paint (purple & orange), a staple gun, "do not enter" ribbon, range finders, and even surveillance cameras to help catch the violators of landowners.



Maine Forest Rangers responds to a lot of similar landowner related calls, such as litter, land abuse and theft. This past winter, Landowner Relations Specialist Rick Laflamme met with Chief Forest Ranger Bill Hamilton and extended the offer to supply every District Ranger with a Landowner Relations Relief kit to aid them with responses to landowner related complaints. Last week, Corporal Laflamme delivered 50 kits to the Old Town Forest Service headquarters, which will be distributed to Maine Forest Rangers around the state. The Maine Warden Service has also now partnered with the Maine Forest Service on the sign program for



landowners.



These new resources will provide a great tool to both game wardens and forest rangers when assisting the landowners of Maine and will help to secure access for responsible users.

We finished the deployment of 10 more Landowner Relations Gear bags



Total of 60 committed

## Budget Items

### Expenses 2016

33,443.72		PAYROLL (ALL OTHER)
150.00	4099	MISC PROF FEES & SPEC SRV
292.60	4270	AUTO MILEAGE-GEN IN STATE
321.00	4273	HOTEL ROOM & LODGING
317.00	4274	MEALS AND GRATUITIES
306.00	4651	MISC RENTS
16.83	4905	POSTAL MACHINE CHARGES
42.89	4909	COURIER SERVICE
1,615.79	4911	POSTAGE
		INTRAGOVERNMENTAL
265.52	4913	SERVICE
1,850.00	4918	NON EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION
16,734.36	4921	TRASH REMOVAL/PICKUP
17,503.77	4929	PRINTING AND BINDING
9,406.15	4936	PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL
61.60	4975	SALES TAX PAID BY STATE
229.20	4986	CLEANING & WASHING
268.26	5150	FOOD FOR MEETINGS
		FUEL OIL (FOR STORAGE OF
157.45	5201	EQUIP.)
90.00	5331	NETWORK ACCESS
287.90	5370	MINOR IT EQUIPMENT
525.44	5402	CLOTHING-EMPLOYEES
5,148.16	5501	SURVELLIANCECAMERA
317.95	5521	CRACKER GUNS FOR FARMERS
5,612.53	5595	MISC MINOR EQUIPMENT
1,237.35	5602	OFFICE SUPPLIES
7,840.38	5636	MISC SUPPLIES
217.55	5654	ERGONOMIC OFFICE EQUIP
191.10	5661	PAINT SUPPLIES
86.01	5665	GROUND SUPPLIES
8,240.00	5861	SIGNS
4,543.70	8511	TRANS TO GEN FUND STACAP
2,260.26	9010	MAT PURCHASED FOR RESALE

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**119,570.85 Total  
expenses**

**Budget Items cont.**

**Revenues 2016**

95,238.00	1589	SPORTSMAN PLATE
3,066.28	2526	PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

28,928.21	2686	MISC-INCOME/OUTDOOR PARTNERS
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**127,232.49 Total income**

Thank You,

Rick Laflamme  
Landowner Relations Specialist