

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

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July 21, 2014

The Honorable Paul LePage
Office of the Governor
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

Dear Governor LePage,

I am pleased to submit the following information as the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund's annual report. Submission of this information is required under TITLE 12, MRSA c 903, section 10308.

By way of history, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund was established in July, 1995 after a citizen's initiative to add a conservation game to the state lottery generated more than 53,000 signatures. Due to the strong support among Maine residents, the Legislature enacted the proposal into law, by-passing the need for a vote in the November, 1995 election.

The Fund's sole purpose is for "maintaining, improving and expanding state and local natural resource conservation programs and associated compatible public uses." Revenue is generated exclusively by a dedicated instant lottery ticket distributed by the Maine State Lottery. The Heritage Fund law requires that funds raised by the lottery be expended in four general categories: for fishery and wildlife, and habitat conservation projects (35%); for acquisition and management of public lands, parks, and wildlife conservation areas (35%); for endangered and threatened species conservation projects (15%); and for natural resources law enforcement (15%). Priorities within each of the four funding categories are described in the enclosed Strategic Plan.

Since the program began, 41 Heritage Fund lottery tickets have been issued. Two tickets were issued last year: "Big Catch" and "Moose Money" and our current ticket is "Wild Bucks."

Approximately 74 percent of Heritage Fund lottery ticket revenue is allocated toward winnings, commissions and their expenses. The remaining 26 percent is transferred to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for distribution to grants of which 2% is used for administrative fees allowing 24% to be released for grant funding. A 2014 budget that outlines the details of these expenses is enclosed.

Grants are awarded semi-annually to natural resource agencies in response to grant proposals. To date, there have been thirty-four grant cycles. Applicants include state natural resource agencies in partnership with non-profit conservation organizations. Over the past sixteen years, the Heritage Fund has awarded approximately \$17.8 million in grants to 900 conservation projects. The grant sizes are generally between \$500 and \$30,000 with the average grant size being \$20,000.

Board Members/Staff

Thomas Urquhart, *Chairman* • Peter Garrett • Jack Witham

Molly Docherty, *Maine Natural Areas Program* • Commissioner Chandler Woodcock, *Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife*
Commissioner Walter Whitcomb, *Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry* • Staff: Carol Gay, *Secretariat*

In 2013, two MOHF Board meetings were held. One on November 7th in which out of 33 requests totaling \$458,698, 26 grants received funding in the amount of \$303,823. The second award session was on May 9th. There were 32 grant requests totaling \$579,686 and 23 of these received funding in the amount of \$299,085. A brief description of the 49 grants awarded in 2013 year is enclosed.

In addition a MOHF Board subcommittee met on several occasions to update the Strategic Plan (enclosed) and work on improving the process documents and guidelines of which are now posted to the website www.maine.gov/ifw/MOHF.html.

Since the Heritage Fund program began, grant recipients have included the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife; the Department of Marine Resources; the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Department of Environmental Protection; the State Planning Office; the Land for Maine's Future Board; the Maine Conservation Corps; the Atlantic Salmon Commission (and formerly the Atlantic Salmon Authority); the St. Croix International Waterway Commission; Soil and Water Conservation Districts in six counties; the Wells Reserve; and the Saco River Corridor Commission. These state natural resource agencies have partnered with scores of non-governmental organizations to accomplish their projects, so the impact of these grants reaches well beyond the scope of these agencies alone.

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board looks forward to its ongoing role in providing an additional source of funding for innovative conservation projects that make a substantial contribution to the protection of the State's natural resources. If you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Carol Conant Gay
Secretariat

Enclosures:
Strategic Plan
2014 Budget
2013 Grant Awards

MOHF FY 2014 Budget

Income

Sales	\$2,025,000	<i>Based on average Sales for past two years</i>
Other Income (carry over from previous ticket)	\$60,000	<i>Based on average Sales for past two years</i>
Total Income	<u>\$2,085,000</u>	

Lottery Expenses

Prize Expense	\$1,230,150	<i>Based on 59% of Income</i>
Vendor Fees	\$104,250	<i>Based on 5% of Income</i>
Agent Commissions	\$166,800	<i>Based on 8% of Income</i>
Agent Bonuses	\$500	<i>Based on average of last two years</i>
STA Cap	\$700	<i>Based on average of last two years</i>
Distribution Expenses	\$41,700	<i>Based on 2% of Income</i>
Subtotal	<u>\$1,544,100</u>	74%

MOHF Expenses

Advertising	\$1,250	<i>For Strategic Plan Rule Making Newspaper Announcement</i>
Secretariat	\$36,875	<i>(Includes Advertising, Office Operating Expenses, Meeting Expenses)</i>
Per Diem	\$935	<i>Board Per Diem - 2 Meetings - 4 Board Members & Strategic Plan Meetings</i>
Other Travel	\$562	<i>Board Travel - 2 Meetings - 4 Board Members & Strategic Plan Meetings</i>
Misc	\$2,000	<i>Natural Resource Service Center Fees</i>
Subtotal	<u>\$41,622</u>	2%

Total Expenses

\$1,585,722

Available Funding

\$499,278 **24%** *Forecasted amount for two grant funding sessions*

Grant Awards Summary by Category

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund - 2013 - Session 1 and Session 2

Grants Awarded on May 9th 2013 and November 7, 2013 - Sorted by Category, Amount Funded

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

132-01-04	Damariscotta Lake Water Quality Monitoring Expansion Project	Amt Funded: \$3,898	Lincoln County
DEP Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association	Expand and enhance water quality monitoring in Damariscotta lake with a more cost-effective program for measuring water quality.		
131-01-14	An Interactive Field Guide to Aquatic Phenomena "APP" for Volunteer Lake Monitors	Amt Funded: \$4,000	Statewide
DEP Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program	Utilize cell phone technology in the form of an "app" to help users identify both common aquatic phenomena and potentially problematic invasive species.		
131-01-01	2013 York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (YCIASP)	Amt Funded: \$5,962	York County
SWCD York County Soil & Water Conservation	Run a watershed base project that provides IAS (Invasive Aquatic Species) educational outreach activities and IAS early detection training to volunteers in York County.		
131-01-10	Development and Dissemination of Research Priorities and Mitigation Strategies Related to Ocean Acidification in Maine	Amt Funded: \$6,643	Statewide
DMR Island Institute	Initiate a state-wide effort to understand, reduce, remediate, and adapt (where possible) to the consequences of ocean acidification on our ocean and coastal fisheries, wildlife, and habitats.		
132-01-12	Evaluation of Lymphoproliferative Disease Virus prevalence in Maine Wild Turkeys	Amt Funded: \$7,500	Statewide
IFW University of Maine at Augusta	Assessment of turkeys in Maine for exposure to infectious agents will be used of flock management and to increase understanding of how these agents act in the regional population.		
132-01-08	Togus Pond Fish Passage Final Design and Permitting	Amt Funded: \$8,137	Togus Pond Watershed
DMR Dept. of Marine Resources	Fund the final design and permitting for fish passage at Lower Togus Pond.		
132-01-05	Sediment Phosphorus Cycling in Lake Auburn	Amt Funded: \$8,138	Statewide
DEP University of Maine at Orono - Dept. of Civil and	Assess the geochemical cause of algal blooms in Lake Auburn, a public water supply having a sensitive population of coldwater fish threatened by resultant high turbidities, and use the results to make informed decisions regarding future treatments of the lake and provide an approach suitable for use in other Maine lakes and water supplies.		
131-01-06	Biogeography and Conservation of Maine's Island Amphibians	Amt Funded: \$9,757	Statewide
IFW Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Maine	Conduct surveys of amphibians on coastal islands along the entire Maine seaboard and reconstruct geographic and genetic patterns of their isolation to enhance current knowledge of amphibian distributions and identify potentially important genetic resources for conservation.		
131-01-12	Where Have We Been? Creation of a Tracking System for Ecological Field Surveys	Amt Funded: \$12,889	Statewide
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Create and populate a spatial database and tracking system to capture field data from all sites visited by MNAP ecologists.		

Category 1 Fisheries & Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

132-01-10	Assessing Fish Usage of Restored Habitat in Two Southern Maine Watersheds	Amt Funded: \$13,200	York County
WNER Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve	Monitor post-restoration conditions at Shorey's Brook and Branch Brook in York County to sample for rainbow smelt spawning habitat, adults and eggs and focus on multiple aspects of brook trout ecology.		
131-01-02	Rainbow Smelt Enhancement as a Fisheries Management Tool	Amt Funded: \$14,896	Statewide
IFW Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit,	Better understand smelt populations in order to create better landlocked salmon fisheries by examining raised rainbow smelt and their contribution to the natural population.		
132-01-03	Sustainable Forestry in Northern White-Cedar: Balancing Multiple Values	Amt Funded: \$14,970	Statewide
ACF US Forest Service	Provide forest landowners and managers with the information needed to determine which northern white-cedar stands have old-growth characteristics, and, as such, might merit special forestry or conservation considerations.		
131-01-13	Identifying Wetland Restoration and Protection Opportunities in Maine	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Statewide
ACF/IFW Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Conduct outreach, landscape analysis, and field surveys to identify and assess high value wetland restoration and protection opportunities, support Maine's In Lieu Fee Program, and improve data related to rare wetland plants, animals, and their habitats.		
132-01-11	Maine Brook Trout Pond Survey	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Statewide
IFW Trout Unlimited	Survey ponds and use data to determine which ponds merit special management to help protect the last stronghold of wild Eastern Brook Trout in the nation.		
131-01-04	An Environmental DNA Detection System for Maine's Invasive and Imperiled Aquatic Species	Amt Funded: \$15,117	Statewide
IFW Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Maine	Adapt established 'environmental DNA' (eDNA) approaches to provide detection capacity for invasive and imperiled species of concern in Maine and demonstrate field eDNA detection for a current nuisance invader.		
132-01-01	Early Detection and Monitoring of Invasive Species in Maine	Amt Funded: \$18,405	Statewide
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Support early detection/rapid response and help to prevent the spread of new invasive species populations, thus protecting habitat quality and resilience.		
131-01-17	Enhancing Stream Habitat for the Native, Wild Brook Trout and Endangered Atlantic Salmon in Western and Northern Maine	Amt Funded: \$18,430	Aroostook River Watershed & Androscoggin River
DMR Maine Audubon Society	Determine where stream barriers occur in the Upper Androscoggin, Upper Kennebec, West Branch of the Penobscot and Aroostook River Watersheds and to help prioritize the most urgent areas for upgrades.		
132-01-07	Building "Stream Smart" Road-Stream Outreach Capacity Statewide	Amt Funded: \$19,752	Statewide
ACF Maine Audubon Society	Improve the ability of Atlantic Salmon, Brook Trout, and other aquatic fish and wildlife to move up and down streams and between streams and ponds to reach their feeding, resting, and breeding areas by working with communities to identify and replace poorly functioning stream crossings.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 1 \$211,694

Category 2 Acquisition & Mgmt of Public Lands, Parks, Wildlife Conservation Areas & Public Access

131-02-02	Keep Maine Clean	Amt Funded: \$3,500	Statewide
IFW Small Woodland Owners Association of	Ninety percent of public outdoor recreational activities occur on private land. The number one complaint of private owners is litter and trash. The Keep Maine program, in partnership with businesses, encourages volunteers to clean up trash along the roads, fields and forests.		
131-02-09	Allagash Information & Education Video	Amt Funded: \$5,920	Allagash Wilderness Waterway
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	To inform, educate and inspire potential visitors to the AWW while also producing video content that can be used to educate canoe and kayak campers across the state.		
132-02-10	Managing for Diversity: Creating Landscapes to Encourage Diverse Human and Wildlife Values	Amt Funded: \$6,560	HVNC - Jefferson
SWCD Maine Association of Conservation Districts	Raise the general awareness of landowners and forest managers about the diverse values of our forests and promote responsible, multiple-use woodland management strategies in mid-coast Maine.		
132-02-08	Recreational Use Survey of the Upper St. Croix Waterway	Amt Funded: \$7,000	St.Croix Watershed
SCIW St. Croix International Waterway	Generate an accurate and up-to-date description of the seasonal recreational use on the upper St. Croix waterway.		
131-02-06	Mill River Park Project	Amt Funded: \$10,000	Thomaston
ACF Town of Thomaston-Conservation	Construct a public park along the shore at the confluence of the Mill and St Georges Rivers that will encourage physical activity and an appreciation of the Town's natural resources by providing recreational opportunities such as hiking, fishing, picnicking and bird watching and other nature observation along a riparian section of river that is recognized by the state as high-value coastal wading bird and waterfowl habitat.		
132-02-04	How Well are We Serving the Outdoor Recreation Public?	Amt Funded: \$14,060	Statewide
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Survey Maine residents in order to gain valid insight into the pattern of perspectives on, barriers to, and characteristics associated with Mainers' enjoyment of the outdoors.		
132-02-03	Changing Shorelines: Adaptation Planning for Maine's Coastal State Parks	Amt Funded: \$14,440	Statewide
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Document and map significant natural features at Maine's coastal state parks as part of a wider scale assessment of coastal park vulnerability and planning for protection of all park values heading into the future.		
131-02-03	Conserving Wildlife Habitat at Timberdoodle Hill	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Eddington
IFW Forest Society of Maine	Permanently conserve, through conservation easement, approximately 140 acres of woodland and wetland wildlife habitat adjacent to the University of Maine's 3,800-acre Penobscot Experimental Forest		
132-02-05	Appalachian Trail Improvements	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Piscataquis County
ACF Maine Appalachian Trail Club	Stabilize and divert water from three wet and eroding sites along a 20-mile trail section by building rock steps and rock water bars.		

Category 2 Acquisition & Mgmt of Public Lands, Parks, Wildlife Conservation Areas & Public Access

132-02-06	Van Buren Forest Conservation Project	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Van Buren
IFW Maine Farmland Trust	Protect 427.5 acres through purchase of a conservation easement and enhance 49.5 acres of evergreen seepage forest and 92.5 acres of northern hardwoods forest through selective cutting on non-desirable species and cultivation of long-lived, native species for understory planting and integrate outdoor education opportunities for all.		
132-02-09	Perley Pond/Northwest River Project	Amt Funded: \$15,000	Sebago
IFW Loon Echo Land Trust	Purchase and permanently protect approximately 150 acres on the shoreline of Perley Pond and the Northwest River with a goal of restoring approximately one acre of land.		
131-02-07	Maine Trail Finder - Kennebec Valley Trails and First Release of Water Trails	Amt Funded: \$16,500	Statewide
ACF Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Center for Community GIS	Generate 40-50 new trail postings in the greater Kennebec County/Kennebec River Valley region and work closely with water trail managers to prepare and integrate the first 10-15 water trails into Maine Trail Finder.		
131-02-01	The Perley Mills Community Forest Project	Amt Funded: \$18,000	Denmark
IFW Loon Echo Land Trust	Conserve a 920 acre parcel of land in Denmark, Maine to develop a regional community forest and public recreational area as well as protect high quality wildlife habitat.		
131-02-05	A Guide to Family Woodland Harvesting	Amt Funded: \$18,080	Statewide
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation &	Develop a guide to harvesting family woodlands, with associated workshops and case studies, to guide family woodland owners and the professionals they work with through decisions to achieve a successful harvest.		
131-02-04	Veteran Community Leader Program	Amt Funded: \$20,000	Statewide
ACF Maine Conservation Corps	Recruit and place veteran community leaders within local organizations in their own communities to recruit, train and lead volunteers in trail construction and maintenance projects.		
132-02-02	Kennebec Highlands - McGaffey Mountain Trailhead Acquisition	Amt Funded: \$20,000	Vienna
ACF Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance	Acquire a 116 acre parcel in Vienna that would provide an excellent site for a parking area, trailhead and trail routes to western destinations on the Kennebec Highlands such as McGaffey Mountain.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 2 \$214,060

Category 3 Endangered & Threatened Species Conservation Projects

131-03-06	Increase Adult Atlantic Salmon Returns to the East Machias River	Amt Funded: \$7,721	East Machias
DMR Downeast Rivers Land Trust	Equip the East Machias Aquatic Research Center ("EMARC") as a "conservation hatchery" that can raise juvenile Atlantic salmon to the parr stage to be stocked in the East Machias as fall parr.		
131-03-01	Detecting State Threatened Northern Bog Lemming	Amt Funded: \$10,000	Statewide
IFW Department of Biology, University of New England	Use novel, non-invasive genetic methods to identify Northern bog lemming populations that will result in the development of an effective survey tool to facilitate partnerships between Universities, the State, and Industry for future state-wide survey efforts.		
131-03-04	Plant Conservation Volunteers: Working to Support Rare Species Conservation in Maine	Amt Funded: \$12,000	Statewide
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Monitor rare plant populations, perform habitat management where needed, and develop a constituency for native plants.		
132-03-01	An Assessment of Floodplain Forests in the Kennebec River Watershed	Amt Funded: \$16,200	Kennebec River Watershed
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Conduct a comprehensive field survey to map floodplain forests and associated rare plants within the Kennebec River watershed.		
131-03-05	Completing the Whole Picture: Documenting the Last Best Places	Amt Funded: \$16,279	Statewide
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	Use recently available high resolution aerial imagery to make MNAP's landscape analysis current and perform surveys for special natural features at remaining priority sites.		
132-03-03	Determination of Right Whale Habitat Use in Maine's Coastal Fishing Waters.	Amt Funded: \$19,825	Statewide
DMR Maine Dept. of Marine Resources	Create a fully analyzed acoustic data product that can be used by DMR, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team for prioritization of coastal habitats that may be targeted for fishing regulations to protect endangered whales from the risk of entanglement.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 3 \$82,025

Category 4 Natural Resources Law Enforcement and Protection of Public Health

131-04-01	Improving Cold Water Rescue Capacity in the Moosehead Lake Region	Amt Funded: \$3,600	Greater Moosehead Lake Region
IFW Greenville Fire Department	Procurement and placement into service four cold water immersion suits and complementary gear.		
131-04-04	Invasive Fish Messaging for Public Water Access Sites	Amt Funded: \$4,860	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W	Help stop the illegal stocking of fish with the purchase and distribution of 360 "Trouble by the Bucketful" 18"x24" metal signs to be posted at water access sites located throughout the state by staff from MDIFW, MDACF, and by volunteers from several regional conservation groups.		
132-04-02	Improving Public Safety at Bradbury Mountain State Park with New Rescue Equipment and Training	Amt Funded: \$4,938	Pownal
ACF Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation-&	To improve the trail based rescues at Bradbury Mountain State Park with the purchase of new emergency rescue equipment and by providing coordinated rescue training sessions between Bradbury Mountain State Park and Pownal Fire and Rescue.		
131-04-05	Pownal Backcountry Rescue	Amt Funded: \$5,043	Pownal
ACF Town of Pownal	Provide Pownal Fire and Rescue with the skills and equipment required to perform backcountry rescues at Bradbury Mountain State Park and adjacent state-owned recreational lands such as the Bradbury-Pineland Corridor.		
132-04-03	Lyme Disease Protection for Maine Game Wardens - Elimitick	Amt Funded: \$6,000	Statewide
IFW Dept. of IF&W- Maine Warden Service	Outfit MWS staff with lightweight Elimitick clothing for reducing the risk of tick bite.		
132-04-01	Better Development Now to Protect Our Children's Water in the Saco River Corridor	Amt Funded: \$12,752	Saco River Corridor
SRCC E4Research.org	Provide coordinated information about stormwater regulation and the impacts of stormwater on the Saco River by delivering low impact development (LID) and green infrastructure information as a method for towns to mitigate stormwater impacts.		
131-04-02	Passamaquoddy Equipment Update	Amt Funded: \$14,652	Passamaquoddy Tribal Territory
IFW Passamaquoddy Warden Service	Provide PWS with new and reliable ATVs to effectively enforce State and Tribal ATV Laws within Passamaquoddy Tribal Territory.		
131-04-07	Using Marine Birds to Monitor Mercury Contamination Across the Gulf of Maine Ecosystem	Amt Funded: \$19,974	Statewide
IFW BioDiversity Research Institute	Assess the current degree of mercury contamination across the Gulf of Maine ecosystem using focal marine bird species as biomonitors.		
132-04-04	A Comprehensive Lead Tackle Exchange Program for the State of Maine	Amt Funded: \$23,310	Statewide
IFW Maine Audubon Society	Increase awareness of Maine's newly-strengthened lead tackle law, reducing the amount of lead tackle used by anglers and documenting loon mortality on Maine's lakes and ponds.		

Total Amount Funded for Category: 4 \$95,129

Total All Categories: \$602,908 # of Grants Awarded: 49

**Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund
Strategic Plan
January, 2007**

Overview

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund was established in July, 1995 through L.D. 717, An Act to Establish the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. As stated in Title 12, MRSA c. 903, section 10303,

"The fund is for the sole purpose of maintaining, improving and expanding state and local natural resource conservation programs and associated compatible public uses in accordance with the strategic plan provided for by section 10308, subsection 5, paragraph A."

Title 12, MRSA c. 903, section 10308 charges the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board with adopting a strategic plan for each of the funding categories listed in section 10307. As the law states, "The strategic plan must identify the priority areas for funding...using the criteria listed in section 10309." This strategic plan is intended to fulfill the requirements of Title 12, MRSA c. 903, section 10308 stated above, and to provide direction to the Board and natural resource agencies on the long-term funding priorities of the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Guiding Principles

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board will be guided by the following principles as it considers grant requests during the period of its duration, which is expected to be the next six years – through December, 2013. It will give preference to projects that most substantially accomplish one or more of these objectives:

- conserve Maine's outdoor heritage and demonstrate outstanding natural-resource or recreational benefits;
- maximize degree and diversity of public/private partnerships or other types of matching funds; projects with a cash match of 1/3 or higher are encouraged (see grant application guidelines for further detail on what constitutes cash match);
- form alliances between natural resource agencies, interest groups and organizations based on shared visions and mutual responsibility;
- address natural resource concerns of statewide significance and/or broad geographical distribution;

Fund Distribution Categories and Grant Criteria

As specified in Title 12, MRSA c. 714, section 10307, only Natural Resource Agencies may apply for a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. They may do so independently or in partnership with other entities. The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board encourages non-governmental organizations interested in projects to contact the appropriate Natural Resource Agency listed in Attachment (C) to submit a grant application.

Dollar amount of grants will vary. The Board will allocate funds according to four major fund distribution categories outlined in Title 12, MRSA c. 714, section 10307 and stated below. The percentage of overall Board funding allocated to each of the four categories is also outlined in Title 12, MRSA c. 714, section 10307 and stated below.

1. Fisheries and wildlife, and habitat conservation projects (35%)

The Board shall consider whether a project involves:

- a) Protection/enhancement of a species, species group, natural community or ecosystem adversely affected due to lack of management or habitat loss;
- b) Protection/enhancement of a species, species group, natural community or ecosystem that is adversely affected due to unusual vulnerability to human or natural disturbances, or need for a special or limited habitat type;
- c) Provision of benefits vital to the future welfare of a species or species group;
- d) Education about fisheries, wildlife, natural community and habitat conservation;
- e) Equipment and training to improve efficiencies in fisheries, wildlife and habitat conservation efforts;
- f) Protection/enhancement of a species, species group, natural community or ecosystem of statewide or regional significance; or
- g) Environmental monitoring.

2. Acquisition and management of public lands, parks, wildlife conservation areas and public access and outdoor recreation sites and facilities (35%)

Land acquisition projects may involve a range of land types (eg. forestlands, agricultural lands, wetlands, grasslands) that support wildlife conservation and public recreation. The Board shall consider whether a project involves:

- a) Public outdoor recreation sites and facilities or lands of statewide or regional significance;
- b) Acquisition and public management of habitat or species, species group, natural community or ecosystem of statewide or regional significance;
- c) Acquisition and public management of habitat of a threatened or endangered species listed under state or federal law;
- d) Acquisition and public management of rare or exemplary natural communities or ecosystems as determined by the State's Natural Areas Program database;
- e) Protection/enhancement of rare or exemplary geological features;
- f) Areas with proximity to lands dedicated to conservation purposes or public recreation.

- g) Education about the management and use of public lands, parks, wildlife conservation areas, and public access and outdoor recreation sites and facilities;
- h) Equipment and training to improve efficiencies in the management of public lands, parks, wildlife conservation areas, and public access and outdoor recreation sites and facilities;
- i) Development and maintenance of outdoor recreational facilities and access sites.
- j) Environmental monitoring of public lands, parks and wildlife conservation areas.

3. Endangered and threatened species conservation projects (15%)

The Board shall consider whether a project involves:

- a) A species or species group listed as endangered or threatened under state or federal law;
- b) The habitat of one or more species listed as endangered or threatened species under state or federal law;
- c) A species or species group not listed as threatened or endangered but, based on the best available scientific information, potentially warranting listing in near future;
- d) A species, species group, natural community or ecosystem that has been documented as being in decline or recognized as being at risk of extirpation from the State;
- e) A species, species group, natural community or ecosystem thought in the best professional judgment of biologists to be in decline or in danger of extirpation from the State but whose status is undetermined;
- f) Education about conservation of rare, threatened and endangered species, species of special concern, and/or exemplary natural communities;
- g) Equipment and training to improve efficiencies in the conservation of rare, threatened and endangered species, species of special concern, and exemplary natural communities; or
- h) Environmental monitoring of rare, threatened, endangered species or habitat

4. Natural resources law enforcement and protection of public health (15%)

The Board shall consider whether a project involves:

- a) Public health or safety concerns of statewide or regional significance;
- b) Biological indicators that would signal threats to Maine's air quality, water quality, wildlife or wildlife habitat, and/or health of Maine's ecosystems;
- c) Environmental education for the public or law enforcement personnel;
- d) Cross-training between natural resources state agencies;
- e) Equipment and training to improve efficiencies in natural resources law enforcement;
- f) Education of the public about natural resource laws and enforcement

**Definitions of Terms used in Strategic Plan
(from Title 12, MRSA c. 903, section 10301)**

1. **Acquisition.** "Acquisition" means fee ownership, easement, lease, right-of-way and other less-than fee interests in land.
2. **Board.** "Board" means the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board.
3. **Coordinator of the Natural Areas Program.** "Coordinator of the Natural Areas Program" means the person appointed by the Commissioner of Conservation to be responsible for coordinating the Natural Areas Program.
4. **Fund.** "Fund" means the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund.
5. **Matching funds.** "Matching funds" means any combination of public and private funds used in conjunction with the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, including, but not limited to, private contributions of cash or securities, money from municipal or other public agencies, money from a federal matching program, in-kind contributions or any combination thereof.
6. **Natural resources agencies.** "Natural resources agencies" means state agencies, bureaus, boards, commissions or other instrumentalities having jurisdiction over the protection of the State's natural resources.
7. **Public-private partnership.** "Public-private partnership" means any partnership between federal agencies, state agencies or individuals or any combination of federal agencies, state agencies or individuals, including corporations and private persons or organizations, where at least 1/3 of the funding is contributed by a nongovernmental organization or individual.
8. **Wildlife.** "Wildlife" means wild organisms, including vertebrate, invertebrate and plant species.

**B. Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund
Grant Application Guidelines**

Only Natural Resource Agencies may apply for a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. They may do so independently or in partnership with other entities. For a current list of the known State's Natural Resource Agencies, see Attachment (C). Each year proposals submitted must be postmarked by March 1 for the first distribution and September 1 for the second distribution. It is the intent of the Legislature that a grant received from the fund not be considered a substitute for funds previously appropriated or allocated to a natural resources agency.

A complete application from a Natural Resource Agency includes:

- 1. A completed Summary Information Form (as prescribed by the Board);**
- 2. A proposal not to exceed 5 pages that meets the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund's guiding principles, and includes the following:**
 - a. an identification of the fund-distribution category under which the applicant is applying; if there are multiple categories, please specify which one is most pertinent
 - b. the stated objectives of the project and how they will be accomplished
 - c. evidence of the urgency and need for the project
 - d. literature cited, if appropriate
 - e. the potential outcome of the project and how it will be measured
 - f. the project timeline
 - g. for education projects – target audience clearly identified with a well developed distribution plan.
- 3. A list of key personnel involved in the project including a biography or resume of each (not to exceed 1 page per person); and**
- 4. If this is a collaborative project, letters of understanding between partners that describes the specific respective role of each partner.**
- 5. Budget**
 - Expenses:**
 - Personnel (By Task or Person):** _____
 - Project Expenses:**
 - Total Expenses:**
 - Income:**
 - Revenue Sources Secured:**
 - Revenue Sources Planned:**
 - Inkind Support:**
 - MOHF Request:**
 - Total Income:**

Funds may be used to support only project-related expenses, including salaries. Monetary match must consist of funds raised specifically for the project proposed and does not include salary costs of natural resource agency staff that are funded by the State General Fund. In-kind contributions that occur during the duration of the project will be considered matching funds. Proposals that are funded will receive funds according to a schedule determined by the Board.

A final report and an executive summary (not to exceed one page) will be due within three months of the completion of the project. Annual progress reports will be required on projects that extend beyond one year. Final reports, progress reports, and executive summaries should be submitted electronically when possible and will include:

- a review of the project's success in meeting the stated objectives
- a detailed accounting of how Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund monies were spent
- color photographs or slides illustrating the project and its results
- copies of any press related to the project

Attachment C - List of Natural Resource Agencies

Atlantic Salmon Commission

Baxter State Park Authority

Land for Maine's Future Board

Land Use Regulation Commission

Maine Board of Pesticides Control

Maine Conservation Corps

Maine Department of Agriculture

Maine Department of Conservation

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Maine Department of Marine Resources

Maine State Planning Office

Saco River Corridor Commission

Saint Croix International Waterway Commission

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve Management