

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM

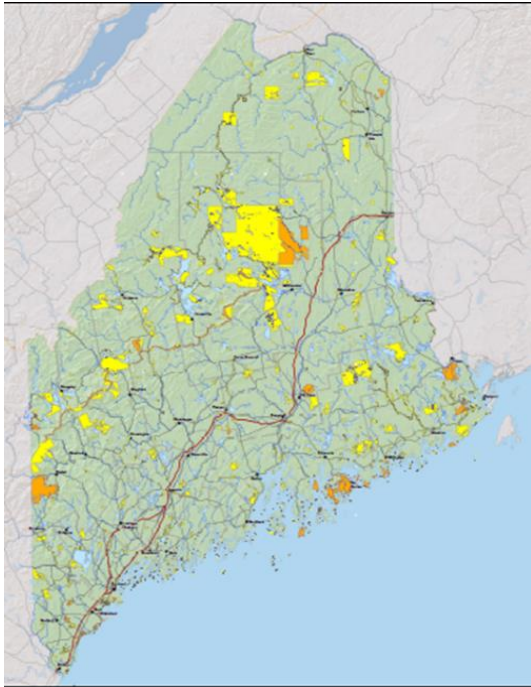


2019 Annual Report

Warden Corporals Rick LaFlamme & David Chabot  
Landowner Relations Specialist



## MAINE



Green: Private land  
Yellow: State land  
Orange: Federal land

- POPULATION just over 1.3 million
- Approximately 94% of the state's land area is privately owned which equates to 20.3 million acres
- 21,646,000 acres in size
- 320 miles long and 210 miles wide and has a total area of approximately 33,215 square miles.
- 17.5 million acres of forestland and 3,500 miles coastline.
- 2,295 square miles of inland water area and over 2,000 coastal islands.
- 6,000 lakes and ponds and 5,100 rivers and streams
- There are only 1.3 million acres of state and federal lands which are considered public lands
- 6,000 + miles of ATV trails
- 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails
- Outdoor recreation is a major contributor to Maine's economy

## LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM FOCUS AND MISSION

The Landowner Relations Program's focus is to assist private landowners with nuisance wildlife, illegal dumping / littering, misuse of their property, property damage, and to educate user groups about landowner expectations. Our focus is to prioritize the landowner's concerns and address their issues quickly. This is done through the assistance of Department of IF&W staff, other State agencies and volunteers through enforcement, education and awareness. With the goal to secure Maine's outdoor recreation and continued use of private lands for future generations.

As the Landowner Relations Specialists, we'll strive to achieve the expectations of the program by implementing change through education, establishing partnerships, problem solving, community involvement and proactive law enforcement.

Landowner Specialist Rick LaFlamme and David Chabot field many calls from the public, department biologist, warden staff, DAF staff, ATV / Snowmobile clubs and private landowners. The calls are handled or vetted to the appropriate personnel or advice is given to remedy a problem. There are times where the complaint is





handled in house and special attention is given to the complainant, which is usually a landowner. The following bullet points are just a few examples of work done by Specialist LaFlamme and Chabot.



### 2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: CORPORAL RICK LAFLAMME

- Maine Agriculture Show
  - Bangor Division meeting
  - Greenville Division meeting
  - Conference for Bartlett Island Wildlife Management Area
  - PSA with Ravex and MARB
  - Sidney Division meeting
  - Meeting with Maine Bow Hunters Association and Land Trust
  - Meeting with Waste Management
  - Meeting with Midcoastal Land trust
- LOR training at all wardens annual meeting
  - Meeting in Greenville with all region ATV clubs and DACF Brian Bronson
  - Presentation to 150 kids Kennebunk School
  - Meeting in Caribou with all region ATV clubs and DACF Brian Bronson
  - Meeting in Old Town with all region ATV clubs and DACF Brian Bronson
  - Guest speaker in Portland for the Maine tidewater guides association
  - April 29- May 1 Pineland / Veterans turkey hunt
  - SFLA meeting in Bangor
  - Meeting with Fox Keim KTP Sponsorship of LOR
  - Meeting with Deputy Commissioner and ATV task force
  - Meeting with Large Landowner in southern Maine regarding issues
  - Meeting with mid-coast land trust with neighbor issues
  - Meeting in North Anson for landowner appreciation dinner
  - Meeting with Parks and Lands, Rex Turner and Doug Reed assist with Hunting and Trails
  - Specialist Chabot and I met with large landowner regarding conflict with Mahoosuc land trust
  - Met with large landowner in Industry deer issues on sugar maple plantation (action plan)
  - Travel to northern Maine, beaver issues on Wagner and Weyerhaeuser lands
  - Participate with the Swan Island event
  - Veterans / Landowner Moose hunt Northern Maine
  - Train the trainer program, assist Safety in Eddington and Yarmouth
  - Work with fence company and Mahoosuc Land trust to resolve landowner abuse in Bethel
  - Brewer Ethics class



- Finished LOR project with new equipment trailers and UTV's equipment
- Ordered LOR signs with new branding
- Attend ATV task force meeting in Bangor
- Order new surveillance cameras
- Order replacement equipment for LOR gear bags
- Assist large landowners with Beaver issues (Weyerhaeuser and Wagner)
- Assist with Moose Conference
- Specialist Chabot, Brian Bronson and I met with Weyerhaeuser Senior Staff
- AFM Bear management meeting
- Meeting with Rinck
- Meeting at Summer haven to resolve ATV issue
- Bartlett Island WMD meet with care taker post Island hot spots with Specialist Chabot
- Meet with Tom Shillings and Warden Carleton Richardson lake front water dispute



#### **2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: CORPORAL DAVID CHABOT**

- Met with Warden Fahey and Mr. Smith who owns property in Bangor. Warden Fahey wanted him recognized for allowing recreation on his property and supporting Department initiatives - Mr. Smith was given a moose antler for his support
- Worked with Warden Franklin and Brunswick / Topsham Land Trust to continue to allow hunting on their property in Brunswick.
- Attended the annual Agriculture Show and met with Woodland Owners of Maine group
- Continued working with SAM on the Youth and Family programs on their newly acquired property
- Jacob Butterfield earned his Eagle Scout with Keep Maine Clean Program assistance
- Met with landowner re: ATV access route issues. Talked with town of Canton. Civil issues between complainant and towns of Jay and Canton
- Attended the Parker Head Home Association Meeting with Warden Franklin and Biologist Zitske regarding deer issues and opening the land to hunters.
- Dealt with ATV issues in Poland and Mechanic Falls
- Checked on Brookfield – Cherry Pond issue in Greene – issued two warnings
- Checked on Mere Point boat launch issues with Warden Franklin
- Worked on combining all LOR info into one pamphlet
- Review Hunting law book for publication – added comments for revision regarding LOR
- Rick, Brian Bronson and I met with Weyerhaeuser to discuss ATV trail closures
- Issued trespass warning to Daniel Wood regarding all of Weyerhaeuser property and had Mike Smith remove all tree stands and clean up his and Dan's bait sites.
- Talked with land manager in Auburn regarding litter left behind by transients – organized a cleanup.
- Issued beaver permit to AFM and their foresters
- Dropped off signs to CMP relating to people using their land in Windham as a shooting range
- Attended AFM Bear meeting with guides and hunters

- Emily, Rick and I met with RINCK to discuss future educational and informational goals
- Met with landowners in Mt. Vernon regarding abandon boats on their property – Moose Pond. The boats were picked up by the owners with only 3 boats needing to be discarded.
- Continued relations and working with Vick's - property owners in Industry – 1700 plus acres.
- Rick and I met with land manager on Bartlett Island near MDI – to discuss trespass issues.
- Assistance with R3 Mentor Hunt organization/meetings
- Rick, Sgt. Barboza and I met with Mahoosuc Land Trust to remedy an ongoing issue at Step Fall
- Member of the Governor's ATV Task Force
- Various and many Speaking Engagements: MOSES Training for Agents, CMP Employee days, Woodland Owners Landowner Appreciation Day, Bowdoin Farmers and Landowner Meeting, SAM-Youth Committee, Many ATV and Snowmobile LOR Suppers, Landowner Meeting for Dixmont Conservation Committee, Ethics Courses, Beginning with Habitat Committee, Recreational Safety meetings delivered LOR program updates
- Worked with Lt. Ward and Warden O'Leary on extreme deer damage to a 40-acre tree farm because a local town was feeding deer – purchased wire for the farmer to fence in the remaining 8 acres
- Participated in the R3 Hunt on Swan Island
- Worked on Outdoor Partners re-branding and Social Media/Website upgrade with Emily MacCabe
- Talked with and assisted many landowners with signage, clean ups and nuisance wildlife
- Radio show with V. Paul Reynolds
- Made a Nuisance Wildlife Guide for Maine Farm Bureau
- Working with Region B and D Fisheries Biologist on 3 - Fishing access spots for 2020 {Spring/Muddy Pond, Mixer Pond and Staples}
- Met with Patty Cormier to discuss continued partnership with Forest Rangers
- Talked with land manager in Auburn regarding litter left behind by transients – organized a cleanup.
- Issued beaver permit to AFM and their foresters
- Attended Div. D meeting and delivered LOR program updates
- Assisted Diano Circo with Boat Launch Rules



### **STABLE FUNDING ESTABLISHED FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM**

The use and access to private lands is unique to the Northeast and is of extreme importance to the State of Maine. The open and free access has been a longstanding tradition. It has been an accepted and welcomed practice amongst most landowners with the beneficiaries being land users. The historical practice of public access to private lands has been acknowledged by the State.

The initial creation of the Landowner Relations Program was a direct result of the Legislature understanding of the importance of the free access as it relates to Maine's heritage and economy. In 2018, the Department of IF&W – Warden Service with support of the Landowner Sportsman Relations Advisory Board added another Landowner Specialist position to the program. In 2019, the Legislature approved an additional



\$150,000 of General Fund go towards the Landowner Relations Program. This additional funding along with Outdoor Partners contributions and the Support Wildlife motor vehicle registration plate; will ensure the mission of the program will continue well into the future and provide benefits to the landowners and land users of the State of Maine.

### Landowner Relation Expenses as of July 1, 2019

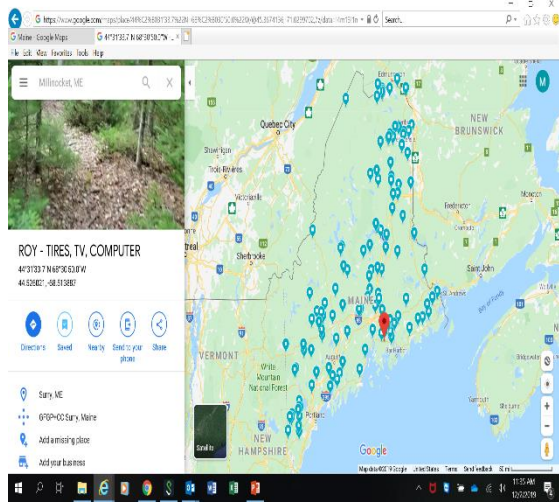
LANDOWNER RELATIONS FUND				General Fund Expenditures-010.09AZ140.01			
Dedicated Expenditures-014.09AZ140.01				Fiscal Years 2020 (none for FY19)			
Fiscal Years 2019 - 2020				as of November 28			
	Detailed	FY 2020 L010	FY 2020 L015	FY 2020 L010			
		Support Landowner	Sport Hunter	Support Landowner			
		26,856.64	122.84				
	<b>Personal Services</b>						
	<b>All Other</b>						
	Brochures/PSA/Ads						
	Social Media						
	Promos, giveaways	4,411.70					
	Education						
	Printing			80.00			
	Landowner Appreciation						
	Outdoor Partner Decals/Brochures/Bags	24,737.85					
	Landowner Relations						
	Signs/posts			4,816.40			
	Gates/fence/border marking	753.82		279.98			
	Trash/bags e.c. for cleanup			4,947.13			
	Mailing	1,477.70	316.44				
	Registration fees/subscriptions			240.00			
	Rental - facility ethics						
	Insurance						
	Non-Employee Recognition	850.00					
	Clothing						
	Travel	128.68	468.01	74.00			
	Food						
	Phones	151.00					
	Cameras/Memory Cards						
	2 ATVs/winch	26,457.96					
	Trailers			19,593.00			
	Tires/maintenance						
	Trailer Maintenance/repairs						
	Ranger Maintenance/repairs						
	Snowmobile Maintenance/repairs						
	Repairs			234.96			
	Power Bikes	1,232.24					
	Batteries/kits	50.40		355.73			
	Stationary Supplies						
	Frames	149.85		1.95			
	Supplies						
	Tractor/Supply Purchase (receipts?)	286.25					
	Cracker Shells	328.82					
	Wildlife issues						
	Resale	(2,123.00)					
	Misc Supplies (scan not available yet)			4,465.14			
	Totals	87,749.91	907.29	35,088.29			
	Indirect-Admin	4,821.00	70.13				
	Existing Contracts	50,000.00		8,940.80			
		<b>142,570.91</b>	<b>977.42</b>	<b>44,029.09</b>			

### Landowner Relations Proposed FY 2020 Budget

		Proposed FY20					
		Budget	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Landowner Relations Fund							
<b>Personal Services</b>		<b>55,000</b>					
LOR Details - Special Enforcement			6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	25,000
Keep Maine Clean Program Detail			12,000				12,000
Second LOR Supplement - Chabot			15,000				15,000
MDIFW Safety Office			3,000				3,000
							<b>55,000</b>
<b>Capital Equipment</b>		<b>50,000</b>					
2 Polaris Ranger UTV			25,000				25,000
3 Dump Trailers			25,000				25,000
							<b>50,000</b>
<b>General Operating Cost - other</b>		<b>137,000</b>					
<b>LOR Sign Program</b>				16,000			16,000
<b>Outreach/Educational Expansion</b>			3,500		3,500		7,000
<b>Appreciation Items - AI</b>							
AI - volunteers			5,200		6,800		12,000
AI - landowner			4,200		5,600		9,800
<b>Misc. General Operations - MGO</b>							
MGO - Keep Maine Clean			5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000
MGO - Aggregate			1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	7,400
MGO - Rental Equipment			500	500	500	500	2,000
MGO - Tools/Equipment/Trash Bags/Assoc. Items			750	750	750	750	3,000
MGO - Fencing / Gates			1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	5,000
MGO - Cameras and Accessories			925	925	950	950	3,750
MGO - Custom Signs			250	250	250	250	1,000
MGO - Equipment Maintenance			1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	6,000
MGO - Postal/Shipping			1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	6,000
MGO - Travel Expenses			1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	7,000
MGO - Food/Rental Facilities			500	500	500	500	2,000
MGO - Office Supplies / Admin. / Employee Supplies			1,000	1,025	1,000	1,025	4,050
<b>Keep Maine Clean Program - 1 Day Fall Event</b>							
Disposal			17,000				17,000
Misc. Materials / Items (Trash Bags, Gloves, etc.)			8,000				8,000
							<b>137,000</b>
<b>Promotional Advertisement</b>		<b>50,000</b>					
Marketing Outreach			20,000		20,000		40,000
Promotional Materials			5,000		5,000		10,000
							<b>50,000</b>
<b>Total AO</b>		<b>292,000</b>	<b>140,925</b>	<b>39,050</b>	<b>38,950</b>	<b>23,075</b>	<b>292,000</b>
REFER TO APPENDIX 1							



### KEEP MAINE CLEAN PROGRAM



The Keep Maine Program was established and placed within the Landowner Relations Program of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The sole purpose is to provide relief and assistance to Maine's landowners with illegal dumping {littering} issues. These illegal acts are a main reason for the POSTING of private property.

With the assistance and partnerships of the Maine Forest Service, BDS Tire and Waste Management the annual Landowner Appreciation Day which occurred on September 15<sup>th</sup> was a success. We removed over 18 TONS of litter and 830+ tires from 121 identified sites with 50 plus volunteers. This litter is no longer on Maine's landscape thanks to the program and the volunteers.

These numbers do not include the half dozen or more clean ups we organized during the year to immediately remedy an issue and give relief to the landowner.

The Keep Maine Clean Program is essential for Landowner Relations and shall continue as an integral part of the program.

Wardens Joe McBrine and Evan Ackley



Unity College – Conservation Law Students



### LANDOWNER AND SPORTSMEN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

The LSRAB is an advisory board to the Commissioner of IF&W. The board relayed the following objectives:

- Expand education to promote respect and appreciation for landowners.
- Continue support for nuisance wildlife damage issues on private property
- Ensure the importance of landowner relations and its program mission is delivered to the public

- Continued coordination and cooperation between government agencies and landowners
- Recognize non-traditional use is growing rapidly (hiking, biking, kayaking, over-landing with vehicles, back country snowmobile riding)
- Acknowledge public access to private property is rapidly declining, due to lack of respect and abuse by users (litter, destruction of property, etc.)

Advisory Board Members:

Tom Doak (Woodland Owners of Maine) – Chair  
Bob Meyers (MSA)  
Clark Granger (Maine Farm Bureau)  
John Bryant (American Forest Management)  
Carl Guay (Maine Trappers Assoc)  
Real Deschaine (Maine ATV)  
David Trahan (Sportsman's Alliance of Maine)  
David Montague (Down east Land Trust)  
Jessica Leahy (Univ of Maine Orono)  
Don Kleiner (Maine Professional Guides Assoc)  
Rick Laflamme (Landowner Relations – IF&W)  
David Chabot (Landowner Relations – IF&W)

The term of appointments to the board had expired and some members have been reappointed and new members will be joining in 2020.

**OUTDOOR PARTNERS PROGRAM, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS**



The Outdoor Partners program provides an opportunity for the outdoor enthusiast to donate to the Landowner relations Program. It is a \$15 yearly contribution and is available through the Department of IF&W online store or at the time of license purchase. We had 1427 participants in 2019.

The list of companies below provided discounts to products, memberships or monetarily with services. These relationships have been established with outdoor retailers, trash/tire disposal companies and organized clubs & associations to promote and provide an invaluable support system for Maine's Landowners and the Landowner Relations Program.

Waste Management

BDS Tire

Mac's Trading Post

Ben's Trading Post

Indian Hill Trading Post

Northwoods Sporting Journal

Maine Sportsman

North Maine Woods

Fort Kent Ski Doo

Kittery Trading Post

LL Bean

Cabela's

Nature Conservancy

Small Woodland Owners of Maine

Poland Spring

Sportsman Alliance of Maine

Maine Snowmobile Association

ATV Maine

Maine Professional Guides

Operation Game Thief

Maine Trappers Association

Maine Farm Bureau

University of Maine

Various Large Landowner Corporations

Various Land Trust

### **2019 Landowner Appreciation Awards**



Warden Jim Fahey with Bangor Dairy Farmer Larry Smith, presenting a Landowner Appreciation award

Wardens Ralph Hosford, Joe McBrine and Rick LaFlamme, present Allen Blueberry with a Landowner Appreciation award



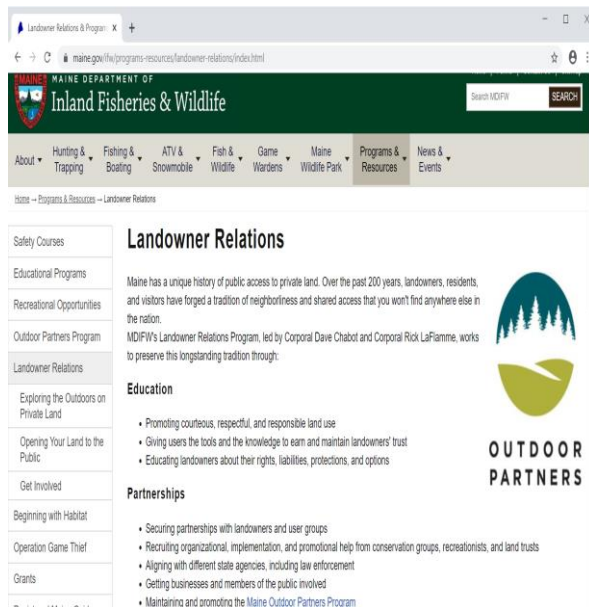


Wardens Joe McBrine and Rick LaFlamme, present Cherryfield Food Inc. with a Landowner Appreciation award



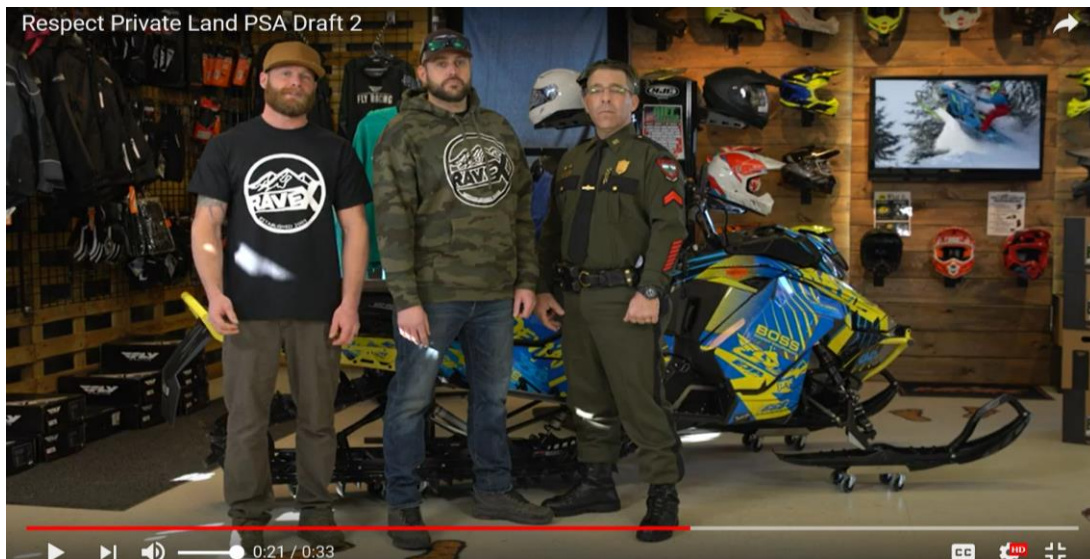
## 2019 Honorable Mentions

Landowner Relations and I&E working together to update the Departments website, Outdoor Partners Re-branding and have more of a social media presence.





Partnered with MARB to illustrate the importance of responsible riding



2019 Landowner Appreciation Day Winners - Wilton Fish and Game Club 2019 with 19 truck loads



Five dump trailers and UTV project has been completed







Governor's ATV TASK FORCE to address landowner needs  
Landowner Specialist – Corporal David Chabot represented the LOR Program



Landowner Relations Specialist Rick LaFlamme & DACF ATV Coordinator Brian Bronson meet with the public  
to resolve ATV issues in Aroostook County



Landowner Relations Specialist David Chabot worked on removal of boats from private property





Landowner Relations Specialist Rick LaFlamme assisting a Landowner in Newry



A cooperative effort with York County DA, Maine Forest Service and local contractor Troy Parker to remove illegally dumped tar deposits on a local landowner.



LOR Program assist with 2019 Veterans controlled moose, deer and turkey hunts





**Maine Warden Service Landowner Related Calls for Service**

- General trespass - 142
- Snowmobile trespass - 73
- ATV trespass - 108
- Hunting trespass - 56
- Fishing trespass - 9
- Trapping trespass - 1
- Hunting dog trespass - 4
- Littering / Dumping - 104
- Public Relations, talks – 257
- Nuisance Bear - 390
- Nuisance Deer - 207
- Nuisance Beaver - 222
- Nuisance Coyote - 128
- Nuisance Fox - 667
- Nuisance Turkey - 30
- Nuisance Moose - 30

**Maine Warden Service Landowner Related Summonses**

- Snowmobile civil – 538
- Snowmobile criminal – 11
- Snowmobile OUI – 29
- ATV civil – 519
- ATV criminal – 23
- ATV OUI – 23
- Hunting civil – 58
- Hunting criminal – 189
- Fishing civil – 136
- Fishing criminal – 426
- Trapping civil – 3
- Trapping criminal – 13