

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

67 Leighton Road
Pownal, Maine 04069

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
Governor

JO D. SAFFEIR
Executive Director

December 20, 1996

Board Members

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Maine Natural Areas Program

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Department of Conservation

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Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

George Smith
Sportsman's Alliance of Maine

Sally Stockwell
Maine Audubon Society

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0001

Dear Governor King:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed information as the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund's first annual report. Submission of this information is required under TITLE 12, MRSA c. 714, section 7788.

As you know, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund was established during the last legislative session (July, 1995) after a campaign by Maine Audubon Society and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine generated more than 53,000 signatures on petitions to place the lottery issue on the November, 1995 ballot. Due to the strong support among Maine residents, the Legislature enacted the proposal into law, bypassing the need for a referendum.

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 new Instant Lottery ticket distributed by Maine's Lottery Commission.

The first task of the Heritage Fund was to develop a Strategic Plan to outline its funding priorities for the next six years. A copy of the Strategic Plan is attached. The Heritage Fund law requires that funds raised by the lottery be expended in four general categories: for fisheries 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 Strategic Plan.

To date, three Heritage Fund lottery tickets have been issued. The first resembled the loon license plate, the second depicted a

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moose, and the third, which went on sale December 13, highlights an eagle. Posters and voided tickets for all three designs are attached.

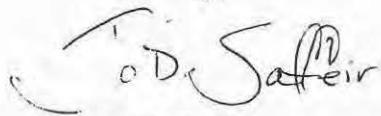
Heritage Fund ticket sales from January 1 to November 30, 1996 have totalled \$6.54 million. Approximately 73% of this revenue is allocated toward winnings and program expenses. The remaining 27% percent is transferred to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. As a result, the Fund has accumulated \$1.78 million before interest during this same time period (see two financial statements attached).

Grants are awarded semi-annually to natural resource agencies in response to grant proposals. The first deadline for grant proposals was October 15, 1996. Submission deadlines for 1997 are February 14 and August 15. In its first funding cycle, the Fund received 82 proposals requesting over \$4 million in project funding. Applicants included state natural resource agencies in partnership with non-profit conservation organizations. On December 4, the Board met and chose 32 projects to fund in whole or in part. Grants ranged in size from \$2,000 to \$100,000 and the total distribution was \$1,001,082 (see attached table for complete listing of grant recipients).

Grant recipients included the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Environmental Protection, the State Planning Office, the Land for Maine's Future Board, the Atlantic Salmon Authority, the St. Croix International Waterway Commission, and Washington, Oxford, and Cumberland Counties Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Enclosed for your information are copies of recent press related to these grant awards.

The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board looks forward to its ongoing role in providing an alternative source of funding for innovative conservation projects. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Sincerely,



Jo D. Saffir
Executive Director