

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Heritage Fund ticket sales since the program's inception (January, 1996) total \$12.1 million. Sales during this fiscal year total \$2.1 million to date. 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 received \$3.34 million including interest since the program began in early 1996 (see financial statements attached).

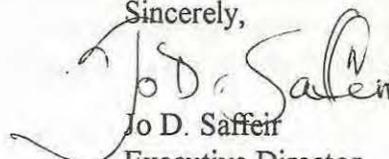
Grants are awarded semi-annually to natural resource agencies in response to grant proposals. To date, there have been three grant cycles, in which the Heritage Fund received 216 grant applications requesting a total of \$9.15 million. Applicants included state natural resource agencies in partnership with non-profit conservation organizations. In response, the Heritage Fund awarded \$2.84 million in grants to 95 conservation projects. The grant sizes ranged from \$1,753 to \$110,000. A brief description of each project is attached.

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

The Heritage Fund Board is making progress in implementing its Strategic Plan by ensuring that all funded projects substantively address one of the four funding categories established in the Fund's enabling legislation. I am confident you will find that the ninety five projects funded to date, whether evaluated individually or as a group, make a substantial contribution to the protection of the State's natural resources.

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. Saffier  
Executive Director